

Kashmir Convener



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Budget 2025

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, emphasizing strategies to boost post-pandemic economic growth, leverage private investments, and enhance



consumer spending. She highlighted the government's commitment to inclusive development and quoted poet Gurzada Apparao to underscore the focus on people, aiming for zero poverty under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

In a bid to accelerate economic growth and foster inclusive development, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the government's budget for the upcoming fiscal year and her record eighth consecutive Budget.

The Finance Minister highlighted a comprehensive strategy aimed at revitalizing the economy post-pandemic.

The budget is poised to leverage private sector investments, uplift household sentiments, and enhance consumer spending, particularly in

light of India's burgeoning middle class, she said.

During her budget speech, Sitharaman emphasized the government's commitment to creating an environment conducive to growth. "This budget continues our government's efforts to accelerate growth," she said.

The Finance Minister's address painted a picture of optimism as she laid out plans to unlock the nation's potential. "Together we embark on a journey to unlock our nation's

tremendous potential for greater prosperity and global positioning under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," she said.

Before beginning to layout measures, she quoted Telugu poet Gurzada Apparao and read a line from his poem, "A country is not just its soil, a country is its people." She said that the meaning of these lines stand in line with aim of encompassing zero poverty. With this philosophy, the government's vision for Viksit Bharat (Developed India) includes: Eradicating poverty; Ensuring 100% quality education for children; Providing affordable and comprehensive healthcare; Developing a skilled workforce with meaningful employment; Increasing women's participation in the economy to 70 per cent; Strengthening India's agricultural sector to make it the "food basket of the world."

In this budget, the proposed measures span across ten broad areas, Sitharaman said, adding that focus will be on 'Garib (poor), Youth, Anna Daata (farmers) and Nari (women).

"This budget aims to initiate transformative reforms across 6 domains during the first five years, this will augment our growth potential and global competitiveness. The domains are: Taxation, power sector, urban

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'Pragmatic Budget' for Viksit Bharat: LG Sinha



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, has lauded the Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as a pragmatic and visionary step towards a developed India.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), he expressed his gratitude

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J&K gets Rs 41000 cr

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Union Government on Saturday proposed an allocation of Rs 41,000.07 crore to the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory for the financial year 2025-26.

As part of fund transfers to Union Territories, the Union Finance Ministry today proposed an allocation of Rs 41,000.07 crore to Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory in the Union Budget for 2025-26.

As per the break-up of financial assistance for Jammu & Kashmir, Rs 40,619.30 crore has been kept as central assistance for

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Kisan Credit Cards limit hiked To Rs 5 Lakh

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday announced enhancing the limit for interest subvention scheme for Kisan Credit Cards from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

Presenting the 14th consecutive Budget under the Narendra Modi government since 2014, Sitharaman also said the government will enhance credit guarantee cover for MSMEs to improve their credit access.

Besides, the government will introduce customised credit cards with Rs 5 lakh limit for micro-enterprises.

She said the Kisan Credit Cards would facilitate short-term loans for 7.7 crore farmers, fishermen, and dairy farmers. She added that term loan of up to Rs 20 crore

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Govt Announces PM Dhan Dhyan Krishi Yojana

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday announced PM Dhan Dhyan Krishi Yojana, covering 100 districts with low yields, modern crop intensity and below-average credit parameters.

Presenting her record eighth consecutive budget, she also said that the scheme would benefit 1.7 crore farmers.

She added the government will launch rural prosperity, and resilience programme focusing on youth, women and farmers.

Nafed (National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India) and NCCF will procure pulses in the next four years.

The government will also roll out a 6-year programme for Atmanirbharta in pulses with a special focus on tur, urad, and masoor.

A comprehensive programme for raising vegetables, fruit production, and providing remunerative prices will also be launched, Sitharaman said.

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said the

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PM Modi hails 'people's budget'

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the Union Budget, presented by Finance



Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as a "people's budget" that puts more money in the hands of people and said it is a force-multiplier that will increase investments and lead to growth.

In televised remarks on the Budget, Modi said the

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NC satisfied, Congress, PC, CPI(M) criticises

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The ruling National Conference on Saturday expressed satisfaction over some of the announcements made in the Union Budget 2025 while the other parties including Congress, Peoples Conference and CPI (M) criticised the financial plan.

As per the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), NC Spokesman and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq while speaking to the media persons here said that some of the reforms in the Budget were positive. However, he said that Jammu and Kashmir should be included in the 50 new tourist destinations and medical tourism. "We are expecting J&K to be included in it," he said.

Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hameed Karra said it has ignored the genuine case of youth of J&K for special attention. "The union budget has ignored J&K in terms of the special focus needed here to give relief to worst suffering people especially the youth in special circumstances prevailing in this border region and rather the budget focussed more on Bihar & Delhi for political considerations," he said.

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Business community reacts cautiously

Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: The Centre proposing allocation of Rs 41,000.07 crore to Jammu & Kashmir in the 2025-26 Union Budget evoked a mixed response from the business community in the Union Territory.

Some traders welcomed key initiatives like tax relief and MSME support, while others voiced concerns over reduced financial allocations and the absence of a special economic package to revive the struggling industrial sector.

The Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) - expressed its strong approval to the Union Budget highlighting the enhancement of the income tax slab to Rs 12 lakh.

KTA President Aijaz Shahdhar in a statement, said, "The KTA believes that this increase will provide much-needed relief to

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J&K Police gets 9325 cr

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has allocated Rs 9325 crore for the Jammu & Kashmir Police, which is under the administrative control of the Union Home Ministry, in the Union Budget for 2025-26.

As per the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) demands for grants for 2025-26, Rs 9325.73 crore have been allocated to the J&K Police in the Union Budget. Of this amount, Rs 8897.72 crore has been earmarked for the revenue expenditure and Rs 428.01 crore for the capital expenditure, according to documents.

These budgetary provisions have been made to meet the administrative expenditures of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which is responsible for maintaining and enforcing law and order and managing traffic in J&K.

Since 2024-25, the J&K Police's budget has been part of the Union Budget. While the Union government has described the takeover of the J&K Police budget as an act of financial benevolence, opposition parties have argued that it indicates J&K will continue to remain under the Union government's control for a longer period.

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Dy CM for fair Industrial expansion, environmental protection

KC NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a whirlwind tour of Kathua, engaging with local residents, stakeholders and officials to assess concerns related to land acquisition for industrial expansion under SIDCO in Barwal.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated government's commitment towards a balanced and sustainable development, ensuring that the interests of the local population, environment, and industrial growth are harmonised.

Speaking to the affected residents and industry representatives, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the government is taking a cautious and



inclusive approach in developing industrial zones, ensuring that the benefits of such projects extend to all stakeholders, particularly the local

communities. He emphasized that while industrialization is crucial for economic

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CS Dulloo Visits Kathua Industrial Estates, Pledges Infra Enhancement

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the Industrial Estates Kathua, including Ghatti and Bhagthali.

He was accompanied by a team of senior officials including Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh; MD, JPDCL, Mohd. Yasin Choudhary; Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas; Managing Director, SIDCO/SICOP Inderjeet; Deputy Commissioner

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Mirwaiz Umar To Head Inter-Community Committee Of Kashmiri Pandits & Muslims

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: A delegation of Kashmiri Pandits, representing the JK Peace Forum, met with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq at Hotel JW Marriott, New Delhi, in a pivotal discussion aimed at fostering greater cooperation and healing between the communities of Kashmir.

The meeting, which lasted about one and a half hours, represents a crucial step towards addressing historical grievances and working towards a peaceful and inclusive future for Jammu and Kashmir.

During his opening remarks, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq emphasized the shared suffering of both Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits over the decades.

He acknowledged the painful exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1989-90, a chapter that continues to affect both communities. Mirwaiz reaffirmed that the plight of Kashmiri Pandits is a humanitarian issue and must be addressed



with care and urgency. Mirwaiz said Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits.

"The suffering of Kashmiri Pandits needs to be addressed earnestly, and this has been a point I have raised repeatedly in my discourses," Mirwaiz added.

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NIA chargesheets gangster Aman Sahu’s brother in Jharkhand coal mine attack case

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency has chargesheeted the younger brother of dreaded gangster Aman Sahu in the Jharkhand Tetariyakhand coal mine terror attack case, the probe agency said in a statement on Saturday.

The attack was perpetrated in December 2020 as part of a criminal conspiracy hatched by members of the Sujit Sinha and Aman Sahu terror gang with the objective of extortion and disruption of the colliery in Jharkhand's Latehar, it said.

Akash Kumar of Jharkhand's Ranchi district has been chargesheeted under different sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, according to the statement issued by the probe agency.

With this, the NIA has filed five chargesheets against 26 accused so far in the case.

The NIA, which took over the probe in



March 2021, found during the investigation that Akash, currently in prison for his involvement in various criminal cases across Jharkhand, was directly involved in the mine attack conspiracy. He was engaged in harbouring, channelising and investing the terror funds, and in creating infrastructure for the terror gang, it said.

Akash was the financial node of the terrorist gang and had been collecting levy

and extortion money through multiple channels. Using financial layering, he was laundering the extorted funds through various shell firms and other financial entities.

He was also investing the funds in a variety of assets belonging to Aman Sahu and his associates, the statement said.

The Aman Sahu gang has been involved in several heinous crimes in Jharkhand, including bombing, firing, arson, as well as firing on police officers and jail authorities, it said.

It has been involved in disrupting government work and law & order, besides terrorising businessmen and contractors for collecting extortion/levy, according to NIA investigations.

The gang has also forged connections with splinter Naxal organisations and other terror gangs outside the state to further its violent agenda, the NIA said.

Budget is an attempt to ‘dupe’ people: Kharge

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the government is busy garnering praises for the Union Budget when the entire country is struggling with problems of inflation and unemployment, and asserted that the Budget is an attempt to “dupe” the people.

He said the Budget is aptly described by the Hindi proverb ‘Nau sau choohe khake billi hajji ko chali’ (roughly translated to seeking to be pious after committing a number of sins).

In a post on X in Hindi, Kharge said that in the last 10 years, the Narendra Modi government has collected Rs 54.18 lakh crore of income tax



from the middle class, and now the exemption is being given to those earning up to Rs 12 lakh.

The finance minister has herself stated that there will be a saving of Rs 80,000 per year, Kharge said and pointed out that is only Rs 6,666 per month.

“The whole country is struggling with the problem of inflation and unemployment, but the Modi government is bent on garnering false praises,” he said.

In this ‘announcement-making’ budget, Make in India has been changed to National Manufacturing Mission to hide its flaws, Kharge said.

