

# Good Morning Kashmir

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK  
 Ganderbal was neglected for too long after it became a separate district. We have taken several pro-active measures to focus on developmental issues & give a special push through large spectrum of economic activity & issues related to diverse areas are being addressed on priority.

Srinagar • Wednesday 20, September 2023 • Vol: 14 • Issue No: 223 • Pages: 12 • Price: ₹ 5/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

### LG Pays Tribute To Martyred Army Soldier

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, laid wreath and paid homage to Sepoy Pardeep Singh, martyred during anti-terror operation in Anantnag.

"I bow to the exemplary courage and sacrifice of our braveheart. A grateful nation will always remain indebted to his martyrdom. The entire nation stands firmly with his" **P-02**

### TIT-FOR-TAT India Expels Canadian Diplomat

**NEW DELHI:** A senior Canadian diplomat has been ordered to leave India within five days, the Indian foreign ministry said, hours after Ottawa expelled an Indian diplomat in an escalating rift over the killing of a Sikh separatist earlier this year. **P-02**

## 'LeT Terrorist Uzair Khan Killed' Anantnag Encounter Ends After 7 Days



**JAHANGEER GANAIE**

**ANANTNAG:** Jammu and Kashmir police Tuesday said that top Lashkar-e-Toiba Commander Uzair Khan has been killed in an encounter at Gadool, Kokernag in southern district of Anantnag while as a lifeless body was also lying flat near the gunfight spot.

Talking to reporters, ADGP Kumar said that Uzair Khan, who was involved in the killing of an army Colonel, Major and a DySP on the first day of the gunfight. "Uzair Khan has been killed and his body has been retrieved. There is another body lying on the ground. We had information about the presence of two to three terrorists in the area," the ADGP said on the seventh day of the Gadool operation. Khan is a resident of Nagam, Kokernag. The second body, as per ADGP Kashmir, seems to be that of a foreign terrorist. He, however, said things will be clear once the body is retrieved.

Asked whether the operation has been called off, he said that search operation will remain on form some. "I urge the locals not to go closer to the encounter site as unexploded grenades or shells may cause harm to them," he said. On total casualties from the security forces side, the ADGP said: "Three officers, two from army and one from police besides a soldier were" **P-02**

## J&K Witnessing New Revolution In Infrastructure Development: LG

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

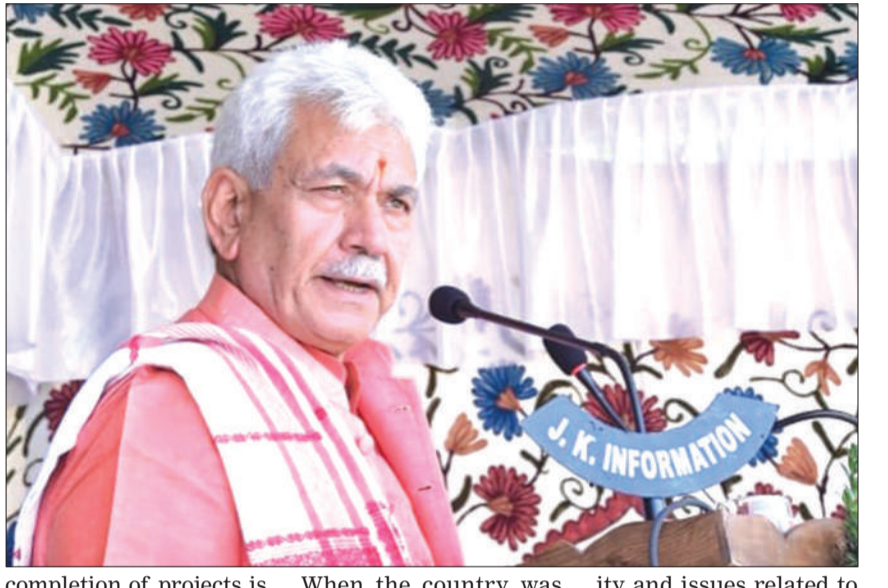
**GANDERBAL:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new revolution in infrastructure development, adding that several projects, pending for more than a decade have been completed and dedicated to people.

Addressing a huge gathering at Qamaria Stadium in Ganderbal, the Lt Governor congratulated the District Administration, public representatives and the people of Ganderbal.

J&K is witnessing a new revolution in infrastructure development. Several projects, pending for more than a decade have been completed and dedicated to the people today, he said.

"Fast-paced development in last four years and unprecedented investments in modern infrastructure is shaping economic growth trajectory of Jammu Kashmir and fueling aspiration of the people," the Lt Governor said.

Prior to 2019, delay was a norm. Now, speedy



completion of projects is topmost priority of the administration. We have completed 1500 such projects across the UT which was pending for 5 to 20 years, he said.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to remove developmental gaps of several decades to ensure ease of living for citizens.

Ganderbal was neglected for too long after it became a separate district.

When the country was moving forward towards progress, the people here were deprived of basic facilities. The projects like Bus Terminal Complex at Beehama inaugurated today should have been completed a decade ago, the Lt Governor said.

He said the UT Administration has taken several pro-active measures to focus on developmental issues and give a special push through large spectrum of economic activity and issues related to diverse areas are being addressed on priority.

We are also making dedicated efforts to tap the growth potential of Ganderbal in tourism sector. Sonmarg is now on the global tourism map and the increased tourist influx has given a boost to the local economy, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor congratulated the District Administration Ganderbal and the public **P-02**

**FAST-PACED DEVELOPMENT IN LAST FOUR YEARS AND UNPRECEDENTED** investments in modern infrastructure is shaping economic growth trajectory of Jammu Kashmir and fueling aspiration of the people," the Lt Governor said.

## IAF Planes to fill Jammu skies on Sept 21-22

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**JAMMU:** The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with Air Force Station Jammu, is set to host a spectacular Air Show & Air Awareness Campaign at Air Force Station Jammu on September 21-22.

This extraordinary event will feature acrobatic displays by fighter jets, para jumping displays, combat displays by Garud Commandos, helicopter flying showcases and superior drill moves.

The air show will dazzle the spectators with the thrilling stunts of the Surya Kiran team,



the sleek and speedy Hawk 132 jets and the versatile and powerful Mi171V helicopters.

Audiences can expect approximately one and a half hours of non-stop action in the skies. **P-02**

## 'All Vacant Posts To Be Filled Within 6 Months'

**RAJA SYED RATHER**

**GANDERBAL:** Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said all the vacant posts in various government departments will be filled in next six months through a "major recruitment drive."

Addressing a gathering in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of series of developmental projects, the LG said that last year, a recruitment drive was initiated by the UT administration and hundreds of youth were recruited through a transparent system. "Let me announce here that all the vacant posts in various government departments will be filled within the next six months through a proper recruitment drive," he said, adding that "poor man's child also has a right to become an officer."

The LG said recently the daughter of a vegetable seller became a KAS officer. "She had never dreamed of seeing herself becoming an officer. I assured her that poor people's children" **P-02**

## CS Sets 'Gandhi Jayanti' Deadline For Several Initiatives

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday took review of key people oriented initiatives and also arrangements for Meri Mati Mera Desh in presence of Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs.

While taking review of the initiatives like Swachhta hi Sewa, Ayushman Bhava, Old age pension, Land allotment under PMAY, Brashtachar **P-02**

## Centre Releases Rs 1404.19 Cr In Last 3 Years To Promote Handicrafts



**MUBASHIR AALAM WANI**

**SRINAGAR:** To promote handicrafts of Kashmir, the centre in the last three years released more than Rs 1400 crore to Jammu and Kashmir.

Official figures reveal that the centre in the last three years released Rs 1404.19 to Jammu and Kashmir under National Handloom Development Programme, which is aimed at promoting as

## Apple Growers Demand More Cold Storage Units



**JAHANGEER GANAIE**

**PULWAMA:** Cold storage units, that have come in handy for Kashmiri apple growers in selling their produce at their will, have been booked in advance this year and there is no space available to accommodate more growers.

The growers from various areas of Kashmir said that there is a good demand for apples in different markets that are kept in cold storage units and that they have already booked space in advance in cold storage units so as to fetch good rates after March next year.

This year's production is less as compared to the last few years, they said, adding, "Even the demand is good at present, and it becomes more in spring months. So, more and growers prefer to keep their part of produce in cold storage units," **P-02**

**INOX LIVE MOVIE SRINAGAR** Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets | inoxsrinagar | inoxsrinagar | inoxsrinagar

### NOW SHOWING MOVIES WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPT. 2023

**A storm called Jawan has taken over the world!**

**JAWAN**

11:00AM, 2:30PM, 6:00PM (HINDI ATMOS)  
12:15PM, 3:45PM, 7:15PM (HINDI)

**Witness the unsettling horror of the greatest evil**

**THE NUN II**

02:45PM (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

**INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR** TICKETS AT www.bookmyshow.com | www.inoxmovies.com | Paytm, Inox App, or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.



# LG reviews implementation of Central, UT Schemes in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the development progress of district Ganderbal.

The Lt Governor took stock of ongoing works and implementation of Central and UT Schemes in Ganderbal District.

Private players are key stakeholders in the economic growth of any region, the Lt Governor observed. He asked the district administration to facilitate the potential investors through the Industry Help Centre and provide assistance to the locals in setting up Cold storage facilities.

On the progress under various youth-oriented and employment generation schemes, the Lt Governor directed the officers to ensure that the youth of the district are engaged with the self-employment and livelihood generation schemes and programmes of the government.

A comprehensive District Employment Plan should be implemented, he said.



Tourism is an important sector for the economic growth of the local people. Every possibility should be explored to make Sonamarg accessible to tourists throughout the year, the Lt Governor said. He said the effective implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program and promotion of Cooperatives will prove to be a key factor in bringing prosperity in the lives of farming families.

The Lt Governor appraised the functioning and activities being conducted

at the Atal Tinkering labs in the district and directed for extension of necessary support to students.

The Lt Governor directed the administration and health functionaries to chalk out an action plan and work on a mission mode for Tuberculosis-free Ganderbal.

He also issued directions for the successful implementation of Ayushman Bhav Campaign and PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Sh Shyambir gave an overview of the

development activities and progress registered under various schemes and programmes including Kisan Sampark Abhiyaan, ODOP Ganderbal (Willow wicker), District Industries Centre Ganderbal etc.

The meeting was attended by Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson Ganderbal; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and other senior officers.

# J&K witnesses huge transformation under PM Modi: Slathia

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Former minister and Pradesh Vice President, Surjeet Singh Slathia Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a huge transformation in the wake of progressive initiatives taken during the past four years with large scale investments pouring in for various sectors of infrastructural development.

"Rapid industrialization and infrastructure upgradation is the preamble for Naya Jammu and Kashmir under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi", Mr Slathia said while addressing public meetings at Gangyal and Kunjwani in the run up to scheduled elections to ULBs and civic bodies, adding that this vision is being realised with sincerity of purpose.

He referred to the cherished agenda of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and said the BJP is working towards realizing this vision by ending discrimination and ensuring holistic development of all the regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. He said the BJP is a mass movement, standing for empowerment of the people and support from all sections of the society. This is the biggest strength that enables the party to fight for the just cause of the people and stand steadfast in resolving issues confronting them. As a result of sustained efforts, the BJP has emerged as a force to reckon with, he added.



Slathia said the BJP's focus has been to usher Jammu and Kashmir to a new phase of progress and development with restoration of complete normalcy and peace remaining a focal point. The BJP is committed to address the issues of the youth, the marginalized and weaker sections besides women, he said while asserting that the party has been ensuring to remove the disparity

between regions and sub regions with regard to allocation of funds for development and opportunities to flourish.

Slathia said the BJP has paved way for the people to have access to all the privileges, rights and facilities available to their fellow citizens across the country after repealing Article 370. This is something which was not known in this part of the country due to wrong policies adopted over the decades by the successive governments. He sought continued support of the people to the BJP, saying this will help in expediting the development to new heights besides assuaging people's aspirations.

Describing the grass-roots-level democratic institutions as key to improving

civic facilities and the other utilities, Mr Slathia called for massive public participation in the elections to streamline the process of decision-making as per aspirations of the people. This is a huge opportunity to shape the destiny of cities, urban and rural areas by empowering the people in a big way, he added.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Baldev Singh Balaria Deputy Mayor JMC Ex MLC Vikram Randhawa Rekha Mahajan District President BJP Jammu Pawan Singh Conventor ULB J&K Ayodhya Gupta Prabhari Jammu South R.S.Pura Ranjodh Singh Nalwa President Minority Morcha Nareesh Ranjit Singh Mandal President Kunjwani

# AC approves transfer of land for Research Center, Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of land measuring 500 Kanal 11 Marla at Sallar Anantnag in favour of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir for establishment of Research Station and additional Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Research Station shall provide scientific technologies to improve productivity in agriculture farming and enhance



the economic well-being of farmers. The establishment of the Research Station and additional Krishi Vigyan Kendra shall have a major impact for creating awareness about improved agricultural technologies through a large number of extension programmes and produce quality inputs like seeds, planting materials, organic products, bio-fertilizers, livestock and poultry strains of the farmers.

In another significant development, approval

has also been accorded for transfer of 47 Kanals 13 Marlas of land at Chadogra, Budgam in favor of Animal and Sheep Husbandry department for establishment of milk processing infrastructure.

The establishment of milk processing infrastructure shall bring multifaceted benefits that encompass economic development, job creation, improved nutrition, food security, and the enhancement of agricultural practices. It will upgrade the dairy industry

by promoting the overall well-being of communities and economies.

