

Kashmir Convener



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Militancy cannot be finished without support of people: CM Omar

KC News Network

JAMMU: Asserting that militancy in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be finished without the support of people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said his government is extending support to the Union Home Ministry to ensure the security situation remains peaceful in the union territory.

"Though it (security) is directly not our responsibility, I am repeatedly saying that militancy cannot be finished without the support of the people. The elected government is making attempts and is supporting (Lt Governor) to keep situation under control and maintain peace," the chief minister told reporters outside assembly here before the start of the day's business.

He was responding to a question on the ongoing anti-terrorist operation in Sanyal near International border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district.

"Such things have happened in the past as well and as far as my information is concerned, no contact was established (with terrorists). The search and cordon operation launched on the basis of suspicious



movement is going on and let us see how the situation develops," Abdullah said.

He said the operation is taking place in a border

village and it is possible that they have come from across the border.

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Drive agricultural transformation, economic growth: LG Sinha

KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Krishak Mela 2025' at R.S. Pura campus of SKUAST, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the progressive Farmers, and also inaugurated four facilities at the campus that will strengthen education, research, and farmer training.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the remarkable transformation taking place in the Agriculture and Allied sector of UT of J&K, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He reaffirmed his commitment to drive agricultural advancement in Jammu Kashmir.

"We have taken various innovative steps to transform Agricultural landscape of Jammu Kashmir including the launch of flagship project Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). For the last three consecutive years, J&K has set a record of productivity in agriculture and allied sector.

Earlier, we used to adopt extension models and schemes of other states, but now J&K has emerged as a leader in implementing innovative agricultural initiatives that are being cited as models by other states," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also shared the key initiatives taken by the government to increase productivity and make the agriculture sector more viable through policy interventions, sustainable practices, advanced

technologies, and innovative marketing methods.

"We have successfully secured GI tags for several traditional products, enhancing their market value and ensuring authenticity. Efforts are underway to obtain GI recognition for more



local products, boosting the export potential and market visibility of the region," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the SKUAST Jammu for successfully running outreach programme through KVKs and research stations to explore strengths and opportunities in the region.

He directed the University to reinforce its outreach to farmers

>>>SEE ON P-7

J&K considering anti-defection law for DDCs

● Legal opinion sought on matter



KC News Network

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Monday disclosed that it is examining the issue of bringing an anti-defection

law for district development councils (DDCs) in the Union Territory.

Responding to a cut motion of PCMLA Sajad Gani Lone, Minister in-charge Rural Development

Department, Javid Ahmad Dar informed the House that legal opinion on bringing an anti-defection law for DDCs has already been sought.

"Legal opinion has already been sought in the matter and on the basis of legal opinion, the Government is examining the issues of introducing an anti-defection law for DDCs," the minister said. The government said that no action could be taken against DDC members on the basis of absence of an anti-defection clause in the Panchayat Raj Act/ Rules 1989.

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RECPDCL Transfers Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Project to IndiGrid

● Transmission project to enhance J&K-Punjab grid connectivity

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, has officially handed over the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited to IndiGrid 2 Private Limited for the development of an Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) project.

An official spokesperson said the transfer took place at an event in Gurugram, attended by senior



officials from RECPDCL, IndiGrid, and the Central Transmission Utility of India Limited.

IndiGrid 2 Private Limited emerged as the Transmission Service Provider (TSP) through

Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) conducted by RECPDCL, which acted as the Bid Process Coordinator for the project. Under the Build,

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NHPC allocates Rs 28.67 cr for CSR in J&K during current fiscal: CM Omar

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that NHPC has allocated a total of Rs. 28.674 crore for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in J&K for the financial year 2024-25, out of a total Rs. 167.93 crore earmarked for pan-India CSR initiatives.

The Chief Minister made this statement while responding to a question raised by Member Waheed Ur Rehman Para.

He informed the House that NHPC's CSR activities cover key sectors such as health and sanitation, education and skill development, rural development, sports, and disaster management. In response to a supplementary question, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for consulting the MLA when planning and implementing CSR projects.

"We will convey this recommendation to NHPC and request them to involve the MLA in identifying priority areas for CSR

>>>SEE ON P-7



'Sgr to get new ESIC hospital'

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR: The Government of India

has approved a new Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospital in Ompura, Srinagar, as part of its plan to expand healthcare services under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme, the Ministry of Labour and Employment said.

The announcement was made by

the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha, where the government confirmed the establishment of 105 new ESIC hospitals across various states and Union Territories, including one in Jammu & Kashmir.

As per the news agency—Kashmir

News Observer (KNO), ESIC hospitals provide affordable medical care to insured workers and their families, covering secondary and tertiary healthcare services. These hospitals play a crucial role in supporting employees working in the organized sector.

In addition to expanding healthcare

facilities, the government has taken several steps to improve the quality of medical services in ESIC hospitals, including collaboration with Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), increasing benefits for insured persons, and launching an online portal for hassle-free claim submissions.

Ayush drugs supplied to hospitals after rigorous quality testing: Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Monday that Ayush drugs are supplied to government institutions only after rigorous quality testing by the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) through their empanelled



laboratories.

Responding to a question raised by MLA Arjun Singh Raju, the Health and Medical Education Department Minister, Sakina Itoo, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that Ayush drugs supplied to government institutions in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are subjected to comprehensive quality testing, including heavy metals checks, by JKMSCL through NABL-accredited laboratories. She said the supplies are quarantined and will not be distributed to the end-user departments until a standard quality report, as per the recommended

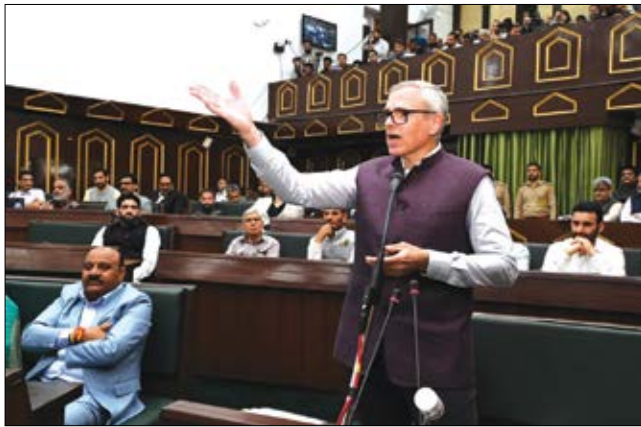
>>>SEE ON P-7

Budget Session 2025

Reviewing transfer of Planning functions to Finance Deptt: CM Omar

KC News Network

Informing the House about the status of GP Fund disbursement, the House that funds for all departments in the J&K Government are allocated



Chief Minister stated that Rs 5,476 crore has been paid as GPF during the 2024-25 financial year.

As the Minister in charge of both Finance and Planning, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah clarified that the allocation of funds—whether for Revenue Expenditure or Capital Expenditure—falls under the purview of the Finance Department in accordance with business rules and statutory norms.

Earlier, while responding to the member's question, he informed the

through the Budget Estimation, Allocation & Monitoring System (BEAMS), which is the most efficient mechanism for real-time fund allocation.

He highlighted that this system has significantly improved efficiency, accountability, and reporting while ensuring effective monitoring of financial resources. The Chief Minister stated that the Finance Department has been handling the Capex Budget since FY 2019-20.

>>>SEE ON P-7

HC allows virtual hearing for migrant litigants amid security concerns

Sajid Raina

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh ruled that the petitioners in a long-standing land dispute case, who are migrants from Kashmir, can attend hearings virtually due to security concerns.

The petitioners had sought the transfer of their case from the Srinagar Wing to the Jammu Wing of the High Court, citing threat perception. However, the court declined the transfer request, instead directing the Srinagar Wing to facilitate virtual hearings.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the case revolves around a 17-kanal land dispute in Shopian, initially ruled in favor of respondents 4 to 7 through an allegedly fraudulent compromise decree in the Munsiff Court, Pulwama.

The decree was later set aside, and the case was transferred to the Jammu

court due to the security concerns of the petitioners, who had migrated from Kashmir.

After nearly two decades of litigation, the suit was dismissed on November 16, 2023, and possession of the land was handed back to

relocation.

Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan acknowledged the threat perception that the petitioners face, stating that the security situation in Kashmir had previously justified transferring the case. However, he said



the petitioners on February 14, 2024.

Following this, the respondents challenged the dismissal order in the Srinagar Wing of the High Court, prompting the petitioners to seek a transfer back to Jammu, citing the same security concerns that had initially led to the case's

that modern virtual hearing facilities now allow litigants to attend proceedings remotely.

"Two decades ago, there was a significant security risk due to militancy, making it impossible for the petitioners to pursue their case in Srinagar.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Property rased for ‘anti-India slogans’: SC seeks Maharashtra body’s reply on contempt plea

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed a Maharashtra authority to respond to a man's plea for initiating contempt action against it after he and his family members were booked by police and his properties were demolished for allegedly raising anti-India slogans during a cricket match.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih issued the notice and posted the hearing after four weeks.

The petitioner, who hails from Sindhudurg district in the state, has claimed his house and shop were demolished on February 24 following an FIR against him, his wife and his 14-year-old son for allegedly raising anti-India slogans during the India-Pakistan Champions Trophy match, which India won the previous day.

The plea, filed by Kitabulla Hamidulla Khan, sought directions for initiating contempt proceedings against the chief officer and administrator of the Malvan Municipal Council arguing the action was in violation of the apex court's November 13, 2024 verdict on demolition of properties.

The top court judgment laid down pan-India guidelines and barred demolition



of properties without a prior showcause notice and 15 days' time to the aggrieved party to respond.

The plea, filed through advocate Fauzia Shakil, said the case illustrated an "egregious contempt" aside from how the state machinery violated the guidelines with impunity.

The FIR alleged at around 9.15 pm when the complainant was going to his friend's house, the petitioner's son raised

an anti-India slogan while watching the cricket match, the plea said.

The petitioner and his minor son were taken to the police station at midnight and the boy was allowed to go after four -five hours, it added.

While the petitioner and his wife were sent to jail, the plea said the authorities on February 24, demolished his tin shed scrap shop and house calling them illegal structures.

"The action of the civic authorities is arbitrary, illegal, and malafide. It is relevant to note that in the process of demolition, the municipal officers also damaged a vehicle of the petitioner," it added.

Though the man and his wife were granted bail on February 25 by a judicial magistrate, the plea said the chain of events clearly depicted the demolition action was punitive. "The time gap between the petitioner and his family members being arraigned as an accused and demolition of the scrap shop and home makes it apparent that the punishment of demolition inflicted by the respondent contemnor and other officials was inflicted on account of them being arraigned as an accused in a frivolous case filed by the complainant," it claimed.

The right to housing or shelter is a fundamental right as held by the apex court in several judgments and forms an integral part of the rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, the plea added. "The state and its officials cannot take arbitrary and excessive measures against the accused or the convict without following the due process as sanctioned by law," the plea said.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Holds Meeting With Nadda, Mallikarjun Kharge To Discuss NJAC Issue

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday held a meeting with Leader of the House J P Nadda and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge for a structured discussion in the Upper House of Parliament on the issue of judicial accountability and the NJAC Act.

The two leaders held closed-door consultations with Dhankhar in his chamber. The meeting began at 11.30 am.

The Rajya Sabha chairman had earlier written to both Nadda and Kharge for the meeting, a source said.

The meeting was held in reference to the observations Dhankhar made in the House on March 21 while responding to the points raised by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh over the recovery of cash from the residence of a high court judge.

Dhankhar had referred to the mechanism for judicial appointments after the passage of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act in 2014. The legislation was struck down by the Supreme Court later. He had told the Rajya Sabha, "You all will recollect the mechanism which was passed by this House with near unanimity, with no dissension, only one abstention in the Rajya Sabha, all political parties converging and going in for the initiative of the government."

