

# Good Morning Kashmir

**Office of LG J&K**  
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Hosted a 'High Tea' for the players participating in Legends League Cricket game at Jammu. This is the first major international Cricket event for the UT after more than three decades and a beginning of new sporting era for Jammu Kashmir.



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**Fire Damages Masjid In Srinagar**  
REHAN QAYOUM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** A four-storeyed Masjid in Saraf Kadal area of downtown Srinagar was damaged in a fire incident in the intervening night of Monday-Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that the fire was reported at 1:04 AM and the fire tenders from Babademb, M R Gunj, and F&ES Headquarters were immediately dispatched to the spot.

The fire was brought under control while no loss of life or casualties were reported in the incident. The fire, however, damaged the attic of the

## Kashmir Braces Up For 2-Day Wet Spell From Today



**OWAIS GUL**

**SRINAGAR:** With the improvement in foggy weather conditions as well as in minimum temperatures across the Valley, the weatherman here has predicted two-day wet spell in Kashmir, saying that the light snow and rainfall is expected for the next two days.

Deputy Director, the Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that light rains and snowfall is expected at fairly widespread places from tomorrow.

"Although there is no forecast of any major rains or snowfall, the light rains, as well as snow, is expected on November 29-30," he said, adding that the wet spell is expected under the influence of a weak Western Disturbance.

"The weather is expected to remain mainly dry from December 01-December 08," he said, adding that as per the forecast, there would

**THE WEATHER IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN MAINLY dry from December 01-December 08,"** he said, adding that as per the forecast, there would be an improvement in the foggy weather conditions.

## 'Rs 5000 Cr Invested In 4 Years To Upgrade Power Infra'

**RIYAZ BHAT**

**SRINAGAR:** With the increasing demand of electricity in Jammu and Kashmir, officials have said that the Power Development Department (PDD) was continuing its 'old and obsolete infrastructure' that is posing a major hindrance in providing uninterrupted power supply to the citizens.

The official documents available reads that the UT was dependent on hydel energy.

"The power demand in J&K is primarily met through hydel power, which, however, varies with seasonal variations, thereby causing power deficit mainly during winter when power demand surges high," it reads.

About the continuance of old and obsolete infrastructure, the document reveals, "The replacement of existing old and out-dated elements of distribution network has never been given due consideration and many of which are therefore continuing in the system from more than 40 years after repeated repairs."

"It was posing a major hindrance in providing uninterrupted power supply mainly due to frequent snapping of conductors and damage to the transformers," it reads.

The official document further states that the frequent snapping of conductors was posing a serious threat to men and material.

With these issues, the experts according to the document have suggested that the present transmission system needs strengthening by creation of new transmission lines and grid stations which would require huge investment, not only to meet the growing power demand but also to



## Uttarakhand Tunnel Collapse All 41 Trapped Workers Rescued Successfully

**AGENCIES**

**UTTARAKHAND:** After tireless efforts of rescuers which continued for 16 days, all 41 trapped workers were evacuated successfully from the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand.

Meanwhile, locals distributed sweets outside the Silkyara tunnel as trapped workers were being rescued from the tunnel.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met the workers who have been rescued along with Union Minister of State General (Retd) VK Singh.

"Initial health check-up of all the workers is being done

## Govt Suspends JKAS Officer

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR-** The government of Jammu and Kashmir has put on suspension Regional Director, Survey & Land Records, Anantnag, pending enquiry into his conduct.

Abdul Hafiz Shah, JKAS, has been placed under suspension, with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct, Abdul Hafiz Shah, JKAS, Regional Director, Survey & Land



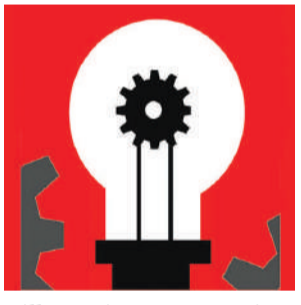
## Power Pilferage KPDCL To Rope In Religious Clerics, Civil Society

**MUBASHIR AALAM WANI**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to rope in religious clerics, scholars and civil society to ensure the judicious use of electricity.

In view of the increasing complaints about power thefts and illegal connections, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is taking this measure to enhance the power situation within the valley.

Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H Rajesh Prasad said that they



will rope in representatives from various sections of the society to disseminate the message of judicious use of electricity within the public.

"We will take support of all those persons who have a social concern and

## LG Manoj Sinha Hosts International Cricket Players

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**JAMMU:** The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Tuesday hosted high tea for international cricket players participating in Legends League cricket matches in Jammu city.

While interacting with the Cricketers, the Lt Governor said the entire Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir is proud and excited about the matches being held at MA Stadium. He said: "This is the first major international Cricket event for the UT after several decades and a beginning of new sporting era for Jammu Kashmir. These matches featuring International Cricket



## CS, Secy DARPG Release Case Studies Of GGI

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

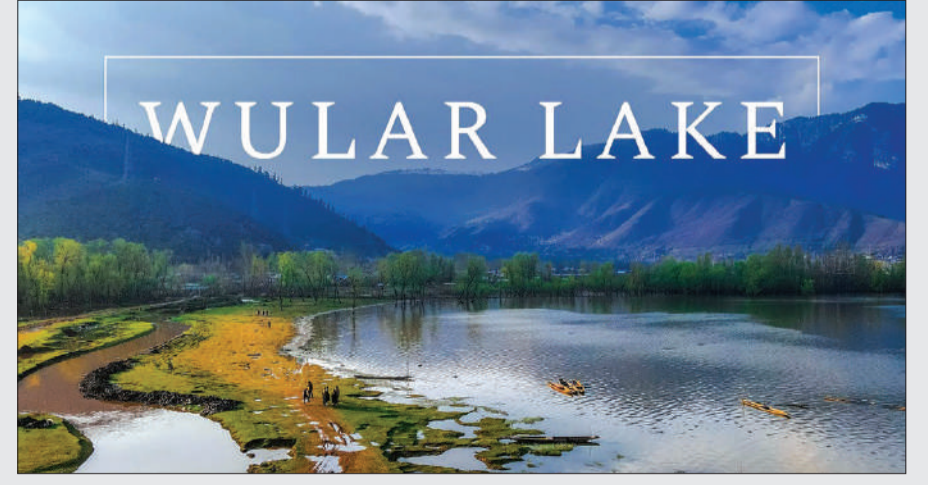
**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and Secretary Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India, V Srinivas Tuesday released four case studies of Good Governance Initiatives of Jammu and Kashmir.

The four initiatives are Back to Village, Empowerment (Janbhagidari) Portal, Jammu and Kashmir Bank - A story of transformation and Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana.

While launching the case studies, the Chief Secretary highlighted the stellar



## 'Wular Lake To Be Promoted As Premier Tourism Destination'



**SAJID RAINA**

**BANDIPORA:** Secretary Tourism Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah Tuesday assured that Wular Lake, the second-largest freshwater lake in Asia, will be promoted as the premier tourism destination of Kashmir.

Talking to media persons after chairing a public Darbar at Sumbal-Sonwari in northern district of Bandipora, Shah emphasized that Wular Lake is poised to become a significant tourism destination, with the government contemplating various events.

He assured the people of Bandipora that multiple initiatives will be implemented at Wular Lake to preserve its importance and tourism potential. He added that enhancing

## TB Cases On Decline In Kashmir



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant development, Tuberculosis (TB) cases across the Kashmir region are on the decline due to concerted efforts by the health department, public awareness campaigns, and improved healthcare facilities, officials said.

Official data obtained indicates a decreasing trend in TB cases across Kashmir, with the region aiming to be TB-free by 2025.

According to the data, in 2020, 2,841 cases were reported in the Kashmir division, with fewer screenings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The numbers increased to 3,439 cases in 2021, followed by 3,396 in 2022, and 2,638 cases reported so far this year.

Officials said that the target for this year was to have cases below 3,500, and they are confident of achieving this goal.



**ANIMAL**

WORLD RELEASE DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2023



**SAM BAHADUR**

1.12.2023

**ADVANCE BOOKINGS OPEN**

**RELEASING FRIDAY, 01 DECEMBER**

TICKETS AT: [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com) | [www.inoxmovies.com](http://www.inoxmovies.com)  
Paytm, Inox App or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

**INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR**

Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets

# Years on, Kawacheck-Dardapora road in shambles



SAJAD PEER

**SRINAGAR:** The residents of Kawacheck - Dardapora area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday expressed dismay over the dilapidated condition of the Kawacheck - Dardapora road.

Talking to Good Morning Kashmir, the residents complained that the road was in complete shambles giving tough time to commuters. They said that this road has never been macadamized even after approaching the concerned authorities numerous

times. The road presents a pathetic look and craves for government's attention, Aadil Ahmal, a local said. The locals said the road acts as an important link, connecting several areas with main road and thousands of people and trans-

porters pass through it daily. "It is in a bad condition, making the movement of people very difficult," locals said. The residents have urged the Lieutenant Governor-led administration to look into the matter at the earliest.