The dairy industry on J&K holds immense potential for UT's economy, providing employment opportunities and contributing to the local population's wellbeing. With increasing demand for the dairy products and per capita availability of milk being lower than many milk potential states, the dairy sector is poised for significant growth in the UT in coming years.

# Rafiabad's Ladoo Ladura set to host maiden tourist festival today

WARIS FAYAZ

**BARAMULLA:** Ladoo Ladura - a picturesque village in Sopore's Rafiabad is all set to host its maiden tourist festival today.

The village located in the lap of mountains surrounded by the meadows, green forests is serving as a tourist attraction for the locals as well as non-locals who are now turning up in large numbers.

An official said that the maiden festival is a mark setting event to promote eco-tourism.

"All arrangements including transport facilities to the venue, parking

management, supply of drinking water, security arrangements, availability of first aid and other logistics are in place for the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the grand festival," officials said.

Baramulla deputy commissioner on Monday held a meeting in this regard with the concerned officers to make the grand event successful. Besides, the officials were asked to promote the tourist destinations, cultural heritage and other monuments through social media platforms.

"Administration is committed to ensure all the necessary infrastructure

and resources, besides opening up new economic avenues for fulfilling the aspirations of the people through the tourism industry", the Deputy Commissioner said in a meeting.

Sharing their experience of being there at the tourist destination for 2-day trekking, Peerzada Tahir and his ally Rizwan Rouf told KNO that it was really great, amazing to be in the meadow.

"There is a natural beauty and its ecosystem shouldn't be disturbed by human involvement. All those visiting this place must ensure waste is not thrown into the meadows",

they said. The residents are equally happy with the first grand event saying, "we must work together to protect its virgin beauty".

The event being organized by the district administration won't be a promotional stunt for the tourist destination but is going to create livelihood opportunities as well. "It is a welcome step and every stakeholder should make efforts to promote eco-tourism," said Manzar Bashir, a local affiliated with the Civil Society, who is providing a helping hand to the administration in conducting the event—(KNO)

# Properties of drug peddlers attached in Pulwama

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move to combat the menace of drug trafficking and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached a three-storey residential house and a vehicle belonging to notorious drug peddlers in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said on Tuesday.

"The three-storey residential house on land measuring 2.1 Marlas valued at approximately 18.17 lacs located in village Naina Batapora, Pulwama belonging to notorious drug peddlers namely Bashir Ahmad Trambooson of Ali Mohd Trambooson and his wife Shahzada Bano resident of Naina Batapora, Pulwama has been attached," police said.

"The investigation proved that the said immovable property

was raised/used for illicit Trafficking by the drug peddler."

In a separate FIR of Police Station Pulwama, Police attached a vehicle (Private swift Dzire) belonging to drug peddler Mohd Yousuf Bhat, resident of Gusoo Pulwama.

Police said that the investigation proved that the said movable property was raised from illicit Trafficking by the drug smuggler.

Police said that by targeting and freezing the illegal assets of drug peddlers/smugglers involved in the organised illegal narco trade, we have dealt a severe blow to their criminal activities.

"Depriving these criminals of the proceeds derived from drug trafficking is an essential step in curbing their influence and crippling the drug trade in the valley," Police said.

# Anantnag to have its own RSETI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of land measuring 04 Kanal at Bangi Nowgam, Anantnag in favour of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for establishment of Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI).

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI),

an initiative of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, aims to create dedicated infrastructure in each district of the country to impart training and skill up-gradation of rural youth geared towards entrepreneurship development. RSETIs are managed by banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Governments.

These offer Skill Development programmes in various avenues. The programmes pertain to agriculture, product programmes (like dress, design, bakery), automobiles, radio/TV repairs other programmes related to skill development and general programmes of skill development for women.

# LCMA demolishes illegally raised structures in Srinagar areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In order to curb the menace of illegal constructions, the Lake Conservation & Management Authority through its Enforcement Wing Tuesday conducted a Routine demolition drive in the area of Brein, Ishber Kral Mohalla, Harwan, Tailbel, WFR and Dal.

During the drive several illegal constructions were demolished/ removed which includes 01 tin Shed, 03 Hut, 01 tin walling, 01 3rd storey, 01 2nd storey, 01 shop and 01 Single storey. Besides, legal action has also been initiated against the violators.

The Special Demolition Drives will continue within LCMA Jurisdiction especially in Green Belt (200 mts) and the violators will be dealt under law. Therefore, people within LCMA Jurisdiction are time and again warned not to resort to any kind of illegal construction/ encroachments within LCMA Jurisdiction especially Green Belt (200 mts).

Moreso, people residing within LCMA residential area are requested to get proper building permission from the competent Authority before taking any construction work in hand, otherwise, strict action shall be taken against them.

از دفتر ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول بارہمولہ  
 عنوان درخواست: شیہو از احمد لون ولد غلام حسن لون ساکنہ وشمہ تحصیل بارہمولہ ہمدرد  
 اجرائی سند پیدائش بابت دفتر صوفیہ شیہو  
 اشتہار ہمدرد اور گاہی ہرخاص وعام  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کی نسبت سائل کا درخواست پیش کردہ بابت حصول سند  
 پیدائش عدالت ہڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے بروئے کاغذات بشمول درخواست مقررہ تاریخ  
 پیدائش 03.8.2019 بروئے درخواست ہڈا میں اور پیدائش بمقام ہیپتال  
 ڈسٹرکٹ ہیپتال بارہمولہ درج ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخصوں کو کوئی نذر  
 یا اعتراض ہو تو اندر سات یوم دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کریں، معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی  
 اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تحریر الصدر  
 ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول بارہمولہ

Call: 0194-2310283 Email: exenrajbaghsgr@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

Lal Mandi, Near L.D. Hospital Srinagar- 190008.

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

FRESH E-NIT No.09/R&B/RAJ of 2023-24 issued under Endorsement No:739-49 DATED: 18.09.2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	T.S No & Date	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Repairing and maintenance in Accountancy Training institute Srinagar.	7.31 (incl. Cost of Material +GST)	300/-	14620/-	10 Days	No: 01/Tech Dated: 09.2023	Finance/ ATIS	"CEE/DEE"

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No: Order No.13 Dated :28.08.2023.  
 Position of Funds: Available/Committed/Budgeted.  
 Project Authority: Principal, Accountancy Training institute Srinagar.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18.09.2023.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	19.09.2023 from 10:00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	19.09.2023 from 10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	25.09.2023 upto 04.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26.09.2023 at 11:00AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challans should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission end date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The Earnest Money/Bid Security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released under rules after successful completion of the DLP.

3.1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.  
 Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

The name of work or NIT No. S.No. should clearly be mentioned on the Treasury Challan and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Rajbagh Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challans should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No. A/24(2017)-651 Dated: 07-06-2018 which reads as under:- (a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids. (b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.

- The bid is liable to be rejected if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office No. 07/CDII/2011-12/389-414 dated 07.04.2011.

No.739-49  
 Dated 14.09.2023  
 DIPK-9079-23  
 DT: 19/09/2023

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 R&B Rajbagh Division  
 Srinagar

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

# Brain Drain

Countries in South Asia are struggling to retain the top talent in their country. The top brains in India in particular are increasingly leaving on a one-way journey to foreign countries and never return - joking they are referred to as never returning Indians. It is indeed true that the remittances sent home by these never-returning citizens is adding to the economy of the country of their birth. But it was their talent pool which they had acquired in highly subsidized medical, engineering, and technology colleges of our country which was their most important resource - alas denying their native country the benefits of their skills and talents. One could argue that applying moral scale here may be out of order as these doctors, engineers, and techies find better pay scale, better education for their children, better work atmosphere, less bureaucratic influence all abroad. This is a worrying factor. These top brains post photographs and videos of their luxurious life in US, Gulf, and Europe thus tempting the prospective techies, doctors, and engineers towards a high-quality life in Europe and USA. For the West, it is a win-win situation. They do not spend a single penny on the education of these never-returning Indians and at a normal package acquire top talent pool from not only India but from all countries of the world. This talent pool helps grow their economy further thus rendering little or no chance for third world economies to prosper at a faster pace. Even though the government has mandated doctors and other professionals to stay for a certain timeline in the native country before thinking of going outside. But this is pretty much it. The top brains wait for this deadline to end and the very next day book a one-way ticket abroad. The government in Jammu and Kashmir in particular and in India in general must put in place tougher regulations for this talent pool who study in top institutions of the country at highly subsidised fee. Our top talent should be utilized in the various sectors of our economy. There is also this need to introduce moral science courses parallelly to the core subjects taught at our engineering, medical, and technology colleges. We hope things change for the better.

## CHERISHING THE PAST

# Magnificence Of Talisman



DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

Long back, during my service tenure, working as an assistant professor in a Government college nearly Forty kilometers from my hometown, I used to shuttle daily by state-owned bus service. One day while returning home, it became slightly difficult for me to manage a seat on the bus. Some local fair was going on that day. The bus was jam-packed with passengers all around. Luckily, I got a seat just in the last row of the bus. To cover the journey of about one-and-a-half hours happily, I struck up a conversation with my fellow passengers sitting on my left and right. Coincidentally, the person sitting on my right was a talisman-seller. The one who was going back home after selling his 'items' (Taweez) at the fair. I broke the silence: "Brother, does anything good happen with these talismans?"

"Yes, why not? Don't we wear slippers or shoes so as not to get pricked by a thorn while walking on the roadside etc.?"

"Yes, we do wear them," I replied instantly.

"Similarly, these talismans do very useful and positive work to stop the impact of bad spirits bent upon harming us."

The talisman-seller had almost defeated me with his intelligent argument. He explained the main features of a talisman in such a lucid and convincing manner that I thought, for a while, why not buy a talisman from him? Something good could happen, as he had claimed.

In the meanwhile, the bus had covered half the journey. When I asked for the price of the talisman, I came to know that according to its effect and power, he had three types of talismans to offer: Fast, Super-fast, and Soft. Rupees Two hundred for fast, Four hundred for Super-fast and One hundred for the Soft one.

"Okay. If you have a soft one, please give me one for Twenty Rupees." I told him. The passenger beside me supported my point, and he, too, offered to buy one talisman for himself.

"Hey, sir! Twenty is no deal," he rumbled.

We stuck to our word.

"Okay, Fifty per talisman." He softened a bit.

We did not budge.

Meanwhile, the bus was about to reach its destination. Hardly Five more minutes of travel were left.

"Well, hurry up, you both. You win! Give me Twenty Rupees each. I will



give it to you. May God keep both of you safe."

Both of us bought Talisman for Twenty Rupees each. I hurriedly got off the bus after listening to the method of using the talisman. For many years the talisman remained in the inside pocket of my coat. Nothing special or exemplary happened, and nothing terrible or unusual happened, either.

The story goes back to the period when I was selected by the HRD Ministry as a research fellow to work on the 'Problems of Translation' at the prestigious Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. I had sought voluntary retirement from the Rajasthan government to carry out research at IAS Shimla from 1999 to 2001. (The work has been published by the Institute.) IAS is a premier Institute known for its excellence not in India only but in Asia, as well. Its prestigious academic traditions are superb.

One day, while I was working on my research project in my study, I received a call from the Examination Controller of Kashmir University. The University wanted to send me a thesis for review, and needed my consent for it. I agreed, and within a week, the thesis arrived via registered post. Upon opening the parcel, I saw that the thesis was from my friend Dr. Bhushan Lal Koul. According to my knowledge, at that time, Koul was serving as a Professor in the Hindi department at Kashmir University. After submitting my appreciative report on the thesis, the 'viva voce' process was scheduled to take place in Srinagar. In the meantime, someone known to Koul (whom I also knew) called me and requested that I write a letter to

the Examination Controller, suggesting that instead of keeping the viva in Srinagar, it should be kept in Jammu. As a matter of fact, during that period, Kashmir was grappling with terrorism and was at its peak. Some anti-social elements, possibly Koul's antagonists, wanted to sabotage the viva. Perhaps for this reason, Koul wanted to keep the viva in Jammu instead of Srinagar. I wrote the letter as requested, and soon after, the venue of viva was fixed at the Guest House of Jammu University. On the scheduled date, I reached Jammu and stayed in the Guest House of the university. The viva-proceedings were carried out under my supervision.

First, I read out the examiners' reports on the thesis. The reports came from Prof. Omkar Koul from Mysore, Dr. Vimala Munshi from Agra, and my own report. I raised the issue of acknowledging the contributions of Kashmir's renowned author Amin Kamil in the dissertation, which Prof. Koul had forgotten in his assessment. This matter was discussed, among other things. Bhushan Lal Koul provided comprehensive answers to all the questions that were put to him, in his own way. The examination concluded within an hour, and it was unanimously decided to award him the D.Litt. degree. Koul received congratulations informally from his friends, and the celebration was underway when I noticed that Bhushan Lal Ji was wiping his eyes with his handkerchief. It seemed that tears of joy had welled up in his eyes. Upon inquiry, he said, "If my wife were alive today, she would be happier than anyone else. In her last days, she had

told me not to leave my work incomplete. She persuaded me to finish it, to complete it." Everyone congratulated Bhushan Lal Ji and gave him his best wishes.

After obtaining the degree and migrating from Kashmir, Dr. Koul had decided to reside in Jammu permanently and had completely dedicated himself to academic pursuits. Eventually, it was during a prostate operation that he passed away after a few years of his stay in Jammu.