“All other announcements are almost like this. There is nothing for the youth.

Modi ji had promised yesterday that he would take a big step for the empowerment of women in this budget, but nothing like that happened in the budget,” he said.

No roadmap to double farmers’ income and no concession in GST rates on agricultural inputs, Kharge said.

“There is no plan for health, education or scholarship for Dalit, tribal, backward class, poor and minority children. There are no reform measures to increase private investment. Their failures have been hidden by saying a few superficial things on export and tariff,” he said.

Kharge said that nothing has been done to increase the income of the poor and not a single step has been taken to address the continuously falling consumption.

“Despite skyrocketing inflation, the budget of MGNREGA remains the same. Nothing has been done to increase the income of workers. There is no mention of any reform in the Multiple Rates of GST. To reduce unemployment, there was no talk of creating jobs,” he said.

Startup India, Standup India and Skill India, all the schemes, have turned out to be mere announcements, he said.

“Overall this Budget 2025 is an attempt by the Modi Government to dupe the people,” the Congress chief said.

International cyber fraud syndicate busted in Chhattisgarh, 4 held for providing mule accounts

RAJNANDGAON: Police in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district have busted an international cyber fraud syndicate with the arrest of four persons who allegedly provided several mule accounts to Cambodia-based scammers and transferred Rs 10 crore from victims of fraud, an official said on Saturday.

One of the accused, Shrenik Kumar Sanghvi (24), a resident of Valsad in Gujarat, allegedly handled the mule accounts and transferred money deposited in them to international scammers through ‘hawala’ and cryptocurrency, Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police Mohit Garg said.

He said the other three arrested men, Ashutosh Sharma, Shubham Tiwari (26) and Deepak Naredi (27), were all natives of Rajnandgaon district.

The official said the fraud came to light after the accused used the bank account of Rupesh Sahu, who operates a citizen service delivery centre in Rajnandgan, for illegal transactions.

On January 23, Sahu complained to the police that his account with a nationalised bank had been frozen after his friend Ashutosh Sharma allegedly used it for multiple transactions involving money collected through fraud, he said.

Garg said that a first information report was registered against Sharma, who was called for interrogation.

He said Sharma revealed that at the behest of Sanghvi alias Ajay Meher of Gujarat, he, Tiwari, Naredi (Rajnandgaon) and other associates provided bank

accounts of Sahu, their family members and other acquaintances for fraudulent activities.

The official said Sanghvi was arrested from Valsad on January 25 and brought to Rajnandgaon.



Garg said, “During interrogation, he revealed that he travelled to Cambodia in June 2024 with his other Indian associates, and they visited a call/scam centre operated from a casino there. Sanghvi and others stayed there for a week and provided bank accounts of Indians to scammers in Cambodia who duped Indians in connivance with some Chinese nationals.”

Sanghvi later returned to India and came in contact with the other accused, who provided details of bank accounts, chequebooks, ATM cards, registered mobile numbers, he said.

“Scammers from Cambodia transferred money after duping people online into the mule accounts, and Sanghvi withdrew money in cash,

cheque and UPI from these accounts and further transferred the same to his Cambodian-based handlers after converting it into cryptocurrency or through hawala,” he said.

The official said Sanghavi received

8 to 9 per cent commission on the transferred amount, while Sharma got 4 per cent commission, and the other two accused got up to Rs 35,000 per mule account, he said.

The official said as per the probe, the accused were involved in transferring Rs 10 crore in 50 mule accounts, and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and Samanvay Portal of the Home Ministry of India confirmed this.

He said the police have also received information about cyber fraud worth crores of rupees in the name of online task completion, providing jobs, investments in fake companies and matrimonial websites from different parts of the country using these bank accounts.

FM starts with agriculture but completely silent on farmers’ demands: Congress

NEW DELHI: Budget pertaining to the agriculture sector, saying Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was “completely silent” on the demands of farmers, including MSP as a legal guarantee and farm loan waiver.

Sitharaman on Saturday said the Union Budget 2025-26 will initiate reforms in six areas of taxation, urban development, mining, financial sector,

power, and regulatory framework.

In her Budget speech, she announced the PM Dhan Dhyan Krishi Yojana, covering 100 districts with low yields, modern crop intensity and below average credit parameters.

Hitting out at the government, Congress general secretary and in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said in a post on X.

Former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla Passes Away At 79

NEW DELHI: Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, Navin Chawla, passed away Saturday, a senior official of the Election Commission of India said.

Navin Chawla (79), who passed away due to cardiac arrest, was the CEC from 2009 to 2010. He had been an Election Commissioner from 2005. The cremation will be held at the Green Park crematorium at 5 p.m. today (February 1, 2025).

He had been admitted at the Apollo Hospital here for brain surgery, former CEC S.Y. Quraishi posted on X.

“Sad to know about passing on of Shri Navin Chawla, former Chief Election Commissioner of India. May his soul rest in peace,” Mr. Quraishi said.

Chawla had joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1969. In the course of his career, he served in the Governments of Delhi, Goa, Puducherry and Lakshadweep



Broadcasting, where as Joint Secretary and later as Secretary, he helped to shape the “Open-Sky” policies.

In 2005, he was appointed Election Commissioner. In April, 2009 he took over as Chief Election Commissioner. During his tenure he successfully completed the General Elections

as well as Ministries of Labour, Home, and Information and in April – May 2009 and initiated several important reforms.

resulted in a report on “The Vocational Rehabilitation and Social Re-integration of the Leprosy Affected in India”, which was released by Mother Teresa in 1987.

His tenure as Election Commissioner was mired in controversy when then CEC N. Gopalaswami recommended his removal to the government. It was the culmination of differences within the three-member commission on many crucial decisions.

Mr. Gopalaswami’s recommendation, which came about three months before he was to demit office as CEC, was based on a petition by the BJP, which had complained against the “partisan” functioning of Mr Chawla. It was, however, rejected by then President Pratibha Patil. The Supreme Court had also dismissed a lawsuit that sought his removal.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Public Works(R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email:rbdivisionawantipora@gmail.com
NO:T-1/EEA/9311-15 Dated: 29/01/2025

Extension Corrigendum

Subject:-

S.No	Name of Work
1	Repairment of drain opposite house of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat at Drangbal Pampore.
2	Balance work for restoration of sub Divisional office Pampore
3	Construction of Culvert at Khrew Ada Pampore Meebag junction opposite Golden Meat (shop)

Reference:

- This office E-NIT No. 83/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/6016-6026 Dated 02/11/2024
- This office e-NIT. No 111/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/7962-72 DATED 23/12/2024
- This office e-NIT. No. 117/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/8464-74 DATED 07/01/2025

It is notified for the information of all concerned that zero bidder had participated for above said works in subject for S.No. (1 and 3) and single bidder for S.No.(2). Hence the above-mentioned works/ Tenders are hereby extended/ modified and fixed as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	05-02-2025 up to 3.00 PM
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	06-02-2025 at 12.00 PM

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NITs

DIPK-11447/24

SD/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Office of the Principal

Government Degree College

Frisal Homeshalibug, Kulgam 192232

email: gdcfrisal@gmail.com Cell No: 9419268663
Website: www.gdcfrisal.net
No. GDCF/Mega3/25/85 Date 01-02-2025

Extension of Date of Submission of CDR for Publishing College Magazine. Due to poor response to the tender notice for publishing the College Magazine the tender Notice for which has been published in the News papers Dated 17/01/2025 is now being extended for a week from the date of publication of this extension Notice. Terms and Conditions will remain the same.

Dated: 01-02-2025

DIPK-11445/24

SD/-Principal
GDC Frisal Kulgam

Office Of The Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam

Email:disabudgam2020@gmail.com Phone:-01951255647

Subject: Special Lok- Adalat on "Traffic Challans & Electricity Bills to be held on 22nd February 2025."

NOTIFICATION

As per the calendar of activities issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority Budgam, a Special Lok Adalat focusing on the amicable settlement of "Traffic Challans and Electricity Bills" is scheduled to be held on 22nd February 2025 in district Budgam.

To facilitate maximum settlement of traffic challans, a Pre-Lok Adalat session for Traffic Challans will commence from 5th February 2025 and continue till 21st February 2025.

No: DLSA/BDM/2025/120
Dated: 01-02-2025

Sd/-Secretary
District Legal Services Authority
Budgam

DIPK-11458/24

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

NIT No.51-Kupwara/5943-51 of 2024-25 e-tendering DATED:-30-01-2025

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD ,Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	E/Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	construction of ACR at BMS Halmathpora Kupwara	10.40	600/-	21000/-	30 days	06-02-2025	"BCD"	SAMAGRA SHIKSHA PAB 2023-24

Position of AAA :-Accorded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	30-01-2025
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30-01-2025 to 06-02-2025 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	30-01-2025 from (10.00A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	06-02-2025 upto (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	06-02-2025 at (6:00P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

Terms and Conditions :-

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

a. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contractor along with NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara. The Issuance date of the Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR must be in between the date of Downloading to Bid Submission end Date

b. The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after successful completion of the defect liability Period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.

1. The bidders shall ensure that their bids shall be accepted only if their registrations cards are uploaded on https://jkpwdoms.jk.gov.in portal in active Tab. as per circular instructions issued by Development Commissioner works vide No.PW/DCW/DB/668-72 DT.10-06-2022.

2. The GST-3B for last Quarter (Quarterly return) or Previous month for (Monthly return) Should be uploaded, irrespective of date of Tender Contractors Strictly Not Eligible

a. The bidders who has participated in 2023-24 and has not completed the works within stipulated time frame/who had left the work midway/who had not started /taken up the works are strictly not eligible. Any such participation may lead to cancellation of their bid and no claim shall be entertained in this regard.

b. Contractors who failed to execute the allotted work/ work during the previous final Year (2023-24) are note eligible before tendering for the current financial Year 2024-25

72. All other terms and conditions shall be the same as per detailed and stock issue rates of 2024-25 circular instructions issued by the higher authorities from time to time.

73. The key construction material shall have to be arranged by the contractor of his own as per the quality/specifications.

1. Cement = JKOPC Brand

2. Steel of all sorts = SAIL certified (The sail certificate shall have be produced /deposited in the division by the AEE concerned at the time submission of the work done bills). No extension in quantities/Cost is allowed in any case.

No. 5943-51
DT: 01-02-2025

DIPK-11441/24

Sd/-Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kupwara

Fresh snowfall:- Gurez-Bandipora road closed for the traffic



AADIL ABDULLAH

BANDIPORA: Due to the fresh snowfall, the Gurez-Bandipora road has been closed again for traffic.