"I wish to find out the status of that which emanated from Indian Parliament made sacrosanct by the endorsement of 16 state assemblies in the country and signed by the Hon'ble President under



article 111 of the Constitution," he had said.

"That historic legislation endorsed by this Parliament with unprecedented consensual support unknown to the parliamentary history of this country dealt with the malaise very severely. If the malaise had been dealt with perhaps we would not have countenanced such kind of issues. What bothers me is that the incident happened and did not immediately surface," the chairman had further observed.

Dhankhar had further said that he would "get in touch with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, and find a mechanism for a structured discussion during the course of the session subject to their agreement."

India Will Be Destroyed If RSS Takes Control Of Education: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI: The country will be destroyed if the RSS takes full control of the education system, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said on Monday.

The former Congress chief said the INDIA bloc constituents may have some slight differences in its ideologies and policies but they can never compromise on the



education system of the country.

"One organisation wants to destroy the future and the education system of the country. The name of that organisation is the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. If the education system goes into their hands, which is actually happening slowly, this country will be destroyed. No one will get jobs and the country will be finished," Gandhi said at a protest organised by affiliate student organisations of the INDIA bloc, against the National Education Policy.

"Students organisations must tell students that the vice chancellors of Indian universities are dominated

by the RSS. In the coming time, state universities' VCs will be appointed on the recommendation of the RSS. We have to stop this," he said at the protest held at Jantar Mantar.

Gandhi recalled that last week Prime Minister Narendra Modi made remarks on the Maha Kumbh in Parliament and asserted that the PM should have also spoken about unemployment and inflation.

"The prime minister does not speak a word about unemployment, inflation and education system. Their model is to hand over all resources to Adani and Ambani and hand over institutions to the RSS," Gandhi said.

To the agitators, he said, "You are students of the INDIA bloc, there may be some differences in our ideologies and policies but we can never

compromise on the education system of the country. We will fight this fight together and push back the RSS."

Last month, Gandhi participated in a protest against the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations organised by the DMK here.

He alleged that the UGC's draft regulations on the appointment of teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges were an attempt to push the agenda of the RSS which aims to impose "one history, one tradition, one language" on the country.

CBI Arrests NHAI GM, 3 Others Over Graft Charges

NEW DELHI: The CBI has arrested a general manager of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and three others, including a general manager of a private company, in connection with alleged bribery of Rs 15 lakh, officials said on Monday.

Rampriit Paswan, the accused general manager of the NHAI, had allegedly sought the bribe of Rs 15 lakh for "extending undue favours in processing and passing of the bills related to the contracts/works of the NHAI",



the CBI said in a statement.

"Searches conducted in this regard have led to recovery of Rs 1.18 crore cash (approx.)," it said.

The CBI had booked 12 accused, including six public servants of the rank of chief general manager and general manager (GM) and other senior ranks of the NHAI, one private company, four senior representatives of the private company, including its two GMs, besides one other private contractor and unknown other public servants and private persons in connection with the bribery case.

The CBI raided the meeting place between the accused GM and the employee of a private company where both were caught immediately after the bribe was exchanged, officials said.

"Searches were conducted by the CBI at the residential and official premises of the accused at Patna, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Begusarai, Purnia, Ranchi and Varanasi which led to recovery of Rs 1,18,85,000/ (approx.), several incriminating documents and digital devices," the statement said.

Office Of The Principal GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE BARAMULLA

principal@gmcbaramulla.com| www.gmcbaramulla.com| 01952-238140
E-Tender Notice For Supply Of ReagentsAnd Chemicals for Central Diagnostic Laboratory.
E-Tender reference No: 28-GMCB of 2024-25, Dated: 24-03-2025

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Term E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory through Principal, Govt. Medical College Baramulla for supply of Reagents, Chemicals, as per the Annexure "A" to this tender notice from manufacturers / firms / companies / authorized dealers for Govt. Medical College & Associated hospital Baramulla on urgent basis. The tender document can be downloaded from the website www.gmcbaramulla.com and www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f. 24-03-2025 to 07-04-2025.

The tender details and schedules as per following

Item Description	Tender Fee	EMD
Supply of Reagents and Chemicals for Central Diagnostic Laboratory	Rs. 1,000/-	1,00,000/-
Date & Time of release of bid	24-03-2025 (04:00 PM)	
Last date for entertaining any clarification/representation	25-03-2025 (04:00 PM)	
Online bid submission start date	25-03-2025 (04:00 PM)	
Last date for submission of online bids	07-04-2025 (01:30 PM)	
Opening of Technical bids	09-04-2025 (03:30 PM)	

- Any query to clear can be done through email id on principalmedicalcollegebla@gmail.com.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received or cancel the whole tendering process without assigning any reason thereof.
- The items which shall be available with JKMSCL shall not be procured through this tender.

Annexure A
Tender Reference No: 28-GMCB of 2024-25.
Supply of Reagents and Chemicals to Central Diagnostic Laboratory

S. No.	Name of Items	Pack size	5.	Copper kit	90 ml	38.	HBSAg (Qualitative)	25 tests
Kits and Consumables for Fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyser (DIRUI CS-400) (Dedicated System Pack)			6.	Ceruloplasmin kit	50 ml	39.	HCV (Qualitative)	25 tests
1.	ALP kit	456 ml	7.	Cholinesterase kit	153 ml	40.	Widal Kit	05 ml
2.	ALT kit	456 ml	8.	Fructosamine kit	210 ml	1.	VDRL Devices	50 No.
3.	AST kit	456 ml	9.	Homocysteine kit	36 ml	2.	Pregnancy cards (HCG)	25 No.
4.	ASO kit	60 ml	10.	C3 kit	50 ml	3.	Strips for Glucometer (Accusure)	50 No.
5.	Bile acids kit	40 ml	11.	C4 kit	50 ml	4.	Lancets for Glucometer	100 No.
6.	Total Protein kit	630 ml	12.	Beta Microglobulin Kit	50 ml	5.	Digital HB meter	
7.	Albumin kit	252 ml	13.	Lambda Chain kit	55 ml	6.	Strips for Digital HB meter	
8.	Total Bilirubin kit	300 ml	14.	Kappa Chain kit	55 ml	7.	Hydrochloric acid (concentrated)	2.5 L
9.	Direct Bilirubin kit	300 ml	15.	Lipoprotein (A) kit	24 ml	8.	Hydrochloric acid (N/10)	01 L
10.	Gamma GT kit	456 ml	16.	Alpha 1 Glycoprotein kit	50 ml	9.	Sodium Hypochlorite (5%)	05 L
11.	Amylase kit	252 ml	17.	Anti-Thrombin III kit	50 ml	10.	Isopropanol	01 L
12.	Lipase kit	50 ml	18.	Cuvettes for CS-400 (segment of 20)	120 No.	11.	Ethanol	01 L
13.	Urea kit	456 ml	19.	Halogen lamp for CS-400	-	12.	Low molecular weight heparin	05 ml
14.	Creatinine kit	240 ml	20.	Seracon N	30 ml	13.	Whatman Filter Paper No. 1	-
15.	Microalbumin kit	50 ml	21.	Seracon P	30 ml	14.	Tourniquets	-
16.	Uric Acid kit	456 ml	22.	Seracal	18 ml	15.	5 ml Coagulation activator tubes (Red top)	100 No.
17.	Glucose kit	300 ml	23.	HbA1c Calibrator	25 ml	16.	5 ml EDTA tubes (Purple top)	100 No.
18.	G6PD kit	100 ml	24.	CRP Calibrator	01 ml	17.	5 ml sodium citrate tubes (Blue top)	100 No.
19.	HbA1c kit	40 ml	25.	Rf Calibrator	01 ml	18.	5 ml sodium fluoride tubes (Grey top)	100 No.
20.	HbA1c Lyse	100 ml	26.	Alkaline Detergent	02 L	19.	Serum cups	500 No.
21.	Total Cholesterol kit	639 ml	27.	Acid Detergent	500 ml	20.	Plain Tubes (5 ml)	100 No.
22.	Triglycerides kit	630 ml	28.	Antibacterial PO4 free detergent	500 ml	21.	Capillary tubes	100 No.
23.	HDL-C kit	164 ml	Kits and			22.	Microfuge tubes (1.5 ml)	1000 No.
24.	LDL-C kit	41 ml	29.	Uro Color strips (10 parameter) for Abbott SD Urometer 120	100 No.	23.	Blue Microtips (100 – 1000 µl)	500 No.
25.	Calcium kit	240 ml	30.	Uro Color strips (10 parameter) for TransAsia Erba LAURA	100 No.	24.	Yellow Microtips (20-200 µl)	500 No.
26.	Phosphorous kit	252 ml	31.	Thermal paper for for Abbott SD Urometer 120	-	25.	White Microtips (0.5-10 µl)	1000 No.
27.	Magnesium kit	252 ml	32.	Calibrator strips for TransAsia Erba LAURA	-	26.	Urine containers sterile (50ml)	-
28.	Lactate kit	30 ml	33.	Thermal paper for TransAsia Erba LAURA		27.	Tip box for 1000 µl microtips	-
29.	LDH kit	100 ml	Kits and Consumables for Electrolyte Analyzer (Erma EL-120)			28.	Tip box for 200 µl microtips	-
30.	CRP kit (Quantitative)	60 ml	34.	Solution Cartridge (ISEPak) (system pack)		29.	Tip box for 10µl microtips	-
31.	Rf kit (Quantitative)	60 ml	35.	Thermal Paper for Electrolyte Analyzer (Erma EL-120)		30.	Variable Pipette set of 4 pipettes 100-1000 µl 20-200 µl 10-100 µl 2-10 µl	-
32.	CK-NAC kit	60 ml	Other Kits and Consumables					
33.	CK-MB kit	50 ml	36.	CRP kit (Qualitative)	50 tests			
34.	D-Dimer kit	40 ml	37.	Rf kit (Qualitative)	50 tests			
35.	Iron kit	312 ml						
36.	Ferritin kit	32 ml						
37.	Transferrin kit	50 ml						
1.	UIBC kit	125 ml						
2.	Urinary protein kit	240 ml						
3.	CSF protein kit	240 ml						
4.	Adenosine Deaminase (ADA) kit	54 ml						

NO:-GMCB/PO/2024-25/1566/4031-37
Dated: 24-03-2025.

DIPK-13337/24

Sd/-Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College,
Baramulla

Jammu & Kashmir

Haj Committee

Under Department of Haj & Auqaf, Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir

Press Release

Subject: Advisory for Pilgrims opting for Hajj through Private Tour Operators/Haj Group Organisers. General public especially the intending pilgrims who want to perform Haj through PTOs/HGOs are advised to obtain the following information about the PTOs/HGOs before booking their Haj seat(s):

- Registration & Authorization: Verify that the tour operator is registered and authorized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India for Hajj-2025. The details can be checked on the official website of the Ministry.
- Package Details: Carefully analyse the package details like Itinerary, Hotel accommodation with rating and distance from Harmain Shariefain, Transport arrangements etc to avoid any last-minute surprises. In Makkah Mukaramah, the nearer places of accommodation to Haram Sharief are Ajjiyad, Misfalah, Jablikaba and Jarwal. However, the areas of Batah Qurresh, Azizya, Naseem, Khalidiya, Sheesha are situated far away and need transportation. In Madina Munawarah, Hotels within 1st Ring road are considered nearer and the area is classified as Markazia.
- Pricing & Hidden Costs: Ensure full transparency regarding costs, taxes, visa fees and other additional charges, if any, before finalising the deal and making any payment thereof.
- Flights: Please note that there is no direct flight from Srinagar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through any Haj Group Organizer (HGO). Direct flight facility is available to the pilgrims who undertake pilgrimage through Haj Committee only.
- Contract & Receipts: Always demand a written agreement/contract outlining all services promised and obtain proper receipts for payments made from time to time.
- Group Size & Services: Enquire about the group size, availability of guide and other necessary assistance.
- Medical & Travel Insurance: Confirm whether the package includes medical insurance and emergency assistance in case of health issues.
- Hajj Visa Processing: Ensure that the operator is providing a valid Hajj Visa only and adheres to the regulations of Saudi authorities. No Visit Visa / Umrah Visa is valid for performing Haj.
- Past experience & Credibility: Get feedback about the credibility of the PTOs/HGOs from previous pilgrims who have undertaken Haj journey through such operator.
- Refund Policy in case of cancellation: Ensure that the refund terms and conditions on account of cancellation of already booked seat are clearly mentioned in the package document.
- Emergency Contact & Support: Ensure that the operator provides 24/7 assistance during stay in Saudi Arabia.
- Service of Moalim: Ensure clarity on the type of Moalim service being provided for the pilgrimage. The Moalim categories are A, B, C and D with no sub-categories.
- Location of Tent in Mina: The tent can be in zones 1 to 10 with Zone 1 being considered better. Confirm your assigned zone in advance.
- Vaccination: Ensure inoculation of required vaccines in India before departure as per prevalent health guidelines of Saudi Arabia.