Here I am reminded of yet another incident. In November 1962, I received the results of my M.A. Hindi (Final) examination. To my delight, I had secured the first position in my batch and earned a first division. I vividly recall the day after the results were announced, when Mr. Koul, who had been studying in the previous year, came to my house early in the morning. He very politely requested for my notes, and I gladly shared them with him. I later learned that Mr. Koul also had secured the top position in 1963.

Following my academic achievements, I pursued a Ph.D. course at Kurukshetra University and subsequently joined the Rajasthan College Service in 1966 after my selection by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission, Ajmer. This marked the beginning of my career, and Rajasthan the valiant land became my workplace. Reflecting on these memories fills me with a great sense of pride and satisfaction.

Author is a Former Fellow, IAS Shimla. He can be mailed at skraina123@gmail.com

# Complex Brain AVM's Causes, Symptoms, And Treatment



DR ADITYA GUPTA

AVM (Arteriovenous malformation) is a medical disorder which involves wrong connection of arteries and veins which leads to swelling of blood vessels mainly in brain or spine but can affect other organs like hands, foot.

Arteries are responsible for taking oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the brain. Veins carry oxygen-depleted blood back to lungs and heart. When AVM disrupts this critical process the surrounding tissues may not get enough oxygen and the affected veins and arteries may rupture and weaken. Such AVM's if in the brain can be deadly as rupturing of the AVM can lead to severe bleeding in the brain causing stroke, hemorrhage, and ultimately death. However, timely diagnosis and treatment can help in the prevention of permanent damage or loss of life.

What are the signs and symptoms of it? Brain AVM may not cause



any signs and symptoms until it ruptures, resulting in bleeding in the brain. However some people may experience signs and symptoms other than bleeding related to AVM, thus in any such cases, do not ignore the symptoms as it can lead to serious complications. Depending on the location of the AVM in the brain some of the common signs and symptoms include -

- Severe headaches in one part of the head
- Weakness, numbness or paralytic attack
- Difficulty in speaking or vision loss.
- Seizures or epilepsy-like attacks
- Confusion and unsteadiness, among many other minute symptoms

Though anyone can be born with this condition (congenital), some of the risk factors of developing it in later stages of life may include -

Age - Usually the symptoms of brain AVM begin at any age but are more prominent in the age bracket of 10 to 45 years. Over a period of time, if left undiagnosed or untreated, AVM damages the brain tissues and its effect multiplies with time. Gender - Various studies are reports are suggestive that brain AVM is more common in males as compared to their counterparts. Genetic history - Though cases of AVM have been reported in families, but the reason involving any genetic factor is still unclear. It may be possible

to inherit any medical condition that may predispose one towards the development of Vascular malformations like AVM

### Diagnosis and Treatment for AVM

High-resolution MRI is very useful in the diagnosis of the presence of Brain AVM. Thereafter the lesion is studied in detail by cerebral angiography. This test uses a special dye called a contrast agent injected into an artery. This dye is highlighted of blood vessels to better show them on X-rays.

Embolization is a known technique for treating AVM with surgery. But sometimes due to its complex location and size, the surgery may require high expertise and skills, where a new and advanced procedure is useful. However, typically the entire AVM cannot be treated in one single session, it requires multiple sessions.

Cyberknife radiation surgery reduces the long-term risks of AVM hemorrhage by delivering high doses of radiation to shrink it completely. With the use of latest image guidance and computer-assisted robotic system, the procedure delivers multiple beams of high-frequency radiation to the actual site from all directions. Another advantage is that the missile-guided technology can also automatically track and detect any movement

in the patient to correct the delivery of radiation beams to the exact treatment location.

During the procedure, the robotic arm slowly moves around the patient and they will not feel anything. The patients can be as relaxed as always in their own dress comfortably listening to music. This is a single-session treatment lasting for 30 minutes.

The process being completely pain-free and 100% safe (with no side effects), also eliminates the use of anesthesia or other invasive head frames for stabilizing (as in the case of other traditional techniques like gamma knife). Almost in 99% of the cases patients recover within single treatment and get back to normal activity immediately after the procedure.

The AVM typically disappears in 90% of the patients after 3 years of Cyberknife radiosurgery, and this slow and gradual occlusion of AVM is actually the safest for the body.

Sometimes, AVM may present with bleeding or may be small in size and present on the surface of the Brain. In these cases, Microsurgical removal of AVM may be the best option, and provide an immediate cure with a high degree of safety.

Author is a Director - Cyberknife, Artemis Hospital, Gurugram

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Good Morning Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner, Editor in Chief:

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor:

Mir Suhail

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

Manager:

Peer Sajad

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

## UN High-Level Meeting

# Will The World Leaders Walk The Talk To End TB?



SHOBHA SHUKLA / BOBBY RAMAKANT

Leaders of all the UN member countries are expected to convene on 22nd September 2023 at the upcoming second United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on TB (the first one was held in September 2018). The theme of this year's UNHLM is: "Advancing science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently end the global TB epidemic, in particular by ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment and care."

The theme of the upcoming UNHLM is on the spot. But will it turbocharge the fight against TB? One wonders that so far, to what extent the governments have advanced science, finance, and innovation, and ensured equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment, and care?

TB is preventable. Yet it was not for over 10.6 million people who got infected with TB in 2021. TB is curable. But it was not for over 1.6 million people who died of TB in the same year.

Science has gifted us new tools to prevent TB, diagnose TB early and accurately, and treat TB. But are we using these new tools optimally, especially in high TB burden countries, so that we get to zero new TB cases; timely and accurately diagnose 100% of the people with TB; and successfully treat and cure them?

In 2021, only 61% of people with TB were diagnosed and put on treatment. The UN health agency, the World Health Organization (WHO), recommends using molecular tests for diagnosing drug sensitive TB and rifampicin-resistance upfront, but only 38% of people with TB were diagnosed using molecular testing between 2018 and 2021. A whopping 62% of people with TB were instead diagnosed using the 140-year-old sputum smear microscopy which underperforms in TB diagnosis. In India, which is home to the highest number of people with TB globally, only 23% of people got a molecular test in 2022. The most used molecular test in India is Truenat, which is the only point-of-care and decentralised molecular test recommended by the WHO and is made in India by Molbio Diagnostics.

Unless we completely and quickly replace the old diagnostic tools, like smear microscopy, with WHO-recommended molecular tests, we will not be able to: 1) diagnose everyone with TB, 2) prevent avoidable human suffering and avert untimely deaths, and 3) break the chain of infection transmission.

The same goes for treatment regimens being used to prevent and treat TB. The one-month-long treatment to prevent TB (TPT), the four-month regimen to treat drug-sensitive TB, and the six-month regimen to treat drug-resistant TB are yet to become a reality for a majority of the people with TB worldwide.

In addition, countries are also lagging way behind in addressing the top-5 TB risk factors: malnutrition, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, diabetes, and HIV; as well as in rolling out TB preventive therapy to those with latent TB and at higher risk of progressing to active disease.

### High time we adjust the sails!

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails," had said William Arthur Ward. The optimism to end TB by 2030 alone is not enough unless it is matched with action.

### Translate scientific achievements into public health impact

Sriram Natarajan, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Molbio Diagnostics (that makes Truenat molecular test) reminds us that while important TB-related commitments were made by the world leaders at the first-ever UNHLM on TB held in 2018, it did not end with a powerful-enough political declaration.

"TB can be eliminated because effective TB diagnostic tools, new treatment regimens, and evidence-based approaches that have shown to work, are already there. New tools to fight TB may come soon too. But unless we fully implement the tools with an action plan on the ground, it is not going to happen. And that needs money. World leaders need to follow upon their commitment to end TB with full financing," added Natarajan.

### Eliminate the TB funding gap first

Every US\$ 1 invested in TB yields benefits of US\$ 46. Still financial crunch ails the fight against TB in many high TB burden nations.

"In Ghana's national strategy plan, we have a gap of US\$ 20 million every year. This is a huge gap. We need this money to do more molecular testing for TB, TB screening by using digital X-rays, and implement better technologies. If we get resources to fill the funding gap in Ghana, then 85% of them will be invested in diagnostics and 15% in programmatic interventions to strengthen the national TB response," said Dr Yaw Adusi-Poku, Programme Manager, National TB Control, Ghana Health Services.



ventions like molecular tests, safer, shorter, and more effective treatment regimens," added Dr Hoa. "A whole of government and society approach worked for COVID-19, then why is it missing in TB response? We need to expand our perception from TB as a clinical disease to TB as a social disease. We must eliminate the catastrophic costs faced by people with TB."

Agrees Dr Imran Pambudi, Director of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control unit, Ministry of Health, Indonesia who too underlines the pivotal importance of fully financing the fight against TB, rock solid political commitment, whole of government and whole of society approach to end TB within a given timeline.

### TB-affected people should lead on demand generation

"TB-affected communities need to lead on-demand generation for

member countries as an outcome of the UNHLM on TB, not only brings together science-based practical and actionable suggestions to the member countries, but countries also commit to increased domestic funding. They should look into embracing WHO-recommended science-based solutions related to TB prevention, detection, and newer treatment regimens. We look forward to a comprehensive, multi-sectoral response in action, at the country and sub-national level, and also at the level of any individual who may have been affected by TB. All of us have the responsibility to bring detection, treatment, and all support services to that individual to bring him or her back to the normal health he or she is entitled to," added Dr Mathur.

### Healthcare workers are there, but new tools are not

"My message to the world leaders at the UNHLM on TB is to fully support technology and new tools

### Are we doing enough to reach the unreachable?

The governments in recent years have tried to plug the gaps in TB response. "For example, introducing New Tools Project (iNTP) of the Stop TB Partnership and USAID has helped in the rollout of a package of the latest innovations in diagnostics, treatments, and digital health technologies to strengthen TB care in high-burden countries. The use of these new tools under iNTP, which includes the Truenat molecular test, has shown the public health impact. It is time for the governments to scale up these interventions, that have proven to work, to help find the missing millions of TB cases. It is only through scaling up the deployment of the new tools for TB diagnostics, treatment, and digital health technologies, that we may see a bigger impact in terms of reaching the unreachable," rightly said Sumit Mitra, President of Global Sales and Marketing, Molbio Diagnostics.

### End war

Dr Hiam Yaacoub, who has led the National TB Programme of Lebanon since 2012, said that the TB response cannot remain unaffected by conflicts and wars. Not only social and economic security, but health security is also threatened by them, and this includes the response to TB. She said "We must stop these wars. Global peace is integral to ending TB too," and also to all other SDGs.

Dr Yaacoub also echoes the concern on sustainable financing, equity, and TB risk factors: "UNHLM on TB should put TB on top of the agenda, not only by signing declarations and commitments to support us by developing ambitious strategic plans but by securing funding for us to implement these plans and to reach our goal of a TB free world. I would ask them to make all the latest TB diagnostics, medications, and prevention tools, including the vaccines (currently under research), accessible and available to all, in all countries. In addition, I would ask them to secure funding to fight the social determinants of TB, like poverty and malnutrition, that are the real drivers of TB."

Evaline Kibuchi, Chief National Coordinator of Stop TB Partnership Kenya, also echoes the call for a safe and effective TB vaccine that should be rolled out equitably when available.

### It's time to deliver on the #endTB promise

The clock is ticking as the goalpost to end TB draws closer. With less than 88 months left to end TB globally, Molbio Diagnostics co-founder and serial entrepreneur Sriram Natarajan hopes from the upcoming UNHLM for stronger commitments to galvanize the fight against TB. "All said and done, lot of people are dying unnecessarily of TB. These lives could be saved just by introducing the right tools timely and effectively," he said.

The cost of inaction (on fully converting scientific breakthroughs into public health impact) is unacceptable. Failure to universally deploy the WHO-recommended standard tools for TB diagnostics and treatments results in missed TB cases, avoidable suffering, and untimely deaths. In addition, the failure to break the chain of infection transmission threatens to reverse the gains made in the fight against TB.

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant are part of the editorial team of Citizen News Service. Both are on the governing board of Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and PRB Public Health Reporting Corps. Follow them on Twitter: @Shobha1Shukla, @BobbyRamakant.



TB responses should match the urgency and purpose which leaders had demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I would like to see world leaders from high-income countries to share resources needed to eliminate this curable and preventable disease. I want world leaders from high TB burden countries to optimise utilisation of their resources through equity development and convincing domestic co-financing that is sustainable," said Dr Nguyen Binh Hoa, Vice Manager of Vietnam National TB Programme and Vice Director of National Lung Hospital.

Agrees Dr Louine Morel, Medical Registrar, Communicable Disease unit, Ministry of Health of Seychelles - which has the lowest TB rates in Africa. She too calls for fully funding the TB response.

### TB is a social disease, so it warrants a socially just response

It is high time for accountability. "I would like the world leaders to be committed and be held accountable to end TB within our lifetime. To do so, we have to find undetected TB cases and treat them. Also, we have to optimally introduce new inter-

WHO-recommended best of TB diagnostics, treatment regimens, care and support, and prevention services to reach everyone in need, everywhere. I am calling upon TB survivors to be engines for demand generation. There must be a strong and growing call rising from the ground for the authorities to fund primary health-care. We have a long way to go but I can clearly see the key: you have to convince people how to keep themselves healthier. I might not design structures anymore, but I know how to design healthier lives," said Eloisa 'Louie' Zepeda-Teng, a former architect and Founder of TB People Philippines who has survived TB of the brain but lost her vision to TB.

