

Kashmir Convener



Rana Sanga's
bravery will continue
to motivate
Indians: Yogi Adityanath

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President Should Decide
On Bills Reserved For Her
Consideration By Guv
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Dharma Can Lead
Everyone To Happiness, We
Should Not Change It Due To
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Picnic turns fatal in Handwara

Two students lose lives, 23 injured in college bus accident

➤➤➤ LG, CM, others express grief; magisterial inquiry ordered ➤➤➤



Waris Fayaz

SRINAGAR : A pall of gloom descended across the Kashmir Valley as two young female students lost their lives while 23 others received injuries after a bus carrying college students en route to a picnic met with a severe accident in Vodhpura, Handwara in north Kashmir.

Officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred around 8:30 am, shortly after the college bus reportedly lost

control and overturned under unclear circumstances. They said the emergency teams, along with local residents, rushed to the scene to rescue the injured and shift them to Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara.

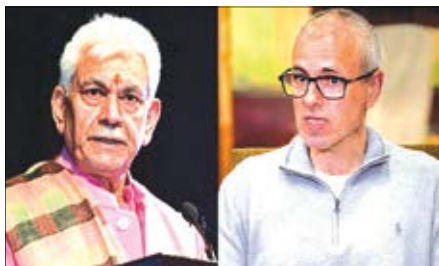
The incident claimed the lives of two young female students and left 23 others injured, an official said. Among the deceased are Asiya Rashid, who was declared brought dead at GMC Handwara, and Mymoona Ali, a final-year student

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LG Sinha, CM Omar, others condole demise of students

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed condolences with the bereaved families of two students who lost their lives in Handwara



College Bus accident.

In a condolence message on X (formerly Twitter), he said: "The news of the death of two young students in Handwara College Bus accident is extremely heartbreaking. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved family members. Praying for the early recovery of the injured."

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3 terrorists killed in Kishtwar encounter: Army

●Udhampur operation enters 4th day



Yogesh

JAMMU: Army on Saturday said that three terrorists were killed and a cache of arms and ammunition recovered during an encounter in the Chhatru forest area of Jammu's Kishtwar district.

Addressing a press conference here Brigadier J.B.S. Rathii, Commander of 5 Sector Assam Rifles, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the operation began on April 9 following

intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

Brigadier Rathii, who was flanked by of J&K Police Deputy Inspector General, Kishtwar-Doda-Ramban Range, Shridhar Patil, said, "The joint operation by the Indian Army's White Knight Corps and Jammu and Kashmir Police continued despite tough terrain and weather conditions. The search teams killed one terrorist on April 11 and two more on April 12."

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JCO killed during failed infiltration bid in Akhnoor

LG pays tribute to Subedar Kuldeep Chand

Yogesh

JAMMU: Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army, who was critically injured during the exchange of fire with terrorists in Akhnoor sector in Jammu last night succumbed to his injuries, officials said on Saturday.

The officials told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Army foiled an

infiltration bid by engaging terrorists in a gunfight near forward post in the Keri-Battal sector.

Terrorists fired at an Army patrol. The fire was retaliated, resulting in some exchange of fire. In this incident, one JCO was critically injured, who was immediately airlifted to a hospital for treatment" they said, adding, "Despite best efforts

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Handwara tragedy: Left for Tulips, returned in Coffins

Waris Fayaz

SRINAGAR: A trip to the Tulip Garden—supposed to be a day of laughter, learning and liting memories, turned into a nightmare for several students from a Sogam college.

The ill-fated bus which was supposed to take them to Tulip Garden in Srinagar skidded off the road and crashed, leaving

around 22 students injured and two dead.

Officials told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the dead included Mymoona Ali, a final-year student and Asiya Rashid, a third-year student.

"We had just waved her goodbye," said Mymoona's cousin. "She was excited to see tulips. We never imagined that would

be our last moment with her".

"She left home around 7:30 am in the morning, but by 8:30 am, we received a call informing us that the bus Mymoona was in had met with an accident," a family member recalled. Panicked and praying, the family rushed to

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SANJY 2025 To Begin On July 3 With Enhanced Preparations: Div Com



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra, one of Jammu and Kashmir's most significant religious pilgrimages, is set to commence on July 3, 2025 and will span till August 19. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay

Kumar Bidhuri announced on Saturday.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Correspondent, speaking to reporters, Div Com confirmed that all necessary arrangements—including security, logistics, and infrastructure—are being

finalized to ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage for devotees.

The pilgrimage, which sees lakhs of devotees trekking to the sacred Amarnath Cave in the Himalayas, remains a key focus for the administration, with heightened coordination between security forces and civil departments.

Simultaneously, he highlighted ongoing developmental projects in the region, noting that two of three major bridges under construction have been completed, while work continues on the Sanat Nagar Bridge. "The Roads and Buildings Department along with NHAI are closely

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Statehood Is BJP's Promise, No Need For Omar To Seek It: Sunil Sharma

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Saturday said there was no need for Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to seek restoration of the Union Territory's statehood as it was the saffron party's narrative, and that it would be restored at an appropriate time.

"It is unfortunate that the National Conference keeps on harping about statehood. Statehood is our narrative, it is the BJP's promise," said senior BJP leader and leader of opposition in the J-K assembly Sunil Sharma.

Talking to reporters here, he said Abdullah should rather focus on fulfilling the promises he made to the people.

Raising religious and provocative



slogans inside the assembly will not accelerate the process of statehood restoration, Sharma said, alleging that National Conference leaders were attempting

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He Failed As Opposition Leader: National Conference

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Hours after Leader of Opposition and BJP legislator Sunil Sharma questioned National Conference over the killing of nearly 10,000 of its workers, the NC on Saturday hit back, saying that Sharma had likely been scolded by his party leadership in Delhi for failing spectacularly as an opposition leader in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

NC Chief Spokesperson and legislator Tanvir Sadiq mocked at Sharma's

➤➤SEE ON P-7

LG Sinha Greeted people on Baisakhi



KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, which will be celebrated on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "On the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, I convey my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all.

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Anti-Narcotics Task Force Deploys Trained Dog Squad



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Kashmir on Saturday deployed a highly trained dog squad to combat narcotics menace in the valley, police said here.

He said the newly inducted sniffer dog squad (narcotics), trained in advanced narcotics detection, will play a pivotal role in identifying and locating illegal drugs such as heroin, cannabis, and opium. These highly skilled canines will

➤➤SEE ON P-7

Hajj-2025: Verify HGO's quota before booking, say officials

Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: As 550 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir have opted for Hajj 2025 through Haj Group Organisers (HGOs), the authorities at the J&K State Hajj Committee have asked to verify the registration status and quota allotment of their chosen operators before making any commitments.

A top official at J&K's Hajj Committee, while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) confirmed that for Hajj 2025, 550 pilgrims from J&K were taking up their pilgrimage through Haj Group Organiser (HGOs).

"As of now, 550 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled to travel through private arrangements," the senior official confirmed. "It is essential that pilgrims confirm whether the HGO they



are dealing with is officially listed and has been allotted a quota by the Ministry. Unverified operators have previously caused serious issues, including pilgrims being stranded or denied access to Hajj facilities."

As per the officials, the pilgrims can

cross-check the approved list of HGOs and their quota on the official website of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Meanwhile, the third phase of orientation and training is currently ongoing. Following

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J&K govt accepts Safina Baig's resignation as Hajj committee head

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accepted the resignation of Safina Baig as the head of the Hajj Committee.

According to an official order, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), her resignation has been accepted with effect from August 24, 2024.

Safina Baig was elected as the chairperson of the Hajj Committee in 2022 after being nominated as a member by the administration led by the Lieutenant Governor. Her nomination for the chairperson's post was proposed by

➤➤SEE ON P-7

Justice Palli appointed new CJ of HCJKL



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Justice Arun Palli was on Saturday appointed chief justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the Union law ministry said.

A judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Palli succeeds Justice Tashi Rabstan, who demitted office on

➤➤SEE ON P-7

President Should Decide On Bills Reserved For Her Consideration By Guv Within 3 Months: SC

NEW DELHI: For the first time, the Supreme Court has prescribed that the president should decide on the bills reserved for her consideration by the governor within a period of three months from the date on which such reference is received.

Four days after the top court cleared 10 bills, which were stalled and reserved by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi for the president's consideration, and set a timeline for all governors to act on the bills passed by the state assemblies, the judgement running into 415 pages was uploaded on the apex court's website at 10.54 pm on Friday.

"We deem it appropriate to adopt the timeline prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs... and prescribe that the President is required to take a decision on the bills reserved for his consideration by the Governor within a period of three months from the date on which such reference is received.

"In case of any delay beyond this period, appropriate reasons would have to be recorded and conveyed to the concerned State. The States are also required to be collaborative and extend co-operation by furnishing answers to the queries which may be raised and consider the suggestions made by the Central government expeditiously," the top court said.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan on April 8 set aside the reservation of the 10 bills for the president's consideration in the second round holding it as illegal, erroneous in law.

Without mincing words, the court said "where the Governor reserves a Bill for the consideration of the President and the President in turn withholds assent thereto then, it shall be open to the State Government to assail such an action before this Court".

Article 200 of the Constitution empowers the governor to give assent to the bills presented to him, withhold the assent or to reserve it for the consideration of the president.