An official told news agencies that the higher reaches of Gurez including Razdan Top, Dawar Gurez, and Tulail, have received fresh snowfall of around 8- 11 inches of fresh snow accumulation.

He said that currently snowfall is going on in the area and the road has been closed as a precautionary measure.

He also said that once snowfall stops, efforts will be made to clear the road as soon as possible.

District Information Centre Bandipora Organizes Interaction-cum-Felicitation Ceremony for Media Persons

BANDIPORA: The District Information Centre (DIC) Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora, organized an Interaction-cum-Felicitation Ceremony for media persons on Saturday at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and witnessed the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Zaffar Husson Shawl, District Information Officer (DIO), Aadil Manzoor Wani, along with a distinguished gathering of media professionals from across the district.

In his address, Deputy Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad Qadri acknowledged the pivotal role of the media in highlighting public issues, disseminating information, and fostering awareness among the masses. He lauded the tireless efforts of media persons in ensuring the timely flow of information and their unwavering commitment to covering developmental, social, and administrative issues across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of constructive collaboration between the District Administration and the media, highlighting that such

synergy is essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and public welfare. He stated that the felicitation ceremony



aimed to strengthen this partnership, recognizing the media as a vital stakeholder in the district's development narrative.

As part of the ceremony, media professionals from various outlets were felicitated for their dedicated service and remarkable contributions to the field of

journalism. The DC, along with the ADDC, ADC, and DIO, presented mementos of appreciation to honor their efforts in in-

Shallabugh Wetland emerging as premier eco-tourism destination in Gbl

RAJA SYED RATHER

Ganderbal: The Shallabugh Wetland Conservation Reserve, sprawling over 1,675 hectares across Srinagar and Gan-



derbal districts, is rapidly turning into a renowned eco-tourism hotspot. With its designation as a Ramsar site on June 8, 2022, the wetland has garnered global recognition for its vital role in preserving biodiversity.

This protected wetland is home to a diverse array of bird species, including the Pintail, Common Teal, Wigeon, Gadwall, Mallard, and the rare Pallas's Fish Eagle.

Additionally, Steppe Eagles, Eastern Imperial Eagles, and Yellow-eyed Pigeons, among others, contribute to its status as an avian paradise. An annual bird census, held on February 23 and 24, provides valuable data to track and monitor these bird populations.

The local community, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), expressed great pride in Shallabugh Wetland, citing its significance as one of Asia's largest wetlands.

However, residents have raised concerns about staffing shortages, which they feel impact effective management. "While the wetland is thriving with hundreds of thousands of birds, there is an urgent need for more personnel to ensure its proper care," said a local.

Wildlife Department officials explained the wetland's importance for migratory birds, noting that each year, vast numbers of birds flock to the site. "We are committed to safeguarding these

birds, especially during peak migration seasons. We urge hunters to respect the wildlife and refrain from any harmful activities," said an official.

February, in particular, is expected to see an influx of additional migratory birds.

Currently, the bird population is estimated to be between 3 to 4 lakh. To aid during the harsh winter months, the department provides grains to feed the birds and ensures their well-being amid freezing temperatures. "Compared to last year, the number of birds has notably increased," the official added.

The Shallabugh Wetland stands as an exemplary model of community-driven conservation. Local residents, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government bodies are working hand in hand to preserve the ecological balance. With its Ramsar status highlighting its global importance, the wetland calls for continued efforts to protect it, ensuring its future as a sanctuary for wildlife and a sustainable eco-tourism destination for generations to come—(KNO)

Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah assumes office as Director Ayush J&K

JAMMU: Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah today took over as the Director of Ayush, Jammu & Kashmir, becoming the first woman to lead



the Directorate.

With a distinguished career in the Ayush sector, Dr. Nuzhat has served the department in various capacities, including as District Ayush Officer, Anantnag, and Deputy Director Ayush, contributing significantly to the promotion and strengthening of traditional medicine in the region.

Dr. Nuzhat Bashir has played a pivotal role in several landmark initiatives. She was one of the key officers instrumental in organizing the International Day of Yoga at SKICC, Srinagar, in 2024, a historic event graced by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Her dedication and leadership was also evident in her role as the Nodal Officer for the Shri Amar-nath Yatra since 2021, ensuring the successful establishment of Ayush Medical Camps and Yoga Camps along the yatra route to provide holistic healthcare to pilgrims.

Additionally, her contributions to organizing Yoga and Ayush camps during the G20 Summit in Srinagar in 2023 were widely appreciated, reinforcing J&K's commitment to traditional wellness practices on a global platform.

As she assumes office, Dr. Nuzhat has outlined a progressive vision for the Ayush sector in Jammu & Kashmir. Her focus will be on expanding Ayush healthcare services across the Union Territory,

strengthening Ayush Health and Wellness Centres, and enhancing the integration of Ayush with mainstream healthcare. She

SWD restarts Elderline Helpline (14567) across J&K

JAMMU: The Department of Social Welfare, Jammu & Kashmir, has successfully restarted the Elderline Helpline (14567) across the Union Territory.

The helpline will now be available daily from 8 AM to 8 PM, providing essential support and assistance to senior citizens. A dedicated team of trained counselors will offer emotional support, legal guidance, and information on welfare schemes, ensuring that elderly individuals receive the care and assistance they need.

Director, Social Welfare Department Jammu Rupesh Kumar, stated "The re-launch of Elderline 14567 reaffirms our commitment to the well-being of senior citizens in Jammu & Kashmir. Many elderly individuals face loneliness, legal struggles, and difficulty in accessing welfare schemes. This helpline will serve as a crucial support system, offering them the necessary guidance and assistance."

A senior citizen who recently sought help from the helpline shared, "Old age often brings uncertainty and challenges. Having a dedicated service like Elderline 14567 assures us that we are not alone and that help is just a phone call away."

The Social Welfare Department urges all elderly individuals and their families to utilize this free and confidential service, ensuring a dignified and secure life for senior citizens across Jammu & Kashmir.

RKFC to face Shillong Lajong FC in I-League clash

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) is set to take on Shillong Lajong FC in their I-League match on Sunday at the TRC Ground in Srinagar.



Both teams currently share 16 points from 11 matches, making this a crucial encounter for both sides.

Addressing a pre-match press conference on Saturday, RKFC head coach Ishfaq Ahmad expressed confidence in securing a positive result. "Shillong Lajong FC is a strong team, but we are hopeful of a win," Ishfaq said.

He acknowledged the challenges RKFC has faced in away matches, particularly in adapting to different weather conditions. "In away matches, we get very little time to adjust. From playing in sub-zero temperatures in Kashmir, we suddenly have to compete in places where the temperature is 35 degrees Celsius. It takes time to adapt," he explained.

The head coach emphasized the need for an indoor stadium in Kashmir so that footballers can train properly during harsh winters. "Our training is affected in winter. An all-weather indoor stadium is necessary for better preparations," he added.

RKFC player Mohammad Hammad also shared similar views, highlighting the advantage of playing at home. "Shillong Lajong FC is a good side, but playing at our home ground gives us an edge," he said. He admitted that adapting to extreme temperature variations in away games remains a challenge but stated that professional footballers must learn to cope with it.

Shillong Lajong FC head coach Jose Carlos Rodriguez Hevia and player Phrangi Buam also addressed the media, sharing their expectations for the match.

RKFC is the only football club from Jammu and Kashmir competing in the I-League and is owned by Arshad Shawl.

DIPR bids adieu to Maharaj Krishen Bhat

JAMMU: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) bid adieu to retiring employee Maharaj Krishen Bhat, Accountant (Finance Department) at a farewell ceremony, held here today.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta, Deputy Director (PR), Ankush Hans, Deputy Director (HQ) Varinder Gupta, Youth Information Officer, Monika Sambyal and other officers and officials.

Maharaj Krishen Bhat has served in various government departments from 1998 and retired from the Information Department on January 31, 2025.

The officers and officials congratulated the retiree official and wished him a healthy and prosperous post retirement life.



IAS officer Arshid Ayub to proceed on central deputation



SRINAGAR: The Government of India has posted Arshad Ayub Sheikh, Inspector General Registration Department, as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Personnel & Training, Delhi under the Central Staffing Scheme for a tenure upto 31.10.2028.

Ayub, who has served as special secretary to three chief secretaries of J&K and was later inducted into IAS, was recommended for Central deputation by the Ministry of Home Affairs, reads the order issued by Department of Personnel & Trainings, Government of India.

The order states that as per Appointments Committee of Cabinet's circular dated August, 17, 2005, an officer should join the post within three weeks from the date of issue of DoP&T's appointment order, failing which the process of debarment from the central staffing Scheme shall be initiated—(KNO)

Development poised to accelerate once statehood is restored: Dr Farooq

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah stated that the restoration of promised statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will give momentum to the ongoing development activities in the region and help the democratically elected govt in elevating the suffering of masses.

During his interactions with the public and various delegations at his residence in Jammu, the party president was informed about the significant improvements on the ground since the elected government, led by Omar Abdullah, was restored. The delegations highlighted how the administration has become more responsive and attentive to public concerns, with people now easily reaching out to the Secretariats in Jammu and Srinagar. They also raised long-standing issues that have worsened over the years due to the lack of a democratic government.

The party's Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta was also present on the occasion.

Dr. Farooq further said the winds of change that have brought a democratic government to the region, with Omar sahib at the helm steer-



ing us towards safer shores will work for every section of society, ensuring the benefits of progress reach every doorstep. "The signs of change are clear, and development is on the rise, poised to accelerate once statehood is restored. I am confident that the GOI will uphold its promise and grant full statehood, paving the way for rapid progress."

Exploring the Life and Legacy of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

BY: SAHIL BILAL

The life and legacy of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is one that transcends time, geography, and culture. His message, marked by profound spirituality and deep compassion, has influenced billions of lives across the world.

For Muslims, he is the final prophet of Allah, sent to guide humanity to the path of righteousness, peace, and justice. His life story is not just a tale of personal success but a roadmap for how to navigate the complexities of life with virtue, perseverance, and a deep sense of responsibility toward God and fellow human beings. This article delves into the life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), exploring his early years, his prophethood, and his lasting legacy that continues to shape the world even today.