### Food is the best vaccine to prevent TB

A recent study done in India called RATIONS shows that by providing a pack of food rations to the family of TB patients, TB rates dropped by 39-48%. Dr Arvind Mathur, WHO Representative in Timor-Leste said, "Governments have to tackle malnutrition. Nutritious food plays an important role in TB care and control too."

"I hope that the political declaration that is being considered by

for case detection and for TB management. We have willing healthcare workers, such as me and my team in the field, who are willing to deploy these new tools for TB effectively. I do not want to see any person die of TB. Also, a lot of people do not seek help because of the stigma and because the latest diagnostic tools are at such far-flung places and out of reach for them. By bringing point-of-care and decentralised molecular testing at their doorstep, we can help end TB," said Dr Samantha Tinsay, Municipal Health Officer, Bantayan Municipal, Cebu, Philippines.

### It is everyone's right to not get infected by TB

"I want that we and our next generation will live free from TB. It should be everyone's right to not get infected by TB. There should be more investment for TB. The latest diagnostics and shorter, less toxic, and more effective treatment regimens for active and latent TB must be made accessible to all. All of us are not able to access the diagnostics and treatment regimens that are already there," rightly said Ani Herna Sari, TB survivor and founder of Rekati Peduli Indonesia Foundation.

# Drinking water scarcity hits Sopore, residents blame JSD for failure to address their grievance

WARIS FAYAZ

**SOPORE:** Amid scorching heat, people in Sopore have been complaining about shortage of water supply with blame falling on Jal Shakti department for failing to address their grievance.

The inhabitants of Sopore town and in peripheries, have been accusing the Jal Shakti department in Sopore for failing to deliver them adequate drinking water supplies which results in inconvenience to them.

"We are suffering immensely. Once summer approaches, the area faces a decline in drinking water supply", Krankshivan colony residents said, adding that, it's quite strange that the department is providing supply to the area on alternate days and that too for an hour or two.

They said that they have to buy private water tankers which cost them Rs 3000/tanker to meet their daily needs.

"The area is suffering for several years. Earlier we used to get the water tankers on roaster basis, however, that too was stopped by the department



with reasons best known to them. There's no one to listen us", said Bashir Ahmed.

Apart from the town, Zaingeer and Rafiabad parts of the sub-division are complaining of the same. The most affected areas include Hadipora, Behrampora, Shangargund, Warpora and others.

Asenior official at the department acknowledged that the town is currently grappling with the severe water crises, resulting into the miseries to people.

"We are facing water

crunch in general at the moment and water tankers too have been pressed into the service to meet the needs. But due to less number of tankers, people do not get services as per requirement," said AEE Jal Shakti Sopore.

The demands are high and only three tankers are in the division which are supply water to affected areas. "On an average, the demand for tankers is above 100 but it not possible to meet it. We have written to higher-ups for additional tankers to meet

the needs", he added. Protests over water scarcity has been reported time and again in the sub division including Zaingeer and Rafiabad parts.

On Monday, residents of Shangargund hit the streets and blocked the traffic movement on Sopore - Kupwara highway, demanding the adequate supplies amid scorching temperature. The residents while accusing department of being incompetent in resolving the issue said that their pleas seems to fall on deaf ears—(KNO)

# Stray dogs on prowl in Lal Chowk

SAJAD PEER

**SRINAGAR:** Presence of large number of stray dogs in Iqbalabad area of Bemina poses risk to pedestrians.

Several delegations of aggrieved commuters said that Iqbalabad and its adjoining areas are dotted with stray dogs, particularly during evenings. "Due to presence of dozens of stray dogs here in Iqbalabad, it is difficult to even walk," they said. Adding that SMC has failed to check the menace of stray dogs.

This is a major problem for all of us. Stray dogs bite people, chase them when they go to prayers early in the morning, and scare away children, they said.

According to residents, the authorities have failed to initiate any concrete efforts to control the problem, despite many complaints.



Locals said that proper waste management will help reduce the stray population. "People litter the streets without thinking of the consequences. Stopping the habit of throw-

ing garbage on streets is the only solution to the menace," said Mahoor, a local resident.

Stray dogs can be seen in large groups around garbage dumps in the resi-

dential areas. These dogs have made the life hell, particularly for women and old age persons, they said and appealed authorities to take measures in this regard.

# Budgam residents demand crash barriers on Beerwah-Hayatpora road

NAVEED UL HAQ

**BUDGAM:** Residents here in Central Kashmir's Budgam district asked the authorities to erect crash barriers at accident-prone sites on the Beerwah-Hayatpora road to lessen the severity of accidents.

"Crash barriers should be installed by the authorities, and work should be started at places where it is needed. At the moment, vehicles have been spotted driving directly to Hayatpora, which can be fatal," locals said.

According to the locals, heavy motor vehicles (HMVs) racing through the inadequately wide road have raised alarm bells among locals and school students, sparking fears of accidents. "The absence of safety



measures on this vital road has left residents in constant dread of accidents, which could prove catastrophic. The narrowness of this road amplifies the dangers posed by the rapid

movement of heavy vehicles. These concerns have been exacerbated by the presence of schools along the route, making it imperative to safeguard the lives of vulnerable students."

Said a local resident. The local residents appealed authorities to erect crash barriers at accident-prone sites as soon as possible to lessen the severity of accidents.

# 10 years on, PHC at Ganderbal Kullian awaits completion

RAJA SYED RATHER

**GANDERBAL:** Due to the inadequacy of funds, the construction of the much-awaited Primary Health Center Kullian in Ganderbal has not been completed in a decade.

The construction of the hospital was started in 2012 and delay in funds hampered the progress in construction, residents said.

They said the hospital has been under construction for the last 10 years

and hasn't been completed as of now.

They said that the foundation stone for the 50-bed hospital was laid during the NC-Congress government with an estimated Rs 2.50 crore budget. The project is being executed by the J & K Housing Board.

"We are forced to travel to other hospitals to perform the basic tests," a local resident, Shabir Ahmad Raina said. "Presently the hospital is working from a small, old build-

ing and the space scarcity has been adversely affecting the functioning of the hospital," he added.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for the hospital authorities to admit patients because there is not enough space to accommodate them, Sheikh said.

He added that the hospital is located on Srinagar-Leh highway.

Locals said that more than 35,000 people from adjoining villages are dependent on the facility

and they have to take their patients either to SDH Kangan or to some hospital in Srinagar for treatment.

The residents appealed to the concerned authorities to look into the matter and complete the construction of the hospital as soon as possible.

An official said that the pending funds of the building have been released and the JK Housing Board Executive agency is doing a technical process for the same.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION DOORU

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

**NIT NO 05 OF R&B/Dooru/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/ EED/T-1/156-166, DATED: 16-09-2023**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invites e-tenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation of Halsidar Wathpora Road	74.06	1600	148120	Three Years	UT Sector	AAY Class

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-09-2023	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 18-09-2023 (11:00AM)	To 29-09-2023 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 18-09-2023 (11:00 AM)	To 29-09-2023 (04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	From 29-09-2023 (11:00 AM)	To 30-09-2023 (11:00 AM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.	

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date clearly mentioning the name of work and NIT NO) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

The bidders are requested to quote their rates including GST 18%.

5. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
  - Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
  - If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited. e) The payment shall be made in 01,02 or 03 financial years as per the allocation per year/funds released for the scheme.
- The tenders shall be opened and allotted to 1st lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/ available on Beams.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

d. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / E-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) clearly mentioning name of work and NIT No and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

11. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

12. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

14. In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.

29. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT

30. Performance Security shall be released after DLP is over successfully.

31. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

32. Special Conditions regarding Specifications and Quality control for Machine laid B.T. Works:

32. All work components shall be executed strictly in accordance with the specifications laid out in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways publication "Specifications for Road and Bridge Works" and any amendments made up to the date of issuance of the N.I.T.

33. A periodic sieve analysis of each type of aggregate, as well as a periodic check of aggregates at the gradation control unit, shall be performed to ensure that the specified proportion of aggregates is complied.

34. Conducting mandatory quality control tests in the lab and/or field for various components of the advertised work, such as thickness tests, impact value tests, stripping, flakiness, gradation of aggregates, determination of Binder content in bituminous mix, density tests, Viscosity test, and other tests as prescribed in MORTH at the frequency recommended therein, will be the sole responsibility of the contractor, as will the correct execution of the work.

35. The location of the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality, from which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean, tarpaulin covered vehicles/Tippers, and shall be placed in such a way that the manufacturing laying/spreading and rolling temperatures are kept within the specified limits.

No. EED/T-1/156-166  
Date: 16-09-2023

DIPK-9099-23  
DT: 19/09/2023

sd  
Executive Engineer,  
PWD (R&B) Division DOORU

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE/HOSPITAL

BEMINA, SRINAGAR

### DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Email: mmo@skimsmc.edu.in, Ph: 0194-2493226

eNIT NO: SKIMS MCH 06 Tender of 2023  
DATED: 19/09/2023

Sub: Notice inviting e-tenders for Purchase/refilling of Commercial LPG Gas Cylinders at SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar (J&K) on annual rate contract basis.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K through Principal SKIMS MCH, e-tenders are invited under two bid system (Technical bid and Financial bid) from duly registered LPG Dealers with sound financial background for purchase/refilling of Commercial LPG Gas Cylinders at SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar (J&K) on annual rate contract basis for a period of one year, to be reckoned from the date of issue of rate contract. The tentative annual requirement of HSD is as under:

Description	Tentative Annual qty.
Purchase/Refilling of LPG Commercial Gas Cylinders (19 Kg capacity)	280 Cylinders

The detailed tender document containing quantity and other terms and conditions, is available on www.skimsmc.edu.in and www.jktenders.gov.in and complete bidding process will be online on said e-tender portal, as per following schedule:

S. No.	Description	Schedule
01	Tender Fee	Rs. 300/-
02	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 7000/-
03	Last date for downloading of tenders	20/09/2023 to 09/10/2023
04	Last date for submission of tenders	21/09/2023 to 09/10/2023 upto 2:00 p.m.
05	Date & time for opening of technical bids	12/10/2023 at 2:30 p.m.

Any clarification with regard to this tender can be sought from the office of undersigned personally or through e-mail mmo@skimsmc.edu.in upto 05/10/2023

The tender notice is also available on SKIMS MCH Bemina website www.skimsmc.edu.in for reference only. Complete bidding process will be online at www.jktenders.gov.in. (Technical and Price bids shall have to be submitted in electronic format on the said tender portal and in no case be submitted in physical form, unless demanded by SKIMS MCH.

Principal SKIMS MCH reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any tender or all tenders in full or part thereof without assigning any reason. The tender must be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed eNIT.

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/71/22/  
Dated: /09/2023

S/d  
DIPK-NB-3273-23  
DT: 19/09/2023

Materials Management Officer  
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

# DLSA organises Awareness programme in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in collaboration with Education Department Bandipora Tuesday organized a Legal Awareness programme on NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection) Scheme at Govt Boys High School, Kehnusa, Bandipora.

The programme was carried out under the supervision of Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora, Amit Sharma. Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA, Bandipora was also present on the occasion.

The programme aimed at generating awareness among the masses regarding providing proper opportunities to the children so as to make them grow into responsible citizens of tomorrow and to open up all opportunities including the legal services for every child to unfold its personality and rise to its full stature, physical, mental, moral and spiritual.

At the outset, Secretary DLSA highlighted the objectives of organizing this awareness programme. She shed light on the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of every child and rights that should be afforded to children.



She also apprised that children are safeguarded against all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation; safeguards for children in the criminal justice system; protection for children in employment; protection

and rehabilitation for children who have suffered exploitation or abuse of any kind. He also deliberated on the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Of Children) Act, 2015, & the Prohibition Of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

The resource person of the programme, Bilal Ahmad Bhat Deputy Chief LADC Bandipora while addressing, gave information on the constitutional assurances. He said that the development of the nation can be achieved by the development of the children of the nation and it is necessary to protect

the children from exploitation as well. The programme witnessed the presence of staff members of DLSA Bandipora, staff members & students of the said institution and Para Legal Volunteers.

the children from exploitation as well. He also deliberated on the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Of Children) Act, 2015, & the Prohibition Of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

The programme witnessed the presence of staff members of DLSA Bandipora, staff members & students of the said institution and Para Legal Volunteers.

the children from exploitation as well. He also deliberated on the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Of Children) Act, 2015, & the Prohibition Of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

The programme witnessed the presence of staff members of DLSA Bandipora, staff members & students of the said institution and Para Legal Volunteers.

# DC Pulwama stresses on Priority Sector Lending, Self Employment schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Tuesday chaired a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting at Circuit House, Pulwama.

During the meeting, the DC took a sector wise performance review of the Banks regarding the implementation of different Government initiatives with respect to employment generation. He also reviewed the achievements of Banks in lending to the priority sector.

Disbursement of pending cases of loan in Agriculture, Handloom, and other allied sectors were also reviewed by the Chairman DLRC and banks were asked to focus on lending in priority sectors.

During the meeting, the DC held threadbare discussion with regard to the lending in priority, non priority, agri sector, number of cases sponsored by the intending departments, cases sanctioned, cases disbursed and cases pending for disbursement.