# Stray dogs on prowl in Nowshera



ASHIQ NAIK

**SRINAGAR:** Residents of Nowshera here have expressed resentment over presence of stray dogs in the locality. A delegation from the locality said that presence of scores of stray dogs has hampered movement of locals. "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. These canines pose risk to commuters. We appeal SMC Commissioner to look into the matter," said Hanan Ahmad, a local. Stray dogs can be seen in large groups around garbage dumps in the residential 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. According to residents, the authorities have failed to initiate any concrete efforts to control the problem, despite many complaints. "We fear that the dog population if kept unchecked could trigger fear psychosis among people. The dog issue needs to be dealt with seriously or else by four years dogs may outnumber Srinagarites and they will victimize every one

of us," they said. "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," Manzoor Ahmad, a resident of Nowshera said. The residents appealed to the authorities to look into the issue so that they can move around freely without fear of being attacked by stray dogs.

# Residents of Bhatnoor, Tral demand upgrading health centre to PHC

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**PULWAMA:** The residents of Bhatnoor in the Tral sub-division of south Kashmir's Pulwama district are urging the authorities to upgrade the local sub-centre to a Primary Health Centre (PHC).

The residents said there is an urgent need for the upgradation of Bhatnoor Health Centre which currently serves several villages in the area.

While the government has constructed a substantial building for the health centre, the current facilities, available only from 10 am to 4 pm, are insufficient for the needs of the people of this area where mostly financially weaker sections live, said Ghulam Mohiuddin, a local.

"The population of the area is expanding, which has led to an increase in healthcare requirements. Although there is one doctor and two Female Multi-Purpose Health Workers (FMPHWs) performing their duties well, after 4 pm, we have no option but to travel to Tral for further treatment," he said.

Locals said the lack of ambulance services at the centre adds to the challenges as it requires them to spend Rs 500 on fares to



reach Tral.

Given the health centre's role in catering to a large area, residents strongly advocate for its upgrade to a PHC. "This would lead to the posting of additional staff and the availability of round-the-clock medical facilities," they said.

Locals said they have brought the issue, including staff shortages, the need for an ambulance, and laboratory facilities, to the attention of authorities multiple times, but received nothing except assurances. Residents have appealed to higher authorities to address the issue of upgrading the health centre and enhancing facilities to alleviate the challenges faced by them.

A health official said that Bhatnoor is currently a sub-centre, and according to rules, it has adequate staff, including one MLHP and two FMPHWs. He said the staff can only be increased by upgrading the centre's status to a PHC, a proposal that is currently under active consideration—(KNO)

# Naseerabad locality faces acute water shortage, threatens to hit streets

WARIS FAYAZ

**SOPORE:** Relying on around 400 households, Naseerabad locality in north Kashmir's Sopore town are up in arms against the Jal Shakti department, accusing them of failing to provide them adequate drinking water supply from quite a long period of time.

The aggrieved residents of Ward 19 said that they have been immensely suffering due to persistent drinking water crises from the last 15 years now.

While accusing the PHE division Sopore of neglecting them, the residents said that the concerned are just passing the bucks and saving their chair only. "We will hit the streets, if the issue is not resolved," they added.

"Despite living within the close proximity of an Over Head Tank (OHT), the department is failing to provide us with the same water," Mehraj u Din, a local resident said.

"We have been moving from pillar to post to get our long-standing issue resolved, but to no avail, as the concerned officials at the department seem least bothered about the sufferings of people," he said.

"There is an urgent need for comprehensive administrative intervention to alleviate the persistent hardships being faced by them," the residents added.

"A report has been sought from a team deputed to the locality to assess the situation," an Executive Engineer Jal Shakhti Division Sopore, Mushtaq Ahmed said, adding that the issue will be resolved at the earliest—(KNO)

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION AWANTIPORA

### TENDER NOTICE

Fresh against Nit : Fresh61/EEA/RNB/of 2023-24/2474-84, Dated: 06/11/2023

**E-NIT No :- Fresh-86/EEA/RNB/of 2023-24/3307-17** **Dated: 28/11/2023**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time of Completion Days	Class of Contract
1	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW RNB Sub Division Tral on emergency basis by way of supply and spreading of salt on frost snow for the year 2023-24	0.13714	200/-	2000/-	1 Day	A,B,C,D

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28/11/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 29/11/2023 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	30/11/2023 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06/12/2023 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07/12/2023 at 10.30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Awantipora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Awantipora

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an 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 the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Head Draftsman **DIPK-12959-23** Technical Officer  
DT: 28/11/23 Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Awantipora

E: [jkhpmcld@gmail.com](mailto:jkhpmcld@gmail.com)  
W: <https://jkhpmc.jk.gov.in/>  
T: 0194-2311312 (S)  
F: 0194-2311420 (S)  
T/F: 0191-2476079 (J)

## JAMMU & KASHMIR HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING & PROCESSING CORPORATION (JKHPMC) LTD

### HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, JAMMU & KASHMIR GOVERNMENT

**Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar - 190008, J&K**

#### FRESH NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

**Subject:** Invitation for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Shortlisting of potential Implementing Agencies (IAs) for Implementation of different verticals in Kishtwar & Kupwara for Walnut crop under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP), GoJ&K's, Project No. 22 viz. Food Processing Programmes Development of Clusters for Specific Products of J&K.

**Tender Reference No: 07 of 2023** **Dated: 25-11-2023**

JK&K Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd. is mandated with the implementation of "UT Level Food Processing Programme & Development of Clusters of Specific Products of J&K". MD JKHPMC invites Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from interested Agencies, under Single-Cover System, through e-Tendering mode, for "Shortlisting of potential Implementing Agencies (IAs) for Implementation of different verticals for Walnut crop in Kishtwar & Kupwara districts under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP), GoJ&K's, Project No. 22 viz. Food Processing Programme & Development of Clusters for Specific Products of J&K. "Project details are given with this Eoi document, however not limited to, as envisaged by the Corporation. The Eoi document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. e-procurement website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) or website of JKHPM at <https://jkhpmc.jk.gov.in> from 25-11-2023 to 16-12-2023, as per following details :-

The Critical Details of the e-Tender under reference are as follows:

Eoi Processing Fees	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) (In The Shape Of Demand Draft) (DD) NON-REFUNDABLE, in favour of JKHPMC Ltd.
Date of issue of Notice	25-11-2023
Date of up-load of Eoi	25-11-2023
Seek Clarification Start Date	25-11-2023
Seek Clarification End Date	05-12-2023
Pre-Bid Meeting Date	11-12-2023
Online Eoi Submission Start Date	25-11-2023
Online Eoi submission End Date	16-12-2023
Eoi Opening Date	20-12-2023
Eoi Validity	Three (03) Months from the date of Opening of Eoi / or extendable as per decision of CDA/G&M Committee

No: JKHPMC/MD/23/2347 Managing Director  
JKHPMC Ltd.  
DT: 25/11/2023 DIPK-NB-4485-23  
DT: 28/11/2023

E-mail:- [techrpulpul786@gmail.com](mailto:techrpulpul786@gmail.com) Phone:-01933-295302

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

### TENDER NOTICE

**E-NIT No: 201/EEP/RNB/of 2023-24/ 11197-11207** **Dated: 28/11/2023**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1.	Raising of 2nd storey with truss of IMC building of Govt ITI Pulwama.	145.41	2600/	2% of Adv. cost	1 year	AAy	ITI sector of capex budget	396 of 2022 Dated: 16.08.2022	1st call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28 - 11 -2023
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	28 - 11 -2023 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	28 - 11 -2023 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	19 - 12-2023 upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	20 - 12 -2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security(PS)	Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan /Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an 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 R&B Div. Pulwama

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

4. EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

5. The normal deposits (deducted @ 10% from running bills) shall be released after the DLP of the work is over.

6. The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.

7. The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.

8. The 1st lowest 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 Pulwama within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

Head Draftsman **DIPK-12966-23** Technical Officer  
DT: 28/11/23 Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Pulwama

# Jammu Abuzz: Int'l players spends leisure time at Golf course

Many legends pay obeisance at Vaishno Devi Shrine

YOGESH

**JAMMU:** Jammu has suddenly become a tourist hot-spot with several national and international cricketers roaming around the city, while fans made a beeline outside hotels to have a glimpse of favourite stars. A day after, Legends League Cricket's first game at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu, the cricketers including Harbhajan Singh (Member Parliament Rajya Sabha), S Sreesanth and several others offered prayers at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Katra Reasi. Former Indian Cricketer, Suresh Raina, whose ancestors belongs to Jammu and Kashmir, visited Kul Devi Temple bordering Ramghar of Samba district.



Some International players, including Kevin Pietersen, Ben Dunk, Devon Smith, Martin Gupthil, Nikhil Chopra, Rusty Theron among others enjoying their rest day at Jammu Tawi Golf Course.

Speaking to media-persons in Katra, Harbhajan Singh said, "I'm here to pay obeisance and bow my head in the feet of Mata Vaishno Devi. I'm feeling glad that I got a chance to seek blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi."

About cricket pitch at MA stadium, he said, "The ground was very good and the viewers were very excited because cricket match has been organised in Jammu after years."

adding, "We enjoyed the match even we lost yesterday. We and the crowd enjoyed cricket."

