

Kashmir Convener



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Chillai Kalan Begins with Extreme Cold in Kashmir

» At -8.5°C Srinagar breaks over three-decade-old record



Convener News Desk

SRINAGAR: The 40-day harsh winter period, Chillai Kalan, began with an intense cold wave across Kashmir, as Srinagar recorded its coldest December night in over three decades at minus 8.5°C. This marks the second-lowest December temperature recorded in the last 133 years.

The all-time lowest December temperature in Srinagar was recorded on December 13, 1934, at minus 12.8°C, while the now-third lowest was minus 7.9°C, observed on December 13, 1986.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the intense cold wave continues in Kashmir for weeks, with no major weather activity expected until the

end of the month.

In Qazigund, the gateway to Kashmir, the mercury dropped to minus 8.2°C, the lowest of the season so far. Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination, recorded minus 8.6°C. The coldest place in the Valley was Anantnag, where the temperature plunged to minus 10.5°C, followed closely by Shopian at minus 10.4°C and Pulwama at minus 10.3°C. Kulgam recorded a minimum of minus 6.8°C.

Chillai Kalan, a Persian term meaning "Major Cold", extends from December 21 to January 31. It is followed by Chillai Khurd (Small Cold) from January 31 to February 19 and Chillai Bacha (Baby Cold) from February 20 to March 02. The Meteorological Department (MeT) has

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DHSK issues health advisory

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) Saturday issued a detailed advisory to safeguard the public, particularly high-risk groups, during the winter season.

The advisory outlines potential health risks, symptoms and measures to mitigate the impact of extreme cold weather. According to the news agency—Kashmir

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Avoid unnecessary travel during morning, late nights: RTO Kashmir

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Regional Transport Officer (RTO) of Kashmir has issued a traffic advisory for motorists and bikers in light of the ongoing extreme subzero temperatures in the region. With conditions becoming hazardous due to icy roads and foggy weather, authorities urge the public to take necessary precautions to ensure safety while traveling.

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Business Rules for J&K

● Draft of New Business Rules for JK Under Final Review

3-Member CSC Considers Previous Rules, Recent Amendments Before Submission to Cabinet

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The cabinet sub-committee, constituted by the National Conference-led government, has prepared a draft of business rules, which is currently under discussion, sources said.

According to news Agency KNO, 3-member CSC headed by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and comprising Ministers Javed Rana and Sakina Ittoo, has developed the draft of business rules, and it is being discussed at various levels.

According to sources, the CSC has examined the business rules that were in effect in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, as well as the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019, which were unveiled by the Union Home Ministry in 2020, along with subsequent amendments

made in 2023 and 2024.

Two of the three ministers on the CSC, who wished to remain anonymous, stated that the work of the CSC is in its final stages and that it would soon submit its report to



the cabinet. "The cabinet sub-committee is expected to meet again soon to finalize its recommendations," they said, adding that the CSC has only met once.

According to the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the Lieutenant Governor must make business rules on the advice of the

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55th GST Council Meeting

● CM Omar vows to protect Kashmir's Pashmina shawl industry from GST hike

Says issue wasn't taken up in meeting, assures stakeholders of continued support

'KC NEWS NETWORK

JAISALMER: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his commitment to safeguarding the region's iconic



Pashmina shawl industry during the 55th meeting of the GST Council held

in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on Saturday.

Omar while speaking to reporters after the meeting said the primary concern of his administration was to prevent any potential hike in GST rates on shawls, particularly Pashmina, which are a cornerstone of Kashmir's cultural heritage and economy.

"There had been a lot of speculation that GST on shawls, particularly Pashmina shawls, was going to be hiked. We came prepared to ensure that this wouldn't happen," Abdullah said. "Thankfully, it wasn't taken up in the meeting, and we will work to ensure that such a move is not considered in the future. A tax hike on Pashmina shawls would be life-threatening to this industry."

The Chief Minister said this was his first GST Council meeting, adding that the discussions were a mix of agreements,

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Govt committed to nurture, promote creative talent: Dy CM

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the present government is committed towards nurturing and promoting creative talent in the region.

"Jammu and Kashmir has been gifted with immense creative talent as our artists have created a niche for themselves nationally and globally," maintained the Dy CM while assuring all requisite facilities and platform for the budding talents.

The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with filmmakers and artists during the premiere of Dogri Movie Gang War 86, which he released the other day.

While complimenting the film makers for undertaking such an initiative, the Deputy Chief Minister said that these types of movies

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41,141 km roads built, 410 bridges completed in J&K this year

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed substantial advancements in infrastructure development so far this year, encompassing road network expansion, tunnel construction, ropeway projects, and road safety initiatives, reveals an official data.

According to the data accessed by news agency—Kashmir news observer, the Union Territory now boasts a total road network of 41,141 km, including 1,735 km of national highways, 696 km of state highways, and 37,351 km of other district and village roads. Of this, 30,326.48 km is black-topped.

Notable projects like the Jammu-Srinagar 4-lane highway, Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels, and the Parvatmala ropeway initiative are transforming connectivity in the region. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 2,131

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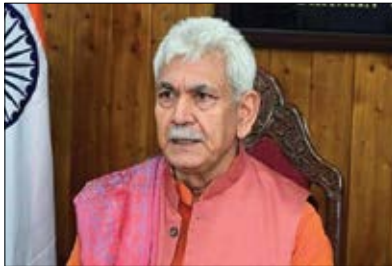
JU awarded NAAC A++ grade

● LG Sinha congratulates University for remarkable Feat

Yogesh

JAMMU: In a major development, University of Jammu (JU) has been awarded A++ ranking by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The NAAC team, which is on a three-day visit to JU from December-11 to December-13



reviewed the key performance of the higher institution, including curriculum aspects, teaching-learning and assessment, research, innovation and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, student support and progress,

governance, leadership and management, and institutional values and best practices.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that "Jammu University has been rated as NAAC A++ accreditation on the basis of academics, infrastructure, activities and other key initiatives."

He said that the university has secured 3.72 points under the institutional cumulative grade point average (CGPA) threshold for getting A++ accreditation.

The NAAC team also visited Bhaderwah and Kathua campus of Jammu University.

In the meantime, Vice Chancellor JU, Prof. Umesh Rai in a press conference said, "This is a marked improvement over the last accreditation Cycle (Cycle III), wherein it had attained an A+ grade with CGPA of 3.51, thereby exhibiting its commitment to quality sustenance and quality enhancement". "The A++ grade reflects the unwavering commitment of our faculty, officers, staff, scholars, students, and alumni. It is a testament to our

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J&K to Achieve Self-Sufficiency in Electricity in Four Years: Dr. Jitendra

● "With estimated generation capacity of 8000 MW, J&K to emerge as biggest power hub of North India"



'KC NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, today called for expediting the speed of ongoing hydel power

projects, saying that these plants will generate an estimated capacity of 8000 MW thus enabling J&K emerge as the biggest power hub of North India. Dr Singh was speaking while chairing the District Development

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Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva Highlights Civil-Military Synergy, Operational Readiness During Rajouri Visit

'KC NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps (16 Corps), visited Rajouri to reinforce civil-military ties and acknowledge the critical contributions of local communities and veterans in maintaining peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

Praising the cooperation between civilians and security forces in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, Lt Gen Sachdeva highlighted the Indian Army's enhanced operational presence in the region, including its strategic positions in the Pir Panjal Range. He emphasized the close collaboration between the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP), and the

civil administration, crediting the combined efforts for the improved security scenario.

He commended the Ace of Spades Division for its effective community engagement and welfare initiatives, stating,



"The coordination between the military and civilians has been instrumental in creating a stable environment."

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Centre sanctions 9 projects worth Rs 85 cr for J&K Universities, Colleges

'KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Union Ministry for Education, has approved projects worth Rs 85 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for nine higher education institutions in Jammu & Kashmir.

The decision, taken during the third Project Approval Board (PAB) meeting announced on December 20, 2024, underscores the government's commitment towards transforming higher education infrastructure and fostering inclusivity and excellence in the region. Among the sanctioned projects, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University in Rajouri will receive Rs 20 crore to strengthen its infrastructure.

Additionally, five new girls' hostels will be constructed in the focus districts of Bandipora, Baramulla, Kulgam, Ramban and Udhampur, each allocated Rs 10 crore to promote gender equity. Three Government Degree Colleges in Bandipora, Sogam Kupwara and Nowshera will also receive Rs 5 crore each for infrastructure development and upgradation. PM-USHA, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme

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Why Is ECI Afraid Of Transparency: Congress After Election Rule Tweak

NEWDELHI: The Congress on Saturday hit out at the Election Commission for tweaking an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage, asking why the poll panel was afraid of transparency.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the party would legally challenge amendment.

"If there was ever a vindication of our assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in recent times, this is it," Ramesh said in a post on X.

Sharing a December 20 notification, the Congress leader said, "This move of the ECI will be challenged legally right away." The government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic



documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as video recordings of candidates to prevent their misuse.

Based on the recommendation of the poll panel, the Union law ministry has amended Rule 93 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict the type of "papers" or documents open to public inspection.

According to Rule 93, all "papers" related to elections

shall be open to public inspection. The amendment inserts "as specified in these rules" after "papers".

Ramesh said sunlight was the best disinfectant and information would restore faith in the process — a reasoning Punjab and Haryana High Court agreed with when it directed the ECI to share all information it was legally required to with the public.

"Yet, the ECI, instead of

complying with the judgment, rushes to amend the law to curtail the list of what can be shared," he said.

"Why is the ECI so afraid of transparency?" the Congress general secretary asked.

Transparency and openness are key in exposing and eliminating corruption and unethical practices and information restores confidence in the process, Ramesh noted.

Law ministry and ECI officials separately explained that a court case was the "trigger" behind the amendment. Punjab and Haryana High Court had recently directed the poll panel to provide copies of the required documents related to the Haryana Assembly elections to advocate Mehmood Pracha.

He had filed a petition seeking the videography, CCTV camera footage, and copies of Forms 17-C Parts I and II related to the conduct of elections.

Delhi LG Gives Nod To ED To Prosecute Arvind Kejriwal In Excise Policy Case

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the upcoming 2025 Delhi Assembly Polls, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena has granted permission to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to prosecute AAP Chief and Former Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, in the excise policy case.

On December 5, the Enforcement Directorate sought permission for sanction of prosecution against Arvind Kejriwal.

This move comes after months of investigations into the Delhi government's excise policy, which has been at the center of controversy and allegations of corruption.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court on Friday granted the Enforcement Directorate (ED) additional time to file its reply to the petition filed by Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. The petition challenges the trial court's decision to take cognizance of the chargesheets in the Delhi Excise Liquor Policy case.

VP Dhankhar, Khattar, CM Saini in Sirsa to pay last respects to O P Chautala



SIRSA (HARYANA): Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and a host of other leaders paid their last respects to former chief minister Om Prakash Chautala at the Teja Khera village here on Saturday.

A prominent Jat leader and five-time chief minister of Haryana, Chautala died in Gurugram on Friday at the age of 89.

A state funeral will be held late afternoon in the village.

On Saturday morning, people paid their last respects to the Chautala at the family's Teja Khera farmhouse. The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) chief's body was wrapped in the Tricolour and decked with garlands.

Vice President Dhankhar, who was in Chandigarh to attend an event at the Panjab University, reached Sirsa along with his wife, Sudesh Dhankhar,

in the afternoon.

Former Punjab deputy chief minister and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal also reached Teja Khera village.

Om Prakash Chautala's younger son Abhay Singh Chautala, an INLD leader, elder son and JJP chief Ajay Singh Chautala and other family members, including former deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, were present there.

Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and Kumari Selja reached the Chautala farmhouse earlier in the day to pay their last respects. Common people have gathered in the village in large numbers as well for the cremation.

The Haryana Government declared a three-day state mourning on Friday. It has also declared Saturday a public holiday in all its offices.

BSP supremo Mayawati hits out at Amit Shah over comments on Ambedkar

LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying that he should apologise for his statement on B R Ambedkar.

If this does not happen, the BSP will protest across the country on December 24, she said.

In a series of posts on X in Hindi, Mayawati said, "Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the author of the original book in the form of the super-humanistic and welfare Constitution for the self-respect and human rights of the Dalits, deprived, and other neglected people of the country, is as revered as God.



His disrespect by Shri Amit Shah hurts the hearts of the people."

She further mentioned that people from all sections of society in the country are quite angry and agitated by the words spoken by him in Parliament regarding such a great man.