No. Haj/2025/524/209
Dated: 24-03-2025

DIPK-13345/24

Sd/-Executive Officer
J&K Haj Committee

Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya Hosts One of Kashmir’s Biggest Itikaf Gatherings

Volunteers work tirelessly to serve those in isolation for prayer, fasting

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: More than 900 men have gathered at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya, one of the largest Islamic seminaries in north Kashmir’s Bandipora district, to observe Itikaf during the last ten days of Ramadan.

The seminary, known for its long-standing tradition of hosting large Itikaf gatherings, has become a hub for spiritual seekers from across the country.

Itikaf is a spiritual retreat observed during the last ten days of Ramadan, where a Muslim secludes themselves in a mosque or a designated prayer space at home for women to focus entirely on worship, prayer, remembrance of Allah and other Ibadah.

According to the institution’s management, every Iftar and Sehri at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya, around 230 “Tramis” (plates) of food are prepared,



each serving four people. Volunteers ensure the timely distribution of meals, allowing nearly 900 Itikafis to break their fast and eat together in an organized manner.

The large-scale gathering at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya is not just about worship but also about community participation, with volunteers

playing a crucial role in supporting those observing Itikaf.

Many locals, known as Khadims (helpers), dedicate themselves to ensuring that the participants, or Itikafis, have everything they need. From preparing meals for Sehri (pre-dawn meal) and Iftar (evening meal) to maintaining cleanli-

ness in the seminary, the volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Shahid Ahmad, a local volunteer, has been assisting in Itikaf arrangements for the past five years. “Serving those in Itikaf is a blessing for us,” he says. “We wake up before Sehri to prepare food and ensure that everything is ready on time. It is tiring, but the satisfaction we get from serving others makes it worthwhile.”

The seminary sees a structured daily routine during these ten days, with prayers, Quranic recitations, and religious discussions filling the schedule. Volunteers like Muneeb Hussain, a 30-year-old from Bandipora, say the sense of brotherhood during this time is unparalleled.

“People from different places come here, but we all work together as one family. During Iftar, we ensure everyone gets their meal in time, and seeing them break their fast peacefully makes all our efforts worth it,” he said.(KNO).

Kilshay’s Forgotten Refugees: No Electricity, No Roads, No Aid

SAJID RAINA

GUREZ: More than seven decades after migrating from Pakistan during Partition, the refugee residents of Kilshay village in north Kashmir’s Gurez valley say they continue to live in hardship,



with little to no development in their area.

Deprived of basic facilities such as electricity, roads, and healthcare, the villagers claim their condition has remained unchanged since 1997, despite repeated appeals to the government for assistance.

Speaking to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the residents allege that while other refugee groups across India have received government aid, they have been largely ignored. “We were uprooted from our homes and brought here decades ago, but it feels like we are still refu-

gees, struggling for survival,” says Rahim, a resident of Kilshay.

“Despite the hardships, we have been left to fend for ourselves without any special government package,” he said.

Kilshay, a remote refugee village in Gurez, lacks even the most essential infrastructure. With no proper electricity supply, villagers remain in darkness, relying on oil lamps and firewood. “Every evening, our children struggle to study under dim candlelight. In winters, we are cut off completely,” said Fatima, another resident. “It feels like we are stuck in time.”

Road connectivity is another major challenge. Without proper transportation facilities, residents are forced to carry the sick and elderly on their shoulders for miles to the nearest healthcare centre.

“Every time someone falls ill, we have to trek through difficult terrain just to reach a doctor,” said Mohammad Khushi, a local activist said. “Imagine carrying a sick person through snow and mountains. It’s heart-breaking.”

“We have seen refugee communities elsewhere get government aid, housing, and financial assistance, but we have been given nothing,” says Abdul Qadeer, an elderly resident.

“Why are we being treated differently?” The residents also urged the government to recognize their plight and take immediate action. (KNO).

DC Bandipora Reviews Arrangements for Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida, Eid-ul-Fitr & Navratra 2025

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri Monday chaired a meeting at mini secretariat to finalize the arrangements for the upcoming religious festivals, including Shabi Qadar, Jumat-ul-Vida, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Navratra 2025.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of ensuring smooth celebrations by making adequate arrangements for essential services such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, traffic management, security, and medical facilities.

He directed the concerned departments to put in place a coordinated action plan to facilitate the observance of these religious festivals without any inconvenience to the public.

The meeting was informed that special teams, including officers from Police, Revenue, and Legal Metrology, were constituted in the beginning of Ramadan to monitor markets and prevent overpricing.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner urged the Traders Federation to maintain fair prices, emphasizing that everyone is a consumer and that price hikes during festivals cause distress to the general public besides directing the concerned departments to conduct regular market inspections

to prevent hoarding and overpricing.

The DC urged concerns from Municipal Committees to conduct special cleanliness drives at religious places.



He instructed the Health Department to deploy medical teams and ambulances to handle emergencies and directed the Transport Department to ensure smooth public transportation and reduce traffic congestion by managing unnecessary parking.

The DC further urged the Rural Development Department (RDD) to oversee cleanliness efforts at religious places on Eid-ul-Fitr.

Among others the meeting was attended by ADC Zaffar Husson Shawl, ACD Irfan Bahadur, District Officers of various Departments, Representatives of traders federation, Waqf board and other concerned.

Govt to Upgrade India’s Oldest Forest Training School at Chittarnar, Bandipora

BANDIPORA: The Forest Training School at Chittarnar, Bandipora, is set for a significant upgrade following official sanctioning, marking a major step forward in forestry education and environmental conservation in Jammu



and Kashmir.

The Kashmir Forest Training School, located in Chitternar, Bandipora, is one of India’s oldest forestry training institutions, established in 1911 during the tenure of Mr. W.H. Lovgrove, the Conservator of Forests of Jammu and Kashmir from 1907 to 1915.

The school was founded to impart basic forestry training to in-service junior rank forest officers, including Foresters, Deputy Foresters, Forest Guards, and Watchers.

Over the Century, it has played a crucial role in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir’s forest management and conservation efforts, having trained lakhs of Foresters and Forest Guards. However, Bandipora residents have been demanding its upgradation to a college level if not university level. “Had this intitute

been in any other part of the country, it would have been upgraded to a university. We demand at least a college status to the institute,” locals have reiterated.

An official spokesperson of Congress in Bandipora said the long-awaited development is credited to the persistent efforts of MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-din Bhat who has raised it with the Chief Minister and the ongoing Assembly Session wherein the government has assured its upgradation.

Welcoming the decision, Bhat urged the Forest Department to take immediate steps to secure funds from the Union government. Until then, he emphasized the need for adequate financial support from the state sector to ensure timely infrastructure development.

The upgrade will introduce modern facilities and advanced training programs, benefiting youth interested in forestry, environmental sciences, and conservation. Officials and residents have hailed the move as a crucial step toward sustainable development and employment generation.

“This initiative will enhance training standards and open up career opportunities for our youth while fostering greater environmental awareness,” said a senior Forest Department official.

The project underscores Bhat’s unwavering commitment to the progress of Bandipora. The transformation of the Forest Training School is expected to strengthen environmental stewardship and inspire future generations in Kashmir.

Indian Army, J&K Police Recovers Major Arms, Ammunition, Narcotics Haul in Poonch

POONCH: In a significant breakthrough, a joint operation by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police (J&K Police) led to the recovery of a substantial cache of arms, ammunition, narcotics, and war-like stores in the Sangla Top area of Surankote, Poonch district.

The operation was meticulously planned and executed following extensive intelligence inputs. Security forces recovered a variety of weapons, including assault rifles, grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition. Additionally, a significant amount of narcotic substances, suspected to be linked to cross-border smuggling, was seized. The discovery of war-like stores further raises concerns



about continued infiltration attempts and the movement of illegal arms and drugs into the region.

This successful operation underscores the relentless efforts of security forces to neutralize militant threats and curb cross-border terrorism. The seizure of narcotics is also seen as a major blow to the illegal drug trade, which has been a growing menace in the region.

Further investigations have been launched to trace the origins of the recovered materials and dismantle the supply chains aiding terrorism. Security forces remain on high alert to ensure peace and stability in the volatile border areas of Poonch.

JKCA Sub-Committee Faces Scrutiny Over Supreme Court Claims, Allegations of Mismanagement

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), operating under a Sub-Committee since June 2021, is facing growing criticism over claims that the Supreme Court upheld its newly drafted constitution. A review of court proceedings indicates that these assertions are misleading, as the matter remains pending, with the next hearing scheduled for March 25, 2025.

Cricketers and stakeholders have accused the Sub-Committee—comprising former Delhi cricketer Mithun Manhas, two political figures, and Majid Yaqoob Dar—of undermining democratic

governance in JKCA. They allege a lack of grassroots cricket, mismanagement of funds, and arbitrary decisions that favor select individuals.

Concerns have also been raised over extravagant expenditures on travel and hotels, while cricketing infrastructure and player development remain neglected. Several young cricketers have accused Majid Dar of biased conduct, restricting access to training facilities for some while granting privileges to others. Additionally, Dar faces an ongoing age-fraud investigation by the Crime Branch, raising further questions about his role in administration.

Former players and coaches are now demanding the reinstatement of an elected JKCA body, emphasizing the need for transparency and the revival of club-level cricket. The upcoming Supreme Court decision is expected to be pivotal in determining the future of cricket governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Over 7,000 Labourers’ Children in Bandipora Receive Education Fellowships

DC Bandipora Disburses ₹5.10 Cr Under Education Assistance Scheme

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Monday handed over a cheque of Rs. 5.10 crore to J&K Bank for payment to Building & Other Construction Worker beneficiaries under Education Assistance scheme.

Giving details, the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Bandipora Rabia Mir informed that the amount of Rs.5.10 crore under the Education Assistance scheme will be credited to the bank accounts of 7165 Labour beneficiaries of the district to facilitate education of their children.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, highlighted the Government efforts to improve the socio-economic conditions of the working class and emphasized the importance of investing in the education of children to secure their future.

He said the education assistance initiative is a step forward in ensuring that the children of construction workers get the necessary educational support.

M.A.Qadri said that the Education Assistance Scheme is an important part of the welfare measures being implemented for construction workers, ensuring that their children have the opportunity to pursue their education without financial hindrances.

Among others CPO Bandipora Mohammad Maqbool Lone, ALC Rabia Mir, Manager JK Bank mini secretariat branch and other concerned were present on the occasion.



DIPR Bandipora Organises Mushaira Cum Literary Programme

BANDIPORA: As part of the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan (Drug-Free J&K Campaign), the Information Department Bandipora, in collaboration with Majlis-i-Shaban, on Monday, organized Mushaira Cum Literary Programme at Boys Higher Secondary School Nadihal, Bandipora. The event witnessed participation from students, teachers besides prominent poets and writers, including; Shahbaz Hakbari, Ismail Ashna, and President of Majlis-i-Shaban Forum Mohammad Munawar Parwana and others.