The Early Life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Muhammad (SAW) was born in 570 CE in the city of Makkah, in present-day Saudi Arabia, into the noble and respected Quraysh tribe. His father, Abdullah, passed away before his birth, and his mother, Amina, died when he was just six years old. After losing both parents at a tender age, he was cared for by his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, and later by his uncle, Abu Talib. Despite the early tragedies, the young Muhammad (SAW) grew up to become known for his honesty, Integrity, and strong moral character, earning the title Al-Amin (The Trust-worthy) from his community.

As a young man, Muhammad (SAW) worked as a merchant and traveled extensively, gaining experience and insight into the various cultures and practices of the time. He eventually entered into a marriage with Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, a wealthy and respected businesswoman, who would become his closest supporter and confidant. Their marriage was built on love, respect, and mutual understanding, and together they had six children. Khadijah's unwavering belief in Muhammad's truthfulness played a crucial role in his early years as a prophet.

The Revelation: The Beginning of Prophethood

At the age of 40, while spending time in the Cave of Hira in solitude, Muhammad (SAW) received the first revelation from Allah through the Angel Jibreel (Gabriel). This moment, described in Surah Al-Alaq, marked the beginning of Muhammad's (SAW) mission as the final prophet. He was instructed to "Read" and to spread the message of monotheism—that there is no god but Allah.

At first, Muhammad (SAW) was deeply affected by the experience and sought comfort from his wife Khadijah. Her steadfast belief in him gave him the strength to continue his mission. Over the next 23 years, Muhammad (SAW) would continue to receive revelations that would later form the Qur'an, providing guidance for all aspects of human life, from morality to social justice, from family life to spirituality.

The Early Struggles: The First Years of Prophethood

As Muhammad (SAW) began to preach the message of Islam, he faced strong opposition from the Quraysh leaders in Makkah, who saw his message as a direct challenge to their authority and way of life. They were

particularly resistant to the concept of monotheism, as it threatened their polytheistic beliefs and the lucrative pilgrimage industry built around the Ka'bah, which housed many idols.

Despite the intense opposition, Muhammad (SAW) and his followers continued their mission. The early years of Islam were marked by persecution, with many



Muslims suffering social ostracism, torture, and even death. The Quraysh leaders attempted to bribe Muhammad (SAW) and offered him power and wealth, but he remained resolute in his mission.

One of the most significant events during this period was the Boycott of Banu Hashim, where the Quraysh tribe attempted to isolate and starve the Prophet's clan. Despite the hardships, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his followers remained steadfast. This period of suffering and persecution was crucial in shaping the resolve and character of the early Muslim community.

The Night Journey (Isra and Miraj)

In the midst of the hardship and rejection, the Prophet experienced a miraculous event known as Isra and Miraj, the Night Journey and Ascension. According to Islamic tradition, one night Muhammad (SAW) was miraculously transported from the Ka'bah in Makkah to Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, and from there, he ascended to the heavens. During this journey, he met various prophets, and Allah granted him the command of the five daily prayers (Salah) for the Muslim community.

The Isra and Miraj was not just a physical journey but also a spiritual elevation, further solidifying the Prophet's role as the leader of all the previous prophets and reaffirming his mission. This event became a source of comfort and inspiration for the Muslims, reaffirming that their Prophet was divinely chosen.

The Migration to Madinah (Hijrah)

After years of persecution in Makkah, the Prophet and his followers were invited by the people of Yathrib

(later named Madinah) to come and settle there. The migration, known as the Hijrah, took place in 622 CE and marked the beginning of the Islamic calendar. Madinah provided a more supportive environment for the nascent Muslim community, and it was in this city that Islam began to grow in both numbers and influence.

In Madinah, Muhammad (SAW) not only served as

a spiritual leader but also took on the role of a political leader and statesman. He established a constitution known as the Constitution of Madinah, which was a document that laid down the rights and responsibilities of all citizens, including Muslims, Jews, and other groups living in the city. It emphasized justice, the protection of religious freedom, and mutual cooperation, marking an important step toward the establishment of an inclusive society.

The Battles and Their Significance

The early years in Madinah were not without conflict. The Muslim community faced multiple military confrontations with the Quraysh and other hostile tribes. These battles, including the Battle of Badr, Uhud, and The Battle of the Trench, were crucial in shaping the Muslim community's sense of unity and resilience.

The Battle of Badr, fought in 624 CE, was a decisive victory for the Muslims, despite being heavily outnumbered. It demonstrated the power of faith and conviction in the face of overwhelming odds. The Battle of Uhud, however, was a setback for the Muslims, as they were defeated by the Quraysh in 625 CE. However, this defeat did not break their spirit. The Prophet used the lessons from these battles to strengthen the moral and spiritual fabric of the Muslim community.

The Battle of the Trench in 627 CE saw a coalition of Makkans and their allies besieging Madinah. The Muslims, under the leadership of Muhammad (SAW), managed to defend the city by digging a trench around it, preventing the enemy from entering. This battle marked the beginning of the decline of the Quraysh's

ability to defeat the Muslims militarily.

The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah and the Conquest of Makkah

In 628 CE, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the Quraysh leaders signed the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, a peace agreement that allowed the Muslims to perform pilgrimage in Makkah the following year. This treaty, although seemingly unfavorable to the Muslims, paved the way for the eventual conquest of Makkah.

In 630 CE, after the Quraysh broke the treaty, the Prophet led a large Muslim army to Makkah. The city surrendered peacefully, and Muhammad (SAW) entered Makkah triumphantly, showing mercy and forgiveness to his former enemies. He cleansed the Ka'bah of idols and rededicated it to the worship of the one true God, Allah.

The conquest of Makkah marked the turning point in the history of Islam. With the city now under Muslim control, the faith began to spread rapidly throughout the Arabian Peninsula, and many tribes embraced Islam.

The Last Sermon and Final Years

In 632 CE, during his final pilgrimage, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) delivered his famous Farewell Sermon to the gathered Muslims. In this sermon, he reminded the Muslims of their responsibilities to one another and emphasized the equality of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or social status. He also instructed them to hold fast to the Qur'an and his Sunnah, as these would guide them in all aspects of life.

The Prophet's death shortly after the Farewell Sermon was a moment of deep grief for the Muslim community. However, his legacy lived on through his teachings, the Qur'an, and the example he set in his life. His mission, rooted in mercy, justice, and truth, continues to inspire millions of people worldwide.

The Legacy of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

The legacy of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is not confined to his time or place. His teachings and character continue to shape the lives of Muslims and non-Muslims alike. The Prophet's emphasis on justice, compassion, and equality provides a timeless framework for creating a just and moral society.

His life also emphasizes the importance of knowledge, humility, and self-restraint. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was not only a religious leader but also a social reformer, a military leader, and a statesman who worked tirelessly for the betterment of humanity.

Today, Muslims around the world follow his teachings through the Qur'an and Hadith, and his legacy continues to guide them toward a life of righteousness, kindness, and devotion to Allah. His message of peace, compassion, and universal brotherhood is as relevant today as it was in the 7th century.

Conclusion

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) stands as a figure of monumental importance in world history. His life was a beacon of light in a world darkened by ignorance and injustice. His mission brought about a spiritual, social, and political revolution that continues to inspire humanity. The legacy of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) remains alive, shaping the hearts and minds of millions, urging them to strive for peace, justice, and compassion in their lives.

The Human Family: A Mosaic of Ethnicities

SHAHBAAZ BASHIR SHAH

Ethnicities can be defined as a group of people which have a common culture background. It can be associated with shared traditions, language, religion and geographic origin. Culture and Ethnicity are intersecting concepts, different but overlapping ways to categorize human populations. While as culture refers to a group's way of life, including the shared system of social meanings, values and relations that is transmitted between generations. It incorporates such traits as language, religion, clothing, music, legal sports, sports - indeed all learned behaviour.

Ethnicity typically denotes a group of people who strongly identify themselves as belonging together based on specific common traits they share. These type of traits are largely involuntary - skin, color, clan or tribe membership, or actual common ancestor, shared history or language and even disability or sexual orientation. Those traits which may be chosen, abandoned or changed; includes the culture, religion or sect, age, dialect, marriage into group. We can say that the boundaries of ethnic identification keep shifting, it is virtually impossible to name and number all the ethnic groups in the world. However the list would have over 10,000 entries, which include the Mardu approximately 700 aboriginal people living in Western Australia as well as Han, numbering over 1 billion in China.

Language is the most typical marker of ethnicity, but there are exceptions, many speakers



of Chinese cannot understand each other at all. Example yet they may feel they all belong to the Han Chinese Ethnic group. Many people of course, consider themselves to be "Hyphenated" numbers of more than one group such as Italian Americans or Welsh Canadians.

Some of few examples are mentioned below:-

1. African American (Black): African American includes all individuals who identify with one or more nationalities or ethnic groups originating in any of black racial groups of Africa. Example Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian and Somali.

2. Punjabi, Pashtun and Sindhi : Punjabi people are considering as a largest ethnic group in the Pakistan. The Punjabi originated from the Indo-Aryan ethnic group. The most significant population of the Punjabi people practice Islam as their primary worship.

Pashtun are mainly found in North Western parts of Pakistan. Pashtun people kept animals and they migrate from one place to another for the purpose of food and water.

Sindhi people come from Sindh province in South East Pakistan. They all are involved in agriculture is a way of life.

3. Romani (Indian People) : They are those people which have a knowing name Roma, a group originated in North West India and are currently found in Europe. Researchers believe the Romani originated in Rajasthan of India around 500 CE and they entered in Europe around 1100 CE.

4. Sami : Indigenous people of the Northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia with a unique language and culture.

5. Zulu : An ethnic group from Southern Africa primarily found in South Africa.

6. Arabs : Arabs people who trace their roots to the Arabian Peninsula, spreading Arabic and sharing cultural elements.

7. Igbo : An Ethnic group primarily from South Eastern Nigeria with rich cultural history.

These are the few examples of Ethnic groups which are presently found in this world. There are so many examples which can be mentioned in Ethnic groups.

"Large or Small, each ethnic group regards itself as a - people".

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LG Sinha Meets Sports Personalities, Political Leaders in Jammu

Jammu: International tennis player Rohan Bopanna met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday and discussed his initiative to support young tennis talent from Jammu and Kashmir.

Under a collaborative effort between the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy and Kamal India Foundation, selected children from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions will receive free boarding, lodging, education, and professional tennis training at his academy in Bengaluru.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded Bopanna's efforts in empowering underprivileged children through sports and education.

In another meeting, former minister and senior BJP leader Chowdhary Zulfiqar Ali called on the Lieutenant Governor and



expressed gratitude for the administration's timely intervention

in investigating the mysterious deaths in Budhal village of Rajouri district.