"Ambedkarite BSP has demanded that he take back his statement and repent, which has not been done till now," she said.

The BSP chief also stated that in such a situation, if the demand is not met, the BSP will raise its voice across the country.

"That is why the party has now decided to hold a nationwide movement on December 24 in support of this demand. On that day, a complete peaceful dharna-demonstration will be held at all district headquarters across the country," she said.

During a debate on the Constitution in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Shah had said, "Abhi ek fashion ho gaya hai — Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar. Itna naam agar Bhagwan ka lete to saat janmon tak swarg mil jata (It has become a fashion to say Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar. If they had taken God's name so many times, they would have attained heaven for seven lifetimes)."

On Wednesday, Shah held a press conference in which he accused the Congress of twisting facts and distorting his comments in the Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha witnessed constant protests from treasury benches and opposition members over the alleged insult of Ambedkar until both the houses were adjourned sine die on Friday.

Arrest warrant issued against former cricketer Robin Uttappa in EPF deposits fraud case

BENGALURU: An arrest warrant has been issued against former India cricketer Robin Uttappa in connection with alleged fraud related to Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits, officials said on Saturday.

The warrant of arrest issued by Shadakhara



Gopala Reddy, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner - II and Recovery Officer, K R Puram stated that Rs 23,36,602 is to be recovered from Uttappa,

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER KRALPORA.

EXTENSION DATE

The Advertisement No:-05 of 2024 dated:-07-12-2024 issued under endorsement No CDPO/Poshan/HR/24/808/-822 Dated:-07-12-2024. The last date of reception of application forms extended 28-12-2024. Up to 04 pm. No:- CDPO/POSHAN/KLP/24/859-71 Dated:- 21-12-2024

Sd/-
Child Dev. Project Officer,
Poshan Project Kralpora.

DIPK-9866/24

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER ICDS PROJECT BATWARA

Public Notice

The advertisement Notice No 50 of 2024 dated: 17.12.2024 published on 19.12.2024 in three daily news papers viz Era of Kashmir, Aaftab and Kashmir Digest, may be treated as withdrawn in respect of Anganwadi Centre Kati Mohalla Khonmoh Panchayat Halqa Khonmoh C Panchward No 05 for one post of AWW(Sangni) till the ward rectification is approved by the competent authority. No; Poshan/Btw./2024/2247-49 Dated : 21.12 2024

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Icds Project Batwara

DIPK-9854/24

the defaulter.

The former cricketer is the director of Centauries Lifestyle Brands Pvt Ltd, Indiranagar.

In his order to the Station House Office of Pulakeshinagar Police Station, the senior officer stated, "Due to non remittances of dues, this office is unable to settle the Provident Fund accounts of the poor workers. In view of the above, you are kindly requested to execute the enclosed warrant of arrest through the Thana-in-charge under whose jurisdiction Sri Robin Uthappa resides.

"In this connection it is kindly requested to arrest the employer under Rule 73 of IInd Schedule to Income Tax Act 1961 and Income Tax (CP) Rule 1962 and Section 8B of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, and produce him before the undersigned on or before 27.12.2024 for further proceedings through your official."

The order stated, "In exercise of the power conferred on me under section 8B of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952,...command you to arrest the said defaulter and bring him before the undersigned as soon as practicable and in any event within 24 hours of his arrest (exclusive of the time required for the journey) unless the defaulter pays the said amount of Rs 23,36,602 and Rs 5,000 for the cost of executing this process."

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 20 OF 2024-25, Dated: 03-12-2024 for below mentioned works: -

Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of 02 cusec capacity 197m dynamic head submersible class pumping unit to be installed at LIS Beigh Mohalla Watlar.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No. :- 2024_IFC_266759_1

EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to poor response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	26/12/2024 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	27/12/2024 at 1230 hrs

No. MIDS/Ts/3304-3309
Dated:- 21-12-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

DIPK-9891/24

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.

Abstract of E-Tender.

E-N.I.T.No: -PHE/MRD/TS/76 of 12/2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, E-tenders are invited into the system from approved and eligible Contractor having GS Registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railway and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work: -

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Various Mechanical works to be carried out at WSS Shalimar	Sub-Division Srinagar	0.53	50/=	07 days	M&E Non-Plan

A 50/= 07 days M&E Non-Plan
AAA: Accorded
Technical Sanction: Granted Critical Dates/Information;

1.	Publishing Date	20-12-2024 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	20-12-2024 (5:00 PM) to 26-12-2024 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	20-12-2024 (5:00 PM) to 26-12-2024 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	20-12-2024 at (12:00 PM)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority:	Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar
6.	Document Cost:	Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify thee-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)
7.	Bid Validity Period:	90 Days
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on	www.Jktenders.gov.in
09	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document	

Note: - The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimate cost of the work in the shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.
No:-PHE/MRD/TS/4342-46
DT:- 21/12/2024.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar.

DIPK-9847/24

Explosion-Like Sound Heard Outside Police Chowki In Gurdaspur, Probe On

CHANDIGARH: An explosion-like sound heard outside the Wadala Bangar police chowki in Punjab's Gurdaspur district triggered panic in the area, prompting police to launch an investigation, officials said on Saturday.

This is the third such incident in the past seven days. A blast occurred at the Islamabad police station in Amritsar on December 17.

No one was injured in it. The Gurdaspur incident occurred around 9.30 pm on Friday, according to the officials.

They said local people heard the explosion-like sound and informed police.

However, police said nothing was found at the spot that could indicate an explosion took place. Senior police officials, including Gurdaspur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dayama Harish Kumar Om Prakash and Superintendent of Police (SP) Jugraj Singh, visited the spot.

"After some locals informed the deputy superintendent of police, information was also received by the control room.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGAM KPDCL.

Tender Notice.

e-NIT No.:-EDB/94 of 2024-25 Dated: 21-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from Govt. approved Civil Contractors, for works, as details below:

Name of the work (Items)	Adv. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD	Completion Period	Status Of AAA
Maintenance and Repairs of Washroom at Corporate Office of KPDCL Srinagar	3.50	RS. 200/	Rs. 7000.00	60 day	Accorded Vide Order No.: MD/KPDCL/634 of 2024 Dated:- 17-12-2024.

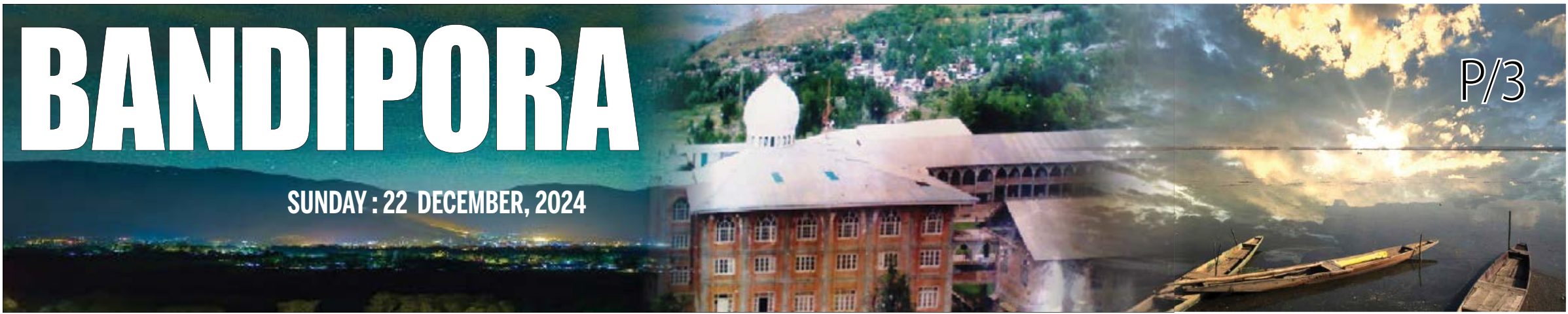
1. Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) / Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examine, of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
2. The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 21-12-2024; 4:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	21-12-2024; 4:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	06-01-2025; 4:00 PM
D	Clarification start date	23-12-2024; 11:00 AM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format	26-12-2024; 10:00 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	06-01-2025; 4:00 PM
H	Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument & Affidavit that the Firm/ Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices.	Up-to 06-01-2025; 04:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	07-01-2025; 02:00 PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam

No: EDB/ Dated: 21-12-2024

DIPK-NB-2936/24

Sd/-Executive Engineer
ED Budgam (KPDCL)



BANDIPORA

SUNDAY : 22 DECEMBER, 2024

NHPC Allocates Rs. 1.55 Crore for Bandipora's Development Projects Under CSR Initiative

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 21: The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) on Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the District Administration Bandipora, allocating Rs.1,55,67,000 under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative for the financial year 2024-25.

The MoU aims to support four developmental projects in the district, focusing on healthcare, sanitation, and civic amenities.

The Projects Funded Under CSR include Upgradation of Public Health Infrastructure, Procurement/Purchase of Water Tankers, Promotion of Sanitation, and Upgradation of Public Health Infrastructure.

The MoU was signed by General Manager (Mech) N. K. Verma on behalf of NHPC and Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on behalf of the District Administration.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri said that the CSR initiative is aimed at



promoting projects that address key areas such as education, healthcare, sanitation, rural development, skill development, and entrepreneurship to uplift the local community.

Qadri stated that the amount provided under CSR will be utilized to upgrade civic amenities and implement impactful projects that enhance the social, economic, and environmental aspects of citizens' lives.

He said, this collaboration underscores NHPC's commitment to sustainable development and its role in improving the quality of life in the Bandipora district.

Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Maqbool Lone, CMO Dr. Rafi Ahmad, Ex-En Jal Shakti Mutayib Bashir, DIO Aadil Manzoor Wani

Executive Officer MC Bandipora Ajaz Ahmad, and other concerned officers from District Administration and NHPC were present on the occasion.

Frozen Wular Lake Brings Fishing and Harvesting to a Standstill in Bandipora

Bandipora: The onset of Chillai-Kalan, Kashmir's harshest 40-day winter period, has brought unprecedented cold, leaving Wular Lake, Asia's



second-largest freshwater lake, frozen solid and disrupting the lives of local fishermen in Bandipora.

For the past three days, the lake's thick ice cover has rendered boats immobile, halting

fishing and water chestnut harvesting—key sources of income for the community. The freezing of Wular is being described as an extraordinary event, with locals noting it is the first time in decades that the lake has frozen to such an extent.

"We cannot move our boats, and all our work has come to a halt. It's the harshest cold we've ever faced," said a fisherman, his frustration evident as he observed the lake's icy surface.

Adding to the fishermen's woes, Srinagar and other districts have recorded their coldest nights since 1990, signaling the severity of this year's winter. The freezing of Wular underscores the harshness of the current cold spell, which has already set records ahead of Chillai-Kalan's full impact.

As the valley braces for weeks of extreme cold, fishermen are urging the administration to step in with immediate measures to support the affected community. The disruption of livelihoods in Bandipora highlights the pressing need for contingency plans to assist those impacted by the region's unforgiving winter conditions.

JKWDC holds awareness camp, loan Mela at Tujjer Baramulla

BARAMULLA: The Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC), in collaboration with Social Welfare Department Baramulla & Health Department, organized a one-day awareness camp and loan mela at Community Hall Tujjer Sopore, Baramulla.

The event, sponsored by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, attracted over 300 women participants, eager to learn about welfare schemes, financial opportunities, and empowerment programs tailored to support women from backward classes.

The occasion was graced by the presence of District Manager JKWDC Baramulla Shabir Ahmad Wani, District Manager Shopian-Kulgam Mohammad Maqbool, Rafia Wali (Fiction Writer) Assistant Professor GDC Kreeir, Shafqat Majid Gender Specialist.

The initiative aimed to equip women with the knowledge and resources needed for self-reliance and economic independence.

Their insights and encouragement motivated attendees to leverage the available resources for their personal and professional growth.

The speakers on the occasion highlighted government sponsored initiatives while the program aimed to bridge gaps and ensure equitable access to financial support for women in the region.

This camp reaffirmed the commitment of JKWDC and NBCFDC in fostering women's empowerment, financial inclusion, and social justice in Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army Distributes Pherans at LoC to Mark 'International Pheran Day'

SRINAGAR: To celebrate the International Pheran Day, the Indian Army launched an initiative of distributing traditional Pherans to underprivileged families in far-flung villages near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kashmir Valley.