Besides, a review of implementation of Mumkin scheme, Tejas-



wani, NRLM, Svannidhi and other schemes was also done with clear directions from the chair to process cases within a fixed and minimum timeline. The DC impressed upon the bankers to put in added

efforts to increase the CD ratio by focusing on potential areas and stressed on better coordination between banks and government departments for bringing improvement in CD ratio.

He directed for ensuring balanced lending in all key sectors to promote equitable growth and also emphasized upon the heads of the financial institutions to spread awareness with regard to the welfare schemes sponsored by them among masses so that people can avail benefit for their socio-economic development.

Chairman DLRC directed concerned officials to organise the financial literacy camps in every block of the district and stressed upon the bankers and concerned officers to adopt a public friendly approach and work in coordination so that good results are achieved at the grass roots level.

While stressing on Digital literacy, DC stressed on the bank officials to hold regular camps and ensure all the individuals are brought within the ambit of Digital banking.

The meeting was attended by ACR Pulwama, CPO Pulwama, Lead District Manager, Cluster Head JK Bank, DDM NABARD, representatives of various banks, District Coordinators and Heads of various Government Departments.

# Dir Employment inaugurates 3-Month Skill Training Course at ITI B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** The Director Employment, J&K, Nisar Ahmad Wani, Tuesday inaugurated a 3-month skill training course for Computer Course on Financial Accounting (CCFA) with Tally at Industrial Training Institute Bandipora.

The programme was attended by Joint Director Employment Kashmir division Zeenat Ara, Assistant Director Employment Bandipora Arif Ahmad, Superintendent ITI Bandipora Suhail Ahmad, Career Counselling Officer, DECC, Bandipora, Mohd Yousuf Khan besides large number of students and job aspirants.

The Director while speaking on the occasion said that the CCFA with Tally training course will equip the youth of Bandipora with the necessary skills to excel in the field of financial accounting and management. He said that the course is designed to provide hands-on training in accounting principles and practices using the tally software, which is utilized in businesses and organizations.



The Director stated that the training course will open doors to employment opportunities in various sectors, including finance, accounting, and auditing. He said that the course is an effort to promote self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

District Employment Office Bandipora said that the 3-month training program will cover a range of topics, including basic and advanced accounting principles, tally software profi-

ciency, financial statement preparation and analysis, GST (Goods and Services Tax) accounting, banking and financial management, besides soft skills and personality development.

The Director Employment further encouraged eligible candidates to enroll in the CCFA with Tally training course, highlighting the program's role in fostering economic growth and self-sufficiency among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Mission Youth conducts Psychosocial program at SP College



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In its concerted efforts to address the critical issues of mental health and drug abuse among the youth of J&K, Mission Youth in its month-long awareness program Tuesday conducted a one-day psychosocial program at Sri Pratap College, M.A Road, Srinagar.

The event brought together a gathering of a large number of students who are committed to raising awareness and combating these pressing societal challenges by becoming the stakeholders of this Gov-

ernment initiative.

The event was graced by the presence of the Principal, Sri Pratap College as the chief guest. He emphasized the paramount importance of mental well-being in the lives of students. His thought provoking remarks felt the need for a holistic approach to education, which includes addressing the mental health concerns faced by young individuals.

The event's proceedings commenced with a compelling introductory speech delivered by a Psycho-social Consultant from Mission Youth. This

address offered a concise but insightful overview of Mission Youth's extensive initiatives and their dedication to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

A pivotal moment of the program featured an expert from IMHANS (Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) who threw light on the importance of mental health awareness and the battle against drug abuse. The session was both informative and inspiring, as it highlighted the critical role that awareness plays in safeguarding the mental health of our youth.

# DC B'pora chairs DLC meeting on CLU, approves 8 cases



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Tuesday convened a meeting of the District Level Committee regarding Change of Land Use (CLU) cases in the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussion was held regarding comments submitted by various departments for the issuance of NOCs of pending cases of CLU in the district.

As many as 19 cases were put up for discussion; after thorough deliberation on various aspects of the policy, 8 cases were

approved by the committee, 5 were rejected and 6 cases were reverted to applicants to get some observations cleared.

The DC directed the concerned departments to submit quality comments/concrete NOCs within stipulated time as per the provisions of PSGA Act to ensure timely disposal of CLU.

Dr Owais emphasised that since CLU cases involve comments from various departments, there is an increased need for inter-departmental coordination. The DC directed officers to stick to the deadlines and conduct the joint site inspections of the cases.

# Director Agriculture visits Quality Control Labs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Tuesday visited Quality Control Labs at Lalmandi Srinagar.

During the visit, the Director toured different sections of the pesticide quality control lab, fertilizers quality control lab and bio-fertilizer quality control lab where he was briefed by the concerned officers with respect to different proceedings.

Speaking to the concerned officers, Director Agriculture impressed

upon them to adopt modern technologies, equipment and gadgets so that the quality control standards could be upheld at different levels of testing the inputs. The Director was also given a brief presentation regarding the working of different quality control labs.

Earlier, Director Agriculture visited saffron fields of Pampore and took stock of various ongoing agriculture activities. He spoke to a number of farmers and assured them of every possible technical guidance and support from the department.

# COP bridges gap between GDC Kulgam, GMS Malwan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** In a bid to foster community engagement and provide exposure to students from Government Middle School (GMS) Malwan, the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, in collaboration with the Department of Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) Tuesday organized a community outreach program, here.

A group of 60 enthusiastic students, comprising both boys and girls, embarked on an educational journey that took them through the various facets of higher education at GDC Kulgam.

The students had a packed itinerary that included visits to various departments and facilities within the college. One of the highlights of the visit was the tour of the college's well-stocked library and state-of-the-art laboratories in science departments. The BCA department, with its computer labs and language lab, also caught the students' attention.

The day's activities culminated in a formal session at the col-

lege's conference hall, where the students from GMS Malwan had the opportunity to express their views on their visit to the college. Many of them shared their excitement and aspirations about pursuing higher education.

This community outreach program was organized under the able guidance of Professor Sajad Ahmad Shah, Head of the Department of BCA, and Professor Shahid Yousuf Gilkar, the NSS Program Officer.

The event was aimed to raise awareness about the importance of education and community engagement. During the event, a crucial session on drug abuse was conducted by NSS Program Officer Shahid Yousuf Gilkar. He emphasized the harmful effects of drugs and advised the students to stay away from substance abuse, highlighting the importance of making informed and responsible choices.

The community outreach program served as a bridge between GDC Kulgam and GMS Malwan, creating a space for students to explore their academic interests and build a strong foundation for their future endeavors.

# DC Kulgam chairs meeting for resolving PM Package employee issues



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Tuesday chaired a meeting of officers regarding resolving of Prime Minister Package and minority category employees issues of

urgent nature.

He directed the officers to address service related issues of these employees with utmost priority.

All HoDs were directed to follow the directions passed to them and ensure compliance without any delay.

# Training imparted to P-BLOs in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** A day-long training program was conducted by District Election Office Kulgam to educate the Panchayat Booth Level Officers (P-BLOs) about the various aspects of electoral process especially addition, deletion, correction and transposition of entries in the electoral rolls and modifications

in various forms.

The training program was inaugurated by Deputy District Election Officer, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar.

Training to the participants was imparted by the Panchayat AEROs (BDOs) and master trainer.

The programme was attended by around 200 BLOs from different Panchayat constituencies of the district.

# ADDC B'pora approves Relief Measures for Fire, Earthquake Victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Ali Afsar Khan Tuesday chaired a relief meeting in his office chamber, here.

During the meeting, an assessment of the damages caused by recent calamities was undertaken. The team reviewed the cases presented before them, with a primary focus on providing timely relief to the affected individuals and families.

After threadbare deliberation, the relief team approved a total of 8 cases for immediate assistance. Among these cases, 6 were related to fire damage, and 2 were associated with earthquake-related damages.

The ADC expressed solidarity with the affected families and urged all concerned departments to ensure the swift and efficient execution of the relief measures.





# Guterres Calls For \$500 Bn Annual Development Funds, Global Financial Reforms

IANAS

**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday renewed his call for the reform of the "outdated, dysfunctional and unfair" World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and for a \$500 billion stimulus fund for the world organisation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Speaking at the opening of the SDG Summit, Guterres said that in the dark global scenario of "people crushed under the grinding wheels of poverty", climate change and conflict, the SDGs "carry the hopes, dreams, rights and expectations of people everywhere".

The faltering SDGs -- the 17 lofty goals hoping to cure the world's ills from poverty and hunger to climate change and inequality, while bringing about peace and justice by 2030 -- "need a global rescue plan", he said.

The SDG Summit is being held at the mid-way point between the adoptions of the goals in 2015 and the 2030 deadline to reach them in order to evaluate progress and recharge

commitments to them.

Guterres said he was calling for "a new Bretton Woods moment, and the development of practical solutions" by next September when he is convening a "Summit of the Future".

The conference held at Bretton Woods in the US in 1944 established the World Bank and the IMF and set up the foundations of the international monetary system -- some of which have atrophied -- in the aftermath of World War II and reflecting the power structure of the period.

Guterres' calls are embedded in the draft of a political declaration that the summit is expected to adopt.

The reform of the multilateral banking system and aid agencies as well as increasing funding for development in a world devastated by the Covid pandemic and the Ukraine war is a rallying cry of the Global South.

General Assembly President Dennis Francis said, "I challenge you all to demonstrate emboldened leadership by using this Summit to announce groundbreaking commitments to support and to complete the



2030 [SDG] Agenda," which he called "a true blueprint for humanity".

Recharging the SDGs will bring "a sense of confidence that UN-led multilateralism delivers", he added.

Francis warned that despite

the commitments made in the SDGs, "alarmingly, 1.2 billion people were still living in multidimensional poverty as of 2022" and "it is estimated that approximately 8 per cent of the global population -- or 680 million people -- will still be facing

hunger in 2030".

The SDG Summit with about 150 presidents, prime ministers, princes and monarchs kicked off the beginning of their annual gathering in New York putting the focus on development and climate change, while

the harrowing Ukraine war which the world body is powerless to stop festers.

The General Assembly's high-level meeting starts Tuesday with the first address by Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, to be followed by US President Joe Biden's address.

Biden will be the only top leader of a permanent member of the Security Council this week at the UN.

Presidents Xi Jinping of China, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Emmanuel Macron of France, and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of Britain are skipping the summits, as is Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

The General Assembly is more political and Russia's invasion of Ukraine will figure prominently there.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky will be there in person this time -- a much-adulated figure -- after having been given a special dispensation last year to speak through a video link.

He will speak during the opening session of the Assembly meeting, and the next day

at the Council's meeting on Ukraine, where he will likely come face to face with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as makes his stinging denunciation of Moscow.

The spotlight turns next to climate change on Wednesday.

Guterres convened the Climate Ambition Summit to turbocharge action and funding to meet what he has repeatedly called the "existential threat" to humanity.

He has demanded that all leaders, especially those from the industrialised countries, leave aside the rhetoric and come with concrete plans and commitment for keeping global warming under 1.5-degree Celsius.

"This is not a time for posturing or positioning. This is not a time for indifference or indecision. This is the time to come together for real, practical solutions," he said.

As with development, Guterres seeks to involve the private sector in fighting climate change.

Representatives of businesses will be participating at several events throughout the week on the two topics.

## Grain Import Ban: Ukraine To Sue Poland, Hungary, Slovakia



IANAS

**KIEV:** Kiev will file a lawsuit to the World Trade Organisation against Poland, Hungary and Slovakia over their decisions to extend a ban on grain imports from Ukraine, a senior official said.

"It is important to prove that these actions are legally wrong. And that's why we will start legal proceedings," said Taras Kachka, Ukraine's trade representative and deputy minister of economy, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported.

The unilateral bans by

Poland, Hungary and Slovakia on Ukrainian grain after the decision of the European Commission to lift the restrictions have caused a major "systemic concern," Xinhua news agency reported quoting Kachka.

The European Commission said that it has decided not to extend the embargo on Ukrainian agricultural products to five European Union member states, which expired on September 15.

Despite the Commission's decision, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia refused to drop the ban, according to media reports.

## Five Injured In Accident At Construction Site In Tokyo



IANAS

**TOKYO:** At least five people were injured when steel beams fell at a construction site in downtown Tokyo on Tuesday, local authorities said.

The incident occurred at 9.30 a.m. local time, when the steel beams plummeted from the 10th floor to the 4th floor at a construction site near Nihongbashi, Xinhua news agency reported. As per the Chuo police

station, some of the victims might have been trapped beneath the fallen steel beams.

Four injured, who appeared to be construction workers on-site, suffered cardiac arrest. One person sustained injuries but remained conscious.

For rescue operations, a total of 27 emergency response vehicles, including fire trucks, have been deployed, according to local media reports.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

## India Expels Canadian Diplomat, Citing Interference Concerns



IANAS

**NEW DELHI:** Amid deteriorating diplomatic relations between India and Canada, New Delhi on Tuesday expelled a senior Canadian diplomat based here, who has been asked to leave within the next five days.

The High Commissioner of Canada to India (Cameron Mackay) received summons on Tuesday during which the Government of India conveyed its decision to expel a senior Canadian diplomat currently stationed in the country. The concerned diplomat has been officially instructed to depart from India within the next five days, a statement issued by the

external affairs ministry said.

"The decision reflects Government of India's growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities," the statement said.

The decision came after Canada had earlier expelled a high ranking Indian diplomat.

These developments have occurred after Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday in an emergency statement in Parliament accused the Government of India of involvement in the fatal shooting of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Trudeau had said that the Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allega-

tions of a potential link between Indian government agents and the murder of Khalistani Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June.