The programme featured a series of poems and speeches, with participants expressing strong messages about the importance of creating a drug-free environment for future generations besides highlighting the devastating impact of substance abuse.

Speaking at the event, the participants emphasized the role of literature and poetry in shaping public consciousness besides stressing the significance of involving all segments of society, including the youth, in the fight against drug addiction.

JKSBM Coordinators Protest in Srinagar, Seek Job Security

SRINAGAR: Coordinators under the Jammu & Kashmir Saakshar Bharat Mission (JKSBM) staged a peaceful protest in Srinagar, demanding Reen-gage, regularization and job security.

Led by State President Ms. Gulshani, the protesters highlighted their role in implementing the Saakshar Bharat Mission since 2009 but lamented job uncertainty and lack of financial support.

Moreover Chief Spokesperson JKSBM said that we have served the department for more than 7 years and done our duty with zeal and zest and also done the assignments given by Govt from time to time viz, School duty, BLO Duty, Election Duty etc.

He said that we have knocked on all the doors of Higher Authorities and till date no result came out. Meanwhile he also said that we have taken this issue to the Governor and Current Govt they assumed is to resolve our issue. “We request the current Govt to include us in the current framed Committee. We have worked tirelessly for years, yet our future remains uncertain,” said Ms. Gulshani, urging the government to address their grievances.

The demonstration ended peacefully, but the coordinators warned of intensified protests if their demands were ignored.

PMSHRI GHS Sumbal bags first position in district level Science exhibition

Bandipora: A District-Level Science Exhibition under the Project Innovation Program for PM Shri Schools was successfully conducted today at the DIET Complex Bandipore. The event, held under the dynamic leadership of Principal DIET Bandipore, Mr Abdul Rashid Mir, witnessed enthusiastic participation from 30 students representing 19 PM Shri Schools across the district.

Inaugurating the event, Principal, emphasized the importance of scientific temperament in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He also stressed the need to provide students with ample opportunities to express their innovative ideas and explore scientific solutions.

Officials said the exhibition showcased novel and creative models, reflecting the young minds’ scientific acumen and problem-solving skills. Among the participants, Samreena Fayaz from GHS Sumbal secured the first position, while Najma Altaf from HSS Shadipora bagged the second position. The third position was awarded to Sadiya Nissar from GHS Kaloosa. The jury panel, comprising Senior Lecturers Mr. Sajad Ahmad Bhat and Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Mehdi, meticulously evaluated the projects, appreciating the students’ innovative approaches.

Zahoor Ahmad Mehdi announced the top three positions and delivered a brief deliberation on the importance of project-based learning in fostering scientific knowledge and creativity. All participants were felicitated with certificates and trophies in recognition of their efforts.

Editorial

Soil Health Card

The Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, introduced to promote balanced fertilization and improve soil fertility, has shown promising results in reducing fertilizer overuse and enhancing agricultural productivity. However, its implementation and adoption challenges continue to hinder its full potential.

Studies by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and the National Productivity Council highlight a 9% reduction in urea use, 7% decrease in phosphate fertilizers, and a 20% increase in potassium application—a shift towards balanced nutrient use. Moreover, farmers adopting SHC recommendations saw an 8-10% cost saving on fertilizers and a 5-6% increase in crop yields. Yet, despite these gains, widespread awareness and accessibility issues remain a concern, particularly among small and marginal farmers.

To enhance SHC adoption, the government has revamped the SHC portal, introduced a mobile app, integrated QR-coded soil sample collection, and onboarded soil testing labs for real-time data access. However, ground-level outreach efforts must be strengthened. While over 7 lakh demonstrations and 93,000 farmer training programs have been conducted, many farmers still lack access to soil testing facilities or do not fully understand SHC recommendations.

A critical gap lies in customized, localized advisory services. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) must increase farmer engagement through personalized guidance, ensuring easier interpretation and adoption of SHC recommendations. Additionally, state governments must expand doorstep soil testing services to reach farmers in remote areas.

The Soil Health Card Scheme has laid a strong foundation, but to make balanced fertilization a norm rather than an exception, better implementation, farmer education, and accessibility improvements are crucial. If effectively scaled, the SHC scheme can be a game-changer, leading to sustainable agriculture, higher productivity, and long-term soil conservation—critical for ensuring India's food security and environmental health.

Modernizing Islamic Seminaries And Ensuring Financial Independence For Imams – A Collective Responsibility

By: Syed Majid Gilani

Islamic seminaries, or DarulUlooms, have long been the cornerstone of religious education in Jammu and Kashmir. These institutions have nurtured generations of scholars, imams, Huffaz-e-Quran, and religious leaders who dedicate their lives to the service of faith. Today, most mosque imams and preachers in the region are alumni of these seminaries. While their contributions remain invaluable, the evolving demands of the modern era necessitate thoughtful expansion and refinement to ensure their continued relevance and impact.

For those who complete their studies at Islamic seminaries—earning titles such as Qari, Molvi, Aalim, Mufti, or Hafiz—to thrive in today's world, they must receive a well-rounded education that blends religious studies with contemporary knowledge and practical skills. An imam or preacher who is well-versed in Islamic teachings while also equipped with modern education and technical expertise will have greater opportunities for self-sufficiency. Such individuals will not only serve as spiritual guides but also as empowered members of society, capable of meaningful contributions to community development.

Imams hold a position of immense reverence as custodians of religious knowledge and moral and spiritual mentors. However, many receive meager stipends from mosque management, making it challenging to sustain themselves and their families. Like everyone else, imams have financial responsibilities, and it is crucial to acknowledge their right to a dignified standard of living. A financially secure imam will be able to serve with greater devotion, focus, and effectiveness.

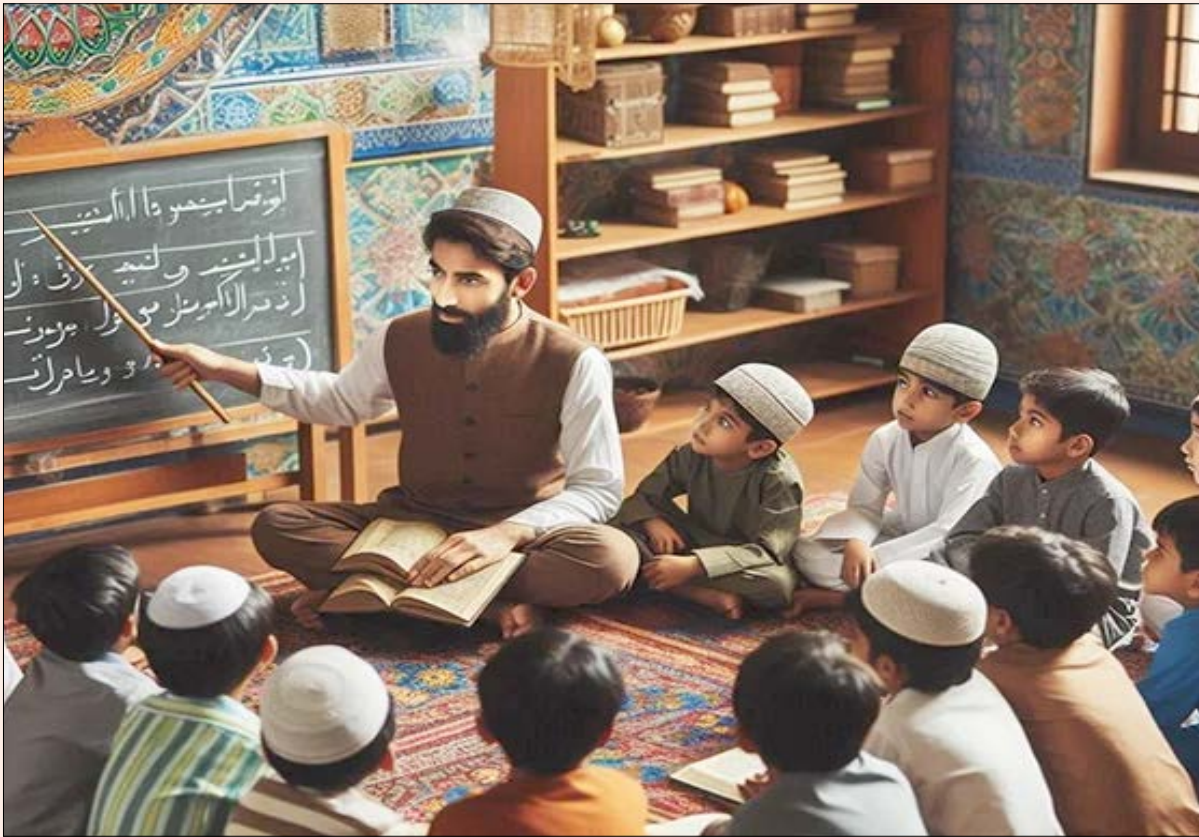
Mosque managements must take proactive steps to ensure fair financial support for imams. Respect for religious service should not remain confined to words—it must be reflected in tangible support. Additionally, imams should be encouraged to harness their skills in diverse fields, creating alternative avenues of livelihood. A financially stable imam will be in a far stronger position to serve both faith and society.

Currently, the curriculum of most Islamic seminaries remains largely confined to religious studies. While religious education is essential, integrating modern subjects—such as science, mathematics, technology, and vocational training—has become crucial. This would broaden students' intellectual horizons and equip them with skills to navigate the contemporary world with confidence.

Islamic seminaries must expand opportunities for their students, ensuring they are not limited to roles as imams and religious scholars. Instead, they should be prepared to excel as educators, administra-

religious and societal development. As a society, we must recognize and honor the profound role of imams and preachers in guiding our spiritual and moral compass. It is our collective

they deserve. Those who dedicate their lives to religious service should not face economic hardships. The time has come to modernize Islamic seminaries, enabling them to produce a generation of



tors, journalists, and professionals in various fields, allowing them to contribute more effectively to both

responsibility to ensure they receive fair financial support, respectable stipends, and the social dignity

Mosque managements must take proactive steps to ensure fair financial support for imams. Respect for religious service should not remain confined to words—it must be reflected in tangible support. Additionally, imams should be encouraged to harness their skills in diverse fields, creating alternative avenues of livelihood. A financially stable imam will be in a far stronger position to serve both faith and society.

scholars adept in both religious wisdom and worldly affairs. By embracing a balanced and holistic approach to education, these institutions can progress more efficiently.

If we, as a community, take these essential steps, Islamic seminaries can evolve into centers of enlightenment—producing ulema, maulvis, muftis, and Huffaz-e-Quran who succeed not only in their spiritual endeavors but also in the broader social and economic landscape. This, in turn, will pave the way for a more prosperous, balanced, and enlightened society.

Syed Majid Gilani is a writer and can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

A Century of Conflict: Why Peace Remains Elusive in Israel-Palestine?



Priyanka Saurabh

A Century of Conflict: Why Peace Remains Elusive in Israel-Palestine?

Since 2021, violence between Israelis and Palestinians has steadily intensified, with ongoing clashes in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. The May 2021 conflict, triggered by tensions in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and confrontations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, escalated into an 11-day war between Hamas and Israel. Israeli airstrikes caused widespread destruction in Gaza, killing over 250 Palestinians, including many civilians, while Hamas and other Palestinian factions launched thousands of rockets at Israeli cities, resulting in 13 deaths and extensive damage. The ceasefire that followed was fragile, with tensions remaining high.

In the years that followed, Israeli military operations in the West Bank, particularly in Jenin and Nablus, intensified as part of a crackdown on Palestinian militant activity. These operations often led to armed confrontations, resulting in the deaths of militants and civilians alike. Settler violence against Palestinian communities in the West Bank also surged, with attacks on Palestinian villages and destruction of property. The Israeli government's policies, including settlement expansion and demolition of Palestinian homes, further fueled Palestinian anger and frustration.