BJP spokesperson Advocate Ankur Sharma also met the Lieutenant Governor and apprised him of various public concerns, seeking necessary action on key issues affecting the region.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha met international Kho Kho player Nazia Bibi, who recently represented India in the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 in New Delhi.

Hailing from Nagrota, Jammu, Nazia was part of the victorious Indian women's team. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated her on her remarkable achievement and extended best wishes for her future tournaments.

Telecom Services boosted up in Poonch

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner of Poonch Vikas Kundal, convened a meeting of the District Telecom Committee today to evaluate the current state of telecommunication services and address issues related to network connectivity and mobile tower installations in the district. During the meeting, the SDO of BSNL Poonch provided an overview of the ongoing projects in the area, noting that six mobile tower sites have been successfully completed and are now operational, with additional sites currently under development. The Deputy Commissioner underscored the urgency of completing the remaining installations by March and directed the SDO to facilitate E-Service at the Tehsil Office Mankote. He emphasized the critical need for tower installations in remote areas to improve connectivity, particularly in regions facing significant network challenges. The meeting was attended by various officials, including the SSP Poonch, SE PWD (R&B), CMO, Xen JPDCL, DIO NIC, CEO Municipality, SDO BSNL Poonch, and other concerned officers.

Multi-disciplinary Research Unit, GMC Srinagar's 4th LRAC meeting highlights achievements

SRINAGAR: The fourth Local Research Advisory Committee (LRAC) meeting of the Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MRU) was held at Government Medical College Srinagar (GMC). The meeting aimed to review the progress of research projects being carried out in MRU-GMC Sgr, which is funded by the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Khurshid Iqbal and Co-Chaired by Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmad Ganai, Director CORD Univ of Kashmir, with Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean GMC Sgr, as the observer and Chairperson of the Executive Committee, MRU-GMC Sgr.

ICMR nominee Dr. Tanu Anand was also present. Prof. Dr. Sabhiya Majid, Nodal Officer, MRU, and Scientist C MRU-GMC Sgr, Dr. Younis Rather, presented notable achievements and modulated the proceedings.



The meeting highlighted the dedicated efforts of the MRU team in advancing the MRU scheme and providing broad-based research and infrastructure support to various departments of GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals. Principal Investigators (PIs) from various departments, including Psychiatry, Physiology,

Chest Medicine, Dermatology, Biochemistry, Endocrinology, Gynae & Obs, Surgery, Paediatrics, Neurology, and Medicine, presented reports on eight recently completed or ongoing collaborative research projects. These projects focus on understanding the molecular and pathological basis of diseases, developing targeted treatment approaches, improving diagnostics, and advancing medical technology for better disease management and patient outcomes.

The research has led to 12 recent publications in peer-reviewed indexed journals with an impact factor of 4-5. Research proposals were presented by PIs from various departments for approval, and four proposals from the Departments of Dermatology, Microbiology, and Medicine were approved by LRAC with concrete suggestions. Additionally, it was decided that a compendium of research carried out in MRU-GMC Srinagar would be published annually.

Deputy Chief Minister conducts extensive tour of Kathua



KATHUA: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a whirlwind tour of Kathua, engaging with local residents, stakeholders and officials to assess concerns related to land acquisition for industrial expansion under SIDCO in Barwal.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated government's commitment towards a balanced and sustainable development, ensuring that the interests of the local population, environment, and industrial growth are harmonised.

Speaking to the affected residents and industry representatives, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the government is taking a cautious and inclusive approach in developing industrial zones, ensuring that the benefits of such projects extend to all stakeholders, particularly the local communities. He emphasized that while industrialization is crucial for economic growth and employment generation, it must be pursued responsibly, keeping in mind the environmental sustainability and public welfare.

"The government is fully aware of the concerns of the people regarding land acquisition and its impact on their livelihoods. We are committed towards ensuring that no one is unfairly affected by these development projects. Industrial expansion must go hand in hand with environmental conservation and social responsibility. We will ensure that those impacted by land acquisition receive adequate compensation and rehabilitation measures" maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister also addressed the recent large-scale felling of over 250 trees in the Barwal area, which occurred as part of the land acquisition process for SIDCO. Acknowledging public outcry over the incident, he assured that a detailed investigation would be carried out to determine who granted the necessary clearances for tree cutting and whether the due process was followed.

"The ecological balance of Jammu & Kashmir is of utmost importance. We

cannot afford to compromise on environmental concerns in the name of industrialization. I have directed the officials to launch a comprehensive inquiry into the tree-felling incident in Barwal, and strict action will be taken against any violations of environmental norms," he said.

He further added that the government is exploring alternative measures such as afforestation programs and green industrial practices to ensure that environmental damage is minimised.

In addition to industrial development concerns, the Deputy Chief Minister also addressed the growing challenges posed by drug trafficking, illegal mining and industrial mafias in the region.

He stated that these issues are undermining the socio-economic fabric of the region and warned that the government will take strict and decisive action against any individuals or groups involved in such activities.

Highlighting the broader economic vision for Jammu & Kashmir, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that while industrial growth is essential, the region's traditional strength in agriculture and tourism must not be neglected.

He acknowledged that a major section of the population depends on agriculture and tourism for their livelihood, and the government is committed towards strengthening these sectors through policy reforms, infrastructure development, and financial support.

Deputy Commissioner inaugurates Didi Ki Rasoi canteen at GDC Boys Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai on Saturday inaugurated the "Didi Ki Rasoi" canteen at Government Degree College Boys Udhampur in the presence of Project Officer DUDA, Udhampur-Reasi Jaffar Abass Batt, Principal of the College Dr. Sanjay Verma.

The canteen provides an assortment of home-cooked meals at reasonable prices and is managed by women Self-Help Groups constituted under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission.

This initiative serves two key objectives: providing a steady source of income for women Self-Help Groups and offering affordable, nutritious meals to college staff, students, visitors and the general public, thereby promoting health and well-being in the district.

While briefing the media, the DC commended the initiative, emphasizing its pivotal role in women's empowerment in the region. She praised Project Officer in launching the canteen, which provides a sustainable source of income and support to Self-Help Group members.

The Deputy Commissioner has been a strong advocate for women's empowerment and community development initiatives.

Her recognition of the canteen's impact underscores the importance of such initiatives

in promoting economic independence and social growth among women.

The canteen, established under DAY-NULM, serves as a platform for Self-Help Group members to showcase their culinary skills and entrepreneurial spirit.

He expressed his gratitude to Deputy Commissioner for her unwavering support and highlighted the canteen's potential to provide sustainable income for self-help group members.

He also thanked the College Principal for providing space to



By providing a sustainable income stream, the canteen empowers women to take charge of their financial lives, contributing to the district's overall development.

Project Officer stated that this marks the latest installment of the Didi Ki Rasoi Canteen initiative launched under DAY-NULM in Udhampur district, with this being the newest addition to the existing two canteens.

Previously, canteens had been established at DC Office Complex Udhampur and Government College for women Udhampur with plans underway to open additional canteens.

the Self Help Group members in the college premises.

The initiative empowers women by providing a livelihood platform, aligning with DAY-NULM's objectives to uplift urban poor communities through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

This "Didi Ki Rasoi" canteen marks a significant milestone towards women's empowerment and self-sufficiency in Udhampur.

To mark the occasion, Silver Oak and Sukh Chain trees were planted at the 'Didi Ki Rasoi' Canteen event, symbolizing harmony, prosperity and community well-being.

Dy CM visits Jammu Polytechnic College, interacts with faculty, students



JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited the Government Polytechnic College Jammu and reviewed functioning of the institution.

He was accompanied by senior faculty members of the college.

During his extensive visit to the college premises, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the classrooms, labs and other facilities being provided to the students pursuing their studies in different faculties.

While interacting with the faculty members, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government has undertaken a holistic programme of imparting different skills to youth and making them trained in various industrial trades.

Surinder Choudhary said that this will make them technically skilled, so that they can imbibe entrepreneurial skills and start their own income generating units. This would make them job creators and contribute their bit in providing employment avenues to others as well, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the College Administration for providing all the requisite facilities to the students. He said that youth has crucial role in shaping nation's future and they should not face any difficulty in teaching facilities and related services.

DC Kulgam for effective Public Grievance resolution

Kulgam: Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, convened a meeting today with District and Sectoral Officers to assess the progress of citizen registrations on the Samadhan portal.

During the meeting, the DC evaluated the status of public grievance redressal across various departments. He inquired about the actions taken regarding grievances submitted by citizens through the Samadhan portal.

The DC issued directives for the prompt resolution of these grievances to all departments and underscored the importance of increasing citizen registrations on the Samadhan portal.

All departments were instructed to actively engage with citizens, raise awareness about the JK Samadhan portal, and assist them in the registration process.

The meeting was attended by ACD Syed Naseer Ahmad, Tehsildars, BDOs, CEO, ZEOs, AD CAPD, DIO, DYSSO, and all Executive Officers of Municipalities, along with the District Manager of CSC Kulgam.

Secretary, DLSA Budgam conducts inspection of Legal Aid Clinic at JJB Budgam

Budgam: Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Legal Aid Clinic at JJB Budgam.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess the accessibility and quality of legal aid services provided to people, ensuring that they receive timely legal representation and support.

During the visit, she closely monitored the functioning of the legal aid services in the Clinic and interacted with the Para-legal volunteers (PLVs) to evaluate their role in assisting people including juveniles with legal aid.

DLSA Budgam remains committed to strengthening legal aid mechanisms and ensuring that vulnerable sections of society, receive timely and effective legal support.

These initiatives reinforce the mission of access to justice for all and promote awareness about free legal aid services available under the legal framework of India.

DC G'bal reviews functioning of Revenue Department

GANDERBAL: The newly posted Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Revenue Department to assess its overall functioning here in the DC Office.

During the meeting, the DC conducted a detailed review of various matters related to the Revenue Department. Key areas discussed included progress under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), land acquisition cases for developmental projects, migrant land issues, pending court cases, land encroachment and online service pendency.

The DC emphasized the importance of timely and efficient service delivery and urged all officials to expedite the resolution of pending issues to enhance transparency and public trust in the Revenue Department.

He also emphasized strengthening coordination among various sections of the departments to meet the targets and streamline revenue-related services for the benefit of the public.

Emphasizing the importance of digitization, the DC directed officials to expedite the completion of pending villages to ensure 100% digitization of land records at the earliest.