Defence Spokesperson in Srinagar told Kashmiri Conventer the distribution aims to provide relief to vulnerable populations during the harsh winter period, as Chillai Kalan sets in, with sub-zero temperatures gripping the region.

Chillai Kalan is the 40-day period of harshest winter in Kashmir starting from December 21. The first day of this Cold Spell is celebrated by Social Media Users in Kashmir as International Pheran Day.

The Defence Spokesperson said the Pheran, a symbol of Kashmiri identity and resilience, offers much-needed warmth and comfort during the coldest time of the year.

"The Army's initiative was in recognition of International Pheran Day, celebrated on December 21, a day dedicated to the cultural and emotional significance of this iconic attire," he added.

The Pheran, deeply embedded in Kashmiri culture, is especially cherished during Chillai Kalan. Since 2021, the day has been celebrated across Kashmir, with events held at Srinagar's Ghanta Ghar and SKICC, showcasing the timeless attire through fashion shows featuring local personalities and specially-abled individuals.

During the day-long drive by the Indian Army, Local volunteers actively joined hands with the distribution, helping to identify families in need and ensuring that the Pherans reached the most deserving individuals.

"The distribution brought joy to elders and children alike, with smiles reflecting the spirit of generosity and warmth that defined the initiative," spokesperson added.

The distribution drive has been widely appreciated by locals, who commended the Army's efforts in promoting care and compassion alongside its duties of security and stability.



"Mission YUVA Campaign Inspires Bandipora Youth to Become Entrepreneurs, Not Job Seekers"

BANDIPORA : In order to promote entrepreneurship, disseminate essential information at the grassroots level, and to generate job opportunities within the district, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Saturday inaugurated the Panchayat-Level Awareness Campaign- Udhym Jagriti at the Auditorium Hall of Government degree College Sumbal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the event as a significant step towards channelizing the potential of youth, empowering them to become job providers rather than mere job seekers.



He emphasized the vital role of education in unearthing the hidden talent of youth, stressing that through education, young individuals discover their true potential.

M.A Qadri highlighted the importance of creating new enterprises while extending a helping hand to existing ones, which will ultimately generate new job opportunities and promote economic growth.

"It's high time we turn around and stop waiting for job opportunities and start looking for ways to create our own enterprises," he said.

He also pointed out the necessity of guiding students according to their interests and aptitudes to better align their careers with their passions and to help them match their careers with what they love doing.

While addressing the gathering, Principal Government Degree College Sumbal Dr. Shabeena Iqbal Shawl expressed gratitude to the students and participants for attending the event despite the chilling winter conditions. She acknowledged the growing number of entrepreneurs today, encouraging the

youth not to limit themselves to government jobs but to explore the numerous opportunities available.

During the event, BDO Nowgam, Dawar Habib extensively elaborated the key features of "Mission YUVA", particularly its focus on fostering entrepreneurship. He spoke at length on the core characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, which include risk-taking abilities, creativity, and unique business ideas. He also delved into essential elements like business models, the ease of doing business, and how initiatives such as "Start-up India" provide a conducive environment for budding entrepreneurs.

Later, a short video presentation featuring the stories of successful entrepreneurs and a more detailed video on "Mission YUVA" outlining the initiative's goals, strategies, and resources available to young entrepreneurs was presented before the participants.

On the occasion, Employment Officer Bandipora delved deep into the challenges entrepreneurs face and the IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) initiative designed to address these issues. He spoke extensively about the benefits of NANO enterprises, which play a significant role in the economy by fostering innovation at the grassroots level.

Nodal Officer, JKEDI, said that "Mission YUVA" is a comprehensive initiative, blending various activities under a single mission to support entrepreneurship. She focused on NANO enterprises and differentiated between micro, small, and medium enterprises, explaining the unique needs and characteristics of each.

"The aim is to identify the critical intervention areas and provide such targeted support to these enterprises," she said.

She said that the initiative aims to prefer first-generation entrepreneurs, women, and low-income groups, highlighting the program's commitment to inclusive growth.

At the end, Employment Officer Bandipora presented the vote of thanks to the participants and expressed sincere gratitude for the invaluable support and guidance that contributed to the success of the event.

Among others the event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Zaffar Hussain Shawl, SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad, GM DIC, ALC Bandipora, faculty members and a large gathering of Students.



Indian Army Organizes Ex-Servicemen Meet at Peda Gali, Rajouri

RAJOURI: In a bid to foster stronger ties between the Indian Army and local communities, an interactive session was organized at Peda Gali, Rajouri, with the participation of Ex-Servicemen, local youth, community leaders, and government officials. The event, held under the aegis of Romeo Force, saw the presence of over 60 attendees, including local residents, Public Health Engineering employees, and Forest Department personnel from the area.

The session began with a welcome address by Ex-Servicemen Sub Rashid, setting the tone for an open and constructive dialogue. Participants, primarily from remote and sensitive regions, shared valuable insights regarding local developments,

security concerns, and challenges faced by the community.

The aim of the event was to enhance coordination between the Indian Army, local communities, and government agencies, leveraging their collective knowledge to improve operational effectiveness and promote regional stability.

This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment to fostering stronger relationships with local stakeholders, promoting mutual trust, and ensuring shared responsibility for security and development in the area.

Through such interactions, the Army continues to play a pivotal role in maintaining peace and stability while also encouraging local engagement in national security efforts.

Bandipora Prepares to Be Officially Declared Manual Scavenging-Free Town

BANDIPORA: The Municipal Council Bandipora Will Soon be officially declared the town as "Manual Scavenging-Free" after completing a comprehensive survey of manual scavengers within its limits.

The survey was conducted in compliance with the order issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in October 2023, in the case of Dr. Balram Singh vs Union of India & Others, as well as guidelines issued by the Government of India on February 1, 2024.

According to the notice issued by the Municipal Council Bandipora on Friday, the survey found no manual scavengers within the limits of Bandipora.

MCB invited the public and claimants to submit any objections to this declaration in writing to the

Municipal Council Bandipora within the next 15 days. "Objections can be submitted in person or emailed to eomcbandipora@gmail.com".

Chief Executive Officer MCB Ajaz Ahmad Khan said if no objections are received by the end of the 15-day period, Bandipora will be officially recognized as a Manual Scavenging-Free town, further contributing to the government's efforts to eliminate manual scavenging practices across the country.

He said the declaration follows the implementation of several initiatives aimed at eradicating manual scavenging and ensuring the dignity and safety of workers involved in sanitation and waste management.

Army Celebrates International Pheran day by distributing warmth in border villages

SSP Traffic Police Inspects Zojila Axis, Conducts Special Enforcement Drive on SSG Road

SRINAGAR: In a bid to assess and enhance traffic management along the Zojila axis of the SSG road, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravender Pal Singh, conducted an inspection up to Zero Zojila on Saturday.

Officials said the visit aimed to review the current traffic arrangements and ensure the safety of commuters on this sensitive route.

During the inspection, SSP Singh held briefing sessions with the Traffic officials stationed along the road. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the prescribed traffic advisory and strict compliance with cut-off timings to regulate the movement of vehicular traffic through the Zojila axis.

The SSP also instructed his officers to ensure that only vehicles with proper safety gears and valid documents are allowed to proceed towards Zojila, reinforcing the need for road safety measures.

As part of the initiative, SSP Singh, accompanied by his team of officers, conducted a special enforcement drive at Kangan. The drive resulted in the is-

suance of several challans against motorists found violating traffic laws, particularly those not wearing safety gear. The enforcement drive specifically targeted visible violations to enhance road safety.



SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravender Pal Singh, has reiterated his commitment to continue such enforcement drives to minimize road accidents and ensure the safety of commuters.

NC dismisses Mehbooba Mufti's remarks on ration card cancellation

SRINAGAR: The Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Tanvir Sadiq Saturday dismissed PDP President Mehbooba Mufti's comments regarding the cancellation of ration cards as unfounded and a desperate ploy to stay in the spotlight.

In a statement issued to Kashmiri Conventer, Tanvir said such baseless accusations have no place in the realm of politics and called out Mehbooba Mufti for her failed attempt to stir up controversy.

"It seems she is trying a little too hard to make headlines, but people see right through it. Wasn't it the PDP that rushed to implement the Food Security Act to appease the BJP? Under your rule, ration quotas were cruelly slashed from 35kg (during the NC government) to just 5kg. The PDP-BJP government not only

deprived people of basic rations but also symbolized arrogance and oppression. Who can forget her "milk and toffee" remark—an emblem of her iron-fist policy against Kashmiris?" he said.

Her dictatorial and arrogant behavior hasn't been forgotten, he said adding, "This is a people's govern-



ment, and every decision we make will ensure justice for the people of J&K—not harm them like you did. The decision to cancel cards was made across the country and

is not J&K specific. Why did you choose to stay silent back then? What's with the selective rhetoric?" Tanvir emphasized that Omar Abdullah government will fulfill all promises outlined in its manifesto, including providing free 200 units of electricity and an enhanced ration quota. "Ten years of developmental and administrative setbacks cannot be undone in a few days. The government is committedly working towards fulfilling its promises and will soon deliver on them," he said.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme has emerged as a game-changer for artisans across India, and Jammu and Kashmir is leading the charge in its implementation. This initiative, which aims to uplift skilled artisans by providing them with enhanced tools, training, financial support, and incentives, is a much-needed push for the region's local economy and cultural preservation. At its core, the scheme is about giving artisans the resources they need to thrive—both in terms of enhancing their productivity and in ensuring that the traditional crafts of the region continue to be nurtured and valued. For Jammu and Kashmir, home to a diverse array of skilled workers, this initiative is particularly significant. The artisans here don't just contribute to the economy—they embody the rich cultural heritage of the region. The trades they practice are integral to the identity of Jammu and Kashmir, and the PM Vishwakarma Scheme gives them the support they deserve. One of the most striking achievements of Jammu and Kashmir under this scheme is the impressive number of toolkits delivered—4,701 toolkits have already been handed over, placing the region ahead of many larger states. This is no small feat, and it highlights the effectiveness of the program's implementation in the UT. The scheme has registered 4,66,667 artisans in Jammu and Kashmir, with 1,27,192 artisans completing training programs. With the assistance of India Post, the toolkits are delivered directly to artisans' doorsteps, with a clear and open process that includes a video recording and DBT payments. This level of transparency not only builds trust but also ensures that the benefits reach those who need them the most, without any hindrances. Jammu and Kashmir's success in implementing this scheme is a model for other states to follow. It's a testament to what can be achieved when there is active government participation, timely follow-ups, and a commitment to ensuring that even the most remote artisans are not left behind. As the PM Vishwakarma Scheme continues to unfold across Jammu and Kashmir, it offers a roadmap for how government initiatives can successfully bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, fostering growth and development while honoring the past.

Power, Violence, and Memory: Confronting the Archives of Human Suffering



Shabeer Ahmad Lone

"The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."
Milan Kundera

"To perceive suffering in the world and not react with cynicism or indifference is the first step toward justice."-*Elie Wiesel*

The arc of history is both a testament to human progress and a chronicle of its darkest failures, marked by unparalleled brutality and enduring questions of justice and morality. These acts, whether committed by individuals, states, or ideologies, are not merely episodes of violence but complex systems of dehumanization and control. Their roots lie in the interplay of power, prejudice, economic greed, and the legitimization of violence through cultural, religious, or ideological frameworks. The complex interplay between power, ideology, and violence reveals the depths of human depravity as well as the resilience of the human spirit. As we delve into the agents and systems behind history's most harrowing atrocities, we confront not only the acts themselves but also the narratives that preserve, obscure, or distort them. This research seeks to unravel these layers, combining rare insights, critical analyses, and authentic data to offer a profound exploration of humanity's relationship with cruelty, complicity, and redemption. It is a journey into the mechanisms of historical brutality and the archives that document them, urging a reevaluation of how memory, truth, and justice are constructed and contested.

The works which share a common thread and question the objectivity of historical narratives and reveal how history is often shaped by those in power to reinforce ideologies, national identities, or cultural myths are, Howard Zinn - A People's History of the United States (1980), Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger - The Invention of Tradition (1983), Benedict Anderson - Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism (1983), E.H. Carr - What Is History? (1961), Edward Said - Orientalism (1978), Pierre Nora - Realms of Memory: The Construction of the French Past (1996), Dominic Sandbrook - Who Dares Wins: Britain, 1979-1982 (2019), Prasenjit Duara - Rescuing History from the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China (1995), David Lowenthal - The Past Is a Foreign Country (1985), Yuval Noah Harari - Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind (2011).