Palestinian militants, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, responded with attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians, perpetuating the cycle of violence. Gaza experienced periodic flare-ups, with Hamas and Islamic Jihad launching rockets into Israel, prompting Israeli airstrikes that further devastated Gaza's already fragile infrastructure. By 2025, the situation had worsened, with no meaningful progress toward a lasting peace, and both sides entrenched in a cycle of violence that showed no signs of abating. The lack of a political horizon, combined with growing despair among Palestinians and heightened security measures by Israel, ensured that tensions remained high, with the prospect of renewed violence never far away.

In late 2022, Benjamin Netanyahu returned to

power after forming a coalition government that included far-right and ultra-nationalist parties, such as Otzma Yehudit and Religious Zionism. This coalition pushed an aggressive agenda that prioritized expanding Israeli control over the

of checks and balances. Despite the scale of these protests, they had little impact on the government's policies toward Palestinians. Netanyahu's coalition remained committed to its headline approach, viewing security and territorial control

Hamas maintained its control over Gaza under an ongoing Israeli blockade, enforcing its authority through a combination of political repression and social programs. While Hamas retained significant support due to its resistance

between the United States and China drew focus away from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Despite periodic appeals for renewed negotiations, there was little international momentum to revive the peace process or hold parties accountable for violations of international law.

The Abraham Accords, signed in 2020, continued to reshape regional dynamics by normalizing relations between Israel and several Arab



West Bank and imposing stricter measures on Palestinians. Netanyahu's government rapidly approved plans for expanding settlements and legalized previously unauthorized outposts, significantly altering the landscape of the West Bank. These actions were condemned internationally but proceeded unabated, further entrenching Israeli control over Palestinian territory and undermining the prospects for a two-state solution.

The government also imposed severe restrictions on Palestinian movement and economic activity, tightening military checkpoints and increasing security operations in Palestinian towns. In addition, punitive measures, such as home demolitions and the revocation of residency permits, were used against Palestinians accused of involvement in violence. The combination of settlement expansion, settler violence, and military operations fueled Palestinian resentment and resistance, intensifying the cycle of violence.

Domestically, Netanyahu's government pursued controversial judicial reforms aimed at limiting the power of Israel's judiciary, sparking one of the largest protest movements in Israeli history. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis took to the streets, fearing that the proposed reforms would undermine democracy and erode the system

as paramount.

By 2025, Netanyahu's policies had deepened divisions both within Israeli society and between Israelis and Palestinians. While the protests reflected widespread concern about the future of Israeli democracy, they did not translate into a more moderate approach toward the Palestinian issue. Instead, the government's headline stance fueled further unrest and made prospects for peace increasingly remote.

Palestinian politics remained deeply fragmented in the years following 2021, with internal divisions weakening the Palestinian leadership and eroding public trust. The Palestinian Authority (PA), led by Mahmoud Abbas, continued to lose legitimacy due to widespread corruption, inefficiency, and its failure to prevent Israeli settlement expansion. Abbas, in power since 2005, postponed elections multiple times, citing security concerns and internal divisions, but this only deepened frustration among Palestinians. The younger generation, disillusioned with the PA's inability to achieve meaningful progress toward statehood, increasingly viewed the leadership as disconnected from their daily struggles. Calls for elections and political renewal went unheeded, leaving Palestinians feeling voiceless and powerless.

against Israel, its governance in Gaza was marked by economic hardship, high unemployment, and deteriorating living conditions. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, new militant groups, such as the Lions' Den, emerged in cities like Nablus and Jenin, challenging both Israeli forces and the PA's authority. These groups attracted support from disillusioned youth who saw armed resistance as the only viable response to Israeli policies and the PA's perceived failures.

Popular frustration boiled over in spontaneous protests across Palestinian territories, with demonstrators calling for a new political direction that could effectively confront Israeli occupation and address Palestinian grievances. Demands for reform, unity, and resistance gained momentum, but the entrenched leadership of both the PA and Hamas resisted meaningful change. As divisions deepened, the Palestinian political landscape remained paralyzed, leaving the population caught between ineffective leadership and worsening conditions on the ground.

Diplomatic efforts to restart the Israeli-Palestinian peace process remained at a standstill, with global attention shifting toward other international crises. The war in Ukraine, rising tensions in the Asia-Pacific region, and growing competition

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In late 2022, Benjamin Netanyahu returned to power after forming a coalition government that included far-right and ultra-nationalist parties, such as Otzma Yehudit and Religious Zionism. This coalition pushed an aggressive agenda that prioritized expanding Israeli control over the West Bank and imposing stricter measures on Palestinians...

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states, including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. While these agreements promised economic benefits and increased security cooperation, they largely sidelined Palestinian concerns. Arab states, once vocal advocates of Palestinian statehood, prioritized their own economic and security interests, leaving the Palestinians increasingly isolated on the diplomatic front. Public opinion in these Arab nations often remained sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, but their governments focused on strengthening ties with Israel, contributing to a growing sense of Palestinian abandonment.

TO BE CONCLUDED.

Lieutenant Governor pays tributes to veteran leader Shri Lalmuni Chaubey

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today paid tributes to veteran leader and Parliamentarian Shri Lalmuni Chaubey. Addressing a public event commemorating the Death Anniversary of Shri Lalmuni Chaubey, at Buxar in Bihar, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the lifelong campaigns of the seasoned political figure dedicated to public welfare and nation building. "Shri Lalmuni Chaubeyji was a widely respected leader who had dedicated every fragment of his body and every moment of his life to the service of the people and to restore the glory of Mother India. He was a beacon of hope for the underprivileged section of society and dedicated himself to dignity, equality and opportunity for all. His life and ideals will inspire generations to come. During the Emergency, when individual freedom was in peril,



Lalmuni Chaubey protected it with all his might. He Championed

the cause of national unity and integrity and propagated discipline and self-confidence among people," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people, especially the youth to take inspiration from the life of Shri Lalmuni Chaubey and his commitment to public service and work selflessly for the betterment of the society. The Lieutenant Governor said, "If we all dedicate ourselves to a noble cause that could make a strong and prosperous society and contribute to a developed India and Aatm-Nirbhar villages, only then we will be able to pay our real tributes to that great soul. Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan; senior political leaders, and prominent personalities from all walks of life also paid their homage to Shri Lalmuni Chaubey.

Drug Control Deptt conducts inspections in Herman, Shopian

SHOPIAN: The Drug Control Department, in coordination with officials from the Revenue and Police Departments, conducted extensive inspections of medical establishments in Herman, Shopian, to ensure compliance with drug regulatory norms. During the inspection, the records of Schedule H and H1 drugs were thoroughly scrutinized on the spot. It was observed that all the checked firms had adopted a computerized billing system, ensuring transparency in sales and inventory management. However, two firms were served on-spot notices for violations of certain license conditions, and they have been directed to take corrective measures immediately. Additionally, nine drug samples were lifted during the drive to ascertain the quality and efficacy of medicines being supplied to the public. The collected samples will undergo rigorous testing at designated laboratories to ensure compliance with safety and quality standards. Also Pharmacists and drug retailers were urged to adhere strictly to prescribed guidelines, maintain proper records, and cooperate with enforcement agencies to prevent any misuse of drugs.

243 Doctors, Paramedics deployed in Ramnagar Constituency: Sakeena Itoo

Selection process for 181 Medical Officer underway with JKPS

Jammu: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, said that out of 252 sanctioned posts of Doctors, Paramedics, Non-Gazetted, 142 have been filled up and an additional staff of 101 Doctors and Paramedics have been deployed under the National Health Mission to improve healthcare in remote areas of Ramnagar Constituency. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister informed the House that, out of 365 newly appointed Medical Officers, 17 have been posted in Udhampur while selection process for 181 Medical Officer posts is still underway with the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). "Once the selections are received, the appointed doctors will be assigned to health institutions experiencing severe staff shortages" she added. The Minister informed that in addition to this, the department is also in the process of operating the waitlist for 91 selected Medical Officers. She said that, additionally, 292 vacancies in non-gazetted, paramedical categories from the Directorate of Family Welfare and 290 from the Directorate of Health Services have been departmental buildings. The Minister said that construction and repair work on nine institutes was initiated, out of which, six have been completed and three are under execution. Additionally, initiatives like e-Sanjeevni, Tele-radiology, Tele-Manas and implementation of National Health Mission schemes, Pradhan Mantri ABHIM and PMJAY-SEHAT are strengthening the healthcare services immensely for the UT populace, the Minister informed. The Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir, with 554 NTPHCs as of now, is among the top in health institution density in the country, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 2023 report. The region is working on consolidation of existing health facilities with over 4,200 health institutions across primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The creation and upgradation of health institutions will follow the IPHS-2022 guidelines, which serve as the benchmarks for developing or upgrading the existing healthcare facilities.



referred for recruitment to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board to strengthen the healthcare in the region. Regarding Ramnagar Constituency, the Minister informed that 51 health institutions have been sanctioned with 19 in government buildings, 29 in rented buildings and 3 in other

DC Srinagar reviews arrangements for celebration of Navratri festival



SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting here to review the arrangements for celebrations of upcoming festival of Navratri (Nowreh) in the district. During the meeting, DC took a detailed review of the arrangements to be put in place for smooth celebrations of the Navratri, the festival celebrated on New Year as per Hindu calendar to be celebrated with traditional enthusiasm and religious fervour on 30th March and 5th & 6th April respectively in the district. At the outset, the DC directed all the line departments to make elaborate measures for the smooth celebrations of the festival and ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees well in advance. On the occasion, the DC passed directions to the concerned Departments to ensure better facilities including adequate transport and parking facilities, sanitation and cleaning measures at Shankar Achariya Temple, Sharika Devi Temple, Durga Nag temple, Zeathyar Temple, Purishyar Temple and other major temples in the City. Besides Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik and Syed Ahmad Kataria; RTO, Kashmir, Qazi Irfan and Superintendent of Police, Umer Shah the meeting was attended by senior Officers of Revenue, PDD, SMC, PHE, Health Services, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned Officers. The representatives of Shankar Achariya Temple, Sharika Devi Temple, Durga Nag temple, Zeathyar Temple, Purishyar Temple also participated in the meeting and discussed the arrangements to be made on the occasion.

21 day residential training for Yuva Aapda Mitra volunteers as “Master Trainers” concludes

JAMMU: The 21 day residential training programme for Yuva Aapda Mitra volunteers as “Master Trainers” (TOT) concluded here today at CTI, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. Nearly, 92 male and female trainees from Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh participated in the training course. Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti was the chief guest at the valedictory ceremony of the programme. The Principal Secretary lauded the role of these young trainees for their voluntary services to the nation. He appreciated the services of NDRF/SDRF and other resource persons besides all the officers and officials who made this training programme successful. He also emphasised upon the trainees to impart training to other civilians of their respective areas to assist the community during any disaster like situations by using the basic disaster techniques. On the occasion, S.J.M Gillani, DGP/Commandant General HG/CD and SDRF, J&K, presented a brief history and achievements of the training institute. He underscored the objective of this TOT course for the Aapda Mitras, being conducted under the aegis of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi, at 7 different locations in the country including Central Training Institute (CTI), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. This training module has been designed in consultation with NDMA which included Basic Disaster Management, earthquake safety, cloud burst, lifting of moving patients, basic search and rescue, flood and cyclone. He asserted that services of NDRF/SDRF Instructors and resource persons of Health Department and professors from Jammu University besides J&K Police and Armed Police were utilised for smooth conduct of the training programme. Later, the Principal Secretary distributed participation certificates among the trainees besides presenting the momentos to Z.N Manhas, Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu and Dev Raj, Principal CTI Kot Bhalwal, Jammu and Nodal Officer, Atul Sharma. The closing ceremony was attended by M.K Sinha, ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ J&K, Alok Kumar, Director Fire & Emergency Services J&K, Sujit Kumar, IGP Security J&K, Sarah Rizvi, DIG IRP Jammu, Shakti Kumar Pathak, Incharge Director ACB J&K, Vikas Gupta, DIG ACB J&K, Rajeshwar Singh, Z.N Manhas, SSP Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu, Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu, Manoj Kumar Pandita, SSP AIG (T&P) PHQ, Snober Jameel and Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, Jammu.