"The Bills, having been pending with the Governor for an unduly long period of time, and the Governor having acted with clear lack of bona fides in reserving the Bills for the consideration of the President, immediately after the pronouncement of the decision of this Court in State of Punjab (supra), are deemed to have been assented to by the Governor on the date when they were presented to him after being reconsidered.

"There is no expressly specified time-limit for the discharge of the functions by the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution. Despite there being no prescribed time-limit, Article 200 cannot be read in a manner which allows the Governor to not take action upon bills which are presented to him for assent and thereby delay and essentially roadblock the law-making machinery in the State," the bench said in its judgement.

Observing that the governor is required to abide by the aid and advice tendered by the Council of Ministers, the top court said it is not open for the governor to reserve a bill for the consideration of the President once it is presented to him in the second round, after having been returned to the House previously.

"There is no expressly specified time-limit for the discharge of the functions by the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution.

Despite there being no prescribed time-limit, Article 200 cannot be read in a manner which allows the Governor to not take action upon bills which are presented to him for assent and thereby delay and essentially roadblock the law-making machinery in the State," the bench said while directing the registry to send a copy each of this judgment to all the high courts and the principal secretaries to the governors of all states.

The apex court set timelines and said failure to comply with it would make the inaction of the governors subject to judicial review by the courts.

"In case of either withholding of assent or reservation of the bill for the consideration of the President, upon the aid and advice of the State Council of Ministers, the Governor is expected to take such an action forthwith, subject to a maximum period of one-month," the court said.

"In case of withholding of assent contrary to the advice of the State Council of Ministers, the Governor must return the bill together with a message within a maximum period of three months.

"In case of reservation of bills for the consideration of the President contrary to the advice of the State Council of Ministers, the Governor shall make such reservation within a maximum period of three months," the bench said.

In case of presentation of a bill after reconsideration, the governor must grant assent forthwith, subject to a maximum period of one-month, the court said.

The bench said that the governor couldn't sit over bills and adopt the concept of "absolute veto" or "pocket veto".

"There is no 'pocket veto' or 'absolute veto' available to the President in discharge of his functions under Article 201. The use of the expression "shall declare" makes it mandatory for the President to make a choice between the two options available under the substantive part of Article 201, that is, to either grant assent or to withhold assent to a bill.

"The constitutional scheme does not, in any manner, provide that a constitutional authority can exercise its powers under the Constitution arbitrarily," the bench said.

The top court exercised its plenary power under Article 142 of the Constitution to make the bill re-presented to the Tamil Nadu governor, as deemed to have been passed.

The apex court had previously framed questions to answer in a dispute between Tamil Nadu government and the governor over the delay in assent to bills passed by the legislative assembly.

The delay in giving assent by the governor prompted the state government to move the top court in 2023, claiming 12 bills, including one from 2020, were pending with him.

On November 13, 2023, the governor declared he was withholding assent to 10 bills following which the legislative assembly convened a special session and re-enacted the very same bills on November 18, 2023.

Later, some of the bills were reserved for the president's consideration.



Rana Sanga's bravery will continue to motivate Indians: Yogi Adityanath

LUCKNOW: Rana Sanga's bravery will continue to motivate Indians for centuries to come to protect their self-respect, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Saturday, remembering the Rajput ruler on his birth anniversary.

"On the birth anniversary of the mighty Rana Sanga Ji, who was dedicated to the protection of religion, many salutes to him!" Adityanath posted on X in Hindi.

"His story of glory, a symbol of patriotism and sacrifice, is a golden chapter in history. His bravery will continue to irrigate the land of India with self-respect for centuries," Adityanath added.

Notably, several Kshatriya groups are assembling in various parts of Uttar Pradesh, with a mega show of strength in Agra on Saturday to mark Rana Sanga's birth anniversary.

Earlier on April 8, around three dozen Kshatriya groups gathered in Lucknow and protested against Samajwadi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Lal Suman over his statement referring to Rajput king Rana Sanga as a "traitor".

The groups, including the Karni Sena and the Akhil Bhartiya Kshatriya Mahasabha, gathered at the 1090 crossing and demanded an apology from Suman.

Following Suman's row-stoking remarks in Parliament, scores of activists of the Karni Sena, a caste-based group advocating Rajput pride, on March 27 vandalised Suman's house located near the Hari Parvat Chauraha in Agra.

Multiple cars parked outside the building were damaged, chairs broken and the house's glass windows shattered.

The Agra Police later lodged an FIR against unidentified people, even though Samajwadi Party president

Akhilesh Yadav questioned the law and order situation in the state and said CM Adityanath would be responsible if anything happens to the Rajya Sabha MP.

Yadav also alleged that the chief minister was promoting a "hidden underground force" which is humiliating people and targeting opposition voices.

LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday criticised Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for not speaking on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill during a long debate in Parliament.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said "it is natural for Muslims to feel considerably angry and for INDIA bloc partners to be agitated on the issue".

"Despite the opposition denouncing the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and dubbing it as a case of flouting the Constitution like the CAA, is the decision of the LoP in Lok Sabha to not speak on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the House despite the fact that there was an extensive debate on the issue justified?" she said in her post on X in Hindi.

1. Mayawati said that "in any case, the Congress and the BJP are equally guilty of virtually depriving the Dalits of welfare, government jobs, education by virtually making the reservation rights ineffective and redundant".

"It is important that the religious minorities realise the need to escape from the deception of these parties," she added.

The BSP chief said the "Bahujans have fared poorly in all aspects" due to "such tactics of these parties" even as the BJP has the right to take the law in their hands.

"The issue of privatisation in power and other sectors is also worrisome and the government must discharge its constitutional responsibility towards people's welfare in all honesty," she added.

The BSP chief had earlier on Thursday asked the Centre to reconsider the provisions in the new Waqf law and suspend it for the time being.

Mayawati noted that the recently passed Act's provision of including non-Muslims in the Waqf Board prima facie does not appear good. The Centre on Tuesday notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after its passage from Parliament following heated debates in both houses.

The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it.

It was cleared by the Lok Sabha with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.



Nadda inaugurates BJP MLAs, MPs training camp in Puri

AMRITSAR: Sukhbir Singh Badal was elected president of the Shiromani Akali Dal again in the party's general delegate session that took place in Amritsar on Saturday.

Badal's name was proposed by party's working president Balwinder Singh Bhundar while

party leader Paramjit Singh Sarna seconded it. The session for electing SAD's new president was held at the Teja Singh Sandhawani hall in the Sri Darbar Sahib complex here.

Several senior party leaders including Badal's wife and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, former ministers Bikram Singh Majithia, Daljit Singh Cheema, senior leader Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal were present.

On November 16, 2024, Badal had tendered his resignation from the party president post after he was declared "tankhaiya" (guilty of religious misconduct) by the Akal Takht for "mistakes" committed by the SAD and its government from 2007 to 2017.

In January, his resignation was accepted by the working committee of the party. The SAD, later, conducted the new membership drive.



Dharma Can Lead Everyone To Happiness, We Should Not Change It Due To Greed Or Fear: Bhagwat

VALSAD: One may encounter greed, temptation and enticement in everyday life, and they may take people away from their religion, but dharma alone can lead everyone to happiness, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Saturday.

People should not change (religion) under the influence of greed or fear, said Bhagwat at Sadgurudham in Barumal of Gujarat's Valsad district, where he participated in the silver jubilee celebrations of the Shree Bhav Bhaveshwar Mahadev Temple.

"We know how to unite and want to unite. We do not want to fight. But we will have to save ourselves. For this, there have been arrangements since ancient times, because there are forces today that want us to change (convert).

"But even when there is no such force in our daily life, incidents of greed, temptation and enticement come up," said the top Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader.

At the time of the Mahabharata, he said, there was no one to convert, but what Duryodhan did in greed to take the kingdom of the Pandavas was 'adharma'.

"Religious conduct should be observed regularly. We should not act under the influence of attachment and allure, nor should we get trapped in selfish greed. Greed or fear should not turn us away from our faith. That is why such centers have been established here," he said. Bhagwat was referring to Sadgurudham, which conducts social activities in remote tribal areas to uplift Adivasis. He said that when such centres did not operate in these areas, ascetics would go from village to village, making people listen to satsang and keeping them firm on the path of dharma.

Later, as the population increased, arrangements were made to set up these centers where people would visit and get the benefit of dharma, he said.

"Such centres were called temples, which have always been a place where the entire society gathers, where they reap the benefit of worship, spirituality, and also get the opportunity to practise art," he said.

These centers are essential, and people from various walks of life are contributing to the effort, said the RSS chief.

Saints go into forests, preach to the people, and make whatever arrangements are required for their lives, he said. "They do not convert people. They make everyone stay firm in their religion. By becoming firm in one's religion, other troubles do not arise. Our religion, Sanatan Dharma, does not harbour ill will for anyone," Bhagwat said.

He said that a lack of religion could lead people to turn to drugs and alcohol, ultimately destroying their lives.

"Ours is a country of religion. Our country rises when religious conduct fills society. The whole world looks to us for this. It is our job to strengthen such centres. Doing so will ensure our welfare, service to the nation and welfare of the entire humanity," he added.

Bhagwat said festivals and daily worship at temples also contribute to the economy.

"Now you must have heard how many trillion dollars were generated in Maha Kumbh. We are not the people who do business in the name of religion. That is why we did not talk about it until now. However, if we have to explain to the world, then we have to speak their language," he said.

He said crores of devotees visited the Triveni Sangam to take a holy dip despite facing inconveniences.