India has rejected claims by the Canadian government that it had an involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Terming them as "absurd and motivated", the external affairs ministry in a statement said, "We have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister. Allegations of Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated."

## Indian-Origin Man Tries To Sue Australian Hospital After Watching Wife's C-Section

IANAS

**MELBOURNE:** An Indian-origin man tried to sue a hospital in Australia for \$643 million (over Rs 5,000 crore) after watching his wife deliver a baby via cesarean-section birth in 2018, which was dismissed by a court.

Anil Koppula said the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne "encouraged" or "permitted" him to observe the delivery, which caused him "psychotic illness" after he watched his wife's organs and blood, Australia's 7News channel reported.

Years after the wife delivered a healthy baby, Koppula lodged a claim in the Supreme Court of Victoria in October last year, alleging the hospital breached its duty of care it owed to him and was liable to pay him damages.

Representing himself during proceedings, he assessed his damages for psychological injury at \$643 million, and submitted to the court the illness had led to the "breakdown of his marriage".

In a judgement handed down on Monday, Justice James Gorton



dismissed the claim, labelling it an "abuse of process".

The judgement stated that the law does not allow a person to recover damages for non-economic loss unless their injury is a "significant injury".

A panel that medically examined Koppula said that "the degree of psychiatric impairment resulting from the injury to the claimant alleged in the claim does not satisfy the threshold level".

Koppula disagreed with the findings, but did not apply for a review of the determination, the news channel reported.

The Royal Women's Hospital admitted it owed Koppula a duty of care but denied that it breached it.

Rejecting claims that he suffered any injury, the hospital then applied for the proceedings to be dismissed.

A cesarean-section (C-section) is the surgical delivery of a baby through an incision made in the mother's abdomen and uterus, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine.

An abnormal fetal position or heart rate, labour problems, infections are some of the several medical reasons for performing the surgical procedure.

## British Indian Among Panellists Named For Review Into Leicester Unrest



IANAS

**LONDON:** The UK government has appointed three expert panellists, including a British Indian, to sit on an independent review into a communal unrest that occurred in Leicester city between Hindus and Muslims, following an India-Pakistan cricket match in Dubai last year.

UK Communities Secretary Michael Gove on Monday named Dr Samir Shah CBE, Professor Hilary Pilkington, Dr Shaaz Mahboob to work on review to establish the facts and identify the underlying causes of last year's unrest and make recommendations.

In September, 2022, community tensions led to a spate of vandalism, assaults, and attacks on places of worship and other properties in Leicester, in some cases highlighting divisions between different groups across the city and beyond.

Following the developments, Gove commissioned an independent review in May this year under the chairmanship of Lord Ian Austin, a former minister for housing and planning as well former minister for the West Midlands.

Stating that Leicester has a proud history of diversity, tolerance and community cohesion, Lord Austin said: "We want to listen to people in Leicester to understand last year's events, what can be learned from them and how communities in the city can work together to prevent problems in future".

"It is therefore vital that the review is comprehensive and even-handed and that this aim is reflected in the panellists we appoint," Lord Austin added.

Aurangabad-born Dr Shah is a former Commissioner for the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities and was a member

of the Holocaust Commission.

He was also the former chair of the independent race equality think tank, The Runnymede Trust, for 10 years.

Pilkington is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester and Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences.

She coordinated the H2020 DARE (Dialogue about Radicalisation and Equality) project, and her research includes focus to the study of youth participation, activism, stigmatisation and extremism in the UK.

Dr Mahboob is the head of Digital Development NHS England and trustee of British Muslims for Secular Democracy for 10 years until 2018, including its Vice Chair for a number of years.

"The diverse panel brings together a wealth of experience and knowledge, which should result in an honest, frank and productive review," Lord Austin said in a statement.

The panel, which is expected to publish the findings of the review next year, will establish the facts of what took place over the period of unrest, and a sequence of events.

Further, it will present an analysis of the causes of the unrest and make practical recommendations for how similar events that may arise in future could be prevented, a statement by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, said.

The panel will also set out proposals and ideas for strengthening social cohesion locally.

The unrest in Leicester, a city in England's East Midlands region, began after an India and Pakistan cricket match on August 28.

At least, 47 persons were arrested in what the police had described as a "series of disturbances".

# India Starting New Journey For A New Future: PM Before Entering New Parliament House

UNI

**NEW DELHI:** Reminiscing about India's glorious past and aiming high for the future, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday stressed for strengthening the economy and ensuring social justice for all.

Addressing MPs in the Central Hall of Parliament, PM Modi said that reforms have to be carried out keeping in mind the aspirations of every Indian.

"Indian aspirations must be at the helm of our decisions. We have to build an Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Amrit Kaal," Modi said.

While reiterating that India is well on track to become the third largest economy in the world, Modi laid emphasis on making world-class products.

He noted that India is full of new energy and growing rapidly.

"Based on the available information and discussions with eminent people I can say with full confidence that India will become the third economy, though some people may be negative and pessimistic about it," he said.

He, however, underlined the significance of all-inclusive growth and stated that without social justice desired results may not be realised.

Modi said aspirations of people are at perhaps 1000-year high. He said that India needs to work on a bigger canvas in the 25 years of Amrit Kaal.

"I had said from the Red Fort that this is the time, and this is the right time to march ahead. Today, India has woken up with a new consciousness.



India is brimming with new energy. This new consciousness and new energy can surely turn people's dreams into reality," he said. PM Modi proposed to name

the old Parliament building as 'Samvidhan Sadan'.

Earlier, in his address at the Central Hall, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury listed out several challenges such as unemployment and rising inequality facing the country.

He noted that one of the key determinants taken into consideration for designating a country as a developed nation is Human Development Index (HDI).

"As far as this is concerned, India has been lagging behind," he said, taking a dig at the Modi government.

The senior Congress leader said that while India boasts of a sizeable youth population, high unemployment poses a significant hurdle to leverage demographic advantage.

Leader of Opposition (LoP)

in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge remembered the great works and contributions made by leaders in the past. He also thanked Prime Minister Modi for recalling Jawaharlal Nehru's post-Independence speech in Parliament.

"I am thankful to the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) for recalling yesterday the historic 'Tryst with Destiny' speech of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru Ji," Kharge said taking jibe at the PM.

After the function at the Central Hall, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the MPs to the new parliament building.

"We are going to enter the new Parliament building today and do the Shri Ganesh (start a new journey) for a new future," Modi had said earlier in his address.

## UP Appoints 749 Doctors Through Walk-In Interviews



IAN S

**LUCKNOW:** The UP health department has recruited 749 more doctors through walk-in interviews, apart from its regular recruitment process, to fill the shortage of general physicians and specialists in various state-run hospitals.

A total of 393 MBBS and 356 specialists were selected for contractual jobs in the week-long interviews. These doctors will be working at different government hospitals as per the need and vacancies, said a senior health department official.

According to the official spokesman, the state has over 6,000 vacant posts of doctors at hospitals and health facilities in different districts.

A total of 4,322 MBBS and 767 specialist doctors took the interview. Those selected were asked to join duties at the health facilities concerned within a week.

Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma, principal secretary (medical health), said, "The postings of these doctors were planned on the basis of patient load at health facilities. Priority in posting was given to hospi-

tals with lesser number of doctors."

Among the selected doctors, 84 were orthopaedic surgeons who will also help run trauma centres being set up across the state.

There were 55 general surgeons, 59 gynaecologists, 32 paediatricians, 26 pathologists, 17 ophthalmologists, 22 ENT specialists, 16 physicians, four dermatologists, one neurosurgeon, two plastic surgeons, seven anaesthetists, one skin specialist and one radiotherapy specialist.

Based on the interviews, MBBS doctors and specialists in Grade A districts will be paid around Rs 50,000 and Rs 80,000, respectively.

MBBS doctors posted in Grade B cities will get Rs 55,000 while MBBS doctors taking up posting in Grade C cities will get Rs 60,000. Similarly, specialists will also get more payment depending on the city they choose.

Specialists in Grade B cities will get Rs 90,000 and those taking up posting in Grade C cities will get Rs 1,20,000. Grades of the cities had been decided by the departments based on various infrastructure and other parameters.

## Bus Falls Into Canal In Punjab; Five Killed, Two Missing



IAN S

**CHANDIGARH:** Five passengers were killed and 10 others injured when a private bus lost control and fell into the Sirhind feeder canal on the Muktsar-Kotkapura highway while crossing a bridge in Punjab's Muktsar on Tuesday, police said.

Two people were report-

edly missing. The bus with 40 people on board was the way from Muktsar to Kotkapura when it fell into the canal. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained.

"The condition of the bridge was bad," an eyewitness told the media.

The injured have been admitted to the Civil Hospital in Muktsar.

## New Bill Proposes Women's Reservation For 15 Years, May Roll Out In 2029



IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The women's reservation bill has proposed that the reservation would continue for a period of 15 years and there will be quota for SC and STs within the reserved seats for women.

The legislation however is unlikely to be implemented in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, sources said.

It will be rolled out only after the delimitation process is over, most probably in 2029, they added.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, was introduced in Lok Sabha in the supplementary list of business.

The reservation will come into effect after a delimitation exercise is undertaken and will continue for 15 years. Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation exercise, according to the bill.

The government said women participate substantively in panchayats and at municipal bodies, but their representation in State Assemblies, Parliament is still limited.

Women bring different perspectives and enrich quality of legislative debates and decision-making, it added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his first speech in the new parliament building said that there had been several efforts to introduce women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies since 1996.

In 1998 and 1999, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had brought the bill, but his dream could not be fulfilled. The last such attempt was made

in 2010, when the Rajya Sabha had passed a bill for women's reservation, but the same could not be passed in the Lok Sabha and it got lapsed.

Modi further said that Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam will further strengthen Indian democracy.

He said that the union cabinet had decided to give a go-ahead to the reservation of women in Parliament bill.

"This historic day of 19th September 2023 is going to be immortalised in the history of India," Modi said.

"Taking forward the resolution of women-led development, our government is today presenting a major Constitutional Amendment Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to expand the participation of women in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas."

He said that the Cabinet had decided to give a go-ahead to the Reservation of Women in Parliament Bill. This historic day of 19th September 2023 is going to be immortal in the history of India.

"Taking forward the resolution of women-led development, our government is today presenting a major Constitutional Amendment Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to expand the participation of women in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas"

"I assure all the mothers, sisters and daughters of the nation that we are committed to making this bill into law."

Bhawan (building) has changed, Bhav (feelings) should also change," he said while hinting at the conduct of members in Parliament.

"All of us should follow the Lakshman Rekha of parliamentary

traditions," he said, adding that though elections are far away, the conduct of members in the House will decide whether they will sit in the opposition or in the treasury benches.

"At the dawn of the Amrit Kaal, India is moving forward with a resolve for the future by heading into the new Parliament building," he said in Lok Sabha.

"It is the time to accomplish the resolves and begin the new journey with renewed enthusiasm and energy," Modi said.

Referring to the Sengol, which is stalled near the Speaker's chair in the new Parliament building, Modi said that it "links us with a very important part of our past."

He said that the sacred Sengol was touched by the first prime minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Later while speaking for the first time in the new Parliament, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that the Sengol was only handed to Nehru at his residence by the priest of a Madras temple.

He added that former Lok Sabha Speakers like Meira Kumar and Sumitra Mahajan had also argued for a new Parliament building.

He read the Preamble of the Constitution and said that it clearly says that India is one and that the best should not be any discrimination on caste or religious lines.

"We should not spread confusion in the name of the country, whether it is India or Bharat," Chowdhury said.

He also sought to know from the government why no deputy speaker had been appointed for the first time in the history of Independent India.

## Inter-State Drug Trafficker Held With Heroin Worth Rs 1.5 Cr In Delhi

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested an inter-state drug trafficker and recovered 1.5 kg of heroin worth over Rs 1.5 crore in the international market.

The drug trafficker was identified as Juned Khan alias Juber, (31), a resident of Bilaspur in Uttar Pradesh, a police officer said on Tuesday.

According to police, a tip-off was received that a drug supplier Juned Khan would arrive at the

Ghazipur Shamshan Ghat, Delhi, in his vehicle with a huge consignment of heroin to deliver to someone.

"A trap was set at the location and Juned Khan was apprehended. Over 1.5 kg of heroin was recovered from his possession," said Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), Ravindra Singh Yadav.

During interrogation, Juned Khan disclosed that in 2016 he came in contact with a person named Ishrat, who resides in Aliganj, Uttar Pradesh. Ishrat told him about the illegal heroin business.

"Finding it to be a lucrative venture, both Juned Khan and Ishrat got involved in the drug trade. They began supplying heroin in various areas of Bareilly.

"Meanwhile, Juned Khan got in touch with two other individuals, both residents of Manipur, who were also involved in heroin distribution in Bareilly after sourcing it from Manipur," said the Special CP.

"Under Ishrat's instructions, Juned Khan travelled to Delhi to deliver the seized contraband in his vehicle but was arrested by us in a quick operation," he added.

## Nutrition Campaign Foundation Of A Healthy & Strong India: Yogi



UNI

**LUCKNOW:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday emphasised that the nutrition campaign is the foundation of a healthy and capable India and said that there was a time when the liquor mafia used to supply 'nutritious food' in the state.