Commissioner Secretary HUDD chairs meeting on Interest Subsidy Scheme under PMAY-Urban 2.0

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur, today chaired a high level meeting with senior officials from J&K Bank (Lead Bank, J&K UTLCB) and other financial institutions operating in Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting focused on devising strategies for effective implementation of the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) component under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U2.0). Pertinently, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0, launched by the Prime Minister on 17th September 2024, included the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) as a key initiative to enhance affordable housing accessibility. Under this Central Sector Scheme, the eligible beneficiaries from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Group (LIG) and Middle-Income Group (MIG) categories will receive an interest subsidy on home loans sanctioned and disbursed on or after 1st September 2024. The subsidy aims to support the beneficiaries seeking to construct or purchase a house. The Commissioner Secretary emphasized the urgent need for all banks to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ensure that the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) is thoroughly reviewed in the upcoming J&K



5 day training on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis concludes at Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: The 5-day Training Programme on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis, organized by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar (KVK) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture successfully concluded today at the Conference Hall, New DC Office Complex. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan was the chief guest at the valedictory function. He commended the collaborative efforts made by KVK and Agriculture department for organizing the training aimed at capacity building for Krishi Sakhis. The primary objective of the training was to equip the Krishi Sakhis with the knowledge and skills necessary for the proper implementation of Natural Farming practices at the grassroots level. The programme was designed to strengthen the role of Krishi Sakhis as para extension workers, who will further disseminate the knowledge within their respective clusters. A total of 31 Krishi Sakhis from 18 clusters of the Kishtwar district participated in the training. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Narinder Paul, Scientist and Incharge, KVK Kishtwar. He provided an overview of the training and highlighted the significant role of Krishi Sakhis in the upcoming National Mission on Natural Farming, which will be implemented across the district. The training programme concluded with the distribution of certificates by the DC to the Krishi Sakhis for the successful completion of the 5-day training. District Agriculture Officer, Khalid Bashir Zargar; District Coordinator, JKRLM, Ishaq Ahmad Dar; SDAO Marwah, Manzoor Ahmad Zargar; as well as the staff of KVK and the Agriculture Department, were also present on the occasion.

DIC Shopian organises Awareness camp/ Workshop on PM Vishwakarma Scheme

SHOPIAN: An awareness camp cum workshop regarding implementation of PM Vishwakarma scheme, onboarding of trades on e-commerce platforms was organised by District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian in coordination with state level project implementation unit in the conference hall of Mini-Secretariat Shopian. The event was attended by General Manager DIC Shopian, Principal Govt Polytechnic College Shopian, Superintendent ITI Shopian and private training partners of the district. Moreover, a large number of Vishwakarmas participated in the event. In his address, General Manager DIC Shopian elaborated the key aspects of the scheme and highlighted the need of organising such camps from time to time. The experts from SL-PIU informed the participants about the possible opportunities presently available in the e-marketing space like the GEM portal, Flipkart, Amazon etc. The benefits of e-marketing were also explained on the occasion. The Vishwakarmas were also informed regarding local developed e-commerce portals like KACI and Help Rush etc. Later, a Q&A session followed wherein the participants made queries and sought suggestions from the experts. The experts ascertained that all the queries will be addressed promptly and the suggestions will be shared with the authorities for consideration. Among others, officers and officials of DIC were present at the event.



Deputy Commissioner Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat ul vida, Eid-ul-Fitr

Stresses on better facilities to people, seamless & hassle-free culmination of large congregations

SRINAGAR: In order to review the arrangements for the upcoming auspicious religious occasions of Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida and Eid-ul-Fitr in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here on Monday. At the outset, the DC took a detailed assessment of the arrangements being made by all line Departments on the auspicious occasions of upcoming Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, including availability of essential supplies and services, sanitation measures, traffic and parking management. The DC directed the Officers of all the line departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance so that devotees/people do not face any difficulty during the observance/celebrations of the holy occasions. The DC also directed the PDD authorities to ensure uninterrupted supply of power during Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, while the PHE Department was asked to ensure adequate water supply to the people during the auspicious days. The Department was also directed to deploy water tankers at prominent Shrines of the City so that people do not face any difficulty in performing ablution. Similarly, the SMC authorities were asked to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness arrangements across the City particularly at Hazratbal and other main Shrines, besides installation and repairs of the Street lights at important religious places where large congregations are expected to be held. SMC Officers were further asked to take adequate measures to contain dog menace in the City particularly at prominent Shrines. Dr Bilal stressed for ensuring adequate Transport and Parking facilities at Hazratbal and other prominent Masjids and Shrines for the devotees on the auspicious days. He asked the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive route plan, besides creating temporary additional parking slots for better traffic regulation. The DC directed the Health Department to set up first aid & medical camps with paramedical staff, critical care ambulance and medicines at main congregation places and major Shrines. The Fire and Emergency Department was directed to provide 24x7 services across the district to tackle any eventuality.



How Robotics In Joint Replacement Is Benefitting Patients

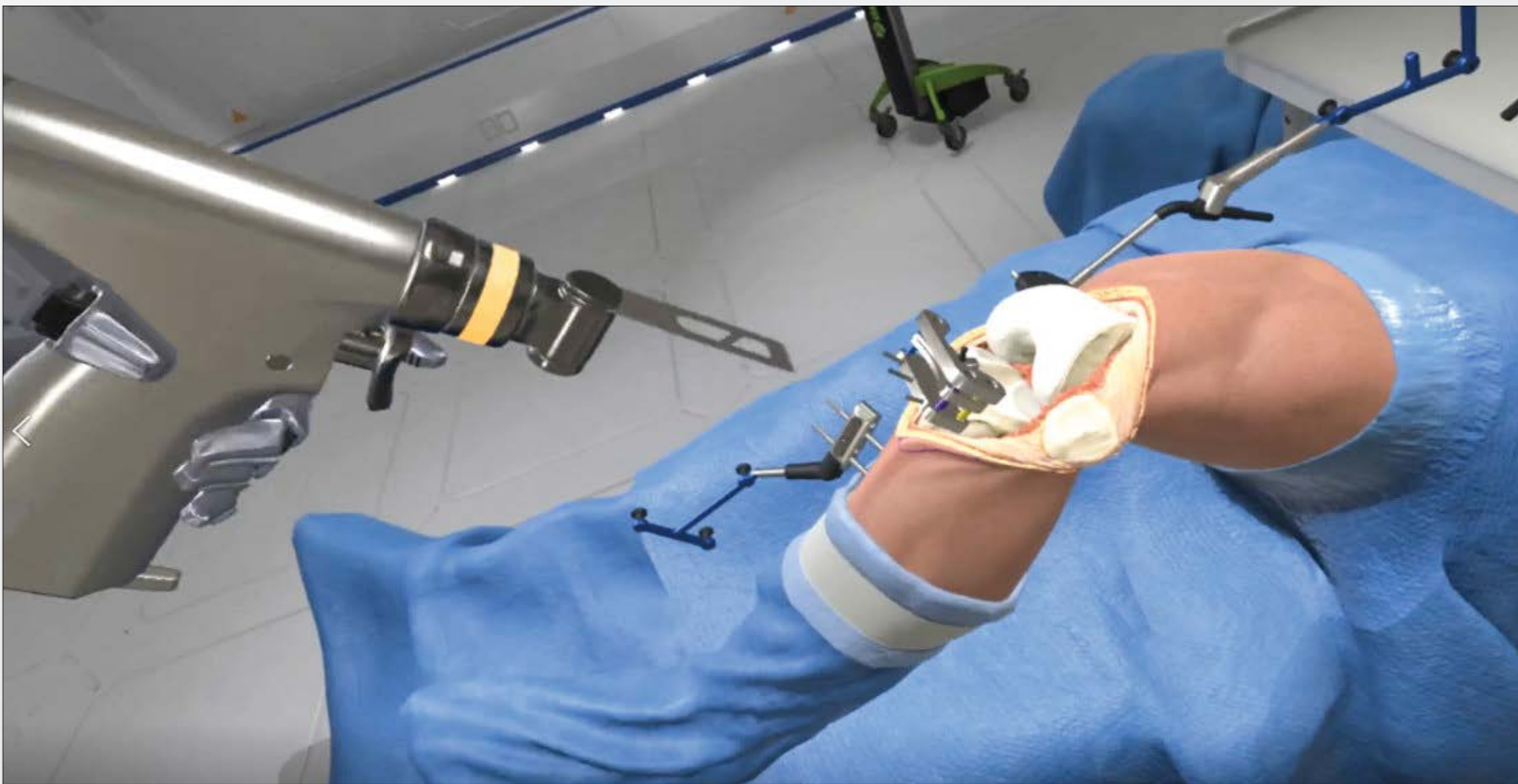


DR. RAMNEEK MAHAJAN

In today’s landscape, technological advancements have permeated every industry, including the medical field. Consequently, we frequently encounter advertisements for robotic joint replacement surgeries. However, it is essential to clarify certain misconceptions associated with this procedure to ensure informed decision-making.

From a robotic arm, which allows for greater precision. In more complex cases, a robotic-assisted knee replacement offers a better balance in the soft tissues around your knee and better aligns the joint. With the help of a MAKO Robot, a CT scan is performed to create a 3D virtual model of your knee’s unique anatomy. The uniquely detailed and personalized view enables the surgeon to create a surgical plan that can be adjusted. By utilizing the MAKO Robot, a CT scan is performed to generate a three-dimensional virtual model of the patient’s knee anatomy. This highly detailed and individualized visualization empowers the surgeon to meticulously plan the surgical procedure, allowing for necessary adjustments during the operation.

This cutting-edge technology offers several advantages: It can be used for partial or total knee replacements, enabling the creation of a tailored surgical plan. This facilitates more precise implant placement, resulting in minimal blood loss and a smaller scar. Additionally, it helps preserve healthy bone and soft tissue, leading to reduced post-operative pain compared to manual techniques. Consequently, patients



experience a swifter recovery and a shorter hospital stay. In complex cases, robotic-assisted knee replacement provides enhanced balance in the soft tissues surrounding the knee and superior joint alignment.

There are Myths pertaining Robotic surgery also which need to be clear at this point,

Robotic Surgery: A Comprehensive Overview

Robotic surgery offers a minimally invasive approach to surgical procedures, providing enhanced precision and accuracy. The surgeon retains complete control throughout the procedure, utilizing the robotic arm as a tool to facilitate the surgery.

Dispelling Common Misconceptions- 1. Robotic Surgery is Riskier than Traditional Surgery:

Data suggests that robotic surgery carries fewer complications compared to traditional open surgery.

2. Robotic Surgery is overly Complex: Robotic joint replacement surgeries are meticulously pre-planned, with implants customized to the patient’s unique anatomy, ensuring a precise and personalized procedure.

3. Prolonged Recovery Time: After robotic knee replacement surgery, patients can typically walk with assistance on the same day. The use of a walker for a few days to a week is recommended, with most individuals achieving independent

walking within the second or third week. A comprehensive physical therapy program of at least six weeks is also part of the recovery process.

4. Robotic Knee Replacement is Only for Complex Cases:

Robotic knee replacement is not limited to complex cases; it can be effectively employed for both primary and complex knee replacement procedures.

5. High Cost of Robotic Surgery: The cost difference between robotic and traditional surgery is minimal. While there may be additional charges for the specialized equipment used during robotic surgery, many modern medical insurance plans offer cashless coverage for robotic

procedures, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy.

By dispelling these common misconceptions, we aim to provide a clearer understanding of robotic surgery and its benefits, empowering patients to make informed decisions about their healthcare.