On India's debacle in ICC world cup, former Indian spinner said, "When two wrestlers fight one has to see defeat and that day was not 'ours but our team played very well throughout the tournament and we're proud of them. Win and loss is a part of game and that day Australia played so well."

Earlier, praising Jammu as a "lovely place," former New Zealand cricket captain Ross Taylor, who is leading Southern Superstars said he believes that the refurbished Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of the city could be a venue for the Indian Premier League.

The cricketer is here along with over 100 former greats of the game for the season 2 of the Legends

League T20 cricket, which brought the competitive cricket to the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of more than three decades.

The first of the four matches were played at the 20,000 capacity stadium under floodlights Monday evening and attracted an enthusiastic turnout of fans from all parts of the region, including the Kashmir valley.

"I think you have to leave a little bit more grass on it...different parts of India play differently and this is the beauty of the game of cricket. You don't want similar wickets everywhere and the black soil here was a bit low and slow," he said. "Obviously, it (the match) came down to the last over and that is what you want in T20 cricket."

He said: "People do come

out at smaller places and see their heroes which is fantastic" Coming from a place no less captivating, Taylor felt mesmerised in Jammu. "I thoroughly enjoyed this place. It is nice to be in Jammu ... I have not played here before. This is a lovely part of the world," he beamed.

Legends League cricket co-founder and chief executive officer Raman Raheja thanked the crowd for turning up in good numbers and said "the objective of the league is to take cricket where the game has not taken place for a very long time." "Six teams with over 100 former international players have reached here on the third leg of the tournament. Eight matches were conducted in Ranchi and Dehradun and now we have four matches in Jammu," he said—(KNO)

## WORLD CUP FINAL

# Police issues statement over booking of 7 students under UAPA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Reacting to the opinions and comments on booking of some students of SKUAST-Kashmir under UAPA for sloganeering during India-Australia cricket World cup final, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said 'it is not merely about raising pro Pakistan slogans and is also about normalising an abnormal : that everyone hates India (as different from the government of the day and party in power) 'openly'.

In a statement, a police spokesperson said a number of opinions and comments have been made on the legal cognisance taken of the happenings surrounding anti India sloganeering and intimidation of others who did not agree with them in an university after the conclusion of



World Cup cricket match.

"Two relevant aspects are brought to public knowledge. First : it is not merely about raising pro Pakistan slogans. It is about the full context in which the sloganeering took place. These slogans, as has usually been the case with select few bullies, were aired to intimidate those who disagreed and also to identify and vilify those who choose to keep a distance. It is also about normalising an abnormal : that everyone hates India (as different from the govern-

ment of the day and party in power) 'openly,'" he said.

The spokesperson added: "This abnormal and false thing is practiced mostly on the back of separatist and terrorist networks. In other words, the aim is not airing personal preference of a particular sporting team. It is not about dissent or freedom of expression. It is about terrorising others who may be nourishing pro India feelings or anti Pakistan feelings or disagreeing. There were written complaints to

evidence this." "Section 13 of UAPA is about inciting, advocating and encouraging separatist ideology. It is not about planning, aiding and executing actual terror acts. It classifies such actions as unlawful. In contrast to other provisions of act it is a softer provision of act," read the statement.

"Hence as per the content of the complaints, FIR No. 317/2023 stands registered and section 13 UAPA invoked for inciting and abetting the unlawful activities. Section 505 and 506 IPC too has been invoked for 'public mischief' and 'criminal intimidation' respectively," it added.

Police Spokesperson also said FIR is lodged on the basis of written complaint received and relevant sections are invoked as per the contents of the complaint.

## SORRY STATE OF EDUCATION

# 150 schools still operate from rented accommodations in south Kashmir

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

**ANANTNAG:** Despite being in the 21st Century, the School Education Department in the Kashmir zone managing 150 schools in Southern districts of Kashmir from rented accommodations due to absence of proper school buildings, figures accessed revealed Tuesday.

Officials available suggest that there are total 3622 schools in the entire South Kashmir range in which Anantnag district holds the highest number of schools in operation in Southern districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian.

"There are 1537 government schools in Anantnag district, 773 in Kulgam, 892 in Pulwama, and 520 in the Shopian district," figures state, adding that "Out of the total 3622 schools in South Kashmir, 150 schools are still operating in rented accommodations. Fourteen (14) schools are in Shopian, 79 in Anantnag district, 20 in Kulgam and 35 in the Pulwama district."

An official, wishing not to be named, said that many rented schools lack essential facilities, hindering students from participating in extra-curricular activities.

He said the rented buildings often have broken windows, damaged roofs, and worn-out walls, leaving students without basic amenities and advanced resources

like laboratories.

"The lack of government property status for these buildings prevents the provision of necessary facilities by the education department," the official said.

The Government Primary School at Banipath Kanchlooh area of Kund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district operates in a rented space with six classes.

"Despite a decade-old establishment and a previously damaged building, it now functions from a single room. We labourers facing economic challenges have no choice but to send our children there, as we can't afford private schools," said Muhammad Iqbal, a local resident. He said that the owner of the rented space has not received any rent for 13 years.

A senior officer at DSEK said that efforts are underway to provide schools with their own buildings instead of relying on rentals.

He said that only schools with limited enrolment and no available land are currently in rented spaces.

The officer assured that the department is aware of the situation, actively making land available, and soon constructing new buildings for these schools to ensure they are well-equipped with basic facilities.

Repeated attempts to reach out to Director School Education, Kashmir, Tasaduq Hussain didn't fructify—(KNO)

# UT admin committed to time-bound redressal of public concerns: Rajesh Prasad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**DODA:** "The Jammu and Kashmir government is committed towards time bound redressal of public issues and concerns at their doorstep. We strive to hear the unheard, deprived and unprivileged people ensuring equitable development of every part of the region," stated Principal Secretary Power Development Department, H Rajesh Prasad, during an extensive public outreach programme held at DC office complex here.

Principal Secretary, who is also designated Administrative Secretary for Doda, was accompanied by District Development Council Chairman, Dhananther Singh Kotwal, Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh and other district officers during the event. During the day long public interaction, various individual and community grievances were raised.

Principal Secretary, while responding to issues projected by the public, assured that their concerns would be taken up with concerned for an early redressal.

The issues raised in the programme included monkey menace in Doda town, stray animals in the market, early completion of Government Degree College Kastigarh, upgradation of GHS Hanch and other schools, pending land compensation acquired for various developmental projects, repairing of lift in GMC, appointment of

required doctors and faculty in peoples, establishment of new receiving stations, replacement of wooden poles, reducing electricity curtailment, rationalisation of teachers, posting of adequate healthcare staff in the health institutions in rural Doda, augmentation and improvement of road infrastructure, RTC busses for internal roads, establishment of Trauma Hospital at Assar, early completion of JJM and other developmental works, disbursement of payments to the contractors pending due to technical issue in the designated portal, construction of new Sports Stadium including early establishment of Beerbagh stadium and other such issues.

Various individuals and deputations who met with the visiting officer included, BDC Chairpersons, DDC Councilors, Chenab Citizens Forum, Hoteliers Association Doda, Contractors Association, MC Councilors, other prominent citizens and individuals.

Principal Secretary, later, distributed sanction letters of LPG connections among the beneficiaries under Ujjawala Scheme.

H. Rajesh Prasad advocated for collective responsibility of every citizen in attaining Swachhta in our cities, towns and villages. He emphasized on using the electricity judiciously and paying the tariffs timely so that uninterrupted power supply is provided at affordable cost to the public.

# Secy Tourism chairs Grievance Redressal Camp in Sumbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Tuesday presided over a Public Darbar cum Grievance Redressal Camp here at Sumbal and took stock of grievances and demands of people.

Chairman District Development Council Bandipora, Abdul Gani Bhat; DDC members, ADDC, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADC, Umar Shafi, ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad, JD Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmad besides representatives of various delegations were present on the occasion.

Secretary was briefed regarding overall developmental scenario of the district.

The public darbar witnessed overwhelming response from all sections of the society where people apprised Dr Abid of issues being faced by them, seeking intervention in redressing the same.

DDC Chairman submitted a memorandum of demands including an additional fire service station in the area, power supply, healthcare, education, utilization of left over funds from Capex for meeting out the contingencies caused by calamities and disasters etc. The DDC delegation also demanded inclusion of some potential areas of Sumbal and Hajin on tourism map.

The DDC and BDC members put forth the issues concerning their respective areas like road connectivity, devising of robust mechanism for flood prone and affected areas near water bodies, land for landless families, filling of vacant posts, demands of blood bank in CHC Sumbal, early completion of College building in Hajin.

Dr Ghulam Mustafa projected the demand of railway connectivity to the district besides posting of a surgeon specialist at DH Bandipora during night hours.

While responding to the demands of bringing

some areas of the division on tourism map, Secretary assured early redressal in the matter.

Dr Abid urged upon the locals for developing home stays for the tourists so that employment generation is ensured within the region.

Similarly, delegation of Sarpanchs also presented their issues and demands, including augmentation of staff in panchayats, especially VLWs, technical staff besides JEs.

Secretary Tourism, while interacting with line departments, called for adopting a time bound redressal/execution mechanism in resolving the issues of public importance by making optimum utilization of resources.