Addressing the National Nutrition Month program at Lok Bhavan on Monday, Yogi said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inspired the entire country to fight malnutrition by initiating a widespread campaign. In this direction, a lot of work has been done in UP over the past six years. Our government has created a new mechanism through which women self-help groups are now delivering nutritious food to Anganwadi centers."

He said that there was a time when the state used to witness around 1,200-1,500 deaths annually due to encephalitis. "Eastern UP was particularly affected by this disease. In the last 30 years from 1977 to 2017, approximately 50,000 children in the state fell prey to this disease," he said.

Emphasizing upon the significant improvements in the National Family Health Survey, the CM said that there has been a 5.1 percent improvement in anemia, a 6.6 percent improvement in dwarfism, a 7.4 percent improvement in underweight and a 0.6 percent improvement in dryness between 2015-2016 and 2019-2020.

He said, "After our government came to power, we started our efforts to eradicate encephalitis from the state through inter-departmental coordination with the Central Government in 2018 and today we have been largely successful in our attempt."

Highlighting the decline in maternal and child mortality rates in UP, Yogi said, "This became possible because mothers and children started receiving nutritious food. Our government will organise competitions for healthy boys and girls at the Anganwadi centers, Nyay Panchayat and block level."

He said that as this year marks the first year of the Azaadi Ka Amrit Kal, the government aims at establishing India as the world's third-largest economy by 2027. He said that Prime Minister Modi has set a goal for 2047, the centenary year of India's independence, to make the country developed.

The CM said, "For this, we need to make our country healthy, educated, and capable."

During the baby shower ceremony, he gifted medicines and nutritious food items to some pregnant women. He also performed Annaprashan Sanskar of infants by feeding pudding to them.

During the program, Yogi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 1,359 Anganwadi centers at a cost of Rs 155 crore. Besides, the foundation stone of 171 child development project offices was laid at a cost of Rs 50 crore.

He also transferred an amount of Rs 29 crore through DBT for uniforms (sarees) to 2.90 lakh Anganwadi workers and helpers.

# YS&S G'bal organizes Inter Zone District Level Kabaddi competition

GMK SPORTS DESK

**GANDERBAL:** The Youth Services and Sports (YS&S) department Ganderbal Tuesday organized a spectacular Inter Zone District level Kabaddi competition for Boys at GCOPE Gadoora Ganderbal.

The event saw the enthusiastic participation of 124 student players from all four Zones of the district. The officials and the student players took a Panch Pran Pledge before the commencement of the



event. The competition unfolded with fervor and intensity shining a spotlight on the remarkable athletic prowess of these young participants.

The efforts of the meritorious teams were recognized by the senior officials of the department with felicitating them with the well-deserved trophies after the culmination of the activity.

Sports events like these play a crucial role in promoting fitness and teamwork among students.

# J&K Tourism returns for 3rd edition

UNI

**NEW DELHI:** The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) has announced the 3rd edition of J&K Open golf championship to be held at the pristine Jammu Tawi Golf Course in Jammu, from October 4-7, 2023.

The 4-day tournament, whose reward has been enhanced to Rs. 50 lakh will be organised in active association with the J&K Tourism. The Pro-Am event will be held on October 8.

The top Indian professionals participating in the event include Udayan Mane, Rashid Khan, defending champion Yuvraj Singh Sandhu and former champion Honey Baisoya, to name a few. The foreign challenge will be led by Bangladeshis Jamal Hossain and Badal Hossain as



well as Sri Lankans N Thangaraja and Mithun Perera, to name a few.

"We look forward to our continued association with the J&K Open golf tournament and the PGTI. This tournament gives us

a great platform to project the UT of Jammu & Kashmir as a favourable destination for Golf Tourism for business and leisure travelers from all across the world. Our partnership with PGTI and the staging

of the J&K Open also provides us the opportunity to showcase the outstanding golfing venues in J&K to a wider audience," special Secretary to Government, J&K Tourism Department, Amarjeet Singh said.

## ISSF WORLD CUP

# Rifle shooter Nischal bags silver as India finish with two medals

SIANS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Teenage Indian rifle shooter Nischal bagged silver in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage here to give India a second medal on the final day of the tournament.

Her achievement becomes even more credible given this was her very first senior World Cup final. Nischal finished behind Norwegian Rifle ace Jeanette Hegg Duestad with a score of 458.0 in the final late on Monday night.

Duestad is the reigning Air Rifle European Champion and 300m 3P World Champion and has 12 ISSF World Cup medals to her name including five gold. She was also fourth in the Tokyo Olympics in Air Rifle.

Nischal, who is in her first senior year and has three international medals at the junior level, was in supreme shooting form throughout the day, breaking the qualification national record in Women's 3P in the process. "It is my first world cup final and I have a medal, so I am very happy for that," the teenager quipped after a gruelling day's work.

It all began with the elimination rounds in the morning where a total of 18 shooters were eliminated over two rounds totalling 73 competitors. She shot a solid 587 in relay one to safely make it to qualification. So did her two countrywomen, previous qualification national record

holder Anjum Moudgil and Ayushi Podder, both of whom shot in relay two.

Then in qualification, Nischal shot a sublime 592 including a perfect 200 in the prone position, to erase Anjum's score of 591, shot in the President's Cup in Cairo last year. Anjum her-

consequent 15 shots in the prone position.

By the time, Ukrainian Viktoriya Sukhorukova and Swiss shooter Chiara Leone became first to be eliminated after the first 10-shots in the standing position, Duestad had opened up a gap of 0.7 over

cluding day but he could not make much headway, shooting 574 to finish 15th in the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol.

The 16-member Indian contingent thus returned with one gold and one silver from the Rio World Cup and a creditable seventh position



self shot a solid 586, but finished 10th to miss the final by a point. Ayushi was further back in 35th with 580.

The final had a stellar field. Besides Duestad, there was qualification topper (594) and world champion Wanru Miao of China, 2018 Youth Olympic champion Stephanie Grundsoe of Denmark, Italian Olympian Sofia Ceccarello and senior Polish shooter Aneta Stankiewicz, among others.

Not one to be fazed, Nischal went head-to-head with the Duestad from get-go of the 45-shot final. She was 0.1 behind the Norwegian after the first 15 kneeling shots and the same after the

the Indian.

A 9.4 by the Norwegian for her 41st was cancelled out by a 9.0 from Nischal for her 42nd and the gap widened to 1.1. An 8.4 for the 43rd almost cost her a medal, but Wanru still fell short of the Indian and bowed out in fourth.

Thereafter, Stephanie Grundsoe, who had moved up to second, shot a 7.9 in her 44th shot, assuring Nischal of silver and herself settling for bronze. Duestad closed out calmly for gold with a 10.2 and a score of 461.5, a clear 3.5 ahead of the Haryana shooter.

Gurpreet Singh was also in action in the other medal event of the con-

the standings, considering there was only limited participation by India in the event. Elavenil Valarivan had also won the Women's 10m Air Rifle gold in tremendous fashion.

Earlier in the week, two more Indians just like Anjum on Monday, missed making the finals by the narrowest of possible margins. Reigning Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat missed making the final of the Women's 25m Pistol by virtue of having lesser shots in the inner 10-ring.

Also on Sunday, another seasoned Indian shooter Chain Singh, missed making the Men's 3P final by a point.

# Journey of Indian men's hockey team in quest for World No.1

UNI

**HANGZHOU:** For close to a century, India has peaked in hockey, from winning Olympic gold medals to World Cup glory. But despite their overwhelming dominance, India's men's team has never been world No.1 as the ranking system was introduced only in 2003.

Under the new ranking system, the seedings and pools of the teams were determined by their performances at tournaments organised by the International Hockey Federation.

Since this method was unfavourable for smaller nations, a new system was adopted which is based on the Elo rating system. This system is used in chess, football, table tennis, American football and Major League Baseball (MLB).

In this approach, every hockey match is taken into consideration to reflect the current form of teams.

The number of ranking points earned or lost depended on the result of the match, the relative ranking of the teams and the importance of the match or tournament.

This means that the number of ranking points gained by one team is exactly matched by the number of points lost by the other. Teams win more points for beating higher-ranked opponents, and therefore teams lose more



points for losing to a side ranked below them.

Since the implementation of the new ranking system, Indian hockey team ranking has fluctuated over the years.

The men's team was ranked sixth when the hockey ranking system was introduced in 2003.

In the same year, India won the Asia Cup for the first time by beating arch-rivals Pakistan.

But India's form soon took a dip, and they were crashing out of tournaments early on. They came seventh in the eight-nation Rabo Trophy in 2005 and were last in the 2005 Champions Trophy as well.

Although India were struggling to win tournaments, they maintained their position in the top 10 since the hockey ranking system considered results from a four-year cycle. A bronze medal at the 2007 Champions Challenge also helped India's cause.

Indian hockey's dip in

form soon reflected in the rankings.

The Indian men's hockey team lost five of its seven matches at the 2006 Hockey World Cup to end the tournament in 11th position.

The Indian hockey team then failed to qualify for the Olympics for the first time in 80 years, missing the cut for Beijing 2008.

The dismal run meant India dropped out of the top 10 of the hockey rankings for the first time in 2008.

Former world champions India hosted the World Cup in 2010 but only won once in the pool stage and ended the tournament in eighth place.

This further dropped India to 12th, which is their worst hockey rank ever to date.

India's performances saw a gradual improvement in the next decade.

India won the Asian Champions Trophy four times (2011, 2016 and 2018),

along with the 2014 Asian Games and the 2017 Asia Cup. India were also medalists at the Champions Trophy, the Commonwealth Games and the Hockey World League.

The steady improvement reflected in the hockey rankings and India were up to fifth when the old ranking system was replaced in 2020.

Indian men reached their highest ranking - third - in 2021 after winning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics. It was their first Olympic medal in 41 years.

Since then, Indian men finished third in the Asian Champions Trophy 2021, FIH Pro League 2021-22 and at the Asia Cup 2022. At the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham they won a silver medal and then managed to reclaim the Asian Champions Trophy title in 2023.

The Indian men's hockey team is currently ranked third in the world.

## ISL 2023-24

# Chennaiyin FC sign Serbian defender Lazar Cirkovic to strengthen defence unit

SIANS

**CHENNAI:** Chennaiyin FC has completed the signing of Serbian defender Lazar Cirkovic ahead of the 2023-24 season, the Indian Super League (ISL) club announced on Tuesday.

The club signed Serbian

defender as their fifth foreigner ahead of the upcoming ISL season. "We're delighted to bring Lazar to the club. We've chased him. For a while he's had a lot of interest from clubs because he plays at such a high level with great pedigree. And he's a tremendous addition.

He's played at the highest level and he'll be able to impart that knowledge and that quality. A terrific signing for the club." Chennaiyin head coach the Owen Coyle told the club's media team.

Cirkovic last turned out for Hungarian club Budapest

Honved FC where he made 17 appearances in the Hungarian First Division in the 2022-23 season. He has played most of his senior football in the Serbian First Division, making 146 appearances for FK Rad, FK Partizan Belgrade and Kisvarda FC.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT DIVISION QAZIGUND**

Email: qazigundphedivision@gmail.com (Phone No./Fax No. 01931-295040)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state, for the work mentioned below:-

S.No.	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Time of completion	Earnest money.	Class of Contractor	M.H	Cost of Tender doc. (In Rs)
1.	Construction of R.Wall and Laying and Fitting of pipes Supply Main and Distribution System For Chontipora and Bonagund WSS Chontipora Bagwanpora Under NABARD	11.382	30days	22764	DEE/CEE	NABARD	500/-

**Position of Accord: Available**  
**Position of Technical Sanction: Available**

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

- Bids must be uploaded on Jketenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund (Tender receiving authority).
- Earnest Money equivalent to 2% of Advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR/BG without which the tender shall not be entertained. (Pledged to Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Qazigund)
- The quantity of items in the BOQ are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. The quantity items in the BOQ can increase or decrease and shall not be mentioned in the allotment order.
- The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job failing which the Engineer In-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond in time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debared to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.
- The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the peripherals of the area, before tendering for the stages of the particular area at his own expenses.
- The tenderers have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof. No conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be lowest one.
- The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work in rate/quantity schedule in the form of BOQ.
- The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available with him or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required for execution of any of the work or works allotted to him.

**Unbalanced Tender:**

- In case bidder uploads his bid with respective below percentage than the advertised cost, additional performance security in the shape of CDR / FDR shall have to be uploaded along with the online bid by the bidder at the time of submission of his/her bid falling which, his/her bid shall be rejected. The Additional performance security deposit of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of work up to 50%. The additional performance security unbalanced bid shall be worked out as per following breakup.

S. No.	Percentage of Unbalanced Tender viz advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% and upto 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and upto 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and upto 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30%	20%

- The Payment to the concerned agency shall be made as per availability of funds.
- The items which may not figure in the BOQ but found necessary for execution shall be paid as per SSR or lowest market rates decided by the contract committee of the Divisional Level.
- Work done claims has to be supported with pre, during and post photographic evidence.
- Critical dates:

Sl No.	Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice.	18.09.2023
01	Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice.	18.09.2023
02	Start of Downloading	18.09.2023 2.00 PM
03	Bid Submission Start Date	18.09.2023 2.00 PM
04	Bid submission end date	28.09.2023 4.00 PM
05	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	30.09.2023 10.00 AM

DIPK-9133-23  
DT: 19/09/2023

Executive Engineer,  
J.S PHE Division Qazigund

# LG inaugurates JKAACL's Kashmir Folk Festival in Srinagar

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday inaugurated the Kashmir Folk Festival, organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages at Tagore Hall.