In The Use and Abuse of History (Published in 1981) by Marc Ferro a critical exploration in the same vein also shows how history is used, manipulated, and sometimes distorted to serve political, cultural, and ideological purposes, the book focuses on the ways historical narratives are constructed and presented, particularly in school textbooks, and how these narratives shape collective memory and national identity. Ferro highlights how inconvenient truths are often omitted or downplayed in historical narratives. This "historical amnesia" serves to create sanitized versions of the past that align with national or ideological goals. He examines how this process occurs across different countries, from France to the Soviet Union, and even in post-colonial states. History is not a singular narrative but a collection of competing perspectives. Ferro emphasizes that the histories taught

to children in one country often differ significantly from those taught in another, even regarding shared events. For example, World War II is portrayed differently in German, British, American, and Russian textbooks, reflecting each country's distinct experiences and agendas. Ferro provides a rich array of examples from around the world, including colonialism, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, and World War II. He shows how

became cogs in a machinery of death. This observation aligns with Hannah Arendt's concept of the "banality of evil," which highlights how ordinary people can commit extraordinary acts of cruelty when situated within systems that normalize such behavior.

Archives documenting these brutalities play a dual role. On one hand, they serve as repositories of memory and evidence, preserving the voices of victims



different societies construct historical narratives that reflect their political and cultural priorities, often at the expense of historical accuracy.

Ferro underscores the responsibility of historians to uncover suppressed voices and challenge dominant narratives. He advocates for a more inclusive and critical approach to history that considers multiple perspectives, especially those of marginalized groups. Ferro critiques how history education can become a form of propaganda, instilling loyalty, patriotism, and obedience in young minds while discouraging critical thinking.

However, works which share thematic connections with Marc Ferro's work but whose focus often extends beyond specific ideological manipulations to broader philosophical frameworks for understanding civilizations are Ibn Khaldun - Muqaddimah (Prolegomena) (1377), Arnold J. Toynbee - A Study of History (1934-1961), Oswald Spengler - The Decline of the West (1918-1922) etc.

The agents of historical brutalities often emerge from systems that normalize violence under the guise of necessity, progress, or divine mandate. From the enslavement of populations in ancient empires to the genocides of the modern era, these acts often find their justification in ideologies that dehumanize the "other." The transatlantic slave trade, for instance, represents a convergence of economic greed, racial prejudice, and political expediency. It was a system supported by monarchies, corporations, and religious institutions. Pseudotheologians argued for the spiritual salvation of enslaved peoples as a justification for their subjugation, while scientists of the time produced pseudoscientific racial hierarchies to rationalize their exploitation. Similarly, colonial powers employed narratives of cultural superiority and the "civilizing mission" to justify their campaigns of territorial expansion, resource extraction, and the suppression of native cultures. These brutalities were not isolated acts but systemic projects sustained by propaganda, legal frameworks, and economic incentives that made complicity pervasive.

Modern atrocities, such as genocides and ethnic cleansings, reveal the horrifying efficiency of bureaucracy and ideology in perpetuating brutality. The Holocaust, often cited as the epitome of industrialized genocide, was enabled by a meticulously organized state apparatus. From the Nuremberg Laws to the operation of death camps, every step was systematized to dehumanize and destroy targeted groups. What is chilling is not just the scope of the atrocity but the ordinary nature of its perpetrators—bureaucrats, soldiers, and civilians who

and the records of crimes for posterity. The testimonies of Holocaust survivors, for instance, are invaluable for understanding the human impact of genocide. On the other hand, archives often reflect the biases and intentions of their creators. Official state archives may sanitize or omit atrocities, as seen in colonial records that glorify empire while erasing indigenous resistance and suffering. Even well-intentioned archives, such as those created by human rights organizations, face challenges in balancing comprehensiveness with accessibility, avoiding sensationalism, and ensuring ethical representation of survivors' voices. The perpetrators ranged from political leaders to ordinary citizens complicit in a system that normalized atrocity. Archives of this period, such as

The digital age has introduced new paradigms for documenting and critiquing brutality. Open-source investigations, social media, and decentralized archives allow for real-time documentation of atrocities, often bypassing state censorship. Platforms like Bellingcat and initiatives like the Syrian Archive demonstrate how technology can democratize the process of truth-telling. However, these tools are not without risks. The digital divide can exclude marginalized voices, while the proliferation of data raises questions about authenticity, verification, and ethical use...

the meticulous records kept by the Nazis themselves, serve as chilling evidence of bureaucratic inhumanity but also raise questions about the role of documentation in perpetuating or challenging oppressive systems.

A deeper critique of archives involves questioning not just their content but their structure and purpose. Who decides what is worth preserving, and whose stories are left untold? For example, colonial archives often reduce entire cultures to anthropological curiosities, stripping their subjects of agency and context. Similarly, archives of slavery frequently center the perspectives of slaveholders, with the lives of the enslaved pieced together only through fragments. In these cases, the very act of archiving becomes an extension of the violence, perpetuating systems of erasure and marginalization.

The digital age has introduced new paradigms for documenting and critiquing brutality. Open-source investigations, social media, and decentralized archives allow for real-time documentation of atrocities, often bypassing state censorship. Platforms like Bellingcat and initiatives like the Syrian Archive demonstrate how technology can democratize the process of truth-telling. However, these tools are not without risks. The digital divide can exclude marginalized voices, while the proliferation of data raises questions about authenticity, verification, and ethical use. Moreover, the sheer volume of information can overwhelm audiences, leading to desensitization or apathy rather than action.

Understanding the perpetrators of brutality also requires an exploration of psychological and sociological factors. Studies of mass violence, such as those conducted by Christopher Browning and Philip Zimbardo, reveal how ordinary people can become perpetrators under specific conditions. Dehumanization, obedience to authority, groupthink, and fear are recurring themes in such research. These insights challenge simplistic notions of "evil" and compel us to examine the systemic and situational factors that enable brutality. They also underscore the importance of fostering critical thinking, empathy, and moral courage to resist complicity.

The critique of historical brutalities and their documentation is not merely an academic exercise but a moral imperative. It is a call to confront uncomfortable truths, challenge dominant narratives, and recognize the humanity of those who have suffered. This process involves not just preserving memory but actively engaging with it, ensuring that history's lessons inform present and future actions. As the philosopher George Santayana famously observed, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." To this, one might add that those who fail to critically examine how the past is remembered risk perpetuating its injustices.

The study of history's brutalities and their documentation is more than an academic pursuit; it is a moral imperative that speaks to the core of what it means to be human. By critically engaging with the past and scrutinizing the biases inherent in its preservation, we honor the voices of those who suffered and reclaim the humanity lost in cycles of violence. This research not only exposes the agents and systems that perpetuated atrocities but also challenges us to confront our complicity in shaping narratives of power and exclusion. With rare and authentic insights, it invites a timeless reflection on the ethical responsibilities of memory and justice, urging society to transform its understanding of history into a catalyst for compassion, accountability, and a future defined by collective dignity. This endeavor, though fraught with challenges, remains one of humanity's most profound and urgent responsibilities. It demands an unwavering commitment to amplifying marginalized voices, interrogating systems of power, and fostering a more inclusive and humane understanding of history.

Shabirahmed.Jone003@gmail.com

Dar-ul-Ulooms as Future Hubs of Comprehensive Education



Syed Majid Gilani

Dar-ul-Ulooms across Jammu and Kashmir have played a significant role in shaping the religious and spiritual frame-

work of society. These institutions have been instrumental in producing countless Islamic scholars, Imams, Hafiz-e-Quran, and Moulvis, who have dedicated their lives to serving the community. Today, most mosques in the region have Imams who are alumni of one or the other Dar-ul-Uloom. While their contribution to religious education is invaluable, it is time to broaden the horizons of these institutions and align them with the demands of the modern world.

Imagine a future where an Imam is not only a Hafiz-e-Quran but also a technocrat, doctor, or engineer. This vision of blending religious knowledge with modern education would revolutionize the role of Dar-ul-Ulooms and significantly enhance their impact on society. The need of the hour is to transform these institutions into centers of holistic educa-

essential, it limits students' potential in a rapidly evolving world where job-oriented education and technical skills are highly sought after. By introducing modern subjects such as science, mathematics, technology, and vocational training, these institutions can equip students with the tools needed to excel in various professional fields.

The integration of modern education alongside religious studies would make Dar-ul-Ulooms more productive and relevant in today's context. Vocational courses, technical training, and extracurricular activities would not only enhance

The integration of modern education alongside religious studies would make Dar-ul-Ulooms more productive and relevant in today's context. Vocational courses, technical training, and extracurricular activities would not only enhance the employability of students but also make the education process more dynamic and appealing. This approach would ensure that graduates of Dar-ul-Ulooms are prepared to take on diverse roles in society, from serving as spiritual leaders to excelling in professions like medicine, engineering, teaching, and administration.

ers to excelling in professions like medicine, engineering, teaching, and administration.

A balanced mix of Islamic and modern education would also infuse graduates with a unique blend of values and skills. Islamic teachings on compassion, hard work, honesty, and loyalty can complement the practical knowledge gained through modern education. Such individuals would be better equipped to address the challenges of the modern world while staying rooted in their spiritual principles.

Reimagining Dar-ul-Ulooms as institutions of comprehensive education would not only elevate their status but also empower their graduates to serve society in multifaceted ways. Instead of being confined to the role of mosque Imams, they could lead prayers while also contributing as doctors, engineers, technologists, journalists, and administrators. This transformation would enhance the societal perception of Dar-ul-Uloom graduates and make these institutions more attractive to the youth.

The vision for the future should be to see students from Dar-ul-Ulooms gaining admission to professional colleges, securing prestigious positions, and excelling in both religious and secular domains. By doing so, these institutions would create a new generation of leaders who embody a perfect balance of spiritual wisdom and worldly knowledge.

The time has come to modernize Dar-ul-Ulooms and expand their scope. By embracing change and integrating modern education with religious studies, these institutions can play a pivotal role in shaping a skilled, enlightened, and morally upright human resource. Let us encourage the heads of these institutions and society at large to reflect on this need and work towards realizing this vision. Together, we can ensure that Dar-ul-Ulooms continue to be centers of excellence that prepare individuals to thrive in both this world and the hereafter.

Syed Majid Gilani is a writer and serves as a GST Inspector for the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.



work of society. These institutions have been instrumental in producing countless Islamic scholars, Imams, Hafiz-e-Quran, and Moulvis, who have dedicated their lives to serving the community. Today, most mosques in the region have Imams

tion, where students can gain spiritual depth and worldly wisdom simultaneously.

Currently, the curriculum offered by most Dar-ul-Ulooms is exclusively focused on religious studies. While this remains

the employability of students but also make the education process more dynamic and appealing. This approach would ensure that graduates of Dar-ul-Ulooms are prepared to take on diverse roles in society, from serving as spiritual lead-

Chattergala Tunnel to Provide All-Weather Connectivity, Boost Local Economy: Dr. Jitendra Singh

DODA: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, today said the prestigious Chhatergala tunnel connecting Doda and Bhandarwah with Lakhanpur via Basohli-Bani will be a game changer in providing all weather connectivity to the region while boosting employment opportunities for the local youth.

The Union Minister was speaking during the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee Meeting (DISHA) held here today. The meeting focused on reviewing the progress on various centrally sponsored schemes and key infrastructure projects in the district.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the region which had remained untouched by development for the past many decades is now connected by a wide

web of highways, improving connectivity in far-flung areas of Doda. He called for early completion of the important projects, including Khellani

completion, without lapsing any funds.

The Union Minister instructed the officials to prioritize public participation in developmental



tunnel and Goha-Marmat Highway to further boost connectivity in the Chenab Valley region. He asked the concerned authorities to accelerate the execution of these projects for timely

initiatives in line with the spirit of Jan Bhagidari for their effective implementation.

Reaffirming government's commitment towards ensuring the district's holistic

development, the Union Minister stressed the importance of implementing local benefit schemes, such as Ayushman Bharat and drug-free initiatives. He called for conductive regular awareness campaigns to educate the public. He also encouraged the officials to organize skill development programs to create job opportunities for unemployed youth besides intensifying sports activities in the district.

Dr Jitendra Singh proposed organizing another lavender festival in the district next year to promote its cultivation besides highlighting the tourism potential of picturesque Bhandarwah, which has gained wide recognition as a prominent tourist destination. He also called for organising workshops to enhance innovation strategies and improve the district's agricultural practices.