While responding to the issue of water crisis at Inderkoot Sumbal, Dr Abid directed both the departments to immediately resolve the issue of NOC for road cut for laying of pipes to resolve the water crisis in the area. He also asked for joint inspection by concerned departments for enhanced results.

Secretary also directed the SE PDD to ensure completion of all formalities for commissioning of the receiving station at Sumbal within 15 days so that the power supply in the area is augmented.

Dr Abid, while addressing the gathering, said that their demands shall be brought into the notice of concerned departments and assured them of proper action and timely redressal of their grievances.

He said public darbar is a platform to obtain first hand appraisal from the gross root level besides reducing the communication gap between the public and the administration.

Secretary, Tourism praised the efforts of all the stakeholders for overall development in the district and called upon them to continue to pursue LG's cherished goal of good governance in the UT.

## 'DEEMED RELIEVED'

# KU acts against official for 'failing to comply with transfer order'

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir University (KU) authorities on Tuesday relieved an official "with immediate effect" for failing to comply with the transfer order issued last week over alleged dereliction of duty.

"Having failed to comply with the administrative order of even number date: 21.11.2023, Ms Lubna Bhat, Public Relations Officer (under transfer to CCPC) is deemed to have been relieved with immediate effect," reads an order issued by KU's General Administration Department.

A copy of the order has been sent to all concerned for strict compliance, failing which action under rules has been warned to follow.

Pertinently, the PRO of Convocation Complex was transferred last week over allegations of large-scale mess up in the auditorium, including alleged vandalism and defacement of the main hall owing to poor supervision by the official.

The official was transferred after the Vice-Chancellor made a surprise inspection of the Convocation Complex and found massive defacement of the hall in the run up to a talent

hunt event organised by an outside-University entity.

The VC directed immediate transfer of the official, while constituting an inquiry committee to probe into the alleged negligence on duty, which caused losses to the University exchequer.

Officials said the auditorium defacement was taken seriously by the VC because it was recently renovated for the annual convocation held on October 11 at a cost of lakhs of rupees. Sources said on hearing that the transferred official has not joined the new place of posting since last week, the VC ordered her to be deemed relieved with immediate effect to send a strong message.

"Non compliance of administrative orders warrants administrative action under rules, including suspension if considered in the interest of administration," the sources added.

The sources said the VC is personally monitoring affairs of the Convocation Complex and has reportedly seized keys of VVIPs rooms to prevent any further defacement. "The VC has literally taken over charge of the Convocation Complex to streamline the system," the sources said—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
 Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Directorate, Kashmir.  
 email: xemhhdhandwara@gmail.com  
**CORRIGENDUM 01 FOR REGISTRATION**  
 Name of work: Renovation Painting and Wood Work along with allied works of Divisional office  
 Reference: 1) This office e-NIT: 17 of 2023-24 Date:14-10-2023 (Tender ID: 2023\_PWDJK\_236913\_2)  
 Keeping in view the nature of items mentioned in the BOQ of the tender, the experience clause mentioned in the NIT is hereby dropped. All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NIT shall remain unchanged.  
 No: MHDH/TS/792-95 Sd/-  
 Date: 25-11-2023. Executive Engineer  
 DIPK-12917-23 Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara  
 DT: 28/11/2023

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**BEFORE THE COURT OF TEHSILDAR PANTHA CHOWK, SRINAGAR**  
**EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS/ASSISTANT COLLECTOR 1st CLASS**  
**Subject: Removal of causes of accident on Sempora Balhama Road particularly from Sempora to Zaffron Colony.**  
**ORDER UNDER SECTION 133 CR.PC 1973**  
 Whereas, an application was received by this court from the inhabitants of Zaffron Colony/Ich-nambal through President Central Welfare Committee that due to overcrowded parking of vehicles on either side of Sempora to Balhama road occupying pedestrian space, the road has turned to be death trap and many incidents of road accidents happened in recent times in which many precious lives were lost.  
 Whereas the application was verified by this office through revenue field agency and the averments of the application were found out to be true. As per the report at least three accidents have happened in recent past on Sempora Balhama road from Sempora crossing old National Highway to Masjid Aisha Chowk Balhama in which three persons lost their lives.  
 Whereas, it has also been reported that Dumpers/Tippers laden with illegally mined stones/Bajri from Wuyan area of Pulwama also ply on this road in a dangerous manner which has increased the vulnerability/chances of accidents on the said road.  
 Whereas the said illegal parking of vehicles on the subject road is turning out to be a public nuisance putting the life and property of residents/other commuters on this road under threat.  
 As such the illegal parking\* of vehicles on road sides of Sempora to Balhama road occupying pedestrian space being a potential public nuisance remands immediate intervention from this court. Accordingly by virtue of the powers vested under me under section 133 Cr.PC 1973 I, Tehsildar Pantha Chowk Executive Magistrate 1st Class do hereby order that no vehicle shall be parked on either side of Sempora to Balhama road by any person/ vehicle owner henceforth.  
 Any violation of this order shall be dealt with Section 188 IPC and other relevant provisions of law. Since the issue is of urgent public nature, the order is issued ex-parte  
 Issued under my hand & seal of this court on 16th day of November 2023.  
 No: 136-44/TPC/MM/JC/23-24  
 Dated: 16.11.2023  
 DIPK-12952-23  
 DT: 28/11/2023  
**Tehsildar Pantha Chowk**  
**Executive Magistrate 1st Class**  
**Assistant Collector 1st Class**

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Doodh Ganga Restoration

**A**s a news that came as music to ears, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has sanctioned Rs 32 Crore for the restoration of Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kull streams in the valley of Kashmir. Water bodies need to be protected at all cost and indeed Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is leading this initiative with all possible determination. The amount be used for the restoration of the environment, which will include preventing the discharge of sewage in an unscientific manner in drains or otherwise and improving the water quality of the drain. The details of the sanctioned amount of Rs 32 crore which included a Sewerage Treatment Plant for daily dry weather flow discharging into Doodh Ganga Nallah at an amount of Rs 28.93 crore. This is financially a good amount and now depends on an able executioner like LG Manoj Sinha to execute it as per the set standards. Doodh Ganga river is considered one of the most clean and pristine rivers in Kashmir valley and near its sources resembles a stream of milk gushing down – that is why the name Doodh Ganga. Just a few decades back this river was considered one of the cleanest in Kashmir valley but the population growth on its banks and the unscientific direct emptying of sewage into the water body has changed the quality as well as quantity of the water content downstream. As a matter of fact, more than four lakh people in Srinagar’s uptown area and some areas of district Budgam get their drinking water from the Doodh Ganga supply plant in Kralpora. However, municipal liquid waste – from homes as well as government pumping stations located on its banks – is dumped into its water without being treated. We have complete faith in the able administration of LG Manoj Sinha that this sanctioned amount would be used in an appropriate procedural manner and within a set timeline we will see improvement in the quality of Doodh Ganga water downstream as well. Doodh Ganga is one of the most important rivers of the valley and its restoration must be top priority of the administration.

# Why Don't Parents Trust Government Schools?



PRIYANKA SAURABH

**A** recent study by the Right to Education Resource Center of IIM Ahmedabad has confirmed that due to the poor quality of education, parents do not trust government schools and prefer to enroll their children in private schools, even if it means they have to spend a lot on tuition and other fees. The two most important reasons given by families for sending children to private schools are dissatisfaction with the quality of government schools and the absence of any government secondary school nearby. Schools also suffer from inadequate infrastructure or poor quality. Although the situation has improved concerning the availability of basic amenities like school buildings, drinking water, and toilets, the situation in terms of playgrounds, computers, and ramps remains worrying. Because of this, government schools became a refuge for the children of the poor and uneducated, where they had to live at the mercy of bureaucracy and teacher unions.

As a result, the development of standards set for these schools - quality and relevance of textbooks, monitoring of students' achievements - came to a halt. Today, more than ninety percent of public expenditure in Indian schools is spent on teachers' salaries and administration. Still, India has the highest number of teachers taking leave without permission in the world. Teachers do not come to our schools and in one out of four government schools, some teacher is on leave every day. According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022, children's ability to read simple English sentences remains at 2016 levels for Class V children (from 24.7% in 2016 to 24.5% in 2022). 68.9% of schools have a playground, the proportion of schools with accessible toilets for girls has increased from only 68.4% in 2022, the proportion of schools with access to drinking water is just 76%.

According to UNESCO's State of Education Report for India 2021: There are no teachers, no classrooms, and about 1.1 lakh schools in India are single-teacher institutions. The average



attendance of teachers in 2022 is 87.1% and the average student attendance has remained around 72% for the last several years. Despite improvements, gender disparities persist in some areas. The proportion of 15-16-year-old girls who are not enrolled continues to decline, to 7.9% in 2022. The overall dropout rate in schools in India is 1.5 percent in primary level classes (1-5), and 3 percent in upper primary classes (6-8). The secondary level class (9-10) has the highest percentage with 12 percent which is still a big challenge. The proportion of 3-year-old children enrolled in some form of early childhood education in 2022 is 78.3%. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) is revised from time to time, but there are concerns over the relevance and effectiveness of the curriculum.