On the issue of land encroachment, the DC instructed Tehsildars to remain vigilant, conduct regular field visits, and take necessary action to prevent any unauthorized occupation of government land. The DC also directed officials to facilitate the timely release of rent to landowners whose land is under the occupation of defense agencies. While interacting with the officers, the DC stressed the need to address public concerns efficiently and ensure the seamless delivery of services.

Regarding the issuance of certificates/legal documents, the DC emphasized the importance of thorough verification to maintain transparency and accuracy in the process.



DC Ganderbal chairs introductory meeting with District, Sectoral officers

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired an introductory meeting with district and sectoral officers at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

During the meeting, officers from various departments briefed the DC about the initiatives undertaken and the status of implementation of government schemes in the district.

While addressing the officers, the DC emphasized the importance of providing hassle-free public services and urged them to perform their duties with dedication and transparency to meet public expectations.

He also stressed the need to accelerate the pace of ongoing

projects to ensure their timely completion. He further directed officers to identify and resolve any bottlenecks hindering development projects and assured them of his full cooperation in addressing such issues.

Seeking support from all departments, Kishore urged officers to work in close coordination to achieve the district's development goals efficiently and effectively. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Ragav S; Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad; GM DIC, Bilal Mukhtar; Chief Planning Officer, Shah Nawaz Ahmad Khan; Executive Engineers of various engineering wings, and other district and sectoral officers.

Special Lok- Adalat on Traffic challans, Electricity Bills to be held on February, 22 at Budgam

Budgam: As per the calendar of activities issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority, a special Lok Adalat focusing on the amicable settlement of "Traffic Challans and Electricity Bills" is scheduled to be held on February 22 in district Budgam.

To facilitate maximum settlement of traffic challans, a Pre-Lok Adalat session for Traffic Challans will commence from 5th February 2025 and continue till 21st February 2025.

All concerned advocates and parties wishing to settle their Traffic Challans through the said Lok Adalat have been asked to approach the concerned courts during this period for a mutually agreeable resolution.

The initiative aims to ensure an efficient and amicable settlement of pending cases. DLSA, Budgam has requested stakeholders to avail themselves of the opportunity.

In order to settle Traffic Challan Cases,



DLSA has constituted three benches for taking up the cases. 1st Bench, comprises of Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam, Imran Hussain

Wani and Munsiff Budgam, Tasneem Kawoosa. The bench will take up all the cases referred by Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam and Munsiff Budgam in the court room of Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam and the Reader of the same Court will assist the bench.

2nd Bench consists of Rabyia Snobar

Gulzar, Judicial Magistrate Ist Class/Munsiff, Magam and Shaista Wani Panel Lawyer. The bench will take up all the cases referred by Judicial Magistrate Ist Class/Munsiff, Magam in the court room of Judicial Magistrate Ist Class/Munsiff, Magam, and the Reader of the same Court will assist the bench.

3rd Bench consists of Tawfeel Ahmed Mir, Special Mobile Magistrate Beerwah and Adv. Bilal Ahmad Rather, Panel Lawyer. The bench will take up all the cases referred by Special Mobile Magistrate Beerwah in the court room of Special Mobile Magistrate Beerwah and the Reader of the same Court will assist the bench.

These benches will hold their sessions from 5th February 2025 to 21st February 2025, starting every day after 2:00 PM. This arrangement is made to resolve cases smoothly and give parties a chance to settle their disputes before the main Lok Adalat.

Educational Qualifications and Skills in the 21st Century: A Contemporary Perspective



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

In today's rapidly evolving world, the landscape of education and professional skills is undergoing a major transformation. The 21st century has ushered in an era of unprecedented technological advancement, globalization, and interconnectedness. As a result, the traditional views on education and career development are being redefined to meet the demands of this new age. This article explores the significance of educational qualifications, and the

Platforms like LinkedIn Learning and Skill share offer courses on new technologies, from augmented reality to 3D modeling, ensuring that workers can stay competitive in their fields by acquiring the latest tools and expertise.

The Importance of Skills in the 21st Century

While educational qualifications are important, the skills that individuals bring to the table are perhaps even more critical in the 21st century. Employers are increasingly seeking candidates who possess a blend of technical, cognitive, and interpersonal skills. These competencies are essential for navigating the complexities of the modern world.

1. Technical Skills

As technology continues to reshape industries, technical skills have become fundamental. Key skills in demand include:

- Data Literacy:** With the explosion of data in every industry,

ingly information-saturated environment, where distinguishing between reliable and unreliable sources is key. For example, strategic consultants must sift through large volumes of market data, extract relevant insights, and formulate business strategies. In the political realm, citizens must be able to critically assess information from diverse media sources to make informed decisions during elections or policy debates.

- Problem-Solving and Creativity:** As industries become more complex, the ability to innovate and find creative solutions to problems is highly prized. Companies are looking for employees who can think outside the box and approach challenges from fresh angles. For example, in the automotive industry, engineers are developing self-driving cars, requiring them to think creatively about solving safety, navigation, and ethical dilemmas. In urban planning, architects and engineers use problem-solving skills to design sustainable and efficient smart cities, integrating renewable energy, AI, and IoT technologies.

- Adaptability and Flexibility:** The pace of change today is unparalleled, and professionals must be able to adjust quickly

toward meeting product development goals, demonstrating strong organizational and decision-making abilities.

The Global Perspective: Cultural Competence

As globalization continues to shrink the world, cultural competence has become a critical skill. Professionals need to understand and appreciate cultural differences in the workplace, particularly in international teams or when interacting with global clients. Being aware of cultural nuances in communication, work styles, and decision-making can lead to more effective interactions and business outcomes. For example, a global supply chain manager must navigate the logistics and business practices of different countries while respecting cultural norms. Additionally,



essential skills required in the modern world, focusing on how they align with the needs and expectations of the 21st century.

The Changing Nature of Educational Qualifications

In the 21st century, educational qualifications still hold considerable value, but their role is evolving. While a formal degree continues to be an important benchmark for employment opportunities, the emphasis is shifting towards a more diverse set of qualifications that go beyond conventional degrees.

Hybrid Learning Models: Traditional brick-and-mortar universities are no longer the only option for gaining a solid education. The rise of online platforms, hybrid learning, and micro-credentials has made it possible for individuals to pursue knowledge and skills flexibly. For example, platforms like Coursera, edX, and Udacity offer specialized courses in fields such as data science, artificial intelligence, and digital marketing, allowing students to learn at their own pace while earning valuable credentials. Additionally, MIT Open Courseware offers free access to university-level courses in subjects like engineering, economics, and philosophy, further breaking down the barriers to higher education. These platforms help professionals gain certifications in high-demand fields like cloud computing or digital transformation, making learning more accessible and tailored to specific needs.

Interdisciplinary Education: The demands of the 21st-century workforce require individuals to possess not just deep expertise in one domain but also an understanding of how different fields intersect. For example, technology is increasingly being integrated with sectors like healthcare, finance, and education. Programs such as Bioinformatics combine biology, computer science, and mathematics, and have become pivotal for addressing modern challenges like personalized medicine. Similarly, FinTech is an emerging sector that blends finance with cutting-edge technology, requiring professionals who can navigate both financial theory and the latest technological innovations like blockchain and cryptocurrencies. This integration of diverse fields not only enhances problem-solving skills but also prepares individuals for the rapidly changing needs of the industry.

Focus on Lifelong Learning: The fast pace of technological advancement means that skills can become obsolete in just a few years. Therefore, the concept of lifelong learning is gaining prominence. Individuals are encouraged to continually upgrade their skills through short courses, professional development programs, and other learning opportunities. For instance, professionals in fields like marketing and HR must adapt to emerging trends like SEO, AI-driven analytics, and remote work management.

the ability to interpret, analyze, and leverage data is a highly sought-after skill. Understanding tools like Excel, SQL, and Python is becoming essential for professionals across various sectors. For example, data analysts in marketing use tools like Google Analytics to interpret customer behavior and guide decision-making. In healthcare, data scientists can use predictive modeling to identify trends in patient care or reduce hospital readmission rates. Data-driven insights are revolutionizing industries, making data literacy a core competency for professionals today.

Programming and Software Development: Knowledge of programming languages such as Python, JavaScript, and Java remains crucial in many fields, particularly in tech, finance, and engineering. Software development and app-building are also in high demand as more industries rely on digital platforms. For example, in the e-commerce industry, software developers use Ruby on Rails to build scalable, user-friendly online stores. Mobile app developers use Swift or Kotlin to create apps for iOS and Android, meeting the growing demand for mobile-first experiences in sectors ranging from entertainment to healthcare.

Cybersecurity and IT Skills: As cyber threats become more sophisticated, cybersecurity expertise is a top priority. Knowledge of network security, encryption, and risk management is essential in protecting sensitive information. For example, ethical hackers perform penetration tests to identify vulnerabilities in an organization's systems, while cloud security specialists help businesses migrate to cloud platforms like Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Microsoft Azure securely.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: AI and machine learning are revolutionizing multiple sectors, from healthcare to finance. Understanding the principles behind AI, its applications, and the ethical implications is increasingly necessary. For instance, AI specialists in healthcare can work on predictive algorithms that help detect diseases early by analyzing medical images. In the financial sector, machine learning algorithms are used to detect fraudulent transactions, making the ability to understand and implement these technologies an essential skill.

2. Cognitive Skills

While technical skills are crucial, cognitive skills are just as vital. These are the abilities to think critically, solve problems, and adapt to new situations. Key cognitive skills for the 21st century include:

- Critical Thinking:** The ability to analyze complex problems, evaluate various solutions, and make informed decisions is essential. Critical thinking helps individuals navigate an increas-

ingly complex world. Professionals must be able to analyze information, identify biases, and make sound judgments. For example, in a business context, critical thinking is essential for evaluating market trends, assessing risks, and making strategic decisions. In education, it helps students question assumptions and develop independent thought.

3. Interpersonal Skills

In addition to technical and cognitive abilities, interpersonal skills are essential for effective collaboration, communication, and leadership. These "soft skills" enable individuals to navigate relationships with colleagues, clients, and customers. Important interpersonal skills include:

- Emotional Intelligence (EQ):** EQ refers to the ability to understand, manage, and express one's emotions, as well as the capacity to recognize and influence the emotions of others. High EQ is associated with better teamwork, conflict resolution, and leadership. For example, HR professionals with high EQ can better understand employee needs and create an environment conducive to collaboration and growth. In leadership, EQ helps in managing diverse teams, resolving interpersonal conflicts, and maintaining morale during challenging times.