Safina Baig visits Sopore, inspects SDH Sopore; reviews dev works

SOPORE: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig, accompanied by DDC Members and ADC Sopore Shabir Ahmad Raina, visited Sopore today to inspect the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Sopore. The visit aimed to assess the facilities and services provided at the hospital, ensuring healthcare needs of the



local population are met properly.

During the inspection, Safina Baig reviewed the hospital's infrastructure, medical equipment and patient care services.

She interacted with patients and their attendants, gathering feedback and understanding their concerns. Safina assured them that their issues would be addressed and improvements would be made to ensure better healthcare delivery.

The Block Medical Officer (BMO), Dr Zulfikar Nabi, briefed the DDC Chairperson about the

urgent need for a radiologist and a female ECG technician at SDH Sopore.

He emphasized that these professionals are critical to enhancing diagnostic services at the hospital. Chairperson Safina Baig assured the BMO that the issue would be prioritized, and efforts would be made to address the staffing requirements promptly.

Earlier, Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig, chaired a meeting to review the ongoing developmental works in sub Division Sopore. The DDC Chairperson also inquired about the progress of the AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) scheme. The Executive Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) briefed her, stating that the tendering process is currently in progress.

He further highlighted that a total budget of Rs 67 crore has been allocated to improve drinking water facilities and meet the needs of the entire Sopore town. In addition, Safina directed all executive agencies to ensure that boards are erected at all developmental work sites, so the public is informed about the ongoing projects and their benefits. Safina also expressed her commitment for making sure that all developmental works are executed efficiently and are aligned with the needs of the people of Sopore.

Arrangements finalized for celebrating Chilaikalan festival at Gulmarg on December 24

GULMARG: In preparation for the much-anticipated Chillai Kalan festival, set to be held on December 24 at the scenic tourist destination of Gulmarg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Tariq Hussain, along with other officers conducted a thorough inspection and finalized the arrangements for the event, ensuring a seamless experience for visitors and participants alike.

Sub-divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, Syed Altaf Mosvi, District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftakhar Ahmad, officers from the Indian Army and other senior officers comprised the team who conducted the field visit.

The inspection included a thorough review of the venue, Gulmarg Club, where the festival's main events will take place and the areas earmarked for cultural performances, exhibitions of local crafts, and winter sports activities.

The Chillai Kalan festival will feature traditional music and dance performances, stalls showcasing authentic Kashmiri cuisine, and exhibitions highlighting the region's rich artisanal legacy. Arrangements such as seating, sound systems, heating, lighting, safety and security measures were thoroughly scrutinized to guarantee a memorable experience for the visitors.

The team paid special attention to infrastructure, including the condition of roads, public utilities, and accommodations, to ensure that Gulmarg is fully equipped to handle the anticipated influx of visitors during the festival.

Snow clearance operations and installation of directional signage, were discussed to enhance accessibility and convenience.

The team also held a meeting with the hoteliers of Gulmarg and urged to ensure the



availability of accommodations for the participants and visitors thronging Gulmarg on the day of celebration of the Chillai Kalan Festival.

Speaking on the occasion the CEO GDA underscored that Chilaikalan festival is not just an event, it is a celebration of the spirit of Kashmir during its most enchanting season and administration has put all the necessary arrangements in place to make this festival a memorable experience for everyone.

Deputation of hot mix contractors calls on Dy CM

JAMMU: A deputation of Hot Mix Plant contractors of both the divisions today called on the Deputy Chief Minister and apprised him of their issues and concerns.

The deputation raised several issues like non release of payments of bitumen works since 2018 and withholding of Central Roads Funds. It also raised the issues of cancellation of the Special Clause Card of HMP prior to UT, bringing SRO 60 HMP in the preview of the Mining Department and related matters.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with the deputation, assured them that the issues raised by them would be looked into for redressal.

DC Shopian inspects Water Supply Schemes & sources in Keller

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today visited various Water Supply Schemes and sources in Keller and Shukroo to inspect the availability of water, particularly in the face of cold temperatures and freezing water sources.

The visit was undertaken to ascertain the actual position of ascertaining the severity of freezing of water supply schemes and sources and instruct measures to tackle water scarcity in some areas of the district.

During the visit, the DC directed officers to take necessary measures to ensure adequate water supply to the local population.

Directives were given to address issues related to water distribution due to freezing water sources, maintenance of water supply infrastructure, and exploring alternative sources of water. ADDC, Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, ACR, Shakoora Ahmad Dar, Ex En Jal Shakti, Ab Rashid Wani, DIO, Showkat Hussain Ganie, AEE and other field officials of the department were also present on the occasion.

DCPU Kupwara Organises Sports activities for Children of Child Care Institutions

KUPWARA: The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) continued its initiative to promote sports activities among children in Child Care Institutions of District Kupwara consecutively on second day at PALAASH Kupwara.

The event featured an exciting line-up of games including Volley ball, Tug of war, Badminton, Shot Ball, Discus throw, Carom and volleyball, providing an opportunity for children to engage in physical fitness and teamwork.

The initiative has been taken by DCPU Kupwara in collaboration with National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD). The activities were aimed to foster a sense of community and encourage healthy lifestyles among the young participants. The children were visibly enthusiastic, showcasing their skills and enjoying the spirit of friendly competition.

Career guidance program on Civil Services held at Womens College Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Govt Degree College for Women Anantnag hosted a career guidance program titled "Civil Services as a Career and its Dynamics" in the college auditorium today.

The event, organized by the Debates and Seminars Committee in collaboration with the Career Counseling Cell, aimed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the opportunities and challenges of pursuing a career in civil services.

The program was held under the esteemed patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Masood Ahmad Malik.

In his address, Principal emphasized the crucial role of civil services in nation-building and the importance of youth in shaping the future of the country. He appreciated the efforts of the Debates & Seminars

Committee and the Career Counseling Cell for organizing such programs that inspire students and guide them in making informed career choices.

The event featured three distinguished officers from the 2023 batch including Swathi (IAS), Tarun Patnaik (IAS), and Saurabh Narendra (IPS).

The officers shared their personal journeys and offered valuable insights into the civil services examination process, preparation strategies, and the dynamics of working in the civil services.

Swathi highlighted the importance of time management, effective resource utilization, and the role of women in civil services. She stressed that increasing female representation in civil services would contribute to the upliftment of women and address

their concerns more effectively.

Tarun Patnaik spoke at length about overcoming obstacles,



maintaining motivation, and the significance of discipline.

He emphasized that consistent performance and persistence were key to achieving success in civil services.

Saurabh Narendra, the IPS officer, discussed the importance of choosing civil services as a career for those passionate about serving the nation. He outlined

the essential role civil servants play in implementing government policies, delivering public services,



and maintaining the rule of law.

The event also saw active participation from students, who engaged with the speakers in discussions about exam preparation, choosing an optional subject, and maintaining a work-life balance. The officers shared inspiring anecdotes from their own experiences, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

MLA Pampore Holds Public Meetings, Inspects Development Works in Konibal, Lalpora, Meej villages of Pampore

Bilal Habib

PAMPORE: MLA Pampore, Retired Justice Hasnain Masoodi, conducted a series of public meetings in Konibal, Lalpora Chatlam, and Meej to address the grievances of local residents on Saturday. The meetings witnessed active participation from the villagers, who raised several pressing issues impacting their daily lives.

Residents highlighted challenges related to the Saffron Mission, irregular water supply, erratic electricity, poor road infrastructure, and other essential concerns. Acknowledging the urgency of these matters, MLA Masoodi provided assurances for their resolution and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officials for immediate action.

Addressing the gatherings, Masoodi emphasized the importance of public outreach programs to identify and resolve community issues effectively. He reiterated his commitment to working for the welfare of the people and ensuring that their basic needs are met.

Later in the day, MLA Masoodi visited the Meej area to inspect developmental projects. His visit included a review of works at various locations, including the Las Bab Shrine. Accompanying him were BDO Pampore Saima



Ramzan, Assistant Engineer Syed Adil, Junior Engineer Javid Ahsan Lone, and other workers.

During the inspection, Masoodi evaluated the progress of the development works and directed officials to expedite pending tasks. He also interacted with the workers and local residents to gain first-hand insights into the ongoing efforts and their impact on the community.

Masoodi's visit aimed to ensure that development projects are being executed efficiently and align with the needs of the people. The public meetings and site inspections received positive responses from the residents, who appreciated the proactive approach taken by the MLA to address their concerns.

Speaking to Kashmir Convener, MLA Pampore, Retired Justice Hasnain Masoodi, said that their goal is to connect with the public through outreach programmes to become aware of the issues and challenges faced by the people.

In addition to this, he reviewed the development works carried out in the area. Accompanying him were BDO Pampore Saima Ramzan and Assistant Engineer Syed Adil. The purpose of this visit was to assess the progress of the development works, understand the extent of the work completed, and identify areas where further efforts are needed.

District Admin Pulwama conducts series of events under Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore

PULWAMA: As part of the nation wide campaign Good Governance Week 2024 - Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore, Pulwama district witnessed a series of impactful events aimed at fostering transparent governance, empowering youth and addressing public grievances at the grassroots level.

These initiatives, organized under the overarching theme of effective governance and community engagement, drew significant participation from residents.

At Lassipora, an awareness campaign on Mission YUVA UDYAM JAGRITI was conducted with great success. The campaign focused on empowering the youth by fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and creating awareness about government initiatives that support young entrepreneurs.

This event highlighted the administration's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting self-reliance among the youth, ensuring their active participation in the district's socio-economic development.

Simultaneously, a Grievance Redressal Camp was organized at Panchayat Halqa Syedabad, Block Aripal. This camp served as a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and receive prompt resolutions.

These events underscore commitment of District Administration of Pulwama to enhancing governance through citizen-centric initiatives and fostering trust between the administration and the community. The success of these programs reflects the collaborative effort to bring governance closer to the people and empower them through meaningful engagement.



Judicial Academy holds workshop on "Leadership role of Judges; Court Management"

JAMMU: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan and guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy today organised one day workshop on "Leadership role of the Judges; Court Management; Role of Judges in Referral of cases for Mediation, etc." for Civil Judges (Sr./Jr. Division) of Jammu province at Janipur, Jammu.

The workshop was inaugurated

by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who also served as resource person for the first session of the day. Bala Jyoti, Former District & Session Judge and resource person, was also present.

In the first technical session, Justice Rahul Bharti explained that the judiciary today faces an ever-evolving legal landscape, marked by an increasing volume of cases, technological advancements and the growing complexity of legal issues.

The second technical session of the day was conducted by Bala Jyoti who explained the role of Judges in referral of cases for

Mediation. The learned Resource Person addressed the mediation as a transformative mechanism that offers an alternative pathway to resolve disputes amicably.

Sonia Gupta, Director J&K Judicial Academy, conducted the proceedings for the daylong workshop and presented vote of thanks. All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

Awareness campaign of Mission Yuva launched at Anantnag

Anantnag: The District Administration, Anantnag today inaugurated the Mission Yuva Awareness campaign- Udhyan Jagriti at Panchayat Ruhoo.

The initiative aims to foster an entrepreneurial culture at the grassroots level and empower individuals to become job providers rather than job seekers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) emphasized that the importance of entrepreneurship lies in creating self-employment opportunities and driving economic growth.

The Assistant Director Employment gave a detailed presentation regarding Various government schemes and initiatives available to support aspiring entrepreneurs, including financial assistance, skill development training, and mentorship programs were highlighted during the programme.

The Mission Yuva awareness programme will focus on educating and inspiring youth especially women to explore entrepreneurial ventures. It will provide them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to start and grow their own businesses.

DC Kupwara launches 'Mission Yuva' at Handwara

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today launched the 'Mission Yuva' programme in a well attended function held at Environment Hall Handwara.

The Mission Yuva aims at empowering youth, first-generation entrepreneurs and small businesses with the tools, training and financial support to build enterprises.

Addressing the function, the Deputy Commissioner said that Mission Yuva is an umbrella programme of the government which is aimed to make the youth self-reliant by providing them necessary support to establish their own businesses which will turn them into job givers instead of job seekers.

She said that the District Administration Kupwara has already devised a plan wherein the concerned officials will hold survey in every village to trace the qualified unemployed youth and register their area of interest.

The whole survey will be then compiled in a database form and the targeted youth will be facilitated accordingly by different departments.