In his address, the Lt Governor commended the efforts of the JKAACL, artists, literary people from J&K and various organizations for promotion of local folk art and culture.

Diverse culture, different art forms are our greatest strength. The peace has provided the conducive environment for the revival of cultural activities. In the last few years, dedicated efforts have been made through literary & folk festivals, theatre, cultural exchange programmes and cultural events to provide platform to our artists and young talent, the Lt Governor said.

"We have taken decisive steps for rejuvenation of our rich cultural heritage and it is heartening to see that youth in large numbers are coming forward to promote cultural activities," the Lt Governor said.

Our cultural and spiritual heritage is attracting the people from across the world. The earnest efforts made to facilitate the tourists visiting the UT have also opened up large livelihood generation avenues for the youth, local people and all the associated stakeholders, he said.

At the inaugural event, the Lt Governor called upon the artists, poets and literary personalities of the UT to work collectively and complement the government's endeavours to preserve the cultural and folk traditions of Jammu Kashmir.

Sh Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL shared the efforts of the academy for promotion and preservation of local art, culture and lan-

guages. He also informed about the upcoming events to be organized as a part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.

Cultural performances displaying the folk art of Jammu Kashmir were performed by artists.

Senior officers of UT and Police Administration, eminent artists and personalities from diverse fields were present.

# Tributes paid to Dr. Aziz Hajini on 2nd death anniversary

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BANDIPORA:** A poignant event unfolded in the serene town of Hajin as various authors, scholars, and bureaucrats from across Kashmir convened to pay glowing tributes to the late Dr. Aziz Hajini on the occasion of his second death anniversary.

Organized jointly by Halqa Adab Sonwari and Wahab Cultural Society, the event was held at Higher Secondary Hajin to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Aziz Hajini, a national awardee writer, critic, and former secretary of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The speakers on the occasion threw light on different dimensions of Dr Hajini's multifaceted personality, especially his strong commitment towards the cause of the Kashmiri language. Azhar Hajini while referring to one of his late father's couplets about his mother tongue said the biggest tribute to him would certainly be to love the cause he has lived for till his last breath.

The event commenced with the recitation of the Quran by Molvi Bilal



Ahmad, followed by Sagar Sarfaraz's moving rendition of Naat. Alhaj Gh Nabi Dar, a senior member of Halqa Adab Sonwari, presided over the congregational Fatah khawani.

In the first session, the eminent scholar and writer, Prof Shad Ramzan, who also serves as the convener of the Kashmiri Advisory Board at Sahitya Akademi New Delhi, presided over the session. Notable figures like Dr Rafiq Masoodi, Mohd. Amin Bhat and Sannaulah Niyaz graced the session. Shaker Shafi delivered the welcome address, reminiscing about the contributions of Dr Hajini and

Mohd Ahsan Ahsan with heartfelt emotion. President Adbi Markaz Kamraz, Mohd Amin Bhat in his keynote address titled "Aziz Hajini: The Patron of Our Literary Traditions," shed light on Dr Hajini's invaluable services to the Kashmiri language, emphasizing that his contribution is irreplaceable.

Prof Zaman Azurdah presided over the second session, with District Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmed Rana, as the chief guest. The event witnessed the launch of various books, including "Wanaiy u Seer Assar" by Asmat Aziz, Shaker Shafi's translation work "Aabeena

Khana," and a poetry collection titled "Gare Aziyat" by Faisal Ayub. Dr. Gulzar Ahmad and Dr Qaisar-ul-Haq provided insightful reviews of the two works.

In a significant recognition, the well-known Sufi poet, Shah Mustafa Alvi Gulgani, was honoured with the Khilat e Hajini and Syed Insha received the prestigious Hajini Gold Medal for securing the first position in BA Kashmiri Language.

Dr Owais Rana in his address referred to Hajin as the "Land of Scholars." Speaking about the contributions of Late Hajini he added, "Unwavering commitment to the preservation and promotion of the Kashmiri language. He was aptly referred to as the undying flame of the linguistic movement."

Prof Azurda while fondly recalling his association with Hajin and Aziz Hajini paid heartfelt tributes. Azhar Hajini extended gratitude to the guests in a thanksgiving speech. The evening was further enriched by the soulful performance of Dr Hajini's poetry by the renowned Kashmiri singer, Waheed Jeelani.

# Pak-linked hacker spreading malware via fake YouTube apps

**SIANS**

**NEW DELHI:** "Transparent Tribe", a suspected Pakistan-linked hacker known for targeting military and diplomatic personnel in both India and Pakistan, is using malicious Android apps mimicking YouTube to spread the CapraRAT mobile remote access trojan (RAT), a new report has shown.



likeness, suggesting that the hacker "continues to use romance-based social engineering techniques to convince targets to install the applications, and that Piya Sharma is a related persona".

According to the cybersecurity company SentinelOne, the CapraRAT toolset has been used for surveillance against spear-phishing targets privy to affairs involving the disputed region of Kashmir, as well as human rights activists working on matters related to Pakistan.

Upon installation, the apps request intrusive permissions that allow the malware to harvest and exfiltrate sensitive information to a hacker-controlled server with notable features such as - recording with the microphone, front & rear cameras, collecting SMS and multimedia message contents, call logs, sending SMS messages, blocking incoming SMS, initiating phone calls, and more, the report said.

"Transparent Tribe is a perennial actor with reliable habits. The relatively low operational security bar enables swift identification of their tools," Delamotte said.

The hacker most recently targeted the Indian education sector.

Earlier this year, the group distributed CapraRAT Android apps disguised as a 'dating service' that conducted spyware activity.

Moreover, the report found that one of the newly identified APKs reached out to a YouTube channel belonging to Piya Sharma, which has several short clips of a woman in various locales.

CapraRAT is an Android framework that hides RAT features inside of another

This APK also borrowed the individual's name and

# Groom, his father arrested after skipping wedding day reception in Awantipora

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**Srinagar:** Acting swiftly on a complaint, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said to have arrested a groom and his father in South Kashmir's Awantipora area for allegedly running away and refusing to attend the reception on the last moment.

"Police Station Awantipora received a written complaint from one Shazia Akhter against Fayaz Ahmad Dar and his father Mohammad Shaban Dar son of Gh. Qadir Dar residents of Kandizal Awantipora stating there in that her wedding reception was scheduled on 16/09/2023 with Fayaz Ahmad Dar, after performing the Nikah earlier," a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

However, all the arrangements were put in place for the arrival of the groom along with wedding procession. The said wedding reception was called off at the last moment by the groom side on the pretext that the groom has run away and has refused to attend the reception thereby denying the Nikah which has been performed earlier, police said.

# J&K govt tells officials to expedite physical verification of 16000 works, projects

**NASIR AZAM**

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move aimed at enhancing accountability and transparency in governance, the Jammu & Kashmir government has directed officers to expedite physical verification of over 16000 works/projects.

Documents accessed show that regional directors/ district statistics and evaluation officers have been directed to speed up physical verification of over 16000 projects.

"Regional Directors/ District Statistics & Evaluation Officers shall expedite the physical verification of over 16000 works/projects," reads a record note of a meeting chaired by Principal Secretary, Finance department on September 12, 2023 to review capital expenditure.

The Finance department also expressed concern over the progress achieved in 2022-23 vis-à-vis physical verification of works.

"The physical verification/ inspection of works is playing a crucial role in transparency of the execution. However, the progress achieved for the year 2022-23 is very low (5.75 %)," reads the documents. The officers were also

told that "physical verification of works has to happen systematically and shall be evenly planned for the entire financial year".

According to the record note, officers were also told to ensure that the expenditure level is increased expeditiously to bridge infrastructure gaps. "Capital expenditure is lagging substantially. All the planning officers may ensure that the expenditure level is increased expeditiously to bridge infrastructure deficit," reads the record note.

The departments were asked to control their revenue budget to increase expenditure on capital budget.

The Finance department has also asked the departments to ensure that the accord of administrative approval, tendering and allotment of works is done by the end of September.

"All the concerned departments may expedite submission of utilization certificates under centrally sponsored schemes, Prime Minister's Development Programme to their respective ministers in Government of India so that each department gets the next installment of funds from Government of India by October 2023," the record note states—(KNO)

# Mayor JMC calls on Lt Guv



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj

Sinha at Raj Bhawan, Tuesday.

The Mayor discussed with the Lt Governor various important matters pertaining to Jammu Municipal Corporation.

# Carpenter dies after falling from rooftop in Budgam village

**NAVEED UL HAQ**

**BUDGAM:** A 62-year-old man, carpenter by profession, died after he fell from a rooftop of house in Repora village of Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that the man identified as

Samad Najar son of Gh Qadir Najar of Kherigund Chadoora was working when he fell down from the rooftop of house. He was immediately taken to sub-district hospital Chadoora for treatment where he was pronounced dead.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

# Yawar Mubarak – a specially-abled cricketer with indomitable spirit

**KNO CORRESPONDENT**

**KULGAM:** Yawar Mubarak Bhat, a specially-abled cricketer hailing from the Ladgoon in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, is breaking boundaries and shattering stereotypes as he continues to shine in the world of cricket at the national level.

His journey in cricket began at the tender age of 10, but it took a tragic turn when he lost his arm in a devastating accident involving a truck while playing cricket.

Despite this life-altering setback, Yawar's determination and passion for the sport never waned. He went on to hone his skills and develop into an exceptional all-rounder, excelling both in bowling and batting.

Having played cricket in various locations

across India, including Lucknow, Varanasi, and Haryana; Bhat dreams of representing India and the Union Territory of J&K at the international level.

"I want to showcase that a disability doesn't limit one's abilities and dreams. I am living proof of that," he said.

However, Yawar faces significant obstacles on his path to international cricket. Despite offers to play at the international level, he was unable to take that leap due to the unavailability of a passport and financial constraints. This has not deterred his spirit, as he remains unwavering in his commitment to the sport and his desire to inspire others with disabilities.

Notwithstanding the numerous challenges he

has faced, Bhat's determination has been unwavering. He humbly acknowledges the limited support he has received throughout his journey.

"Nobody has supported me in my journey except my parents and one person from Municipal Council Kulgam," he said.

Yawar said there is a lot of untapped talent in Kashmir and stressed the importance of providing a platform for these talented individuals to showcase their skills. He believes that with the right opportunities and support, the youth of Kashmir can achieve great heights in various fields, including sports. He hopes to break barriers, inspire others, and ultimately represent his nation and region on the grand stage of cricket—(KNO)

# Tulail Hr Sec school grapples with staff shortage



**SAJID RAINA**

**BANDIPORA:** The students at Government Higher Secondary School Budaab, located in the Tulail Valley of Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, have expressed concern over the shortage of staff, saying their education is getting severely affected.

Students said there are only two lecturers in the school.

The students said the chronic shortage of staff in schools is compelling those from economically low backgrounds to make a difficult choice of either discontinuing their education or enrolling in private institutions.

Haseeb Ahmad, a student, said, "We have been pleading for additional staff for several months but our pleas remain just pleas."

Another student Saleem Ahmad said the staff shortage has taken a toll on their academic progress. He said the government is not taking the issue seriously.

The parents of the student also have expressed concern over the non-availability of an adequate number of teachers in the school.

"I am concerned over the future of my son. I have to take some decisions now," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a parent. However, many parents have decided to enroll their children in private schools.

The students as well as parents have appealed to the Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) to address this pressing issue promptly.

An official of the education department said he would look into the matter—(KNO)

# Uptick in wild animal attacks in Kupwara scares residents

**TASADUQ HUSSAIN**

**KUPWARA:** With no demarcation of wildlife-designated forested area, safety concerns continue to grow among residents as cases of human-animal conflict sees a uptick in north Kashmir's Kupwara.

Cases of deaths and injuries in attacks by wild animals such as leopards and bears have been reported from Hyhama, Trehgam, Mawer, Langate, and a few other areas of the district.

The residents said that the authorities need to act swiftly and initiate concrete steps to ensure their safety.

"The constant movement of bears and leopards has caused panic among the inhabitants who are living in fear of potential encounters with these wild animals. The safety of the children and residents is at significant risk," they said.

Referring to the death of a minor boy in the Rajwar area on Monday (Yesterday) they said that inci-

dents like this have caused an extreme scare among the residents.

"With protected areas exclusively designated for wildlife animals, all those recused once won't come back to civilian areas. It will also curtail the movement of other wild animals thus bringing much-needed peace among the population," said the residents.

Wildlife Warden North Kashmir Mohammad Maqbool told KNO that there is sometimes fluctuation in the population of animals. "The number keeps going up and coming down. There is a surge in the number of wild animals and many factors are involved in it. Human-animal conflict is more prevalent in places where houses are close to forests or have maize crops. Humans are also responsible for it given they go to forests," he said.

The warden said that the department is taking every measure to ensure the safety of everyone. "We make sure

people are aware of Do's and don'ts. People also need to take precautionary measures to ensure their safety. Family members need to take care of their children during evening and morning hours in particular," he said.

The warden also said that their department is equipped with all the latest equipment used during rescue operations.

Referring to regular sightings and attacks, the wildlife warden said that it is prevalent everywhere across the country from south to north.

About the concerns of the public, he said that the Kupwara district doesn't have any particular protected area designated for wildlife. "We only have territorial forest here, not anything designated for the protected area."

"We don't have sufficient staff available and given that no proposal has been prepared to pitch for designated protected wildlife area, the warden said—(KNO)