- Collaboration and Teamwork:** As many workplaces adopt more collaborative models, the ability to work effectively in teams is increasingly important. Professionals must be able to share ideas, give and receive feedback, and contribute to collective goals. For instance, in the film industry, creative teams work closely to produce movies, from directors to editors and sound engineers, demonstrating that teamwork is crucial for complex projects to come together successfully.

- Communication Skills:** Both verbal and written communication skills are essential in the modern workplace. Being able to communicate clearly, persuasively, and empathetically is key to fostering strong professional relationships and driving business success. For example, marketing professionals must create compelling messaging for diverse audiences, while project managers need to communicate timelines, responsibilities, and expectations clearly to their teams.

- Leadership and Management Skills:** Even for those not in senior roles, leadership skills such as motivating others, managing projects, and making strategic decisions are becoming valuable assets. For example, a team leader in a tech company may not hold the title of CEO, but they are expected to guide their team

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Hybrid Learning Models: Traditional brick-and-mortar universities are no longer the only option for gaining a solid education. The rise of online platforms, hybrid learning, and micro-credentials has made it possible for individuals to pursue knowledge and skills flexibly. For example, platforms like Coursera, edX, and Udacity offer specialized courses in fields such as data science, artificial intelligence, and digital marketing, allowing students to learn at their own pace while earning valuable credentials. Additionally, MIT Open Courseware offers free access to university-level courses in subjects like engineering, economics, and philosophy, further breaking down the barriers to higher education. These platforms help professionals gain certifications in high-demand fields like cloud computing or digital transformation, making learning more accessible and tailored to specific needs.

“

employees in multinational corporations need to be sensitive to diverse communication styles, from direct to indirect methods, ensuring smoother collaborations and fewer misunderstandings.

Conclusion

The 21st century demands a dynamic and multifaceted approach to education and skill development. While educational qualifications remain relevant, they must be complemented by a diverse array of technical, cognitive, and interpersonal skills to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world. Professionals today must adopt a mindset of continuous learning, adaptability, and global awareness. Those who possess the right blend of qualifications and skills will not only meet the demands of the modern workforce but also contribute to the ongoing transformation of society in the digital age.

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Continued From P1...

Budget 2025

development, mining, financial sector and regulatory reforms," Sitharaman said.

The Finance Minister expressed confidence in India's strong economic foundation while acknowledging ongoing geopolitical challenges that could slow global economic growth. She further said that the government's development policies and structural reforms over the past decade have positioned India as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

This has strengthened global confidence in India's potential, making the next five years crucial for achieving holistic development, she said.

Individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually will not have to pay any income tax under the new tax regime as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday gave relief to middle class by raising exemption limit and rejigging slabs.

For salaried employees, this nil tax limit will be Rs 12.75 lakh per annum, after taking into account a standard deduction of Rs 75,000.

Higher exemptions and rejigs have been effected under the new income tax regime.

"I am now happy to announce that there will be no income tax payable up to income of Rs 12 lakh (i.e. average income of Rs 1 lakh per month other than special rate income such as capital gains) under the new regime," the finance minister said.

"The new structure will substantially reduce the taxes of the middle class and leave more money in their hands, boosting household consumption, savings and investment," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

As per the rejig, for people earning more than Rs 12 lakh per annum, there will be nil tax for income up to Rs 4 lakh, 5 per cent for income between Rs 4 and 8 lakh, 10 per cent for Rs 8-12 lakh, 15 per cent for Rs 12-16 lakh.

A 20 per cent income tax will be levied on income between Rs 16 and 20 lakh, 25 per cent on Rs 20-24 lakh and 30 per cent above Rs 24 lakh per annum.

A tax payer in the new regime with an income of Rs 12 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 80,000 in tax. A person having income of Rs 18 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 70,000 in tax.

A person with an income of Rs 25 lakh gets a benefit of Rs 1.10 lakh.

'Pragmatic Budget'

to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the government's focus on economic growth, tax relief, and transformative reforms across multiple sectors.

"My heartfelt thanks to Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman Ji for a pragmatic Budget for Viksit Bharat. Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji for putting the economy on a fast-track and bold development initiatives for the poor, youth, farmers, and women," wrote LG Sinha.

He highlighted the significant relief provided to the middle class through the revised tax rate structure, terming it a "historic move" aimed at improving their lives. He further applauded the enhancement of the TDS limit on rent, social security measures, and efforts to formalize the gig economy, calling it a "huge relief to taxpayers."

"The Budget 2025-26 reflects India's growing aspiration for accelerated growth and to stimulate private sector investments. The focus on agricultural growth with various initiatives including the Agri District Programme seeks to translate the vision of rural prosperity and social equity," he added.

LG Sinha also emphasized India's position as the fastest-growing major global economy, stating that the budget will provide a further boost to key sectors such as infrastructure, MSMEs, energy, and innovation. He underscored the employment generation potential of the budget and its transformative impact on inclusive and sustainable growth.

"India is the fastest-growing among all major global economies, and this budget will further boost the infrastructure sector, MSMEs, energy sector, innovation, employment generation, and push transformative reforms in key sectors for more inclusive and more sustainable growth," he concluded.

J&K gets

J&K to bridge its resource gap. An additional Rs 279 crore has been allocated as grants towards the contribution to the Union Territory Disaster Response Fund, and Rs 101.77 crore to meet resource gap funding for infrastructure projects.

The figures available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) show that J&K's allocation for the next fiscal is almost Rs 604 crore less than the allocation for 2023-24. As per revised estimates for 2024-25, J&K's allocation has been reduced by Rs 1277 crore. While the allocation, as per budget estimates, was Rs 42,277.74 crore, it has been revised to Rs 41,000.07 crore.

It is worthwhile to mention that Jammu & Kashmir is heavily dependent on Central assistance in Union Territories. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had himself met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to seek additional assistance of Rs 6000 crore.

As per the Union Budget, Rs 4692.15 crore has been allocated for the Union Territory of Ladakh for 2025-26. Of this, Rs 2450 crore has been kept as revenue expenditure and Rs 2242.15 crore as capital expenditure

J&K Police

In 2019, the Union Government took over the power of legislating on J&K Police through the J&K Reorganisation Act. "Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Legislative Assembly may make laws for the whole or any part of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List except the subjects mentioned at entries 1 and 2, namely 'Public Order' and 'Police' respectively, or the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India in so far as any such matter is applicable in relation to the Union territories," section 28 of the law bifurcating J&K into two UTs states.

Business community

taxpayers, allowing them to retain a larger portion of their hard-earned income."

President of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCSI), Javid Tenga, while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), voiced concern over the Rs 1,200 crore 'reduction' in the budget compared to the previous year.

He said the trade body had expected an increase of at least 20–25% to support development and fund inflows in the region. "We are disappointed because we were expecting a boost in financial allocations. This reduction raises serious concerns about how development will take place and how funds will be generated for various sectors," Tenga said.

However, he acknowledged some positive aspects at the central level, particularly the increase in the Credit Guarantee Fund for MSMEs from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore and the enhancement of the Prime

Minister's Mudra Scheme from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

He said these steps would benefit young entrepreneurs, especially given J&K's high unemployment rate.

In the tourism sector, Tenga welcomed the government's plan to develop 50 new destinations, exuding hope that at least 8-10 of them would be in Kashmir, given the region's prominence in the industry.

On the ground level, however, Tenga noted that the budget lacked direct relief for traders and industrialists in J&K. "There is no special package for our industrial sector, which has been our long-standing demand. We have represented this issue multiple times before the Finance Minister and the J&K administration, and we will raise it again," he said, adding, "We need a relief package and the restoration of the Rs 1,200 crore cut."

Meanwhile, in a statement, a KCCI spokesman said, "The budget includes several commendable initiatives that promise to enhance economic activity. However, there is a pressing need for a special revival and infrastructural development package tailored to the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir, more so considering the huge unemployment problem being faced by the youth in the Union Territory."

The KCCI spokesman while listing the "steps in right direction" said, "Provision for an increase in medical seats by 10,000, an increase of 7500 seats in ITI's, the availability of 36 cancer drugs free of charge, the introduction of Mudra loans for homestays to boost tourism, tax exemption on interest on savings of senior citizens, and the Atal Tinkering scheme covering 50,000 schools will enhance the quality of life and economic prospects in the region."

NC satisfied,

In his stinging remarks on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over Jammu & Kashmir's allocation, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone said that it is time for him to seek the return of shawls gifted by him to Union Ministers and revise his cloudless weather commentary made at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district.

In a post on X, Lone, as per the Kashmir News Observer (KNO), pointed out that there has been a reduction in J&K's allocation in the Union Budget. "The proposed allocation to J&K in the Union Budget is approximately 41,000 crores. It is approximately 1,000 crore less than the previous allocation. When adjusted for inflation, it is reduced by another 2,000 to 3,000 crores," he said.

PM Modi

government has opened up many sectors for the youth, who will drive the mission of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India).

"This Budget is a force multiplier. This Budget will increase savings, investment, consumption and growth," the prime minister said, congratulating the finance minister and her team for presenting a "people's budget".

He said a budget usually focuses on increasing the income of the government, but the budget presented by Sitharaman seeks to put more money in the pockets of people, increase savings and make citizens partners in the development journey.

By CM for

growth and employment generation, it must be pursued responsibly, keeping in mind the environmental sustainability and public welfare.

"The government is fully aware of the concerns of the people regarding land acquisition and its impact on their livelihoods. We are committed towards ensuring that no one is unfairly affected by these development projects. Industrial expansion must go hand in hand with environmental conservation and social responsibility. We will ensure that those impacted by land acquisition receive adequate compensation and rehabilitation measures" maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

CS Dulloo

Kathua, Rakesh Minhas; SSP Kathua, Shobhit Saxena; ADC Kathua, Ranjit Singh and GM DIC among others.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary inspected various industrial units, including Devyani Food Industries Pvt. Ltd., an ice-cream manufacturing plant and Varun Beverages Ltd. at Ghatti. He interacted with the officials of the industries and enquired about

the facilities they are being extended in the units besides assessing the challenges faced by them.

Atal Dulloo also visited the Kandhari Global Beverages Pvt. Ltd. at Bhagthali, where he was briefed by the officials about the plant and its functioning.

Mirwaiz Umar

He said the younger generation must be made aware of Kashmir's composite culture.

In response, the Kashmiri Pandit delegation expressed the deep hardships they've faced as a community they were hounded out for none of their faults.

"We suffered in scorching heat, snake bites, selling all their earnings, properties to educate their children," the delegation said.

The Pandit delegation highlighted that despite being forced out of their homeland, they have always extended support to their Muslim brothers and sisters in times of distress, and vice versa.