If I may conclude, your surgeon will engage in a comprehensive discussion encompassing all available knee replacement options, including an assessment of your suitability for robotic joint replacement.

Author is a Senior Director (Orthopaedics) & Head Joint Replacement (Hip & Knee), MAX Smart Super Speciality Hospital

CHAITANYA DAVÉ

Global warming or Climate Change is real. Current massive storms and hurricanes and flooding in the United States’ Florida, North Carolina and other states and massive flooding and storms in other parts of the world—Mother Earth—is warning us that unless humanity acts soon to curb the GHG, this beautiful planet of ours will be uninhabitable by the end of this century or long before. The earth and its atmosphere, oceans and rivers are getting polluted and getting warmer and warmer year after year. As per The New York Times—Jan. 10, 2023—last 8 years were the hottest on record. There is no question about it. In its entire history, humanity has never faced a threat of this magnitude ever before. Thousands of scientists around the world have agreed on this. Governments around the world are trying to agree to jointly combat this threat to humanity. But we don’t know if they will succeed.

But it should be noted that while India ranks high among emitters, when you factor in population to look at per capita GHG emissions, the highly populated country ranks significantly lower than the other top 10 emitters. Additionally, India is the only G-20 country that has fulfilled its commitments under the Paris Agreement on environment.

Collectively, this group of nations account for over two-thirds of global GHG emissions. The world cannot successfully fight climate change without significant action by the top 10 emitters.

Unfortunately, the major developed countries who have created this climate crisis are still worried about their GDP growth than about the climate looming climate catastrophe. While these rich nations are responsible for the current climate crisis, the poor nations of Africa and Asia are suffering the most due to this rich-man-created tragedy.

Historically, it is the developed western nations including USA who are responsible for creating the climate crisis in the first place and China accelerated it in last 40 years with its massive development. It is their combined duty to help the

developing and poor nations of the world—who are suffering the most as a result of the climate crisis—with billions of dollars to help them fight this climate catastrophe with green energy creating technologies and other means. But do they care?

Since reporting began in 1990, the energy sector — including generation of electricity and heat, as well as end uses in buildings, transportation, manufacturing and construction — remained the largest contributor to GHG emissions over any other sector, representing 76% of global emissions in 2019.

According to the findings published in the Lancet Journal and reported by The Guardian of UK (October 30, 2017), health of millions of people around the world is being damaged by climate change. Air pollution is causing millions of early deaths every year, with 800,000 deaths annually related solely to coal burning.

Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, 16

Climate Catastrophe



January 2024 – A new World Economic Forum report, published earlier this year, warns that by 2050 climate change may cause an additional 14.5 million deaths and \$12.5 trillion in economic losses worldwide. Millions of eco-refugees will be forced to encroach on neighboring countries. Despite the stark findings, there is still time for global stakeholders to take decisive, strategic action to counter these forecasts and mitigate the health impacts of climate change globally.

Floods were found to pose the highest acute risk of climate-induced mortality, accounting for 8.5 million deaths by 2050. Droughts, indirectly linked to extreme heat, are the second-highest cause of mortality, with an anticipated 3.2 million deaths. Heat waves take the highest economic toll at an estimated \$7.1 trillion by 2050 due to the loss in productivity. Excess deaths attributed to air pollution, caused by fine particulate and ozone pol-

lution are expected to be the largest contributor to premature death with almost 9 million deaths a year.

In a report dated March 1, 2022, from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), researchers from 67 countries warned that warming is putting a large portion of the world’s biodiversity and ecosystems at risk of extinction, even under relatively conservative estimates. Never before has an IPCC report — considered the gold standard for climate science — revealed in such stark detail how climate change is harming nature.

What ails and affects the wildlife and affects us, the authors wrote. Humans are inextricably dependent on many species that are in jeopardy from rising temperatures, whether they’re animals that pollinate crops, filter rivers and streams, or feed us. In the US alone, for example, more than 150 crops depend on pollinators, including nearly all fruits and grains, and climate change puts them at risk.

If the planet warms by 1.5 degrees Celsius — which is almost certain — up to 14 percent of all plants and animals on land will likely face a high risk of extinction, according to the report. The outlook becomes graver if temperatures rise even further; with 3 degrees of warming, for example, up to 29 percent of species on land could face extinction.

Sixth Mass Extinction: Our planet has experienced five previous mass extinction events, the last one occurring 65.5 million years ago which wiped out the dinosaurs from existence. Experts now believe that we’re in the midst of a sixth mass extinction.

Unlike previous extinction events caused by natural phenomena, the sixth mass extinction is caused by us humans. It is driven by human activity, mainly (though not limited to) unsustainable land, water and energy use. Currently, 40% of all land has been converted for food production. Agriculture is also responsible for 90% of global deforestation and accounts for 70% of the planet’s freshwater use, devastating the species that inhabit those places by significantly altering their habitats. It’s obvious that where and how the food is produced is one of the biggest human-caused threats to species extinction and our ecosystems. To make matters worse, unsustainable food production and consumption are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions that are causing atmospheric temperatures to rise, wreaking havoc across the planet.

The current climate crisis is causing everything from severe droughts to more frequent and intense storms. It also exacerbates the challenges associated with food production that stress species, while creating conditions that make their habitats inhospitable. Increased droughts and floods have made it very difficult to maintain crops and produce sufficient food in various regions. The intertwined relationships among the food system, climate change, and biodiversity loss are placing immense pressure on our planet. (C- Counter Currents)

Chaitanya Davé is an engineer and a businessman. He can be contacted at cahumanity@gmail.com.

Continued From P1...

Militancy cannot be

“Making any statement on this right away will be premature. Let us see how the situation develops,” he said.

Asked about frequent targeting of Kathua and Billawar by terrorists, the chief minister said many areas of Jammu belt has seen terror activities over the past couple of years as “we have seen it in Rajouri and Poonch and several others areas” and their attempt is disturb peace”.

Drive agricultural

through direct personal contact, ensuring that research-driven innovations and best practices effectively reach the grassroots level.

Incubation Centre of SKUAST-Jammu has already incubated more than 100 youths and supported 35 startups obtaining support from Union Ministry of Agriculture. Efforts should be further strengthened to drive agricultural transformation and economic growth, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor visited the stalls put up by the farmers, Farmers Producers Organizations and various line departments. He also released a publication "Krishi Adharit Udhyaon ke Madhyam Se: Sashakt aur Smriddh Bhavishya ki Kheti" compiled and edited by KVK, Jammu and launched a Mobile App -Radio Kissan SKUAST Jammu 90.8 FM.

The Krishak Mela is aimed to showcase modern agricultural technologies, promote sustainable farming practices and provide a platform for knowledge exchange among farmers, scientists and policymakers.

The facilities inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor includes: Fully Automated Poultry Production Unit equipped with advanced infrastructure designed to enhance poultry farming efficiency and sustainability including PG Lab on Poultry Research; Sanskriti PG Girls' Hostel; Faculty Club and Residential Quarters.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Prof. B.N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension, SKUAST Jammu; Dr Rajesh Katoch Dean, F.V.S.C. & AH SKUAST Jammu, senior officials, HoDs, faculty members and large number of farmers were present.

NHPC allocates

initiatives,” he said.

He further added that CSR funds should be utilized in consultation with local communities, ensuring that the maximum benefits reach the people. “As far as I know, the company consults with local stakeholders before making decisions on CSR projects to ensure the most effective use of these funds,” he stated.

RECPDCL Transfers

Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) model, IndiGrid will develop the transmission project within a 24-month implementation period.

The project involves constructing 150 km of 400 kV transmission lines between Samba (J&K) and Jalandhar (Punjab) and 35 km of 400 kV lines between Kishenpur (J&K) and Samba, along with associated works. The estimated cost of the project is 1,407.44 crore.

The SPV was formally handed over by T.S.C. Bosh, CEO, RECPDCL, to Puneet Singh Chauhan, Vice President & Head (Commercial), IndiGrid 2 Private Limited.

REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, is a leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specializing in power sector financing. Established in 1969, REC has expanded its portfolio beyond power to include infrastructure projects such as airports, metro rail, railways, ports, and bridges.

RECPDCL provides consultancy and project implementation services across the power distribution and transmission sector, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It also plays a crucial role as a Bid Process Coordinator (BPC) for interstate and intrastate transmission projects, supporting the government’s renewable energy and power transmission initiatives.

J&K considering

“It was noted that the J&K Municipal Act, 2000, under section 18A, provides for disqualification of municipal members for defection,” the minister said.

The DDC elections were held for the first time in 2020 after the Central Government carried out amendments in J&K Panchayati Raj Act-1989.

Three seats in District Development Councils (DDCs) are currently vacant following the election of their representatives— Irfan Hafiz Lone, Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, and Mehraj Malik— as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)

Ayush drugs

parameters, including heavy metals testing where applicable, is received from these laboratories.

Ittoo said that to ensure safety and uphold quality standards for Ayush drugs, every batch received is tested at NABL-accredited facilities. Compliance with JKMSCL guidelines guarantees that all prescribed quality parameters are met, and the drugs are released to end-users only after receiving certified quality reports, she said.

The health minister said the monitoring and regulation of the manufacturing, sale and distribution of medicines is conducted through the Jammu and Kashmir Drug Control Organization, ensuring that all medications meet the required standards of quality, safety and efficacy.

"All district hospitals have introduced dedicated cancer wards equipped with chemotherapy facilities. This development aims to alleviate the burden on patients, especially those from remote areas who previously had to travel to urban centres

for treatment. The wards are managed by trained physicians and paramedical staff specialized in medical oncology," Ittoo said, adding, "Capacity building and expansion of medical education and training for various staff from district hospitals, including medical officers, staff nurses, and technicians, are being conducted through institutions like the Sher Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, which offers specialized medical education and training. This initiative contributes to developing skilled healthcare professionals in the region."

The minister said the government has undertaken several initiatives to enhance oncology services in district hospitals, focusing on the availability of specialists and modern equipment to facilitate early detection and treatment of cancer.

She said the government plans to introduce chemotherapy units in every district hospital across Jammu and Kashmir. These units are designed to provide a range of chemotherapy treatments tailored to meet the diverse needs of cancer patients, thereby improving early detection and access to treatment.

"The ISM doctors are not authorised to prescribe

NOTICE

The general public is informed through the medium of this notice that I have lost my gun license bearing UIN (No) 336140030132742016. Now I am applying for its duplicate copy. Anybody having any object may contact 41 Battation BSF Gogaland Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Jitendra Kumar Shukla
41BN BSF Gogoland Srinagar

NOTICE

I, Sumera Jabar, W/O, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir R/O Malangam Bandipora hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as "Sameera Jabar" in my Aadhaar Card bearing number 937504971759. The correct name is "Sumera Jabar". Now I want to rectify the same and have to apply for the necessary correction in my Aadhaar records. If anyone has any objections, they may contact the concerned authorities within 05 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sumera Jabar
W/O Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir
R/O Malangam Bandipora

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the parantege of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as Fayaz Ahmad Shah, while as his Actual and correct parantege is Fayaz ul shams. 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 principal Islamia Educational Institute Malangam, within a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be accepted.

Fayaz ul shams.
F/O Shah Mohammad Uzair.
R/O Malangam tehsil Aloosa
District Bandipora.

allopathic medicines to patients. The government is ensuring compliance through strict enforcement of regulations, awareness initiatives, training programmes and strengthening reporting mechanisms," Ittoo said.

Reviewing transfer

He further elaborated that IT-enabled platforms such as BEAMS (Budget Estimation, Allocation & Monitoring System), PAYSYS (Payment System), PROOF (Photographic Record of On-site Facility), and Treasury Net have been implemented to enable real-time tracking of resource flow and expenditure, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in public finances.