On the occasion, entrepreneurs who have already established their income generating units belonging to different areas of the district spoke and shared their achievements and success of their units before the participants.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner enjoined upon the budding and aspiring entrepreneurs to get inspiration from these successful entrepreneurs which will help them to establish their own business ventures.

She also asked them to come forward and get

expert guidance from the concerned District Heads and other officers.

DDC Rajwar also spoke on the occasion and expressed his gratitude towards the District



Administration for organizing the launching ceremony of Mission Yuva.

He hoped that many youth will get encouraged under the Mission Yuva and get better avenues for establishing their self income generating units.

Meanwhile, various officers including ACD Kupwara, AD Employment, Chief Agriculture Officer, IPO and others spoke and highlighted the role of their departments in implementation of Mission Yuva programme.

Earlier, Assistant Director Employment briefed the participants about the significance of Udyam Jagriti under Mission Yuva and its benefits on establishment of enterprises in the district.

Pamphlets were also distributed among the participants regarding the information about Mission Yuva and the procedure for availing benefits under the scheme. Information about Mission Yuva App was also given.

Nikshay Shivr: A Community-Driven Mission to Eliminate TB in Kashmir



DR. ABDUL ROUF

Tuberculosis (TB) has long been a major public health concern across the world, particularly in countries like India, where the burden of the disease remains high. Despite the global effort to combat this infectious disease, it continues to pose a significant challenge, and efforts to eliminate it remain a top priority for the Government of India. To tackle this, the government has introduced several initiatives over the years, among which the "Nikshay Shivr" has emerged as one of the most impactful and far-reaching campaigns for TB elimination. This 100-day intensified campaign is a critical part of India's strategy to eliminate TB and its burden from the country by the year 2025. In Kashmir, the initiative holds great promise, and efforts have been made to bring together the community, healthcare providers, and government and non-government agencies, ultimately creating a multi-faceted approach to eliminate TB from Kashmir.

India is the global leader in terms of the TB burden, with nearly a quarter of the world's TB cases. Nationally, the incidence rate is about 195 cases per lakh population, significantly higher than in Kashmir, where the incidence is below 50 cases per lakh population in most districts, including Srinagar. Even in the Kashmir Valley, where Srinagar is a healthcare hub due to its tertiary care hospitals and advanced private healthcare facilities, around 1,400 cases are diagnosed and notified annually. This number is nearly three times higher than the actual number from Srinagar District itself, which is under 500 because of cases from other districts and even States and UTs are diagnosed and even treated here. Moreover, in many cases, the notified number of cases may

be higher, especially due to the phenomenon of duplication in case notifications. This happens when individuals, after receiving a TB diagnosis, seek second opinions or retests in other facilities, often under different names or contact details, leading to duplicate entries in the health system. To curb this issue, the government of India is in process of mandating Aadhaar-based identification to ensure accurate tracking and prevent duplication in notifications.

There appears to be confusion surrounding the concepts of TB elimination and eradication, with some medical professionals and journalists mistakenly believing that the Department of Health is claiming TB eradication in certain districts of Kashmir. This issue was highlighted in the article "TB Still Persists in J&K" by Zehru Nissa, published in Greater Kashmir on December 18, 2024, in which an anonymous pulmonologist was quoted. While the terms "elimination" and "eradication" may sound similar, they have distinct meanings, particularly within the context of public health. Eradication refers to the permanent global reduction of TB to zero incidence, meaning the disease would no longer exist anywhere on the planet. While this is a long-term global objective, achieving eradication is challenging in the short term, especially given the high incidence of TB in neighboring countries. On the other hand, TB elimination means reducing the incidence of TB in a specific region or country to a level where it is no longer a public health concern. The programmatic operational definition for TB elimination is when the incidence of TB falls below 44 cases per lakh population, at which point the disease is no longer a significant threat to public health in that particular geographic area. Most districts in Kashmir, including Srinagar, are nearly reaching this operational target, putting them in a strong position to eliminate TB. In fact, some districts such as Budgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama have already reached this milestone.

It is important to understand these definitions to manage expectations. While TB eradication remains a long-term global goal, elimination is a more achievable and realistic

objective for regions like Kashmir. Thus, initiatives like the Nikshay Shivr focus on TB elimination, aiming for the reduction of TB incidence to a point where it no longer poses a major health risk.

The Nikshay Shivr, launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is a key component of India's broader strategy to eliminate TB by 2025. It is a focused 100-day intensified campaign aimed at early detection, treatment, and

the population regarding TB symptoms, the importance of early diagnosis, the availability of treatment, and the government's nutritional and other support interventions. In an effort to ensure early detection, vulnerable populations are being mapped, and a proactive approach is being adopted for screening and testing in these high-burden areas.

To increase the effectiveness of the Nikshay Shivr campaign, various high-sensitivity diagnostic tools are being employed. These include traditional methods like X-rays and the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT), which can accurately detect TB in a matter of hours. Moreover, innovative new tools such as the cough app, which uses symptoms like the type of cough to predict potential TB, have been introduced to enhance case detection.

The campaign follows a three-pronged screening approach:

Screening 100% of the identified vulnerable populations through active case finding in communities.

Screening 100% of individuals attending specialized OPDs, such as those for HIV, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), tobacco cessation clinics, cancer centers, and dialysis units.

Screening at least 10% of adult patients in general OPDs in community health centers (CHCs), sub-district hospitals (SDHs), district hospitals (DHs), and medical colleges, and 5% in Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and similar urban primary care settings.

A key element of the Nikshay Shivr campaign is Janbagidari—community participation. The success of TB elimination efforts depends not only on healthcare professionals and government institutions but also on the active involvement of local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders at all levels. This approach involves mobilizing local leaders, NGOs, and voluntary organizations to raise awareness, educate the public, and provide direct support to those affected by TB.

At the national level, elected representatives such as MPs, along with ministries like Health and Panchayat Raj, play a crucial role in advocating for policy changes, securing funding, and driving awareness campaigns. At the state and district levels, the involvement of local officials like MLAs, district collectors, and medical officers is essential for coordinating screening efforts, ensuring timely treatment, and ensuring that TB control measures are implemented effectively.

At the village level, Gram Panchayats, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are actively involved in raising awareness, providing care, and supporting TB patients with nutritional interventions. These community-driven efforts are crucial for building trust, ensuring better health outcomes, and fostering a sense of collective responsibility toward TB elimination.

The success of Nikshay Shivr is also reliant on collaboration with various sectors and organizations. The campaign actively engages corporate partners, trade unions, market associations, and private healthcare providers. These stakeholders help with spreading awareness, providing financial and nutritional support to TB patients, and ensuring the availability of healthcare services for workers in industries and other sectors prone to TB exposure. For example, the campaign organizes TB screening camps for workers in mining industries and corporate sectors, provides nutritional support to TB patients through corporate partnerships, and conducts awareness programs through trade unions and market associations. This collaboration enhances the reach of the campaign and strengthens its effectiveness.

As the campaign continues to evolve, with more tools, better diagnostics, and increased awareness, Kashmir's healthcare system is poised to take a giant leap forward in the battle against TB. By leveraging the power of community participation, advanced screening techniques, and collaborative efforts, the region can create a healthier, TB-free future for its citizens and set a benchmark for other parts of India to follow.

The author is Public Health Specialist and is presently working as District Tuberculosis Officer Srinagar and can be reached at: a.rouf.dr@gmail.com



prevention of TB. The Nikshay Shivr campaign is an integral part of India's commitment to achieving the goal of a TB-free India by 2025. The success of the Nikshay Shivr campaign relies on active case finding—the process of identifying TB cases through outreach and targeted screenings. In Kashmir, the Department of Health Services has expanded its focus to include high-risk populations such as elderly individuals, smokers, diabetics, people living in congregate settings, and those who have had close contact with TB patients diagnosed in the past five years. Additionally, people who are immunocompromised, underweight, alcoholics or suffer from other chronic diseases are also targeted in the screening efforts.

More importantly the aim is to increase awareness among



Raja Mohi-u-din



Dr. Surabjeet Rastogi
Director Ortho



Dr. Deepak Sr. Director



FROM MISDIAGNOSIS TO RECOVERY:

A PERSONAL JOURNEY OF HEALING AND GRATITUDE

In the world of healthcare, where patient well-being should be the ultimate priority, navigating the complexities of treatment and medical costs can often become as challenging as the illness itself. For one patient, what began as a simple injury in Gulmarg turned into a harrowing journey through misdiagnosis, inflated medical costs, and eventually, finding expert care at Max Super Specialty Hospital in Dwarka, Delhi.

The Accident: A Fall in Gulmarg

It all began on November 21, 2024, when I suffered a severe injury after falling from a hotel staircase in Gulmarg, a popular ski resort in Kashmir. The fall caused excruciating pain in my leg, and after initial treatment at Srinagar's Bone and Joint Hospital, it was clear that further treatment was necessary. The harsh winter conditions in Kashmir prompted my well-wishers to make the decision to seek better medical care in Chandigarh, a city known for its specialized treatment for bone and joint issues.

The Shock at Fortis Hospital

Our first stop was Fortis Hospital in Chandigarh, where Dr. Mandeep Dhillon, a reputed orthopedic surgeon, recommended immediate surgery to treat the fracture and gave an initial estimate of Rs. 4.5 lakh for the procedure. While I trusted the expertise of Fortis, the price seemed exorbitant. After consulting a local friend, I was advised to send the amount directly to the hospital's account. However, the situation took an unexpected turn. The hospital called 15 minutes after our inquiry, offering a Rs. 1 lakh discount. Yet, even after the adjustment, the final

amount felt too steep.

The next day, Fortis contacted us again, this time offering a Rs 1 lakh further reduction, bringing the cost down to Rs 2.5 lakh. At this point, I began questioning the transparency of the hospital's pricing, and with a sense of unease, we decided to walk away. The constant bargaining and price reductions felt more like a sales transaction than a compassionate medical consultation.

The Disappointment at Batiya Hospital

We then moved to Batiya Hospital in Sector 37, Chandigarh, where Dr. Arvind Singh Bhatia initially told us that the fracture was not severe and could be treated with a plaster. However, after 20 days of treatment, he claimed that three bones had broken, two of which would heal with plaster, while the third would require surgery after two months. This new diagnosis was confusing and inconsistent, and I began to doubt the doctor's judgment. The suggestion that two bones could heal naturally while the third would need surgery left me puzzled. After much consideration, we decided to seek another opinion.

A Game-Changing Referral

At this point, I reached out to a trusted friend, Ramesh Kachlu, a well-known businessman based in Delhi, who has had his share of orthopedic issues. He recommended Dr. Deepak Raina, a Kashmiri orthopedic surgeon practicing at Max Super Specialty Hospital in Dwarka, Delhi. Ramesh assured me that Dr. Raina was not only highly skilled but also compassionate and trustworthy. Taking the advice to heart, I immediately contacted Dr. Raina, who

invited me to come to Delhi for a consultation. From the moment I arrived at Max Super Specialty Hospital, I felt a sense of relief. Dr. Raina and his team didn't waste any time. They performed the surgery on the first day without delay. The care and attention I received from the entire hospital staff were beyond my expectations. Within just eight days, I was walking again—a miraculous recovery I never thought possible.

Why Max Super Specialty Hospital Stands Apart

What made Max Super Specialty Hospital stand out wasn't just the successful surgery, but the entire experience from start to finish. The hospital's staff was professional, compassionate, and transparent throughout the process. They provided clear explanations about the treatment plan, and the post-surgery care was exceptional. The facilities, including food and accommodations, were better than I could have imagined. I felt like I was being cared for by a team that truly valued my well-being. Dr. Raina personally provided me with his contact number, ensuring that I could reach him at any time if I needed help. This level of care and availability made a world of difference during my recovery.

A Message to Fellow Patients

This experience has taught me invaluable lessons. First and foremost, when seeking medical treatment, it is crucial to prioritize quality care over cost. Although some hospitals may offer discounts or reductions, it's important to question the validity of such practices, especially when it comes to life-changing treatments. My advice to anyone seeking treatment for bone or joint issues is to

consider Max Super Specialty Hospital. They have recently opened an OPD in Karn Nagar, Srinagar, which will make it even more convenient for patients from Kashmir to access top-tier healthcare. If you're in need of reliable medical care, I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Deepak Raina and his team.

As I remain in Delhi for the next month to complete my recovery, I am available for anyone who needs guidance or has questions regarding their own medical journey. Please feel free to reach out to me at 7006084037.