"Because this is a matter of religion, and everyone believes it will originate from India, the country must uphold its spiritual legacy by living righteously and staying true to its values. For this reason, centers like the ones Swamiji is running are essential," he said.



Rahul claims OBC artisans, trapped in vicious circle of neglect, fail to succeed in textile sector

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday claimed many skilled artisans from backward classes fail to make it big in the textile sector and asserted that he was fighting to break this "vicious circle of neglect and injustice".

In a post on X, he shared a video of his visit to the workshop of a textile artisan trying to make his place in the fashion design sector. During the visit, Gandhi met the artisans in the workshop and tried his hands in the trade.

In a post in Hindi, he said, "I have never met an OBC at the top of the textile design industry". This was told by Vicky, a youth who has built his business in this field based on his skills." "The artisans in his factory work hard for 12 hours a day, weaving magic with needle and thread. But the situation is the same, there is no appreciation for the skill," Gandhi said in his post.

He said like other industries, the Bahujans neither have representation in the textile and fashion sector, nor access to education or a place in the network.

"When I meet talented people like Vicky, I try to learn their work, so that the world can see the real talent of Indian youth. It should be known that despite being capable and hardworking, these youth are like Abhimanyu (of the Mahabharata) trapped in the vicious circle of neglect and injustice.



National Herald Case ED Issues Notices To Take Possession Of Assets In Cong-Linked AJL



NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate Saturday said it has served notices to take possession of immovable assets worth Rs 661 crore that it had attached as part of a money laundering probe linked to Congress-controlled National Herald newspaper and the Associated Journals Limited (AJL).

The federal probe agency said in a statement that it has served the relevant documents to the respective registrar of properties where the assets are located.

Simultaneously, the notices have been affixed at "conspicuous part of these properties" located at Herald House at ITO (5A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg) in Delhi, in the Bandra (E) area (Plot No 2, Survey No 341) of Mumbai and the AJL building located at Bisheshwar Nath Road (Property No.1) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday.

The notices primarily seek vacation of the premises to be taken over by the ED.

"A notice... has also been served to Jindal South West Projects Limited which occupies the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors at Herald House, Bandra (E), Mumbai, to transfer the rent/lease amount every month in favour of the director, Directorate of Enforcement," it said.

The action has been taken under Section (8) and Rule 5(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that talks about the procedure of taking possession of assets attached by the ED and then confirmed by the adjudicating authority (of the PMLA).

The PMLA assets worth Rs 661 crore, apart from shares of AJL worth Rs 90.2 crore, were attached by the ED in November 2023 to "secure the proceeds of crime and to prevent the accused from dissipating the same." The Adjudicating Authority confirmed this order in April last year. According to the ED, the total "proceeds of crime" in the case was Rs 988 crore.

The Congress had earlier termed the investigation "petty vendetta tactics" and dubbed the ED a "coalition partner" of the BJP.

The ED investigation began in 2021 after the Metropolitan Magistrate at Patiala House Courts in Delhi took cognisance of a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on June 26, 2014.

The complaint, the ED said, highlighted a "criminal conspiracy" by several prominent political figures, including the first family of the Congress party led by Sonia Gandhi, her MP son Rahul Gandhi, apart from late Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes and also Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda and a private company Young Indian for alleged involvement in a money laundering scheme related to the fraudulent takeover of properties valued over Rs 2,000 crore belonging to the AJL.

Editorial

Obesity Challenge

A large population of the society is battling obesity, the root of all diseases, due to which diseases like diabetes, thyroid, high blood pressure have increased not only among adults, but also in adolescents and children. The good thing is that like the epidemic, now the government has also become alert about the increasing obesity. NITI Aayog, the country's policy-making body, has recommended to identify the major factors of its growth such as sugar, salt and fat-rich foods and increase the excise duty on these foods to make citizens free from obesity. In this regard, it has been said to take steps like 'front of the pack labeling' on products, so that people can be warned about the danger of obesity similar to the SOP followed in cigarette packets. The purpose is that people should be careful while choosing food items and they should know what is dangerous for their health. The report of the Research Institute of NITI Aayog for the year 2021-2022 warns that the problem of overweight and obesity among children, adolescents and women is increasing continuously in the country. NITI Aayog is taking steps in this direction in collaboration with the country's Institute of Economic Development and the Public Health Organization of India. In fact, Indian food has traditionally been a trend of namkeen, chips, bhujia, etc., but in recent years, in the name of snacks, there has been an increase in the popularity of such foods which are injurious to health. It should be a matter of our concern that according to the National Family Health Survey, the number of women suffering from obesity in the country has gone up to 24 percent, while the figure for men is 22.9%. In such a situation, the need of the hour should be said that the government should take steps in this direction. Undoubtedly, obesity is the root of all diseases and the Indian medical system feels the pressure due to the diseases caused by it. Due to change in urban lifestyle and eating habits, the problem of obesity has become worrying. Given the concerning rise in obesity rates across all age groups in society, it is commendable that the government, particularly NITI Aayog, has taken proactive steps to address this pressing issue. However, addressing obesity requires a multifaceted approach beyond taxation and labeling of unhealthy foods. While these measures are crucial, they should be supplemented with comprehensive public health campaigns aimed at educating individuals about healthy eating habits and the dangers of obesity. Moreover, initiatives to promote physical activity and create accessible spaces for exercise should be prioritized. It is essential that any policies implemented consider the socioeconomic factors affecting access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities, ensuring that the burden of combating obesity does not disproportionately fall on the disadvantaged segments of society. Only through a holistic and inclusive approach can we effectively curb the obesity epidemic and improve the overall health and well-being of the population.

PART I

Jal Jeevan Mission in J&K: An Assessment of UT's Unique Needs



Mukhtar Dar

After six years of the Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2019 as a transformative initiative aimed at providing 55 liters of safe tap water per person per day to every rural household on a regular and long-term basis, Jammu and Kashmir continues to grapple with issues related to inconsistent and unhygienic water supply. The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir remains one of the worst-performing UTs in the country, with approximately 20% of households still awaiting tap water connections. Beyond these statistics, the implementation of the scheme in J&K suffers from a lack of transparency, with installations often carried out without expert consultation and, in some areas, seemingly executed merely to comply with pressure from higher authorities, neglecting the long-term sustainability of the initiative. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a flagship initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to all rural households by 2024. However, some states, such as Telangana and Goa, achieved their Har Ghar Jal targets ahead of schedule in 2021. Despite these early successes, the nationwide deadline remained set for 2024. Several states failed to meet this deadline, prompting the government to extend the mission's target to 2028. In the Union Budget 2025-2026, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed extending the Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028, with an estimated expenditure of 67,000 crore. However, in the current fiscal year (2024-2025), the program faced a significant budget cut at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage. In 2023-2024, the actual expenditure under the mission was 69,992 crore. While 70,000 crore had been allocated for the 2024-2025 financial year, as of February, only 22,694 crore was expected to be spent, indicating that nearly 50,000 crore may remain unutilized, even if funds are available. In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), around 20% of households are still waiting for tap water connections, making it one of the worst-performing UTs in the country. Although 1,53,622

(approximately 80.77%) out of 1,923,500 households have been connected, a significant number still lack access to this essential resource. By contrast, Union Territories such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Puducherry have achieved 100% coverage. Ladakh and Lakshadweep are also

comprehensive evaluation of global disease patterns published in The Lancet in September 2017 highlighted this issue, noting it as a significant contributor to child mortality in the region. This assessment cast serious doubt on the quality of water available to the people of Kashmir. To address these critical concerns regarding

boiled or purified water. This incident highlights a serious and ongoing issue. Subsequently, the residents of Hukhlatri Village presented the water testing report during the Back to Village program to draw attention to the haz-



neering completion.

In several larger states—including Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Kerala, and West Bengal—coverage remains around 60%, highlighting a stark disparity in performance. Among these, West Bengal has the lowest coverage at 54.15%, followed closely by Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Kerala. Meanwhile, eleven states and Union Territories have successfully achieved 100% tap water connection coverage. Jammu and Kashmir and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) In 2018, as part of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's (MoHFW) Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP), 473 drinking water samples were collected from various locations across Kashmir for testing. Shockingly, 349 of these samples (73.8%) were found to be contaminated. The pollutants included bacteria and other organisms known to cause acute diarrhea, typhoid, and gastroenteritis. Infectious diseases—particularly those linked to unsafe water and poor hygiene—continue to be a major cause of illness in Jammu and Kashmir. A

water quality and access, the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched in 2019, a year after the aforementioned survey. The mission was intended to provide clean and safe tap water to every rural household. However, six years into its implementation, many targets remain unmet, and the situation remains concerning. For instance, in 2023, a case of Hepatitis A was reported in Hukhlatri Village of Beerwah Tehsil in Budgam district, central Kashmir. Upon receiving the report, the Surveillance Unit of IDSP at the CMO office in Budgam, along with the Block Beerwah Rapid Response Team, conducted an investigation the following day. They collected five blood samples for Hepatitis A and E testing. Results confirmed one positive case of Hepatitis A, while the other four tested negative. Additionally, four water samples were sent to the DPHL Lab for testing, all of which were found unfit for drinking or other use. In response, authorities issued warnings urging residents to consume only

In 2023-2024, the actual expenditure under the mission was ₹69,992 crore. While ₹70,000 crore had been allocated for the 2024-2025 financial year, as of February, only ₹22,694 crore was expected to be spent, indicating that nearly ₹50,000 crore may remain unutilized, even if funds are available.

ards of their water supply. In response, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Budgam ordered the urgent construction of a water filtration plant in Wacho Village under the Wacho-Hunjagoro water scheme. However, despite the order, two years have passed and both the installation of pipes under JJM and the filtration plant's construction remain incomplete. As a result, villagers continue to consume the same water that authorities had earlier deemed unsafe for human consumption.