The All India Survey on Higher Education 2021-22 indicates lower enrollment in vocational education programs compared to traditional courses. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the digital divide, with many students lacking access to online education. According to NITI Aayog 2023, states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have higher scores, while states like Bihar and Jharkhand have lower scores, reflecting disparities in the quality of education. The proportion of children taking paid private tuition classes in classes I-VIII to increase from 26.4% in 2018 to 30.5% in 2022. All this is very worrying. It is no less a matter of shame for the country and state governments that the courts have to give orders for the work that they should do themselves. The plight of education in primary schools is not hidden from anyone. The condition of government

schools in the entire country is very bad. In many schools, teachers do not even go to teach, wherever they go they do not teach from their heart.

The system created to improve the condition of these schools has also almost completely collapsed. No one has control over anyone. Today the entire system is dominated by corruption. To improve the condition of government primary schools, it should be made mandatory for all government officials, elected representatives, and officials associated with judicial work to send their children to study in these schools. Initiatives can be taken to make government schools more attractive than private schools if efforts are made to ensure adequate classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and recreational facilities. Clean drinking water, functional toilets regular sanitation awareness campaigns, access to computers, tablets, and internet connectivity should be provided to facilitate digital learning. The 5T High School Transformation Program of the Government of Odisha is based on the 5T concept of transparency, technology, teamwork, and timeliness leading to change.

Launched in 2021, the program focuses on the adoption of educational technology in the form of smart and digital classrooms, e-libraries, modern science laboratories, improved sanitation facilities, and sports facilities in all high schools. Implementing competency-based recruitment, providing competitive salaries, and providing professional development opportunities, conducting regular workshops, seminars, and training programs to enhance pedagogical skills and subject knowledge, motivat-

ing teachers, and recognizing their efforts. Implementing a performance-based reward system can prove to be a great effort in this direction. Incorporating a holistic approach that focuses on cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Integrating business skills and entrepreneurial training to prepare students for future employment opportunities, encouraging experiential learning through projects, field trips, and practical activities, and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment that celebrates diversity. Respect and promote social harmony.

Encouraging regular parent-teacher interactions to discuss students' progress and address concerns, involving local communities in school activities and decision-making processes to promote a sense of ownership, such as the Odisha Government's School Campaign, is a one-of-a-kind initiative that seeks to motivate and organize the alumni community to contribute to the improvement of government schools in Odisha. Odisha's Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV) model aims to bridge the rural-urban gap by providing accessible, qualitative, and affordable English medium education. As of now, there are 315 English medium co-educational schools in all 314 blocks in rural and semi-urban areas of Odisha. By implementing these initiatives, we can create a more equitable and inclusive education system, empowering every child to reach his or her full potential and fulfilling the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Its objective is to create a generation of empowered, equipped, and ethical youth who are ready to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Keeping in mind the National Education Policy vision for secondary education in the country, and comparing it with the present situation, it is time to give greater policy focus to secondary education by giving it priority in the annual education planning of both the Central and State Governments. Has gone. There should be a substantial increase in public investment to ensure the provision of affordable secondary education. Equal attention should be given to improving the quality of education through filling teacher vacancies, training of teachers, ensuring the availability of adequate teaching-learning resources, and creating an accountable and transparent governance structure. Unless drastic measures are taken in this direction, achieving a universal level of secondary education by the year 2030 seems unachievable.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. She can be mailed at priyankasaurabh9416@outlook.com

## 'No Nudity Rule' Social Media Is Chock Full Of Pornography



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

**T**he entire country blames films for nudity, but today there is so much nudity on social media that even our films feel ashamed. Today no social platform is untouched by vulgarity and nudity. In the dark age of social media, the women of our society are being targeted and have to be served nudity to get some likes and views. And she is easily trading her honor and self-respect for the sake of flying in the sky of likes and views by serving nudity.

Some Chappal Chaap YouTubers put such obscene thumbnails on our faith just to get views. What to say to whom? The ultimate happiness in life has now become dependent on getting followers and comments. By sharing nude pictures on platforms like Facebook, girls today appear to be appreciating themselves by getting likes and comments as if they have achieved the most important and necessary heights of life.

We call this nudity a new fashion in this era of moder-



nity. When fashion came to a boil on social media, the young generation found themselves lagging behind beautiful girls on social networks, then the young men started dancing with their nudity and said, how can I lag? The youth are roaming around showing their youth, that I am no less than anyone. It is even more surprising to have interviews with such a spoiled YouTuber. In earlier times, elders used to crack down on such activities. Well, the times are modern and hence society accepts and enjoys it.

But this is a matter to think very seriously - in which direction the small children of our homes are going. Why are parents deliberately ignoring? Why don't you want to give time and value to your children? Why are you pushing your children into the swamp with your own hands? Nowadays parents are very modern and they are very attracted to nudity, boyfriends, and the modern environment. This will prove fatal

for the coming generation and society. The mental state of teenage girls is being molded to suit their specific purpose.

Now social media platforms have become dens of virtual nudity. Now teenagers in every house are making vulgar reels and videos. Now it seems as if prostitution centers have also become available with new options for lustful men. These days nudity is being served on social media to increase followers. Are those who serve it guilty? Are those who like and share it not guilty? According to me, he is more guilty. Can't this stop if we stop liking and sharing such posts or videos?

Today social disorder is in the most successful phase of its journey. There is no scope for prevention. Now only disaster can stop its progress. The daughters who are doing nude and obscene dance stunts on reels on social media are requested not to sacrifice the honor of their family and religion for a few pieces of paper. Today you are being paid not for danc-

ing but for serving nudity so that one day the entire society can be humiliated by pushing it into the abyss.

If our culture does not survive then no one can save our nation and the future generations from being destroyed by bad qualities. Now understand what culture is and why it is important to save it. This is the self-respect of our nation. We need a society free from obscenity and nudity and to protect our destroying civilization and culture. Boycott Bollywood films and web series full of obscenity, nudity, and abuse.

Boycott obscene songs and obscene films. Social media, Twitter, Facebook, etc. are such platforms through which people send important information along with their thoughts and expressions. But at present social pollution is being spread by encouraging people to play games like gambling along with obscene, objectionable, and nudity-filled messages and advertisements on these platforms. Our children,

sisters, and daughters also use these platforms extensively. To curb this pollution, everyone will have to think and take initiative themselves. Consciousness is needed today otherwise there will be naked dancing on the roads tomorrow. You are the future of the country, don't become a puppet.

In the name of promiscuity, vulgarity is at its peak in this era of social media. In our culture, woman was given the name of wealth, and that too she was precious and not worth a penny. Therefore, the Mujras held in the royal courts also took place within the four walls. The truth is that obscenity cannot be justified from any point of view. This is a drug shop that leads underage children towards sexual crimes and today it is being produced by a social media platform in collaboration with the women's community. According to brain science, obscenity is one of the four types of addictions.

Acharya Kautilya has described lust as the biggest intoxication and disease in Chanakya Sutra. If this nudity is a symbol of modernity then why don't women show complete modernity by becoming completely naked? Just as the opening of liquor shops in every street and locality hurts children, similarly, obscenity gives rise to sexual crimes in society. This cannot be justified in any way. Think and discuss or remain silent.

Author is a freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio. He can be mailed at satyavansaurabh333@gmail.com

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

# No Excuse For Not Making Labour And Migration Safe, Fair For Women



SHOBHA SHUKLA

**F**emale migrant workers, despite contributing a significant share to the economy, face alarming levels of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence and harassment all across the migration cycle. Actions to make labour and migration safe and fair a reality for them are sketchy at best or few and far between.

The deadly divide between “what we know works” in reducing the risk factors for gender-based violence and harassment, and “what we are doing” is unacceptable. Failure to end all forms of gender-based violence will also wreak havoc on other sustainable development goals and targets.

Though some progress has happened in different settings, the writing on the wall is clear: we will fail to end all forms of gender-based violence unless preventative actions (those that stop abuse from happening in the first place or from reoccurring) that are more gender-transformative in nature and those that tackle power inequalities and the discriminatory social norms (which drive inequality between men and women, especially women migrant workers), are urgently implemented in letter and spirit and taken to scale – everywhere.

## 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence

“This [gender-based violence] is a crime against women and girls and the human family as a whole. It is also costly, with some countries estimating the economic impact at some 3.7 per cent of GDP as a result of gender-based violence. Yet, investment is pitiful, a mere 0.2 per cent of overall aid in 2022. Our collective folly in failing to invest is all the more frustrating because we know what to do: reform and implement laws and multisectoral policies; ensure survivors have access to the services they need; scale up evidence-based prevention interventions and hold perpetrators to account. But these will not happen by themselves. We must do what we always do when we recognize the gravity of an issue: allocate serious resources,” said UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous, while speaking at this year’s official UN commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. “We still live in a male-dominated culture that leaves women vulnerable by denying them equality in dignity and rights,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. “Let’s build a world that refuses to tolerate violence against women anywhere, in any form, once and for all.”