Conclusion:

The Importance of Trustworthy Medical Care

The ordeal I went through was not just about recovering from an injury—it was about navigating a system that often prioritizes profit over patient well-being. Hospitals like Fortis and Batiya were more concerned with pricing than providing proper care, which ultimately led me to Max Super Specialty Hospital. Here, I found a team that treated me with respect and provided me with the medical care I needed, free from exploitation.

In sharing this personal account, I hope to warn others about the dangers of medical fraud and encourage patients to make informed decisions when seeking treatment. Quality care, transparent pricing, and genuine compassion should be the standard, not the exception.

Raja Mohiuddin
Editor, Kashmir Press Service Media Group

J&K Leads in PM Vishwakarma Scheme: Over 4700 Toolkits Delivered to Local Artisans

'KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

An official Spokesperson told Kashmir Convener the activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, Procurement Marketing Support Scheme Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the Country.

The PM Vishwakarma scheme is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir with active participation of the Government of



Jammu & Kashmir.

The scheme is meant for upliftment of skilled artisans of all 18 trades who preserve the cultural identity and are part of the economy in J&K.

The scheme offers benefits like training with stipend, Loan up to Rs 3 lakh, incentive

of Re.1 towards digital transaction and toolkits worth Rs.15,000. Around 4,66,667 artisans are registered in J&K under the scheme and training has been completed at various centers across the districts of J&K.

As per the scheme guidelines toolkits are being given to the Vishwakarmas for

enhancing their production levels with enhanced quality fetching better value for their products. The delivery of Toolkits is implemented with the assistance of India Post.

Started recently, a detailed road map has been laid for delivery of Tool Kits at the doorsteps of the artisan which includes showing the toolkit to the artisans by open delivery method and recording, uploading of a video with 30 seconds duration before making payment to the vendor of the tool kit through DBT.

The UT has recorded delivery of 4701 toolkits against the total deliveries of 12,517 made in the country, which is way ahead of other bigger states. This has been made possible with timely follow up in the implementation at all levels by G.Velladurai IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO, Jammu. As on date the total certified artisans in J&K are 1,50,828 and artisans completed training with stipend are 1,27,192. Total loan sanctions in the scheme are 10,806 artisans with loan value of Rs 100 Cr Appx.

Homage Paid to Late Fatima Rasool Beigh at Provincial Headquarters, Jammu

G.R. Memorial Trust Members and Dignitaries Unite in Mourning

JAMMU: A heartfelt condolence meeting was held at the Provincial Headquarters, Jammu, to pay tribute to the late Fatima Rasool Beigh, Chief Patron of the G.R. Memorial Trust. The meeting was chaired by Shri Susheel Sudhan, President of the G.R. Memorial Trust Jammu Province and President of the Medical Employees Federation.

Participants offered prayers for the departed soul and extended their support to the Trust's Chairman, Mr. Ishiyaa Beigh, assuring him of their solidarity during this difficult time.

Prominent personalities present included Shri Subhash Sharma (Member, Pharmacy Council of India), Mr. Farooq



Ahmad Ganai, Dr. Aziem, Mr. Jahangeer Khan, Dr. Ishtiyaaq, Dr. Zahoor,

Dr. Sham Lal, Shabir Hussain Mir sr. Vice President of G.R Memorial trust and representatives from various organizations and associations.

The attendees remembered the late Fatima Rasool Beigh's contributions and

her unwavering dedication to the Trust. The gathering resolved to honor her legacy by continuing the philanthropic and developmental work initiated under her guidance.

The meeting concluded with a collective prayer for peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family.

Continued From P1...

Chillai Kalan

predicted light snowfall in some higher reaches of north Kashmir until tomorrow (Sunday) morning. Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the MeT Department, said the weather is expected to remain dry between December 23 and December 26.

"From late December 27 to the forenoon of December 28, light rain is likely in Jammu plains, with light snow in higher reaches of Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal region," he said. "The weather is expected to remain dry again on December 29 and 30, with light snowfall possible in a few higher-altitude areas thereafter."

The MeT has issued an advisory predicting a slight rise in minimum temperatures by 1-2°C over the next two days, followed by another drop of 2-3°C by December 26. Tourists, travellers and transporters have been advised to exercise caution, given the sub-freezing temperatures, icy road conditions and the possibility of fresh snowfall in higher reaches—(KNO)

DHSK issues

News Observer (KNO), the advisory defines a cold wave as a weather phenomenon marked by a significant drop in air temperature, sometimes accompanied by frost and hazardous conditions like icing.

DHSK urged people to stay updated and adequately prepared about the weather patterns and district-specific warnings.

Among those identified as high-risk groups are homeless individuals, the elderly, economically disadvantaged people, disabled individuals, pregnant and lactating mothers, children, outdoor workers, managers of night shelters, farmers, and individuals who use illicit drugs. "These groups are particularly vulnerable to the adverse health effects of prolonged exposure to extreme cold."

The DHSK further warned that intense cold can lead to serious health conditions such as hypothermia, frostbite, and other cold-related injuries like immersion foot and chilblain.

"Hypothermia, a medical emergency, can be life-threatening if not addressed promptly. Symptoms of hypothermia in adults include shivering, memory loss, exhaustion, slurred speech, confusion, drowsiness, and fumbling hands," it reads.

The advisory further reads that among the infants, it manifests as bright red, cold skin and low energy.

It further stressed upon the importance of immediate action, including moving the affected person to a warm shelter, removing wet clothing, and warming their body with blankets or skin-to-skin contact. Emergency medical attention is essential for severe cases.

DHSK has recommended several preventive measures to prepare for and combat the cold wave. These include stocking adequate winter clothing and emergency supplies such as food, water, and medicines.

"People are advised to wear multiple layers of loose-fitting, warm clothing, cover extremities like the head, neck, hands, and feet, and eat a healthy diet rich in Vitamin-C to boost immunity. Drinking warm fluids regularly and keeping the skin moisturized is also advised to maintain body heat and protect against dryness," it reads.

DHSK in the advisory urged the public to avoid prolonged exposure to cold. It also asked the public to refrain from consuming alcohol and not to ignore signs of shivering, which indicates the body is losing heat.

The directorate further asked the locals to remain vigilant for symptoms of frostbite or hypothermia and suggested to seek medical attention immediately if such symptoms occur—(KNO)

Avoid unnecessary

The advisory as per news gathering agency KINS reads: "Avoid Unnecessary Travel: Minimize travel, especially during early mornings and late nights when temperatures are at their lowest".

"Ensure vehicles are equipped with winter tyres, antifreeze coolant, and fully functional lights and wipers. Motorists should also check their vehicle's battery, as extreme cold can affect performance".

Travel Planning: Allow extra time for journeys to account for potentially slippery roads. Keep the fuel tank at least half full to prevent fuel line freezing.

Driving Tips: It is recommended to drive slowly, maintain a safe distance, and avoid sudden movements to prevent skidding. Bikers are advised to wear thermal gear and helmets with anti-fog visors.

The advisory also warns against overtaking on icy or foggy roads and urges drivers to stay focused and avoid using mobile phones while driving. In case of vehicle skidding, drivers should steer gently in the direction of the skid and avoid slamming the brakes.

Motorists are encouraged to stay updated on weather conditions and traffic advisories before setting out on their journeys.(KINS)

Business Rules

council of ministers. As per Section 55 of the Act, the Lieutenant Governor shall make rules on the advice of the Council of Ministers for the allocation of business to the Ministers and for the more convenient transaction of business with the Ministers, including the procedure to be adopted in case of a difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and the Council of Ministers or a Minister.

As senior bureaucrat told that the Union Government framed business rules for Jammu & Kashmir in 2020 by invoking the proclamation dated October 31, 2019, issued under Section 73 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, "Under the Proclamation, the President of India assumed all the powers and functions of the government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and all powers vested in or exercisable by the Lieutenant Governor of

the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The said proclamation also suspended Section 55 of the Reorganisation Act to the extent of acting on the advice of the council of ministers," he said—(KNO)

55th GST

deferrals and the formation of ministerial groups to address unresolved issues.

While Omar refrained from comparing this meeting to previous ones, he stressed the importance of protecting Jammu and Kashmir's traditional industries amid broader policy deliberations.

The speculation over increased taxes from the existing 12 percent to a whopping 28 percent on Kashmiri shawls had caused concern among stakeholders in the valley, who rely heavily on the intricate craft for their livelihoods.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader, Naeem Akhtar and People's Conference (PC) chairman Sajad Gani Lone had voiced strong opposition to the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) hike on Kashmiri shawls from 12% to 28%, warning that such a move would devastate Kashmir's fragile economy and leave thousands of artisans in distress.

Earlier on Friday, responding to certain reports appearing in a section of media regarding the proposed revision of tax slab in the upcoming GST Council meeting, a spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir government clarified that the UT administration had already taken up the matter with the Union Ministry for Commerce & Industry.

The spokesperson said they have requested the Union government to lower the GST rate structure from the existing 12% to 5% uniformly, including shawls priced above Rs 1,000 to reduce the tax burden on this artisan-driven industry and support marketability.

Govt committed

would go a long way in promoting and giving a new lease of life to the local film industry in both the regions.

"Jammu and Kashmir has been the most preferred location for Bollywood for a long time and the government is making every effort to ensure that it regains its spot in the film tourist circuit," he added.

Kashmir's Craft

He commended their unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting the region's rich craft heritage.

Islam emphasized the need for diversification in the handicrafts sector, in response to evolving market demands and trends. He urged artisans to adapt their craft offerings to meet changing consumer preferences while retaining the authenticity of Kashmir's traditional arts. "Diversification is essential to remain competitive in the global market," Mr. Islam noted. "It will help open new doors for our artisans and provide more opportunities for growth."

He also took a strong stance against intermediaries who might mislead the artisans, stressing that the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir only disperses incentives through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

"Do not let any middlemen deceive you. The Department has offices spread across the division, and we are committed to supporting you directly," he assured the artisans, reaffirming the department's dedication to providing genuine benefits.

During the program, artisans who had benefited from the Karkhandar Scheme shared their personal experiences. Their stories highlighted how the scheme had positively impacted livelihoods, offering financial assistance, skill training and resources to enhance the craft.

The artisans spoke of the difference the scheme had made in their ability to access raw materials, improve their skills and market their products effectively. Their testimonials underscored the importance of such initiatives in sustaining the rich craft traditions of Kashmir.

Director also reassured the artisans that the Department would continue to explore new avenues for marketing handmade products, ensuring they reach both domestic and international markets. "Our mission is to ensure that the incredible craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans is celebrated worldwide," he said.

The event was attended by other senior officials from the Department, who took the opportunity to brief artisans about various departmental initiatives aimed at supporting the handicraft sector. These included updates on skill development programs, financial assistance schemes and opportunities for artisans to expand their reach through marketing and branding support.

The Jashn-e-Chilla-i-Kalan event successfully brought together artisans, members of Industrial Cooperatives and officials to celebrate the resilience and talent of Kashmir's handicraft community, while reaffirming the Department's commitment to their growth and prosperity.

41,141 km roads

habitations (99%) have been connected, with 17,839 km of roads completed.

The 4-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is progressing steadily, with work on four sections completed.

The Udhampur-Ramban section is 99.90% complete, and the Ramban-Banihal section is nearing completion. Additional enhancements, including a 13.60 km realignment in the Ramban-Banihal section and a 2.39 km viaduct/tunnel in the Nashri-Ramban section, are under construction.

On the Jammu-Akhnoor highway, a 5 km flyover from Bhagwatnagar to Muthi is complete, with the remaining work targeted for March

2025.

Major projects such as the 4-laning of Srinagar-Baramulla, double-laning of Akhnoor-Poonch and Chenani-Sudhmahadev-Kishtwar roads, and the Srinagar and Jammu Ring Roads are ongoing. Significant progress has also been achieved in tunnel construction.

The Chenani-Nashri and Qazigund-Banihal tunnels are operational, improving connectivity along NH-44. The Zojila and Z-Mohr tunnels, critical for all-weather connectivity, are under active construction.

JU awarded

shared vision of transforming the University of Jammu into a global hub for academic and research excellence," said Prof. Rai.

He elaborated on the transformative initiatives undertaken by the University, including the promotion of interdisciplinary research, strengthening academic frameworks, and adopting best practices.