Hard Work Is Vital, But It's Not the Whole Story



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Success is often attributed to hard work, and for good reason. Countless stories of triumph highlight individuals who have toiled tirelessly to achieve their goals. From athletes who train relentlessly to entrepreneurs who dedicate sleepless nights to building their businesses, hard work is a common denominator. However, while hard work and success are undoubtedly correlated, it is crucial to recognize that correlation does not imply causation. In other words, hard work does not automatically guarantee success, nor is it the sole determining factor. Other variables, such as opportunity, privilege, luck, and timing, also play significant roles. Hard work remains an essential component of success because it fosters discipline, perseverance, and skill mastery. Many successful individuals have credited their achievements to their work ethic. For example, basketball legend Michael Jordan is often celebrated for his relentless practice and commitment to improvement. Similarly, Steve Jobs' dedication to his vision and painstaking efforts in perfecting Apple's products were key to his success. These cases illustrate how hard work contributes to refining skills, overcoming challenges, and pushing boundaries. Moreover, hard work enhances resilience. Those who put in effort consistently learn to navigate failure and setbacks, which are inevitable in any journey toward success. J.K. Rowling, for instance, faced multiple rejections before finally publishing Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Her perseverance demonstrates that hard work enables individuals to persist through adversity, increasing their chances of eventual success. Additionally, hard work cultivates a strong mindset and confidence. The process of diligently working towards a goal builds self-efficacy, reinforcing the belief that success is possible. It also promotes a growth mindset, wherein individuals see challenges as learning opportunities rather than insurmountable obstacles. This mindset is particularly beneficial in competitive environments where adaptability and persistence are crucial. **Correlation vs. Causation: Hard Work Alone Is Not Enough**

While hard work is correlated with success, it does not guarantee it. Many hardworking individuals never achieve the success they seek due to factors beyond their control. Consider the example of street vendors or laborers who

from being in the right place at the right time. Gates founded Microsoft during the rise of personal computing, and Zuckerberg launched Facebook when social media was taking off. Many equally hardworking innovators may not achieve similar

capitalized on it strategically. Similarly, Serena Williams combined rigorous training with strategic gameplay, making her one of the greatest athletes of all time. Additionally, leveraging technology and mod-



work long hours daily but struggle financially. Their efforts are commendable, yet they may not reach conventional measures of success due to systemic barriers, limited opportunities, or economic constraints. Additionally, factors such as privilege and access to resources can significantly impact success. A person born into a wealthy family may have access to better education, networks, and financial backing, making success more attainable than for someone who starts with fewer resources. Even in the business world, two equally hardworking entrepreneurs may experience different levels of success depending on market conditions, investor interest, or even sheer luck. Luck and timing are other crucial factors that influence success. Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, while undoubtedly hardworking, also benefited

success simply because their timing is off or market conditions are unfavorable. Another critical element is innovation and creativity. Success often requires thinking outside the box, identifying gaps in the market, and offering unique solutions. Hard work without innovation may lead to stagnation rather than progress. For example, companies that fail to adapt to changing consumer needs often decline despite the effort put into maintaining their operations. Since hard work alone is not a guaranteed formula for success, it is important to pair it with strategy, adaptability, and smart decision-making. Understanding market demands, leveraging opportunities, networking, and being open to change are all essential aspects of achieving success. For example, Jeff Bezos did not just work hard; he identified an emerging trend in e-commerce and

ern tools can amplify hard work. Automation, data analysis, and digital marketing, for instance, can help individuals and businesses maximize their efforts efficiently. Smart work involves optimizing resources and focusing on high-impact activities rather than just putting in long hours. Hard work matters significantly in the pursuit of success, but it is not the sole determinant. While it fosters discipline, perseverance, and growth, external factors such as luck, privilege, opportunities, and timing also play crucial roles. Recognizing the difference between correlation and causation helps set realistic expectations and encourages individuals to complement hard work with smart strategies. Success is often a combination of effort, intelligence, and circumstance, making it essential to work hard while also working wisely. Ultimately, a balanced approach—combining

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diligence with strategic thinking, innovation, and adaptability—maximizes the chances of achieving lasting success.

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Dy CM pays surprise visit to Govt Ayurvedic Medical College Akhnoor

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary today paid a surprise visit to Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Nursing College at Akhnoor to inspect the progress of development works being executed there.

The concerned official apprised the Dy CM regarding approved works including boys hostel and girls hostel at Ayurvedic Medical College and a new block at Nursing College.

It was informed that Boys hostel has been sanctioned with an estimated cost of Rs 6.39 crore while girls hostel has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs 6.50 crore and an additional new block in Nursing College has to be completed with an estimated cost



of Rs 2.64 crore. It was also informed that all the works

will be completed within 10 to 12 months duration. the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the quality of construction works and directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of progress while maintaining high standards in work execution. He emphasised the significance of timely completion of development works besides maintaining the quality of material to enhance the public amenities.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated government's commitment towards accelerating developmental projects for welfare of the people.

He asked the officials to address any bottlenecks and ensure the projects are completed within the stipulated timelines.

Javed Rana inaugurates Eco-Vista at Raika Park Jammu

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated Eco-Vista at Raika Park Jammu, a state-of-the-art museum that showcases forest treasures of Jammu and Kashmir.

Javed Rana, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said that Eco-Vista is a significant step forward in restoring and preserving the natural heritage of our beautiful region. He said that it redefines sustainability from a reactive measure to a proactive, regenerative strategy.

EcoVista has been developed as a state-of-the-art museum dedicated to showcasing the rich, diverse and invaluable forest treasures of Jammu & Kashmir. It displays rich collection of forest products, geological rock samples, antlers, seeds, cross sections of wood, arts and crafts among other products.

While praising the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing for the concept, the Minister said that Eco-Vista is not just another museum, it is a living tribute to the unparalleled beauty and

ecological significance of our forests.

"Through its innovative exhibits, photographs, samples,

for our future generations," he added. He said that Eco-Vista has the potential to become a major tourist destination for the



and models, this museum brings to life the extraordinary bounty of our forests," he said.

Rana said that Eco-Vista provides with the opportunity to connect with the forest not just through textbooks, but through direct, tactile experience. It will help foster a deep sense of appreciation and responsibility toward our natural environment, he said.

Javed Rana further said that Eco-Vista will play an essential role in building awareness and appreciation for the treasures of our forests. "This museum is an asset for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and a proud legacy

people of Jammu and Kashmir and for visitors from across the country and beyond. Its unique exhibits, interactive displays and connection to the natural world will undoubtedly make it an important point of interest for the travellers and nature enthusiasts alike, he added.

Rana also stressed on the need to increase footfall and make the general public more conscious, nature-loving and mindful of their surroundings. He added that it is essential to create engaging, accessible and educational experiences that connect people with the environment.

Workshop on MGNREGA held at Kulgam



KULGAM: A day-long workshop on 'Realising the Goals of Sustainable and Holistic Development through MGNREGA' was organized today at the Conference Hall of Mini-secretariat Kulgam.

The workshop aimed to bring together key stakeholders to deliberate on how the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) can be leveraged more effectively to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth in rural areas.

The event was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan. He emphasized the transformative potential of MGNREGA in promoting rural employment as well as environmental sustainability, social equity, and grassroots development.

He said this scheme is meant for the poorest of the poor for their welfare, and the need is to ensure that the beneficiaries reap the benefits of this scheme on ground.

The key issues discussed during the workshop included best practices in sustainable asset creation under MGNREGA, convergence strategies with other rural development programs, role of community participation in holistic development and capacity building and innovation in MGNREGA implementation.

Officials from Rural Development and Panchayati Raj department participated in knowledge-sharing and interactive discussions. Case studies highlighting successful MGNREGA interventions from across the country were presented, showcasing the program's role in water conservation, afforestation, livelihood diversification and resilience building.

The workshop concluded with a set of actionable recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of MGNREGA in aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that economic development goes hand in hand with environmental care and social inclusion.

The event also laid focus and held discussion on the annual action plan 2025-26.

DC Kulgam felicitates 11 BDOs for achieving TB-Free Status

KULGAM: District Administration Kulgam on Saturday organized a felicitation ceremony to honor panchayats for achieving TB-free status under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan presided over the felicitation ceremony at the District Headquarters to honor the BDOs and health workers for achieving TB-free status under NTEP.

The event saw the presence of Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Nazia Hassan; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Showkat Parry; DTO, Dr Umer Yaseen; all Block Development Officers (BDOs), and other NTEP staff.

The recognized panchayats were awarded certificates and mementos for their efforts in the 'TB Mukht Panchayat' initiative.

Out of 178 Gram Panchayats in Kulgam, 167 claimed TB-free status, which was verified and confirmed by the district's verification team.

The DC praised the dedication of health officials, panchayat members and the community in this achievement.

The event highlighted the administration's commitment to public health and the importance of continued efforts to prevent TB, ensuring that all panchayats in Kulgam can work towards being recognised as TB-free Panchayats.