The 16 days of activism against gender-based violence is an annual global campaign that runs from 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10th December, Human Rights Day, indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. This year’s theme of “Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls” focuses on the importance of financing different prevention strategies to stop violence from occurring in the first place. There should be no place for any kind of violence in any woman’s life.

Nine years ago I had spoken to Erwiana Sulistyarningsih, whose story of abuse had raised an international furor and brought the plight of women migrant workers centre-stage. Erwiana had come to Hong Kong from Indonesia to earn money, as her family was unable to fund her college education. “As I really wanted to bring a change



in my life, and the pay in Jakarta was not enough I decided to be a migrant worker abroad. I chose Hong Kong because it is said to be a safe country and I had heard no news about migrant workers being abused there. When I arrived in Hong Kong, all my papers, such as my passport and employment contract, were taken by my recruiting agency and I began working as a domestic help. My employer would beat me up, would let me sleep only for 4 hours a day and did not give me sufficient food to eat. I was not allowed to go out or speak with other people or use the telephone. Eight months of abuse and torture left my body badly bruised and in pain. So one day my employer decided to send me back to Indonesia. She brought me to the airport, helped me check-in, and then left. She threatened to kill my family if I ever spoke of my plight to any other person. Abandoned at the airport and unable to walk, I luckily met

Erwiana’s words spoken 9 years ago, are still as relevant today as they were back then: “As women and girls we need to raise our voice against exploitation. We need to unite in this fight against discrimination and exploitation which many girls and women face. My case was finally exposed because of the unity of the migrant workers’ movement”.

## No excuse for any form of gender-based violence

The Asia-Pacific region hosts nearly 30% of the estimated 281 million international migrants, with women constituting nearly 50% of migrants in the region. South East Asia and the Pacific is home to 11.6 million documented migrant workers out of which 5.2 million are women. In the ASEAN region (comprising Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), almost 50% of the 9.9 mil-

lion migrants are women.

Women migrant workers make vital social and economic contributions to their communities and countries of origin and destination. A Regional Study shows that financial remittances from migrant workers are a great source of income for all countries within the ASEAN region. For example, an estimated US\$36.240 billion in remittances was received in the Philippines in 2021 (equivalent to 9.4% of its GDP), followed by Viet Nam, with remittances accounting for 5% of its GDP. And yet, women migrant workers in ASEAN earn significantly less than men.

## When vulnerabilities fuel each other

While migration has a positive impact on the economies of countries and empowers women, it also puts them at increased risk of violence, trafficking, and discrimination that limits their access to fair

work- in destination countries. migrant workers from Bangladesh all reported that they had been physically, psychologically, or sexually abused at the employers’ house with 60% reporting that they often faced physical torture during employment.

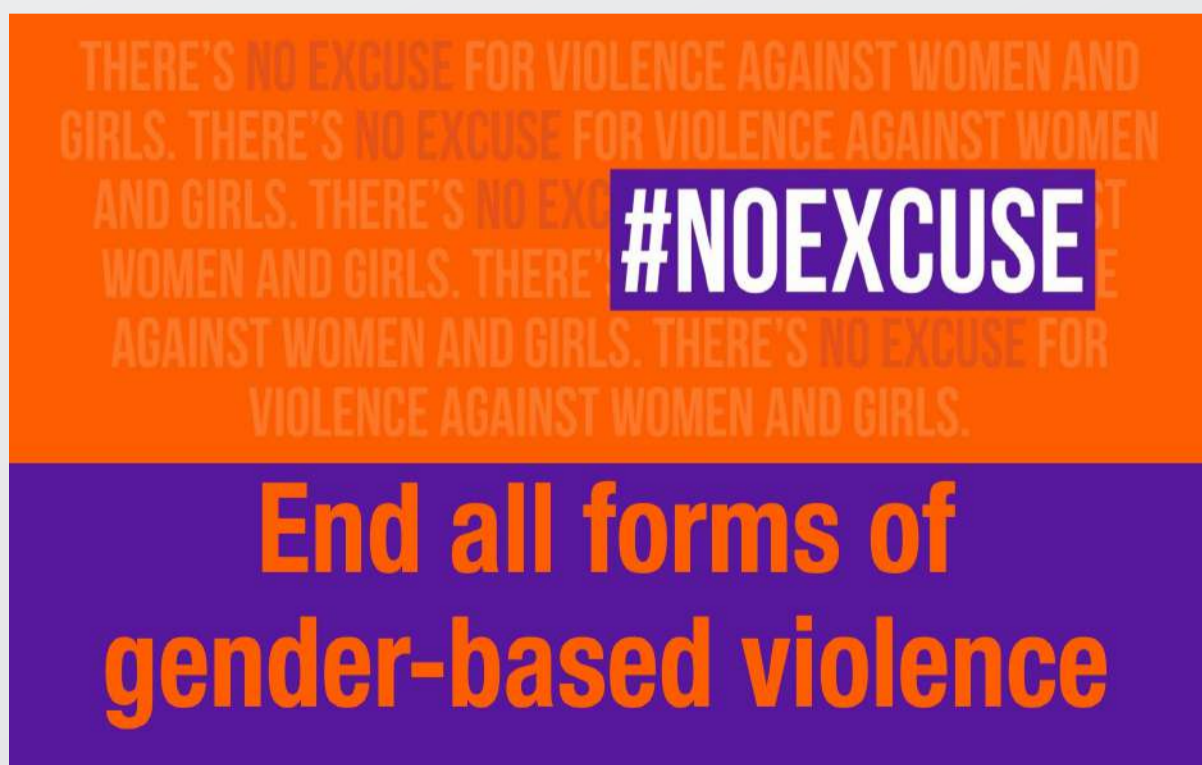
The root cause of gender-based violence is the power and control which privileged or entitled people (mostly men) exercise over those with less privilege and entitlement (mostly women). It is the product of our inequitable, discriminatory and patriarchal legal, economic and social systems, which place women in disadvantageous positions across their life cycle. Inequalities between countries and the lack of political will to extend rights to migrant workers also limit women’s access to the available protection mechanisms.

## The way forward

Migration should be an informed choice that is free from all forms of violence and harassment. Banning women from migrating, under the pretext of keeping them safe, will put them at greater risk of gender-based violence and harassment. What is needed is a human rights-based, and gender-responsive labour migration for women where they are not subjected to gender-based violence and harassment. It requires a multi-level approach that includes political will by way of not only passing but also enforcing laws to combat violence against women; regional cooperation and specific strategies to address harmful practices; tackling stigma and discrimination and providing access to support services for women.

Campaigns like the Safe and Fair project by International Labour Organisation and UN Women (in collaboration with UNODC) whose main objective is to ensure that labor migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region, and they have access to all their labour rights and to decent work, need to be replicated in other parts of Asia Pacific region.

*Shobha Shukla is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She is a former senior Physics faculty of prestigious Loreto Convent College and current Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA). Follow her on Twitter @shobhaishukla or read her writings here [www.bit.ly/ShobhaShukla](http://www.bit.ly/ShobhaShukla)*



an Indonesian lady who not only helped me reach home but also took a photograph of my injuries and posted it on her Facebook”.

The social media spread the news far and wide and brought Erwiana’s case into limelight. Finally her employer was convicted and found guilty by the authorities in Hong Kong. Erwiana was put on Time Magazine’s list of 100 Most Powerful Persons.

lion migrants are women.

Women’s migration in search of livelihoods to support themselves and their families is on the rise in the Asia Pacific Region. This feminisation of labour migration is influenced by the lack of decent work for women in countries of origin, and an increase in the demand for female labour - particularly in occupations that are associated with specific gender roles, like domestic and care

practices and decent work. Women migrant workers are at great risk of gender-based violence and harassment because of the discrimination and inequality that they face as women (including in their countries of origin) and as migrants (especially in countries of destination).

In Asia-Pacific countries, between 30-40% of women workers have reported some form of harassment. In a survey of returned women

# GDC Vijaypur Forms Human Chain To Mark Observance Of AIDS Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SAMBA:** Government Degree College, Vijaypur under the supervision of the principal, Prof. Dr. Vandana Gupta, on Tuesday formed a Human Chain to observe World AIDS Day 2023.

To commemorate the day, Red Ribbon Club and NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of the college organized the event to inculcate awareness among the college stu-

dents about the gravity of the problem of HIV infection/AIDS and the preventive measures need to be adopted as responsible citizens to prevent the virus to spread.

An interactive talk was also delivered by Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Associate Professor, Education, to educate the students about AIDS and protective measures, emphasizing upon this year's theme "Let Communities Lead".

The Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta encouraged the students to act as ambassadors to remove the stigmas related to HIV/AIDS from the society.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, NSS PO and Prof. Renuka Kundal, Lecturer Political Science and coordinated by Dr. Neelam Devi, Lecturer Hindi and Prof. Sonia Devi, Lecturer Hindi.

## VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA

# DC Rajouri Flags Off Mobile Publicity Van To Promote Govt Schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI:** In a landmark initiative to ensure the seamless reach of Central Government schemes to the farthest corners of the district, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, Tuesday flagged off a mobile publicity Van here in Atti area of Rajouri block as the part of the ongoing "Viksait Bharat Sankalp Yatra."