"This recognition by NAAC is not just a milestone but a motivation to further our commitment to quality, innovation, inclusivity, and enhancing societal impact," he emphasized.

Prof. Rai acknowledged the support of the Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, Manoj Sinha; Chief Minister and Pro Vice Chancellor, Omar Abdullah; Higher Education Minister, Sakina Itoo; and Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council Prof. Dinesh Singh.

"Their visionary guidance has been instrumental in enabling the University to achieve this remarkable feat," he added.

The Vice-Chancellor also thanked the NAAC Peer Team for their rigorous evaluation and insightful recommendations during their visit.

"This is not the culmination of our journey but the beginning of new aspirations to set higher benchmarks in the field of higher education," Prof. Rai added.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha congratulated the University for this remarkable feat and extended his congratulations to the Vice Chancellor, faculty, staff, scholars, and students for their dedication and hard work.

The LG emphasized that Jammu University's success is a testament to its reform-driven, futuristic vision. He praised the institution's focus on academic excellence, goal-oriented research, innovative capacity, and the holistic development of its students.

Sinha highlighted that these efforts not only contribute to academic growth but also play a crucial role in shaping enlightened citizens, thus making Jammu and Kashmir proud—(KNO)

Centre sanctions

under the Ministry of Education, has been designed to address critical gaps in the higher education sector by enhancing infrastructure, curriculum reform, accreditation and employability. Aligned with the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the scheme aims to ensure equitable access to quality education, particularly for underrepresented groups, thereby fostering a more inclusive and dynamic higher education ecosystem. These recent sanctions are part of a broader vision to make education a driver of social and economic transformation, bridging regional disparities and empowering students with the skills needed for a rapidly changing world.

The Higher Education Department of Jammu & Kashmir had earlier submitted a comprehensive proposal for 47 institutions, with a total estimated cost of Rs 585 crore. Including the latest approvals, 18 institutions including Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and several colleges, have been sanctioned under PM-USHA across three PAB meetings held in 2024. The cumulative funding now stands at ₹155 crore, marking a significant milestone in addressing the infrastructural and academic needs of the region.

The establishment of new hostels and upgraded facilities will not only enhance the quality of education but also support gender inclusion, a critical aspect of NEP 2020's vision for equitable development.

NEP 2020 emphasizes a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education, prioritizing equity, inclusivity and excellence. PM-USHA serves as a key enabler in realizing this vision by bridging infrastructural gaps and promoting reforms that align with global standards.

The projects sanctioned for Jammu & Kashmir will create an environment conducive to innovation, learning and employability, ensuring that students from all sections of society have access to quality education.

These initiatives reflect a sustained commitment of J&K Government towards building a robust higher education framework that not only addresses present challenges but also anticipates future needs, ensuring that the region's academic institutions are well-prepared to contribute to national and global progress.

J&K to

Coordination and Monitoring Committee Meeting (DISHA) held here with the entire district administration.

Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, local MLAs and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) besides district officers attended the meeting.

The Union Minister called upon the National Hydro Power Corporation Limited (NHPCL) to undertake capacity building of local unskilled labour to increase their employability for projects requiring specific skills and specialised training.

Reviewing the status of projects aimed at boosting connectivity in the district, Dr Singh called for expediting the construction of a full-fledged airstrip in the district under Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN). The facility aims to improve connectivity for the population living in tough terrain.

While reviewing the status of works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Jal Jeevan Mission, the Union Minister urged that the concerned departments, including R&B, need to work in close coordination with the public representatives for speedy and

better execution of projects.

Calling for bridging the communication gap, Dr Singh stated that the district administration must follow a Standard Operating Procedure for sharing of information with the PRIs during field visits conducted by officials. He added that inputs of PRI representatives should be taken by the officials for effective implementation of the works.

Noting the negative impact of some of infrastructure projects on the health of common citizens due to pollution and land degradation, the Union Minister instructed for putting in place an arrangement for carrying out a dynamic exercise as regards environment clearance granted for these projects. He added that it must also be ensured that the best practices are adopted for protection of the environment and public health.

Expressing concern over some public servants, such as doctors and teachers, quitting their jobs without following due procedure, Dr Singh stated that a uniform policy needs to be firmed up under which if these civil servants, relinquish their posts, they must be made to provide hefty compensation to the government for putting citizens to inconvenience. He underlined that the proposed policy is the need of the hour to avert a crisis across departments emanating from dearth of staff in future.

Dr Jitendra Singh directed the district administration to organise mass awareness camps highlighting the benefits of lavender, Ayushman Bharat scheme and PM Surya Ghar Mutt Bijli Yojana. In a similar vein, he called for promoting Sansad Khelkud Spardha to develop sporting talent among the local youth, and also pitched for branding of local products, such as cumin seeds and saffron.

He informed that a saffron park will come up in Kishtwar soon. He also called for further exploration of world's finest sapphire discovered in the mines of Paddar area in the district for generation of additional revenue and creation of more employment opportunities for the local youth.

Lt Gen

During the visit, Lt Gen Sachdeva participated in the Mendhar Cricket Premier League (MCPL) felicitation ceremony, where he applauded the youth for their enthusiasm in sports as a means of fostering unity and social harmony. He emphasized the significance of such events in channeling energy constructively and promoting a sense of community.

The Corps Commander also met with Indian Army veterans, expressing gratitude for their enduring contributions to regional peace and social cohesion. He acknowledged their role in bridging the gap between the military and civilian populations, further strengthening trust and cooperation.

Reaffirming the Indian Army's dedication to regional welfare, Lt Gen Sachdeva stressed the importance of a collective approach involving operational readiness, collaboration with local law enforcement and administration, and proactive engagement with the civilian population.

This visit underscored the Army's ongoing efforts to ensure a secure and harmonious environment in Jammu and Kashmir while fostering goodwill and collaboration with local communities.

NOTICE

Inadvertently name of my ward Batool Shahnawaz has been wrongly mentioned as Batool Shahnawaza in Date of Birth Certificate issued by MCB Bandipora. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of Registrar Births and Deaths MCB Bandipora within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Dr Shahnawaz Nazir
father of Batool Shahnawaz
R/O Ward 06 Bagh Bandipora

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No : 0216020003073, my parentage has been Wrongly mentioned as Gh Rasool Lone S/O Ab Jabbar Lone, while as my Actual and correct parantege is Gh Rasool Lone S/O Ghulam Mohd Lone. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Gh Rasool Lone.
S/O Ghulam Mohd Lone.
R/O Mantrigam Bandipora.

I'm sure Harmanpreet will be fine for ODIs: Coach Muzumdar

Indian women's cricket team head coach Amol Muzumdar expressed hope that regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur will recover from a knee niggle in time for the opening ODI against West Indies here on Sunday. Harmanpreet missed the last two T20Is of

the three-match series against the Caribbean team in Navi Mumbai, which the hosts won 2-1. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana led India in Harmanpreet's absence, making a strong impression by striking three fifties in a row. "Harmanpreet is going to bat today in the nets... a complete, full nets schedule. We'll

take a call once the nets are over and I'm sure she'll be fine," said Muzumdar during a media conference here. The coach conceded that young wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia's absence due to injury will be felt in the three-match ODI series, but added that the management will try to pick

the best eleven from the 15-member squad. "Yes, we will feel the absence of some players. Yastika Bhatia is injured, she is doing rehab at NCA. Hopefully, she will be fit and fine very soon. So, we will try and pick the best XI from the 15-member squad here," he said. "The pitch...I've just had a look at it. It looks like a good pitch. We've come from DY Patil (Stadium in Navi Mumbai) where there was red-soil surface, a typical Mumbai pitch. Here it's a black soil surface, so looking forward to the game," he added.

Rookie cricketers Pratika Rawal and Tanuja Kanwer have received maiden ODI call-ups, and Muzumdar's advice to them was to "go out and enjoy" in the middle. "There are couple of new entrants in the ODI lineup. (I say) just go out there and enjoy yourself and spend some time in the middle. "That's the most important thing. Even in training, we would like to practice the way we are going to play in a match, so that's the message to the newcomers in the team," he said.

With a turnaround time of only a couple of days between the T20Is and the ODI series, the coach said it is the "requirement of modern-day cricket". "...to change your game according to the format. We are coming from the T20 format to ODIs. We had a team meeting prior to the departure from hotel. We would like to continue the momentum of T20Is," said Muzumdar, adding that the dew factor could play a major role like it did during the T20Is. "In T20s, we saw it played a major role, but toss is not in our hands. We will have to adjust to that," he added.



"The pitch...I've just had a look at it. It looks like a good pitch. We've come from DY Patil (Stadium in Navi Mumbai) where there was red-soil surface, a typical Mumbai pitch. Here it's a black soil surface, so looking forward to the game," he added.

Dwarshuis gives Sixers last-ball win in thrilling Sydney derby

Sydney Sixers 164 for 5 (Silk 36*, Philippe 35, Dwarshuis 20*, Ferguson 2-32) beat Sydney Thunder 163 for 5 (Bancroft 70*, Davies 47, Hosein 2-23, Dwarshuis 2-26) by five wickets

Ben Dwarshuis hit Sydney Sixers to an unlikely last-ball win over Sydney Thunder, taking 15 from the last over to take his team past the victory mark. On the same night that Sam Konstas was bowled for a duck in his last innings before a likely Boxing Day Test debut, Dwarshuis hit Sixers home at Engie Stadium.

Chasing 164 for victory, Sixers looked shot when they needed 47 from the final four overs. But Jordan Silk (36* off 25 balls) helped them take 17 from a Nathan McAndrew over, before Dwarshuis provided the late heroics with 20 not out from eight balls.

After launching Lockie Ferguson for six from the first ball he faced, Dwarshuis took charge with 15 needed from Chris Green's final over. Green's first three balls were hard to get away but he was hurt by two straight wides outside off. Then with seven needed from two balls, Dwarshuis smashed Green over the long-on rope for six, before taking a quick single off the last ball to finish the job.

Earlier, Cameron Bancroft hit an unbeaten 70 from 52 balls to help Thunder reach 163 for 5. Bancroft was the favourite to return to the Test team when Cameron Green was ruled out for the season, before a nightmare summer with the bat pegged him back.

In his past 15 innings across all formats before Saturday night, Bancroft passed 20 twice as Nathan McSweeney and Konstas both went past him in the pecking order. But Bancroft looked back to being in good touch against Sixers, hitting three sixes and five fours. His innings helped keep Thunder's innings together, as Oliver Davies also banged 47 from 34 for the hosts and hit three straight sixes off Todd Murphy.

Playing for the first time since being called into Australia's Test squad, Konstas went to cut a short ball from Akeal Hosein and bottom-edged it on to his stumps. The 19-year-old's duck came after he had set the BBL alight on debut five days earlier, smashing the fastest 50 in Thunder's history against Adelaide Strikers.



Dropped McSweeney after a lot of deliberation: Bailey

Australia's chairman of selectors George Bailey revealed on Friday that he had "deliberated a lot" before deciding to drop opener Nathan McSweeney for the final two Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, a decision based on how the series had unfolded. Teenage sensation Sam Konstas received his maiden call-up following a string of disappointing performances from the Australian top order in the first three Tests, particularly from McSweeney.

Having made his Test debut in the series-opener in Perth, the 25-year-old McSweeney capped scores of 10, 0, 39, 10 not out, 9 and 4 in his six innings and was dismissed by Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah four times.

"(It was a) really hard decision for Nathan and one that we spent a lot of time deliberating over. Particularly after a small sample size of three Tests...That's never a great phone call, is it?" Bailey was quoted saying in ESPNcricinfo.

Bailey conceded that McSweeney was dejected after getting the news but said the **top-order batter** has the ability to bounce back and be in Test reckoning in future.

"Nathan was disappointed and really the message to him was much the same as at the start of the series, that we believe he has the ability and temperament to succeed at Test level.

"But just given the way the series has played out, we just want the option of throwing something different at India for this next Test (in Melbourne)," added Bailey.

The five-Test series is keenly poised with both teams level at 1-1 after the drawn third Test at the Gabba.

"It has clearly been a challenge at the top of the order for batters throughout the series and we want to provide the option of a different line up for the next two matches," he added.

Former pacer and ex-selector Merv Hughes had cautioned selectors against making any changes to the batting lineup for the Boxing Day Test.

"Now it would almost be a panic call to me... Just stay calm. They (India) drew the last Test. The last two Tests have been a draw and a win, so what is there to panic about," Hughes had told 'The Courier Mail'.





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