Seeds, Herbs & Saplings distributed to promote Poshan Vatikas in Tribal areas of Shopian

SHOPIAN: In a significant step towards improving the nutritional well-being of tribal communities in Shopian, the District Administration under the DA-JUGA organized a distribution drive of seeds, medicinal herbs and seasonal vegetable saplings at Anganwadi Centres of Pehlipora and Government Upper Primary School Kathuhalan.

The initiative was held under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta and was spearheaded by District Nodal Officer AYUSH. The activity aimed at establishing Poshan Vatikas in tribal villages to encourage the use of home-grown herbs and vegetables, thereby promoting sustainable and self-reliant nutrition practices.

These gardens are intended to serve as models of community health and wellness, particularly in areas with limited access to diverse food sources. Through the integration of traditional knowledge and modern nutritional awareness, the DA-JUGA initiative envisions empowering tribal households and grassroots institutions to take charge of their dietary needs using locally available resources.

LG Manoj Sinha Greets people on Baisakhi

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, which will be celebrated on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "On the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi,

I convey my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all.

It is a pious occasion to express our deep gratitude to 'Annadata' farmers and honour their invaluable contribution to the progress of the nation.

Baisakhi holds profound historical and spiritual

significance, marking the foundation of the Khalsa Panth by the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji. On this sacred day, let us resolve to uphold the principles of selfless service, righteousness, courage, unity, equality and devotion exemplified by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Leverage NABARD funding to accelerate critical public infra development across JK: CS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the High Powered Committee (HPC) meeting to assess progress on Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) projects of NABARD taken up across different sectors in the districts of J&K.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to make concerted efforts for timely completion of all these infrastructure development projects so that new ones are taken up for funding.

Dulloo asked the officers to expedite the submission of Project Completion Certificates (PCCs) by the executing agencies as per the set norms to enable release of more funds by the organisation. He called upon the concerned administrative heads to act tough against the officers delaying the same without any plausible reasons.

The Chief Secretary also deliberated with other committee members for leveraging these funds for expansion of rural infrastructure like bridging the gap between command and canal area for augmentation of irrigation facilities across the UT.

The meeting also took note of different tranches released by NABARD to different departments including PWD, Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Animal

Husbandry, Horticulture and Health during different departments. It further deliberated over the methodology to squeeze the timeline



for raising of infrastructure like bridges and other critical infrastructure works executed through funding extended by the NABARD.

The meeting also discussed about increasing the pace of projects taken up under previous tranches of RIDF and smooth execution of projects under RIDF-XXX.

ACS, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, gave a detailed outlook of the projects completed by the Department and those under execution. He also gave his insights about further utilizing these funds for achieving irrigation facilities to

the last farm at the tail end besides irrigating thousands of hectares of un-irrigated land in different parts of the UT.

Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, said that the Department is contemplating to further upgrade the Mandi infrastructure through the funds earmarked for development of Horticulture. He made out that such steps coupled with others are going to bring better returns to the farmers in J&K.

In his presentation, the Chief General Manager (CGM) NABARD briefed the Chief Secretary on the transformative initiatives aimed at advancing rural infrastructure across the Union Territory (UT).

The presentation spotlighted the achievements and challenges of the Rural Infrastructure

Javed Rana allocates Rs 1 cr for multipurpose marketing centre in Nagrota

JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening the local infrastructure and promoting economic growth, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today announced an allocation of Rs 1 crore for establishment of a state-of-the-art multipurpose marketing centre at Panjgrain, Nagrota.

The initiative, dedicated on behalf of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, aims to support locals of the constituency with a centralized platform for marketing and commercial activities. Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized the government's commitment towards holistic development

of the UT. He reiterated the Chief Minister's vision of empowering communities through sustainable and inclusive initiatives.

The proposed marketing facility will be established under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) which will cater to diverse sectors and is expected to boost local trade and employment opportunities. The process for identification of a suitable place has been initiated and the facility will be established at an earliest.

"We are fully aware of the issues faced by people with respect to water supply, tankers and other daily issues.

Steps are being taken to improve the lives of people and provide them with all

the facilities" maintained the Minister.

He instructed the officers of Jal Shakti department to issue notices to the contractors who have adopted a lackadaisical attitude in implementation of government schemes and projects. He said that any contractor failing to perform his job efficiently would be blacklisted.

He further asked the Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control to explore options for construction of check dams, lift irrigation in the area for benefit of the people. The Minister also said that Forest Rights Act will be implemented in entire Jammu and Kashmir in totality facilitating the tribal community.

DC Kupwara expresses grief over College bus accident; visits injured at GMC Handwara

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today expressed deep sorrow over the unfortunate road accident of College Bus early morning on Saturday at Vothpora Handwara that resulted in the death of two students and injury to several others.

Soon after the incident, the DC rushed to the GMC Handwara where injured persons were taken and are undergoing treatment.

She monitored the situation and directed the hospital authorities to ensure proper treatment and care of the injured for their speedy recovery.

Ayushi expressed her deep sorrow over the incident and extended condolences with the bereaved families who lost their dear ones in the unfortunate accident.

Talking to media persons, the DC said that an investigation in the matter is going on and an FIR has been registered.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC),

Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi also visited the road accident victims at District Hospital Handwara and took stock of the situation.

He interacted with the injured students and hospital staff and directed the hospital administration for best possible medical care



for speedy recovery of the injured.

He expressed deep regret over the incident and prayed for the recovery of the injured.

LD Hospital marks 'National Safe Motherhood Day-2025' with commitment & compassion

SRINAGAR: Government Lal Ded (LD) Hospital, in collaboration with the Safe Motherhood Committee of FOGSI observed 'National Safe Motherhood Day-2025' with a series of awareness activities themed 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures.'

The event highlighted the critical importance of accessible and high-quality maternal care from the preconception period through pregnancy and the postpartum phase.

The theme reflects the urgent need for inclusive maternal healthcare to ensure safe, healthy outcomes for mothers and their newborns.

Prof. (Dr.) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology emphasized maternal rights as

a cornerstone of public health. She called for increased investment in women's health, stressing its vital role



in sustainable development and the well-being of future generations.

Prof. Masuma further emphasized the importance of regular antenatal check-ups for early detection and

management of complications, ensuring vaccinations such as influenza and tetanus for pregnant women, focusing

on maternal nutrition, including adequate iron and calcium supplementation besides promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months to enhance newborn immunity and bonding.

Dr. Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent of LD Hospital, spoke on the foundational pillars of safe motherhood, family planning, timely antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric response, and comprehensive postnatal services.

He also highlighted the significance of investigation and health screening prior to pregnancy to identify and manage risk factors early.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, consultants, the Deputy Medical Superintendent, CMOs, RMOs, nursing supervisors, healthcare professionals, students, and hospital staff—each reaffirming their shared commitment to maternal and child well-being.

Special Electoral team visits Polling Stations in Budgam AC

BUDGAM: In view of the forthcoming Bye-Election in 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency and the ongoing Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, a team of senior officers conducted a visit to various polling stations including Girls HS Budgam, BHSS Ompora, GHSS Ompora, Mohanpora, Narkara etc in the district.

The team was led by Special Secretary in Chief Electoral Office Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Dy. Chief Electoral officer Kashmir and Dy. Election officer Budgam.

During the visit, Officers inspected the presence and functioning of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) stationed at designated polling stations for the enrolment of eligible

electors.

The officers interacted with the BLOs to review the progress of the ongoing revision exercise.

They stressed the need for focused and diligent efforts to ensure timely and accurate updation of the Electoral Rolls.

The officers focussed on the importance of inclusivity in the electoral process and encouraged the BLOs to conduct thorough house-to-house surveys to ensure that no eligible voter is left behind, in line with the Election Commission of India's motto 'No Voter is to be Left Behind.'

The visit aimed at ensuring preparedness, accountability and seamless execution of the revision process in the run-up to the Bye-Elections.

PART II

The Jewish Dimension of Jerusalem in the Hellenistic-Hasmonean Period



YAMIN MOHAMMAD MUNSHI

While only inscriptions in ancient Hebrew script (the First Temple precursor of the Aramaic square script introduced into Jewish society in the Persian period) appear on the coinage of Hyrcanus I and Aristobulus I, Greek inscriptions appear under Alexander Jannaeus. These inscriptions bear the Greek name of the ruler as well as his Greek title, i.e., ~aoΛA.διι; the Hebrew inscriptions, by contrast, bear the ruler's Hebrew name (Yo~anan, Judah, Jonathan, Mattat~_s)"3.s well as the title "high priest" or "king." On occasion, these bilingual inscriptions appear on either side of the same coin. Moreover, the symbols appearing on these coins were, with rare exception, borrowed from the surrounding Hellenistic world: anchors, cornucopiae, a wheel or star design, and floral representations.

However, in this regard the Hasmonean rulers introduced one very unique element: no images of living beings-neither animal nor human-appear on any of their coins. Thus, the artistic and epigraphical components of the coins minted in Jerusalem under Hasmonean auspices reveal a fascinating symbiosis of Jewish and Hellenistic elements, reflecting the desire of the Hasmoneans to live comfortably in both the Hellenistic and Jewish worlds; this is the message they wished to convey via one of the most public vehicles at their disposal. In a similar vein, contemporary Phoenician coins exhibited native symbols together with Phoenician and Greek legends.