The Mobile Van will traverse through the district according to a pre-defined schedule. Laden with information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, the van aims to create public awareness about a myriad of central government schemes. With a sound system and digital LED screen on board, the van will showcase videos of Prime Minister's addresses, testimonials from beneficiaries and informative clips to further enhance understanding.

The Yatra focuses on both urban and rural areas, spotlighting key



schemes such as PM Svanidhi, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Start up India/stand up India, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana (Urban), SBM(Urban), PM eBus Sewa, AMRUT, PM Bhartiya Jan Aushidi Pariyojana, Ujjala Yojana, Subhagya Yojana, Digital Payment infrastructure, Khelo India, RCS:UDAN, Vande Bharat Trains and Amrit Bharat Station scheme and rural areas schemes like Ayushman Bharat PMJAY, PMGKAY, DAY-NRLM, PM Awas Yojana Rural, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM KISAN Saman, PM Vishwakarma, KCC, PM Poshan Abhiyan, JJM and SVAMITVA.

the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal expressed the significance of this initiative saying that the primary objectives of the yatra include disseminating information, fostering awareness, and establishing direct interaction with beneficiaries.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal highlighted the role of the mobile van in achieving saturation of all schemes and enhancing awareness among the populace. This proactive approach signifies the dedication of the administration to ensuring comprehensive awareness, leaving no eligible individual uninformed about transformative government schemes.

During the event, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal elaborated on the transformative impact of the Yatra, emphasizing its pivotal role in the effective implementation of diverse welfare initiatives across the nation. He underscored the instrumental role of the yatra in fostering development and promoting engagement with government schemes.

The Viksait Bharat Sankalp Yatra stands as a testament to the commitment of the Government to inclusive development, ensuring that the benefits of its schemes reach every individual, contributing to the overall socio-economic landscape of the district.

Among the others, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Sheraz Chowhan; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Rajinder Sharma; Block Development Officer Rajouri, Pardeep Bakshi and other officers, officials, PRIs and the public attended the event.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### Kashmir Braces

be an improvement in the foggy weather conditions.

Nonetheless, the local Meteorological department here has also issued an advisory, saying that temporary disruption of surface transportation over hilly areas and important passes like Zojila, Sinthan Pass, Mughal road and others is also expected during November 29th & 30th.

Meanwhile, the occasional sunshine was witnessed today while the minimum temperatures across the Valley also recorded an improvement.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 0.2 degree Celsius while the mercury in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, settled at 3.9 degree Celsius.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled at 3.8 degree Celsius while the minimum temperature in Pahalgam settled at 1.2 degree Celsius.

In Kupwara and Kokernag, the mercury settled at 3.0 degree Celsius and 2.8 degree Celsius respectively—(KNO)

### 'Rs 5000 Cr Invested

evacuate power from the upcoming generation projects.

About the outdated infrastructure of PDD in Jammu and Kashmir, Principal Secretary PDD, H. Rahesh Prasad told KNO said that "there is no doubt that the infrastructure is outdated."

He however said that, "In past 3-4 years, we have invested a huge amount of more than Rs 5000 crores to upgrade it."

"We have upgraded the transmission capacity, grid stations and receiving stations," Prasad said. He said that currently under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the department was investing another Rs 5000 crores to address the problem like outdated electricity cables.

"We are upgrading the electricity wires to insulated cables and we are upgrading our transformers too," the principal secretary said.

Prasad further said, "I won't say that it will be sufficient to overcome the gaps. There will still remain some gaps but I want to inform all those concerned that it is a time consuming process and will get settled gradually."—(KNO)

### All 41 Trapped Workers

in the temporary medical camp built in the tunnel," Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami tweeted.

Moreover, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that he is relieved and happy as 41 trapped labourers in the Silkyara Tunnel Collapse have been successfully rescued.

"I am completely relieved and happy as 41 trapped labourers in the Silkyara Tunnel Collapse have been successfully rescued. This was a well-coordinated effort by multiple agencies, marking one of the most significant rescue operations in recent years. Various departments and agencies complemented each other despite facing numerous challenges. Tireless and sincere efforts by everyone, coupled with prayers from all, have made this operation possible. The dedicated endeavours of the rescue teams have yielded favourable results," Gadkari posted on X (Formerly Twitter).

He further expressed gratitude to each agency and individual involved in this rescue operation.

"Deep appreciation for the international rescue experts, administrative officers, and the Uttarakhand government for their swift and effective response. I take this opportunity to thank the PM @narendramodi Ji, who has been constantly monitoring the entire operation and providing guidance and support whenever required. CM Uttarakhand @pushkardhami Ji and my colleague @Gen\_VKSingh Ji almost camped there during the operation. Last but not least, I thank the officers and engineers of MoRTH for their

sincere efforts," he further said.

As workers were rescued, Kin of Anil Bedia, a worker from Ranchi, who was trapped in the Silkyara tunnel said, "We're feeling very good...we hope he comes out soon..."

"The exact time of breakthrough was 7:05 pm. Uttarakhand CM, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation Gen VK Singh are present there," said Harpal Singh, Project Head, Zoji-la Tunnel.

CM Dhami highly appreciated the morale and courage of the workers and personnel engaged in the rescue operation.

Earlier today, Uttarakhand CM and other officials reached the Silkyara tunnel rescue site.

A portion of the tunnel caved in on November 12, the debris falling in the 60-metre stretch on the Silkyara side of the tunnel, trapping 41 labourers inside the under-construction structure.(ANI)

### Govt Suspend

Records (ex-officio Settlement Officer), Anantnag, is hereby placed under suspension, with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956", reads an order.

"During the period of his suspension, he shall remain attached in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir", reads the order further.

### Fire Damages

Masjid, they said, adding that the cause of fire is being ascertained—(KNO)

### KPDCL To Rope

reputation among the public. We will use religious clerics, scholars and civil society to propagate the judicious use of electricity," he said.

Pertinently, the KPDCL has intensified its drive across the valley to check illegal hooking and unauthorized power usage.

Recently during a drive, a staggering Rs 80 lakh in pending arrears was realised from consumers.

The KPDCL during its 566 inspection drives in all 19 electric divisions realised Rs 7.84 lakh as penalties for illicit hooking of wires on bare conductors and meter bypassing.

An official of the KPDCL said the incidents of hooking in metered areas on bare conductors have witnessed a steep rise over the last month.

"Consumption of energy by consumers in unmetered areas over and above their agreed load has also sharply grown, putting a huge strain on the power curtailment schedule. In unmetered areas, the usage of power by consumers is three to four times their registered load, leading to frequent DT damages," he said.

The official said they are now exploring options to ensure that rampant power pilferage is stopped.

"We are hopeful that a strong message goes to people through these religious clerics and civil society. If power is judiciously used, the problem of frequent power cuts will be solved," he added.

The KPDCL has also resorted to name and shame individuals involved in illegal electricity consumption.

In a tweet recently, KPDCL announced, "Consumers hooking, bypassing meters and exceeding agreed load will be named! Night inspections by KPDCL teams, breaching the 1000 mark daily."—(KNO)

### LG Manoj Sinha

stars will not only help us to achieve excellence in organising international sporting events but also popularize a robust sports culture in the masses, especially among the youth".

The Lt Governor said over the next three days, Jammu Kashmir will celebrate and honour sporting excellence,

dedication and commitment of the cricketers in the playing field and players will get an opportunity to enjoy UT's hospitality, and incredible culture of J&K during their stay.

The Lt Governor said: "This tournament is also an occasion to uphold the values of Cricket game, which seeks to promote peace, excellence, respect, friendship and unity. In every respect, Jammu Kashmir echoes and reinforces these ideals and developing a thriving sporting culture.

The power of sports to bring peace and unity is extraordinary and I am sure your presence will influence and inspire the young generation to discover their true calling to shape a new future".

The Lt Governor congratulated the players including Chris Gayle, Harbhajan Singh, Suresh Raina, Praveen Kumar, Thisara Perera, Stuart Binny and extended his best wishes to the teams for the remaining matches.

### CS, Secy DARPG

journey of development during the last five years and said that the transformation has been phenomenal.

He said that from a largely no tender system to a complete 100 percent e-tendering process is not a small transformation and the manner in which people have adopted the change is extremely commendable. He said that the engine of change since 2019 in JK has fundamentally changed JK forever and JK should probably be number one in terms of systems transparency.

Talking about the J&K Bank, CS said that in 2019 people were extremely sceptical about the bank but soon, the Bank figured among the top four banks in the country in achieving targets in digital payments.

As far as Back to Village is concerned, Chief Secretary said that it has evolved into Aspirational Panchayat and there is a Prabhari which is there for the entire year and more.

Dr Mehta highlighted that in terms of Good Governance, JK has been on the fore front on aspects. He said that JK is among the first to cross 1100 e-services and which we are really proud of. He said that JK is saturated on many schemes as we are No 1 in Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, No 2 in Nasha Mukht Abhiyan and No 3 in Amritsarovar. He said that JK has been on a ranking of 1-5 on many initiatives and we have hope to remain among the top five if not better than that. He said that on e-governance, J&K should not lag behind any state or UT on any parameter and urged officers to carry forward the process. He said that every work requires teamwork manner and thanked the officers for being strong pillars of the team.