"Additionally, through the EMPOWERMENT (Enabling Monitoring and Public Overview of Works Executed and Resources for Meaningful Transparency) system /Janbhagidari portal, every citizen has access to

track the release of funds from the Finance Department down to the level of the executing/implementing agency. This is the first-of-its-kind system that allows people to oversee works being executed in their areas, with real-time progress monitoring. This initiative serves as a powerful tool for the real empowerment of the general public," he said.

HC allows virtual

However, with virtual proceedings now available in both Wings of the High Court, the petitioners can attend hearings from Jammu itself," the Chief Justice said. Instead of transferring the case, the court directed the Registrar (Judicial) of the Srinagar Wing to ensure that the petitioners and their counsel are provided virtual hearing links in advance. This arrangement allows them to argue their case without physically appearing in Srinagar, mitigating their security concerns

مدارس بنین کی فہرست شائع کردی گئی

مدارس بنات

(جن میں کچھ قاتمی، کچھ دن دن، کچھ داغندیس اور کچھ مہاندیس اور کچھ بغیر فیس کے نظام چلاتے ہیں)

تصدیق کی ذمہ داری ضلعی ذمہ داران کو سپرد کی گئی

بنات کے مدارس کے سلسلے میں کئی بار مشاورت ہوئی تھی کمپلیاں اب تک بنائی گئیں تاکہ ان کے معائنہ کی کوئی شکل بنے مگر ابھی تک کامیابی حاصل نہیں ہوئی جبکہ یہ معائنہ بہت ضروری ہے کیونکہ بنات کے مدارس کی ایک بڑی تعداد داغندیس دوسری تعداد مہاندیس وصول کرتی ہے بعض مدارس اقامتی جبکہ کافی تعداد دن دن کے مدارس کی ہے بعض دو پہر کا کھانا بچوں کو دے کر رات کو اجس اپنے گھر وں کو بھیجتے ہیں اس ساری صورتحال کا جائزہ لینا ہماری نظروں میں لازمی ہے اور یہ کام ان بنات والے مدارس کے تعاون کے بغیر نہیں ہو سکتا۔ اس نتیجے اور اسی طرح کی دوسری ضروری باتوں کے لئے کئی بار کمپلیاں بنائی گئیں اس امید پر کہ یہ کام کل ہو وقت وقت پر گزشتہ سالوں میں عارضی فہرستیں رابطہ کے ضلعی ذمہ داران کی رپورٹوں پر جاری کی گئیں۔

اس سال امتحانات سالانہ میں ابتدائی عربی درجہات میں تعداد زیادہ ہونے کی بنا پر عربی درجہات کے نتائج بھی رمضان المبارک سے چار پانچ دن پہلے تیار ہوئے حفظ و ناظرہ کے نتائج ابھی تک بھی موصول نہیں ہوئے اس لئے مدارس بنین میں بھی تعداد طلبہ شامل کئے بغیر ہی فہرست شائع کر دی گئی تاکہ کم از کم رمضان المبارک میں چندہ وصولی میں رکاوٹ نہ ہو۔ جبکہ اس فہرست کے شائع کرنے کے باوجود بعض امماں نے رابطہ کی فہرست کے ساتھ ساتھ بھی دوسری تصدیق کا تقاضا کرنا شروع کر دیا ہے اس سے مزید اشتعال پیدا ہو جاتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تصدیق ملنے کے بعد مزید تصدیق کی ضرورت نہیں ہوتی چاہیے کہ کون سے امام ابراہام کیوں کر رہے ہیں یہودی جان سکتے ہیں کیونکہ رابطہ کی تصدیق سالانہ امتحان میں شرکت کے بعد جاری ہوتی ہے اور رابطہ میں شرکت ضلعی ذمہ داران کی پانچ کردہ فہرست کے مطابق ہوتی ہے۔ دارالعلوم دیوبند بھی شواہد کے پورا کرانے کے بعد رابطہ سے مر بوط کرتا ہے پانچ سال کے بعد دارالعلوم دیوبند دوبارہ مر بوط ہونے کے لئے تجدید کی کارروائی کراتا ہے۔ اس لئے عمل سے گذر کر یہ فہرست رابطہ اپنی طرف سے پوری اختیار کرنے کے بعد شائع کرتا ہے اس کے باوجود اگر ہمارے اداروں سے وائٹ چندہ لکھی کے امام بھی مزید تصدیق کا مطالبہ کرتے ہیں تو قابل غور ہے ایسے امماں کے نام رابطہ دفتر کو موصول ہونے چاہئیں تاکہ اس بات پر غور ہو سکے کہ ایسی حرکتوں کے پیچھے کون سے عوامل کارفرما ہیں تب اس کا بھی تدارک ہو سکتا ہے۔

بہر حال اس وقت بنات کے مدرسوں کی مجموعی کے پیش نظر یہ فیصلہ بعد مشورہ کیا گیا ہے کہ ضلعی ذمہ داران اپنی تحقیق کے مطابق اپنے اپنے علاقوں کے بنات کے مدارس کی جو تصدیق جاری کریں گے وہی ان کی تصدیق رابطہ کی تصدیق شمار کرنی جائے۔ تاکہ ماہ مبارک میں اس سال ان کا چندہ کا یہ مہم آسانی سے طے ہو سکے۔ آئندہ کے لئے لائحہ عمل ان شاء اللہ شروع سال کی مجلس عاملہ میں سوچا جائے گا۔ اللہ تعالیٰ آمان فرمائے۔

بیرون ریاست والے مدارس کو تصدیق نامہ الگ کاغذ پر جاری کیا گیا جس کی ميعاد اخیر رمضان المبارک ۱۴۴۶ھ متعین کی گئی۔

محمد رحمت اللہ کشمیری

محررہ ۱۲ رمضان المبارک ۱۴۴۶ھ ہجری

Govt intends to eliminate bogus ration cards: Satish Sharma

GAD order for verification of beneficiaries to be put on hold

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, today said that the government intends to make all endeavours to eliminate bogus and ineligible ration cards as a continuous process.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Mir Saifulah.

He informed the House that the General Administration Department has ordered a verification of beneficiaries to make the PDS database clean and credible. He added that the Government of India has advised the States/UTs to undertake proper verification and remove undeserving beneficiaries from the ration cards from time to time.

The Minister said that the process of verification has



been ordered to include and retain genuine beneficiaries under PDS and weed the undeserving beneficiaries so as to meet the requirements of Targeted Public Distribution System. He said that every AAY household receives 35 Kg of food grains every month while every PHH beneficiary receives 5Kg of food grains every month, free of cost,

under the ambitious National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The Minister assured the House that the order issued by the GAD for verification of beneficiaries shall be put on hold.

G.A Mir, Sajjad Gani Lone, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Syed Bashir Veeri and Mehraj Malik raised the supplementaries to the question.

“Govt contemplates to open 1600 new Fair Price Shops”

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, today said that the Department is contemplating opening of 1600 new Fair Price Shops across J&K, as part of Jammu and Kashmir Targeted Public Distribution. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ajaz Ahmad Jan. The Minister today informed the House that the government intends to rope in the elected members to firm up new Fair Price Shops in J&K. He added that the uncovered underserved panchayat areas shall be prioritized for opening of these new Fair Price Shops. He apprised that food grains are being provided to different categories in accordance with the entitlement prescribed under NFSA. Additionally, a top up upto 10 Kg is also being provided to an eligible household in PHH category under J&K Government run scheme of PMFSS, he added. The Minister said that there is also a proposal in the Annual Financial Statement of 2025-26 to provide additional free food grains in the context of AAY households only. He said that the Department does not maintain any updation lists of the beneficiaries, however, complete details of the beneficiaries under all the groups are available on RCMS portal, which is in public domain and can be accessed at rcms.jk.gov.in.

To stay relevant, I have to adapt as well: M S Dhoni

Rejecting speculation that he is the back-room decision-maker in Chennai Super Kings despite handing over captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad, the talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni said he is instead focussed on reinventing himself and his strokes to 'stay relevant' in the IPL.

Speaking to JioStar after CSK's four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in their lung-opener on Sunday night here, Dhoni spoke about the team dynamics under Gaikwad, his own form and also the regional commentary being done in the ongoing league.

"...batsmen are now willing to take risks. They believe that with proper cricketing shots, they can play big strokes, and at the same time, they are improvising with their shot selection...whether it's a reverse scoop against a fast bowler, a sweep, or a reverse sweep against a pacer.

"I am no different, I have to adapt as well. This is what is required of me for where I am batting. You have to try and stay relevant," Dhoni said.

"The way we played T20 in 2008 and the way we played IPL last year, it's very different. Earlier, there was a lot of turn in the wickets. Wickets were two-paced. Now, India's wickets have become much better; they are more batter-friendly," he explained.

The 43-year-old, under whom CSK won five IPL titles, handed over the leadership to Gaikwad at the beginning of the 2024 season. He said although he discusses things with

Gaikwad, he refrains from persuading him to follow his advice.

as much as possible.' During the season, a lot of people speculated that I was making the

a close bond is Royal Challengers Bengaluru star and national batting mainstay Virat Kohli.

The veteran said their relationship has grown into a strong friendship over the years.

"It was always an honest exchange of ideas - whether a certain approach was right or if an adjustment could have been made. Initially, it was more of a relationship between a captain and a young player, but over time, as we kept interacting, we became friends," he said.

"Even today, we share that bond, though there's always a line of respect between a senior and a junior. Now that neither of us is captain, we get more time to talk before matches," he added.

The Jharkhand cricketer was quite pleased with the IPL broadcasters' decision to have regional commentary for the immensely popular league.

"...listening to commentary gives you an outsider's perspective. It sparks new ideas like 'why don't we try this approach?'...which can then be evaluated based on intelligence and data to see if it fits within the team's strategy," he said.

"I haven't heard a lot of regional commentary, but I know that Bihari (Bhojpuri) commentary is highly energetic. It reminds me of old-school radio commentary, where the commentators were very involved. I find that very interesting," he added.



"Ruturaj has been part of us for quite some time. His temperament is very good, he's very calm, very composed. So those were the reasons we considered him for leadership.

"Before the start of the tournament, I also told him, 'If I give you advice, it doesn't mean you have to follow it. I will try to stay away

decisions in the background," Dhoni recalled.

"But the fact is, he was making 99 per cent of the decisions. The most important calls - bowling changes, field placements - were all his. I was just helping him out. He did a brilliant job of handling the players," he added.

Another player with whom Dhoni shares

Quick timing, great hands, good vision: Hayden praises Dhoni after stumping of Suryakumar

CHENNAI: Mahendra Singh Dhoni's lightning-quick reflexes behind the stumps to get rid of Suryakumar Yadav during an IPL match here have left former Australian opener Matthew Hayden gushing about the former Indian captain's abilities, despite not being in his prime.

Dhoni, 43, is nearing the end of his career, having hung up his international boots five years ago and playing just as a player for the Chennai Super Kings after leading the team to five IPL titles.

However, Dhoni showcased his brilliance once again on Sunday when he whipped off the bails in an instant off Noor Ahmad's delivery, sending Suryakumar back to the pavilion.

"He (Dhoni) was on fire," Hayden, the former Australia batter and Dhoni's team-mate at CSK till 2010, said on ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out.

"I mean Noor Ahmad was firing down the leg side and it was just a movement across the ball. They're difficult when you're sitting there sort of partially obscured by the batsman.

"Then the stumping was just superb, just such quick timing, great hands, good vision. He's still got it."

The stumping of Suryakumar (29) was a crucial moment in the game as CSK broke a 51-run stand and eventually restricted Mumbai Indians to 155/9. CSK chased down the target with four wickets in hand and five balls to spare at Chepauk.

"The stumping from MSD (MS Dhoni) was out of the world," said Noor during the post-match presentation.

"It feels great to have someone like Mahi Bhai behind the stumps, it is a great support for me."



"Before the start of the tournament, I also told him, 'If I give you advice, it doesn't mean you have to follow it. I will try to stay away as much as possible.' During the season, a lot of people speculated that I was making the decisions in the background," Dhoni recalled.

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