Hasmonean numismatic evidence is thus significant on two counts: it reflects the vision and policy of those who ruled, while the message contained therein was aimed at the population at large for whom these coins were made. Other evidence from Hasmonean society, though limited, likewise points in the direction of Jewish and Hellenistic symbiosis. This thrust is reflected, for example, in the archeological finds from the Hasmonean palaces at Jericho. There we find, side by side with the large swimming pool and pavilion, the latter in Doric style and following Hellenistic aristocratic tastes, a series of ritual baths (miqva'ot) reflecting the Hasmoneans' priestly commitment to maintain their ritual purity with regularity.

Even a book as hostile to the Jewish Hellenizers and their reforms as II Maccabees, written toward the end of the second century B.C.E., reflects a certain ambivalence. II Maccabees was the first to use the terms "Judaism" (2:21; 8:1; 14:38) and "Hellenism" (4:13) as contrasting values and clashing cultural forces. Yet, the book itself was written in Greek, patterned in the tradition of Greek "pathetic" historiography, while borrowing Greek literary motifs in its narratives. This was not the only such case in the literary sphere. At about the same time, the Greek translation of the book of Esther utilized the finest of Greek linguistic and stylistic techniques, especially in the additions to the Hebrew text which focused on particularistic values, emphasizing the chasm between Greek and Jew (i.e., between Haman and Mordecai).

It is explicitly stated that this Greek translation was carried out in Jerusalem. Thus, far from stifling Hellenistic influence, Hasmonean rule was actually catalytic. To maintain diplomatic relations, support a bureaucracy, build a military force, create a kingdom, and develop its capital, Greek language and ways had to be learned. As Bickerman has aptly remarked with regard to a number of Hellenistic native rulers who took over in the wake of the Seleucid collapse: "Cosmopolitanism was the price of independence."

With the Roman conquest of the East and the subsequent ascension of Herod as king of Judaea, a new era opened for Jerusalem that was marked by a far greater intensity of contact with, and integration into, the surrounding culture. The reasons for this increased contact are threefold. First and foremost was Rome's establishment of an empire whose borders embraced the entire oikumene. With control of these areas firmly secured, Rome justifiably boasted of a pax Romana, an era which allowed for freedom and security of movement. Internal boundaries essentially disappeared and the flow of traffic, be it of a commercial, social, religious or cultural nature, now became commonplace. As a result, Jerusalem was linked more firmly than ever to a network of urban centers in the Roman East.

A second factor behind Jerusalem's increased international contacts relates to Herod himself. Without a doubt, the most fundamental operative principle of Herod's public policy was the integration of his Judean kingdom into the warp and woof of the Roman world. Herod's ability to maintain and strengthen political connections was proven time and again in the course of his 33-year reign.

His political loyalty was matched by a fascination with the cultural and social world of his time, both in its Hellenistic and Roman versions. As has been well documented archaeological over the last generation,

Herod directed much of his enormous energies to promoting HellenisticRoman civilization, in its many ramifications, throughout his kingdom and beyond. Finally, a third factor which had considerable influence on the cultural milieu of Herodian Jerusalem was linked to the dramatically-expanding Jewish Diaspora.

With rare exception, these communities were highly acculturated socially and culturally. Herod actively encouraged the involvement of Diaspora Jewry in the life of Jerusalem. He took the initiative by bringing a number of priestly families to Jerusalem from Egypt and Babylonia. Moreover, his rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple on a monumental scale served not only as a source of inspiration for Jews everywhere, but also as an inducement and attraction for many to visit the city, primarily in the framework of the pilgrimage festivals. Jews from throughout the Diaspora were among the multitudes streaming into the city in the course of the year.



One has only to read' Acts 2:9-11 to realize the extent of their presence: therein appears a list of places whose languages could be heard on the streets of the city during a festival. The gatherings of pilgrims in Jerusalem appear to have represented a microcosm of the entire Roman world, bringing a wide range of cultures into the city. Of no less significance to our discussion is the fact that permanent communities of Diaspora Jews were likewise to be found in Jerusalem. The existence of such communities is attested in three sources: rabbinic literature, which takes note of a synagogue of Alexandrians in Jerusalem (T Megillah 2: 17); the Theodotus inscription, which speaks of a Jerusalem synagogue founded by Jews from Rome; and Acts 6:9, which lists a series of Diaspora synagogues in the city established by Jews from Alexandria, Cyrene, Asia, Cilicia, and a synagogue of freedmen.

The extent of this permanent form of Diaspora presence in the city is unknown but, together with the constant stream of visitors from abroad, their influence on city life and affairs was undoubtedly considerable. How did the above-noted developments impact on the city, and what impressions might a visitor to Jerusalem have had? Even before entering its walls, one could not help but be struck by the many funerary monuments surrounding the city. As was in the case with the earlier Hasmonean period, burial remains from the first centuries B.C.E. and C.E. offer clear evidence of Hellenistic influence.

The monuments in the Kidron Valley (the so-called Absalom and Zechariah tombs) are typical Hellenistic monuments that could be found throughout the Roman East. Wealthy Jerusalemites copied the finest examples of Hellenistic architecture when building those tombs, which featured solid square bases, columns, capitals, architraves, and cornices, all conforming to regn'Int Hellenistic styles. Often these monuments were capped with a tholos or pyramid, both ubiquitous architectural elements throughout the East.

Diaspora Jews as well seem to have expended sizable sums of money on funerary monuments in Jerusalem. Nicanor of Alexandria, who contributed a magnificent gate to the Temple, also erected an impressive tomb on the crest of today's Mount Sep. pus. But what may have been the most magnificent tomb of all was that of Queen Helena of Adiabene and her royal family to

the north of the city. Pausanias takes note of this tomb together with that of King Mausolus of Halicarnassus whose mausoleum became one of the seven wonders of the world: "I know many wonderful graves and will mention two of them, the one at Halicarnassus, and one in the land of the Hebrews.

" Furthermore, the use of stone chests (ossuaries) for secondary burial of bones first appears in the time of Herod and quickly became the dominant form of secondary burial down to the time of the city's destruction. Why such a practice crystallized in Jerusalem at this time has been a subject of considerable speculation. However, it would appear most plausible, given the date of their appearance and the fact that their use declined precipitously following the year 70, that the use of ossuaries was a product of Roman influence. Romans likewise used small stone boxes, along with the better-known urns, for gathering their ashes following cremation. Although the adoption of such ossuaries by

Jews would have required a large measure of adaptation, viewing this Roman practice as the inspiration for the use of ossuaries can best explain the dating of this Jerusalem burial custom.

As it first appeared in the Herodian era, it reflects the profound impact Rome was having on the city. It would also explain the timing of this custom's disappearance. Once the city was destroyed, the social and cultural matrix which supported it also disappeared, and the practice then began to sink into oblivion. If this line of reasoning is to be accepted, then the introduction of ossuaries may be construed less as a statement of particular Jewish religious beliefs than as a social convention which the relatively affluent Jerusalemites borrowed from the Romans. Once in the city itself, our visitor would undoubtedly have been struck by the many similarities between Jerusalem and other Greco-Roman urban centers.

The three towers to the north of Herod's palace, the Antonia fortress north of the Temple, public buildings such as the bouleuterion, agora, Xystus, as well as the palaces and residences of the wealthy classes in the Upper City, almost always followed Hellenistic-Roman styles. Excavations of the city's Jewish Quarter after 1967 offer remarkable evidence of the extent to which this wealthy, oft-priestly, stratum of Jerusalem society imported and adopted the regnant artistic styles and material goods from the surrounding world.

Among the most relevant finds in this regard are mosaic floors featuring geometric and floral designs, frescoes often similar to those found at Pompeii (emphasizing architectural designs, colored panels, imitation marble, and architectural and floral motifs), a glass decanter from Sidon, imported western and eastern terra sigillata, fine (or thin-walled) ware, Pompeian red ware, Italian amphorae, and perfume bottles. Herodian society, and this includes the remains from Jericho and Herod's desert fortresses, as well as Jerusalem, was strikingly different from its Hasmonean predecessor in the quantity and quality of imported wares imported into the country. Whereas Hasmonean society had relied primarily on local ware, the Herodian upper classes utilized foreign-made ceramics to a far greater extent. Thus, from this aspect as well, the wealthy residential neighborhoods of the Upper City of Jerusalem and elsewhere were well ensconced in the wider-Greco-

Roman material culture.

Three major structures in and around the city were erected by Herod as entertainment institutions. In a relatively detailed account, Josephus records the functions of these buildings during the games organized by the king (Ant. 15, 267-79). The theater was the setting for dramatic and musical performances, the amphitheater for bloody spectacles between gladiators or animals, or between gladiators and animals, while the hippodrome featured chariot and perhaps foot races. Herod constructed these buildings with the intention of introducing well-known and widespread Greco-Roman institutions into his capital, thereby placing Jerusalem in the cultural forefront along with other major urban centers of the East. No sizable Roman city with any modicum of civic pride would do without one or more of these institutions, much as any respectable modern city would do without a center for the performing arts,

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museums, or major sports facilities.

However, Herod was not content with simply erecting these structures; he also allocated considerable sums of money to promote quadrennial spectacles, to which he invited the foremost athletes and performers of the time. The piece de resistance of Herod's building projects in the city was the rebuilding of the Temple. The king's munificence in this regard knew few bounds. He doubled the size of the Temple Mount area, creating the largest temenos (sacred precinct) known in the ancient world.