They emphasized that religious leaders, particularly Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, hold the moral authority to lead this initiative given their influence across the region.

Govt Announces

government is working towards modernisation and self-reliance in the agriculture sector while focusing on boosting farmers' income.

Addressing the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget Session, Murmu highlighted that India achieved a record food grain production of 332 million tonnes in 2023-24.

Kisan Credit

will be provided to well-run export-oriented MSMEs.

AGS Principal Honored For Promoting Sports Culture In Bandipora

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora has awarded Principal Shabnum Kousar of Goodwill Army School (AGS) Bandipora for her outstanding contributions to sports development in the district.

She was honored with the prestigious Appreciation Award by the District Sports Advisory Board during the District Annual Sports Award Ceremony.

The event, organized in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora, recognized individuals who have played a pivotal role in advancing sports at the grassroots level. Principal Kousar's efforts in fostering young sporting talent and promoting a culture of physical activity stood out among the honorees.

As the head of AGS Bandipora, Principal Kousar has been instrumental in integrating sports into the school curriculum and encouraging students to actively participate in various athletic disciplines. Under her leadership, the school has seen remarkable improvements in student engagement in sports, with several students excelling in district and state-level competitions.

Officials from the District Administration lauded her dedication, emphasizing that her initiatives have not only benefited her school but have also contributed significantly to the overall sports culture in Bandipora. "Her commitment to nurturing young athletes and providing them with the necessary



infrastructure and support has had a lasting impact on the district's sports development," said a senior official at the event.

Beyond school sports, Principal Kousar has worked closely with local sports bodies to organize inter-school tournaments, training camps, and mentorship programs for aspiring athletes. Her initiatives have played a crucial role in inspiring young talent and encouraging more students to take up sports as a serious pursuit.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010013255, which is Registered in the name of Javid Ahmad Wani. C/O Best Care Medicate, Near District hospital Bandipora. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of New Bhat Medicate Near District hospital Bandipora, (Tanveer Hussain Bhat). In this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Tanveer Hussain Bhat.
C/O New Bhat Medicate Near District hospital Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20150010175, my name, Parantege and Address has been Mistakenly Mentioned as, Danish Mehraj, S/O Mehraj-ud-Din, R/O Sumlar Bandipora. While as my Actual and correct name, Parantege and Address is Danish Mehraj Ganie, S/O Mehraj-ud-Din Ganie, R/O Sumlar Shok baba Bandipora. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Danish Mehraj Ganie.
S/O Mehraj-ud-Din Ganie.
R/O Sumlar Shok baba Bandipora,
jammu and kashmir, pin code:

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020002608, which is Registered in the name of my Father Namely Gh Ahmad Shah, S/O Gh Mohi-u-din Shah. Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Aijaz Ahmad Shah, S/O Gh Ahmad Shah, in this regard any person having 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.

Aijaz Ahmad Shah.
S/O Gh Ahmad Shah.
R/O Badibath Mantrigam

NOTICE

I, Asif Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Mohd Dar, resident of Nathpora, Bandipora, have lost the number plate of my vehicle with registration number JK15A 3731. I am applying for a duplicate number plate. If anyone has any objections, they may contact the ARTO office, Bandipora, within 7 days from the date of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

Name: Asif Ahmad Dar
S/o: Ghulam Mohd Dar
R/o: Nathpora, Bandipora

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20220000817, my parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Gulzar Ahmad Rather, while as my Actual and correct Parantege is Gulzar Ahmad Najar. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rayees Gulzar.
S/O Gulzar Ahmad Najar.
R/O Near Masjid Sharief Nadihal Bandipora, jammu and kashmir, pin

NOTICE

I have lost the Date of Birth Certificate of my son somewhere. Now i am applying for its duplicate. If anybody has any objection in this regard may contact Registrar Birth and Death SMC Karan Nagar Sringar within a weeks time.

Name -mohammad hammad sofi
S/o ghulam hassan sofi
DOB- 03-02-2021
A/d gulzar pora wanabal rawal pora srinagar

Madrasatul-Banat Darul-Uloom Raheemiyah Bandipora

Offers a Timeless Opportunity for Everlasting Charity (Sadaqah Jariyah)

By the immense grace of Almighty Allah, the construction of the "Madrasatul-Banat" is advancing steadily, with the final floor nearing completion. The important stage was the construction of roof. According to the engineers, the total cost for labour and material was estimated at around 40 lakh rupees. Now, it is near completion **Alhamdulillah**.

The roof of a building acts as a cover and shade to the entire work. So, arranging cover and shade for this institution of girls will be a means of receiving mercy and shade from Allah Almighty, **Insha Allah**.

In the past, many fortunate and generous individuals have seized the opportunity to contribute to this noble cause, either by funding the construction of rooms or by sharing in the expenses.

Now, once again, Allah Ta'ala offers us this blessed opportunity to participate in this virtuous work, allowing us to secure Sadaqah Jariyah for ourselves, our parents, and our loved ones. We urge you to encourage the women in your families to contribute, as this madrasah is dedicated solely to the education of women. May Allah bless and accept our efforts. Aameen!

To take part in this righteous endeavour, donations can be made to the designated account for Madrasatul-Banat:

ACC NO.: 0727010100000200
JK BANK BRANCH NISHAT PARK BANDIPORA KASHMIR
IFSC CODE: JAKA0NPARK

Note/Request: After depositing your contribution into the bank account, kindly send a screenshot or notify us via WhatsApp message or phone call to 9419089250 or 8999101091. Please also provide your name and address to facilitate the issuance of a receipt.

Your well wisher:
Maulana Muhammad Rahmatullah Kashmiri
Nazim, Darul Uloom Raheemiyah Bandipora, Kashmir

Fakhar Zaman, Faheem Ashraf back in Pak squad for Champions Trophy

Fakhar Zaman has been named in Pakistan's squad for the Champions Trophy, marking his return after he fell out with the PCB over a social media post in October 2024. In a squad that PCB called "horses for courses", Faheem Ashraf, who last played international cricket in 2023, has also been called up. Khushdil Shah and Saud Shakeel are also included. The same squad will also play the ODI tri-series against South Africa and New Zealand in the build-up to the Champions Trophy.

The squad confirms what was widely feared within Pakistan: Saim Ayub remains unavailable because of the ankle fracture he sustained during the Cape Town Test. At the time, it was announced he would be out for six weeks, but it was believed his chances of recovering in time for the Champions Trophy were exceptionally slim. Earlier today, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi confirmed Ayub's return remained "at least four weeks" away.

Abdullah Shafique's loss of form has cost him a place in the squad. In the recently concluded ODI series against South Africa, which Pakistan won 3-0, he became the first player to be dismissed for a duck in every match of a series. It means Pakistan will go in with a completely different opening pairing, with Fakhar likely to pair up with either Babar Azam or Saud Shakeel, with the PCB citing Babar's success opening in Test cricket as a potential factor to consider.

"Fakhar's opening partner could be either Babar Azam or Saud Shakeel, depending on

various factors such as conditions, opposition and match strategy," a statement from Asad Shafiq, a member of the selection panel, said. "Both players are highly capable at the top of the order, with Babar being particularly seasoned in the role, regularly opening in

T20Is and also excelling in the Cape Town Test by scoring two half-centuries in Saim Ayub's absence."

The squad also retains its pace-heavy ele-

ment that saw Pakistan win three successive away ODI series towards the end of last year. Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Hasnain are all part of the final 15, with only one specialist spinner in Abrar Ahmed. Neither Sufiyan Mugeem, who

"One of the standout qualities of this side is its flexibility - an essential trait in today's modern-day cricket," Asad Shafiq, a member of the selection panel. "We are confident that this squad strikes the right balance between youth and experience, and has all bases covered. Each player has been chosen with a clear role in mind, ensuring the captain has versatile options at his disposal."

Irfan Khan, who was eyed by the selection committee as a key component of Pakistan's middle order and feted for his fielding, also drops out. Faheem's return comes off the back of limited ODI cricket, having had an indifferent Champions Cup in September. Strong showings with the bat in the President Cup in October, however, seem to have played a part in earning him what appeared an unlikely recall.

Pakistan's first game at the Champions Trophy comes against New Zealand in Karachi on February 19, following which they go to Dubai to play against India. They play their final group game against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi on February 27.



Pakistan squad for Champions Trophy 2025

Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Rizwan (capt, wk), Khushdil Shah, Salman Agha, Usman Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Hasnain, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah

He played a lone BBL game on January 7 after the Test series against India but then rested from the last three matches of the BBL season to mentally and physically refresh ahead of Champions Trophy. But his back remained a serious issue and the selectors have ruled him out of the tournament. A CA statement described the issue as "lower back pain and dysfunction" but did not reveal specifics.

Ranji Trophy: J&K camp protest over alleged pitch manipulation

Match delayed after players raises issue, Baroda refutes allegations

Sajid Raina

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Ranji Trophy team staged a protest against Baroda on Saturday accusing the hosts of tampering with the pitch in their ongoing match.

The protest occurred on Day 3 of the crucial Elite Group A game between the two teams at the Reliance Stadium in Vadodara. The incident caused a delay in the start of play, which was scheduled for 9:30 am but began at 10:55 am instead.

Jammu and Kashmir's players and management raised concerns after noticing a drastic change in the pitch conditions between Day 2 and Day 3. They claimed that the pitch had been balanced during the second day of play, but by the start of Day 3, it had become damp and unpredictable. This made batting significantly harder and led to their protest.

The allegations were made by J&K's coach, Ajay Sharma, who noticed a difference in the color of the pitch. He believed that this change was unusual and suggested it could have been altered overnight. As a result, J&K filed an official complaint with the relevant authorities regarding the state of the pitch.

The protest by the visitors delayed the match, with play starting later than usual.

On the other hand, Baroda denied the accusations, calling them "baseless." A representative from the Baroda Cricket Association explained that the pitch had moisture due to the winter conditions, which caused the surface to be damp.

The representative added that the outfield was also wet, and both the umpires and players were aware of the conditions. According to Baroda, these natural conditions were to blame for the changes in the pitch, not any deliberate action to alter it.

The Baroda official also said that such delays were common in winter and that it was not unusual for matches to be affected by moisture. The Baroda Cricket Association expressed their intention to approach the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regarding the allegations made by J&K.

The match was important for both teams. For J&K, a win would ensure they topped their group, while Baroda needed a victory to advance to the quarter-finals.

Despite the controversy surrounding the pitch, Jammu and Kashmir managed to set Baroda a target of 365 runs—(KNO)



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