Around three sides of this temenos he built porticoes, and along the fourth a monumental basilica (royal stoa) measuring well over 250 meters. This basilica was the largest known building of its kind at the time. In the overall plan of this complex, Herod utilized a recognized Hellenistic model. Similar temenoi, with their artificial platforms, porticoes, basilicas, and temples, are known from North Africa, Syria, and Asia Minor, and this type of building, referred to as a caesareum, is described by Philo and other Greco-Roman authors of this period. Herod thus adopted this overall model and its components with regard to his showcase Temple. Other aspects of the Temple complex likewise reflect Hellenistic influence.

The architectural components of some of these buildings discovered in archeological excavations conform to regnant Greek traditions; the columns, capitals, basilica! plan, lintels, etc. all follow Hellenistic architectural models. There should be nothing particularly revolutionary in such a realization. As noted, Jews have never possessed an architectural tradition of their own, and their buildings borrowed heavily from the architectural and artistic styles in vogue in contemporary society. Solomon's Temple itself had been patterned after a typical Phoenician temple plan.

Author is a student of History from Kashmir University . He can be reached at munshiyamin5@gmail.com

Continued From P1...

Two students

who later succumbed to her injuries at a hospital in Srinagar after being referred in critical condition. The official added that the students from Government Degree College (GDC) Sogam had set off early for a recreational trip to the famed Tulip Garden in Srinagar when the incident occurred.

Medical Superintendent, GMC Handwara, Dr Aijaz said 23 students were injured in the mishap, most of whom are in stable condition. "We referred two critically injured students to Srinagar for specialized treatment. Unfortunately, one of them could not survive," he said.

Meanwhile, a magisterial inquiry has also been ordered to probe the circumstances surrounding the accident, including whether it was due to vehicle failure, driver error or other reasons.

Following the tragic bus accident that claimed the lives of two of its students, Government Degree College (GDC) Sogam suspended classwork as a mark of respect and mourning.

The college administration said the decision was taken to honour the memory of Asiya Rashid and Mymoona Ali, both promising students whose sudden demise has left the institution and the entire community in shock

LG Sinha, CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended his condolences, stating, "The loss of two young promising students from GDC Sogam, in the tragic accident near Handwara is a tragedy that weighs heavily on all of us. My deepest condolences to her family in this hour of grief. Prayers for the swift recovery of the injured." He added that the government is closely monitoring the situation and ensuring all necessary support is provided.

The Health and Medical Education minister Sakina Itoo said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident involving students of GDC Sogam that claimed the lives of young Asiya Rashid and Maymoona Ali and injured several others. My heartfelt condolences to their family. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured."

"I've directed Director SKIMS, Principal GMC Handwara, Principal GMC Srinagar, CMO Kupwara and other health officials to ensure the best treatment for the injured," she posted on X.

Similarly, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone, MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshheed and others extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured.

Meanwhile, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, cabinet ministers Javed Dar and Sakina Itoo along with Deputy Commissioner Kupwara visited GMC Handwara to review the condition of the injured. They assured full support from the administration. "We are committed to extending all possible help to the victims and their families," they said.

3 terrorists

He said arms recovered include one AK rifle and one M4 rifle, along with other items. The identity of the slain terrorists, he said, is being verified.

"Despite difficult weather conditions and the challenges of operating at night, the forces conducted the mission with professionalism and coordination. Civilian safety remained our top priority throughout the operation," he said, adding that rapid reinforcements, including special forces were deployed.

"With the support of the Indian Air Force, real-time surveillance was carried out using UAVs, drones, and night-vision equipment to prevent any escape by the terrorists," the officer added.

DIG Shridhar Patil, as per KNO, said that the area remains under a strict security cordon and search operations are continuing.

He said the operation is being conducted in phases to ensure thorough clearance of the area and safety of personnel involved.

The DIG said that the ongoing operation is part of a larger strategy to counter terrorist activity in the region.

He said security forces have increased surveillance and area domination across Kishtwar, Doda, and Udhampur districts. "Technologies such as drones, facial recognition systems, and vehicle scanners are being used to detect movement and prevent infiltration," the DIG added.

The officers also urged people to remain alert and report any suspicious activity to the security forces.

Meanwhile, the search operation to track down a group of terrorists in the forest area of Udhampur entered its fourth day on Saturday.

A security official said the operation resumed in the Jopher-Marta forests, with personnel from the police, CRPF, and army carrying out the combing operations.

The forces, using sniffer dogs and aerial

surveillance, are searching for three suspected terrorists. Night cordons have been put in place to prevent their escape, officials added.

JCO killed

the critically injured JCO could not survive and he succumbed to injuries."

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to Army Brave heart Subedar Kuldeep Chand, who laid down his life in the line of duty in Keri-Battal area of Sunderbani.

"I salute the supreme sacrifice of our Army Braveheart Sub Kuldeep Chand who laid down his life in the line of duty. His valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said

Handwara tragedy:

GMC Handwara, desperate for a glimpse. "We couldn't find her there. Upon enquiring, we were told she had been taken to Srinagar. I called a teacher, who wasn't sure, but shared a contact of a female staff member. She confirmed Mymoona was grievously injured — unable to speak."

But soon after, a second call came. One that no parent should ever receive. "She's no more."

The tragedy has sent shockwaves across the Valley. A pall of gloom descended as people from every walk of life rushed to the homes of the deceased, offering condolences, many still in disbelief, even as the social media was flooded with tributes, prayers, and questions.

Amidst the grief, anger is simmering, with the questions beginning to rise, as what went wrong? Was it speed? Was it the weather? Or was it something — official negligence?

Locals, as per KNO, claimed the bus had expired fitness certification, alleging that the vehicle should never have been on the road in the first place. "If the claims of fitness expiry are true, the bus should never have been allowed on the road," said a resident of Handwara. "Someone must be held accountable."

Meanwhile, officials remained tight lipped over the issue at the immediate but — the same shall be updated, as and when any official response comes.

The government has since ordered a magisterial inquiry to ascertain the circumstances that led to the fatal crash. While the probe may bring facts to light, however, it can never undo what's been lost.

What was supposed to be a cultural excursion turned into a funeral gathering. Students who survived the crash are traumatized, some unable to speak. "I sat behind Asiya, she was taking selfies and laughing. Moments later, I heard screams and saw blood", said a shaken classmate.

The Valley plunged into mourning. Condolence messages poured in, politicians issued statements and teachers broke down while remembering their students — but for the grieving families, statements and inquiries offer little comfort.

SANJY 2025

supervising engineering standards across all projects."

The Divisional Commissioner also outlined special arrangements being made for upcoming Baisakhi celebrations, with enhanced security at prominent religious sites including Tral, Charar-e-Sharif and Baramulla.

One-Day Workshop on Disaster Management Held At Bilaliya Educational Institute Srinagar

Aadil Bashir

SRINAGAR: In a significant move towards strengthening disaster preparedness at the grassroots level, Bilaliya Educational Institute, Lal Bazar Srinagar today hosted a comprehensive one-day workshop and mock drill on Disaster Management and Mitigation. The programme focused on Basic Life Support (BLS), Fire Safety, Flood Response and Rope Rescue Techniques. Organised in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO), and Nigeen Tourist Traders Association (NTTA), the event saw active participation from students, faculty, volunteers and local residents. The programme was presided over by Masroor Ahmad Mir, JKPS, SSP Commandant SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar, who was warmly received by the Chairman of Bilaliya Educational Institute. Masoor Mir commended the institute's commitment to safety and urged all educational institutions to form disaster response teams for better preparedness.

"Empowering our children and communities with knowledge and practical training is the foundation of a disaster-resilient Kashmir," said Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo, Chairman of NLCO. "This collaboration

Asked about the government directive of installing CCTV cameras inside school buses, the Div Com said that the timeline has been set for the installation and the measure has been taken keeping in view the security and safety of the school going kids

Statehood Is BJP's

to provoke religious sentiments in the assembly. "The assembly is not Jamia Masjid. Slogans that should be raised in Jamia Masjid were raised in the assembly. The assembly is a place for debate and legislation," the BJP leader said.

"Do they want to make assembly a ring of jihad? Do they want to instigate legislative jihad? Such activities will not be accepted," he said, adding, "No citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, including the Muslims, will accept a statehood in which such slogans are raised in its assembly." Sharma said the ruling party was "enacting a drama" inside the assembly to run away from discussions over people's issues.

"It was for the first time in the history of the assembly that the government itself did not allow the House to run. The government was theirs, the Speaker was theirs, but they enacted a drama opposing the Waqf Amendment Bill and did not allow the House to run for three days because they did not want people's issues to be discussed," he said.

The leader of opposition said two assembly sessions were held in the last six months, but none of the promises in the National Conference's manifesto were reflected in either the assembly or in normal governance.

"They gave free bus rides to women, but they increased the fares and fuel prices. The routine governance and the assembly sessions reflect the failure of the National Conference government. It reflects betrayal of the people," he added.

Sharma said the BJP-led Central government is committed to the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir. "All centrally-sponsored schemes will continue to run without any hurdles," he said.

He however, said there will be no compromise on terrorism and separatism.

"We will not rest until we wipe out terrorism, separatism and stone-pelting. There will be no compromise until peace is established fully," he stated.

Sharma said situation in the Union Territory has improved significantly and the BJP will not allow the return of violence.

"The situation has improved significantly. Schools are open, there are no hartals, no stone-pelting. Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah took the responsibility of the security, normalcy has returned to downtown Srinagar and it is flourishing," he said.

He accused the National Conference (NC) of never trying to establish peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

"When the NC government was in power, schools, hospitals and government buildings were burnt. NC says that 10,000 of its workers were killed. But they were killed during NC governments when Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah were heading the home department," he said.

"Since law and order came under the Union Home Ministry, not a single NC worker has been killed," he added. (Agencies)

He Failed As

recent press conferences, saying, "Two press conferences in two days, and the BJP's Leader of the Opposition still can't manage to explain anything, looks like he's been scolded by Delhi and his own party for failing spectacularly as an opposition leader in the assembly!"

In a post on X, Sadiq challenged the logic of

LoP Sharma that around 10,000 NC workers were killed when Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah headed the Home Department.

"One of these days, we might just expose the full extent of his nonsense. But for now, let's address his latest gem: blaming the NC for the deaths of NC workers during our government. By that logic, is the BJP responsible for every single security force casualty from 2019 till today—including the tragic martyrdom of a JCO just now? May he RIP. Whose failure is it then, LOP sahab?," questioned Sadiq. (Agencies)

LG Sinha

It is a pious occasion to express our deep gratitude to 'Annadata' farmers and honour their invaluable contribution to the progress of the nation. Baisakhi holds profound historical and spiritual significance, marking the foundation of the Khalsa Panth by the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji. On this sacred day, let us resolve to uphold the principles of selfless service, righteousness, courage, unity, equality and devotion exemplified by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

May Baisakhi this year usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all".

Anti-Narcotics

be deployed at key locations, including checkpoints, airports, border areas, and during raids on suspected drug hubs, the official said.

This initiative underscores ANTFs commitment to eradicating the drug menace and ensuring a safer, drug-free society in the region, the official added. (Agencies)

Hajj-2025

this, the vaccination drive will begin, and every pilgrim will be administered three vaccines

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020002835, which is Registered in the name of Rajwalikhan, S/O Bagookkhan, Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Maqbool Ahmad Gojar Lachey, S/O Mohammad Yaqoob Gojar Lachey, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Maqbool Ahmad Gojar Lachey .
S/O Mohammad Yaqoob Gojar Lachey.
R/O Yali Banakoot Bandipora, jammu

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the 'Cost' of my Children has been Mistakenly Mentioned in their school records as "Bani" while as their Actual and correct Cost is 'Gojar Baniya' 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 Al Falah Educational Institute Aragam Bandipora and Headmaster GOVT Boys Middle school Chettibandi Bala Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Ghulam Hassan Gojar Baniya.
F/O Mumtaz Ahmad Gojar Baniya, and
Shahnawaz Ahmad Gojar Baniya.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the "Cost" of My Children has been Mistakenly Mentioned in their school records as "Bani" while as their Actual and correct "Cost" is Gojar Baniya, 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 Headmaster GOVT Boys Middle school Chettibandi Bala Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Shabir Ahmad Gojar Baniya.
F/O Naseem Ahmad Gojar Baniya, and
Shafia Bano(Daughter).
R/O Chattibandi, Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No: JK15-20120003781, my name and Blood group has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohmad Mustafa Parray, and Blood group - B+, while as my Actual and correct name as per my Aadhaar Card is Mohd Mustafa Parray, and Blood group - O+. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohd Mustafa Parray.

Condolence Message

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Bereaved Families of GDC Sogam,

The devastating news of the college bus accident this morning has left our hearts shattered. The loss of reportedly five bright young souls—full of dreams and promise—is a tragedy beyond words, sending waves of sorrow across our valley.

As a member of the academic community, I share in the collective grief that has gripped our institutions and homes. To the families who have lost their beloved children, siblings, and friends, I extend my deepest sympathies. No words can heal such profound pain, but I pray you find strength in the love and support of those around you. The entire educational fraternity stands with you in this dark hour.

For those injured, I pray for your swift recovery and resilience. May the memories of the departed be a guiding light, and may their souls find eternal peace.

In this time of immense sorrow, let us come together as a community—offering compassion, solidarity, and prayers. If there is any support we can extend, please know we are here.

*With heartfelt condolences,
Dr. Aadil Mohi-ud-Din Sheikh
Assistant Professor, Kashmiri
GDC Women's Sopore*

Indian Army, Aseem Foundation Bring Solar Power and LPG Access to Simari Village in Karnah

SRINAGAR: In a landmark initiative aimed at empowering border communities, Simari village in Karnah Valley, Jammu & Kashmir, has been fully electrified and equipped with clean cooking solutions through a joint project by the Indian Army's Vajr Division and Aseem Foundation, under the aegis of Chinar Corps.

Situated along the Line of Control (LoC), Simari holds immense strategic significance as Polling Booth No. 1 of India — with the unique distinction of half the village lying across in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Until recently, the residents lived without reliable

electricity or modern cooking facilities.

That changed with the installation of solar microgrids and the distribution of LPG kits to 53 households, marking a transformative leap in the village's quality of life.

The initiative has not only addressed long-standing energy deprivation but also promoted clean, sustainable living in the high-altitude frontier region.

The project is dedicated to the memory of Colonel Santosh Mahadik, Shaurya Chakra, Sena Medal, who laid down his life in the service of the nation. A solemn inauguration ceremony will be held on April 14,

2025, led by Mrs. Kalinda Mahadik, mother of the late officer, Commander of the Tangdhar Brigade, and Mr. Sarang Gosavi, Founder and Managing Director of Aseem Foundation.

Local villagers, including women, children, elders, and civil dignitaries, are expected to attend the ceremony to witness this significant step toward inclusive development.

This effort falls in line with the Government of India's Vibrant Villages Programme, highlighting the Indian Army's multi-dimensional role — not just as protectors of the nation but also as active partners in nation-building

and grassroots development.

Through continued collaboration with organizations like Aseem Foundation,

the Indian Army is leading meaningful interventions in rural electrification, renewable energy access, and community upliftment across Jammu & Kashmir.

The electrification of Simari is a beacon of what sustained public-private partnerships

can achieve, even in the remotest corners of India — bringing light, dignity, and hope to those living on the nation's frontline.

CSK have got right players, not putting the white flag up just yet: Michael Hussey

Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey threw his weight behind the current squad despite a fifth straight defeat, insisting that the five-time champions have the "right players" and are not raising the white flag just yet.

CSK crumbled to an embarrassing eight-wicket defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders here on Friday after recording their lowest-ever score at the Chepauk of 103 for nine.

"I still think we've got the right players. We've just got to try and help them find some confidence and consistency and then hopefully we can sort of grow and build from that, whether that's with the bat, ball or in the field," Hussey told the media after the match.

"There's a lot of talk about the style of our play. But the players we've got, we don't want to ask them to play in a completely different way; that's natural to them.

"They've got here to the IPL for playing really well in their way. I'm certainly not one to try and get them to play in a different way. They play at their best because that's the way they play," he added.

Hussey dismissed suggestions that CSK have stacked their squad with players past their prime or are hesitant to back young talent. CSK's middle-order comprises India players Rahul Tripathi, Shivam Dube, Vijay Shankar and Deepak Hooda who have failed collectively this season.

"I would argue that they're beyond their prime. I don't agree with that. We've had players in the twilight of their career come and play at CSK in the past. I think of Shane Watson.

I think of Ajinkya Rahane."

"They've performed really well for CSK. I still think that the players that we've got still have some good cricket in front of them and can offer us a lot. We can find their best

tournament as far as we can. We're certainly not putting the white flag up just yet," Hussey added. The former Australia and CSK player said CSK hope to find their way into the top four and are ready to scrape for it.

one of those last positions in the table come playoff time."

Hussey acknowledged CSK have been below-par in all three aspects of the game. "We have certainly been below par in all three



Hussey dismissed suggestions that CSK have stacked their squad with players past their prime or are hesitant to back young talent. CSK's middle-order comprises India players Rahul Tripathi, Shivam Dube, Vijay Shankar and Deepak Hooda who have failed collectively this season.

If we start looking for 60 in powerplay with our lineup, it will be very difficult for us: Dhoni

A disappointed Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni on Friday blamed his batters for the heavy defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders and urged them to avoid desperation and instead focus on better application to arrest the slide in the upcoming IPL matches.

CSK were restricted to 103 for nine, as KKR chased down the target in just 10.1 overs, handing the five-time champions their biggest defeat in IPL history in terms of balls remaining.

"It has been quite a few nights that has not gone our way. The challenge has been there, we have to accept the challenge. Today I felt we did not have enough runs on the board," Dhoni said after the match.

"It has been the case over here (Chepauk), when we bowled in the 2nd innings it stopped a bit, today it did in the first innings. When you lose too many wickets, there is pressure and with quality spinners it is difficult."

It was yet another dismal batting performance by the five-time champions, who were completely dismantled by a clinical KKR side, as CSK slumped to their fifth straight loss of the season.

CSK could manage just 31 runs for 2 wickets in the powerplay.

"We never got any partnerships and bit more partnerships, application and we would be fine," Dhoni said.

"What is important is to see the conditions, couple of games we have done decently well, back your strengths and play the shots you can play. Not match to someone's else play.

"Our openers are good openers, play authentic cricket shots, they don't slog or look to hit across the line. It is important not to get desperate seeing the scorecard. If we start looking for 60 with our lineup (in powerplay) it will be very difficult for us.

"Get partnerships going, maybe capitalise in the middle and later overs and if we lose wickets, the middle order has to do their job differently. And the slog will be delayed for quite a while," he said.



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