V Srinivas who released the case studies through VC said that his team looks forward to circulate these case studies to all universities, government institutions and state governments. He thanked the Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta for his yeoman services to the nation which has brought in sweeping reforms in governance across the UT of J&K.

Professor and Director, Centre for Public Policy Governance and Performance, Harsh Sharma earlier gave a detailed presentation about the methodology, key elements, impact and way forward on each of the four initiatives.

He highlighted that the impact of Back to Village has been such that more than 4000 work worth of Rs. 8110 lakhs (approx.) has been completed across J&K and a Saturation coverage of 4291 Panchayats has been achieved.

He said that there is a need to prepare a framework to capture the progress made in the welfare schemes (Jal Jeevan Mission, etc.) He said that focus should be laid on development of training modules to support implementation of B2V-5 for the creation of Model Panchayats in line with the Aspirational Panchayat Development Program of J&K.

He said that there is a further need to encourage local community in decision-

making processes to ensure the projects align with their needs and aspirations. Strengthening the role of Panchayats by providing them with more decision-making powers and financial resources and establishing regular channels for feedback from the local community is an imperative.

He asserted that the Empowerment portal provides detailed insights to citizens by enabling them to monitor works/projects being implemented and encouraging citizen to give their feedback about the quality and pace of work.

The impact of Janbhagidhari has been such that number of works completed increased from about 9200 in 2018-19 to 21943 in 2020- 21and more than 50,000 in 2021-22 with a decrease of 20-30% cost of execution because of better supervision and oversight by the public.

Talking about the transformation change of JK Bank he said that it registered an annual net profit of Rs 1197.38 Cr for FY 2022-23 witnessing 139% YoY growth. He said that total Business of the Bank as of 31st March 2023 stood at Rs. 212666 Crore registering a growth of 9.40%.

Talking about the impact of AB-PMJAY, he said that JK is the first UT in the country to insure its entire population and 26 lakhs (approx.) beneficiaries have been covered under AB-PMJAY. It was given out that 81 percent of beneficiary families have at least one e-card in AB-PMJAY. He said that JK has 100 percent redressal of grievances through Jammu & Kashmir - Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JKIGRAMS) and a fine of Rs. 45 lakhs (approx.) collected through Anti-Fraud mechanism for violation of SoP.

### TB Cases On

They said the Anantnag and Pulwama districts were declared tuberculosis-free under the sub-national certification for TB elimination in India earlier this year, while Budgam received this designation in 2021.

"Budgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama fall into the TB-free category, with Baramulla categorised as bronze, Kupwara as gold, and Srinagar already awarded gold. Overall, three districts in Kashmir are free of TB, with two receiving gold awards and one a bronze award," the officials said.

They said that claims of TB state units are being verified by four national agencies on the ground. Four national agencies assess TB status and provide certification based on performance data.

Officials said that patients receive the utmost attention, with regular data updates and a team of watchdogs at the block, district, state, and federal levels. Screenings of patients' relatives are also being conducted.

Under the Nikshay Poshan Yojna, patients receive Rs 500 for the duration of their therapy, they said, adding that the decline in cases is attributed to targeted prevention campaigns and enhanced diagnostic capabilities. They also stressed the need for continued vigilance to sustain and build upon these gains.

Officials further said that robust surveillance along with public awareness campaigns will continue to make Kashmir TB-free by 2025.

The government in Kashmir has introduced an AI-based system to identify potential TB cases, and testing has been increased to detect cases in the initial stages.

There are four categories of recognition for achieving reduction targets, with the top spot being TB-free status, indicating an 80% reduction. Other categories include gold medal (over 60% reduction), silver medal (over 40% reduction), and bronze medal (over 20% reduction).

Budgam was the first district to be declared TB-free. Sub-national certification, initiated in 2020, marks progress towards TB-free status, with the goal of achieving a TB-free India by 2025. The process rewards well-performing states/districts when specific milestones in TB elimination are achieved—(KNO)

'YOU HAVE TO BE ARM TWISTED TO GIVE MONEY'

# SC rebukes Delhi govt over 'partial compliance' in rapid rail project

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday took strong exception over "partial compliance" of its order requiring the Delhi government to make arrangements of funds for construction of the Delhi-Alwar and Delhi-Panipat corridor of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project.

"You have to be arm-twisted to give money which you are liable to pay. This is the problem. Why do they not make the budgetary provisions? You can make budgetary provisions for 580 crores odd for advertisements but you can't make budgetary provision of 400 odd crores," a bench headed by Justice S.K. Kaul told Delhi government's counsel after she said that the government of the national capital is making budgetary allocation for the rapid rail project.

The bench, also comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, said that it passed the order transferring the funds allocated for advertisement purposes to the RRTS project to make the government realise "what



they are doing".

It added that the Delhi government wants "all monies to be withdrawn out of environment fund only" and "does not want to make budgetary provisions".

"We are concerned with compliance with our order. Have you paid or have you not paid? Have you transferred the funds or not," the top court asked. "Funds are not transferred," submitted senior advocate Atmaram Nadkarni, who appeared on behalf of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), before the apex court.

Referring to the sanction order issued by the Delhi government on November 24, Nadkarni highlighted

that only "partial compliance" has been made by paying 415 crores towards the fulfillment of its share for construction of the Delhi-Meerut corridor of RRTS.

"150 crores for Delhi-Alwar and Delhi-Panipat corridor has not been settled," he added.

In its order, the top court noted that the sanctioned amount may not have been credited into the account of the NCRTC - a joint venture company of government of India and states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh which is implementing the RRTS project.

"However, the sanction order itself states that it is 'partial compliance'.

There cannot be no question of partial compliance and complete compliance must take place as per the schedule," it added.

The matter will be taken up for further hearing on December 7.

In an earlier order passed on November 21, the apex court was "constrained" to direct that funds allocated for advertisement purposes be transferred to the RRTS project.

However, it had kept its order in abeyance for a period of one week and said that if the funds are not transferred, the order will come into operation on November 28.

In its application, NCRTC had said that the Delhi government by not releasing promised funds had breached its undertaking given earlier to the Supreme Court.

In July, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Delhi government, had assured the top court that the project's overdue amount of Rs 415 crore and other arrears will be paid within a stipulated timeline.

# COP28: India too has no 'option' than to invest in nature

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** India is also facing the serious consequences of climate change and it has no option than to invest in nature. At COP28, leaders from across the globe must acknowledge the critical role of nature in tackling the climate crisis. Also the world cannot reach the Paris Agreement without halting and reversing nature loss, alongside rapid emissions cuts.

These were the views of frontline groups to take a stand at the two-week COP28, the 28th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, under the United Arab Emirates (UAE) presidency slated from November 30 in Dubai.

In the run up to COP28, the frontline delegation calls upon world leaders to pass and adhere to binding agreements, including the immediate phase out of dirty energy, and to commit to meaningful climate reparations for communities that are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis.

Also, indigenous leaders representing forest communities from 24 countries will travel to Dubai.

At the event, they will demand greater protections for tropical forest communities, who manage 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity and nearly 40 per cent of remaining intact forests, in global agreements and national proposals for implementing and funding nature-based solutions.

Talking to IANS regarding India's science-driven benchmarks to enhance climate plans and collective action pathways in nature, wildlife conservationist and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) Director Kishor Rithe said: "India is also facing the serious consequences of climate change and it has no option than to invest in nature."

"The real challenge is to achieve this by following the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This is only possible with strong collaborations with research organisations and local and global financial institutions. Such collabo-

rations can implement the regional climate action plans and produce measurable outcomes.

"India is certainly moving towards this and regular monitoring may help in reporting the outcomes."

Believing that nature and biodiversity play in aiding the mitigation and adaptation to the global crises, Lucy Almond, Chair of Nature4Climate and Nature Positive Pavilion lead, told IANS: "At COP28, the world stands at a course-correcting moment."

"Leaders must acknowledge the critical role of nature in tackling the climate crisis. Nature can provide one-third of the

nature and decarbonizing our economy because we urgently need both.

"We need nature for climate action, and we need climate action for nature."

The 21st session of the COP (COP21) led to the Paris Agreement, which mobilised global collective action to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2100, and to act to adapt to the already existing effects of climate change.

Why is this COP (Conference of Parties) crucial?

The Global Stocktake, which will be finalized at COP28, has made it clear that more action is needed across all sectors to meet the Paris Agreement goals

and causing harm to biodiverse ecosystems that store and absorb carbon.

"The climate crisis demands a rapid just transition for a binding global phase out of fossil fuels and all extraction and production at source," said Tom Goldtooth, Executive Director of the Indigenous Environmental Network.

"With the risks and uncertainties of carbon capture and storage and carbon dioxide removal technologies, the world does not need more climate false solutions that divert attention away from the crucial work of stopping the ongoing colonial and capitalist frameworks that are consistently adopted by the UNFCCC."

Compensating local communities through market mechanisms is a step in the right direction, believes Javier Valdivia Navarro, Local Projects Coordinator at Terra Global Capital, LLC.

"However, it's essential to ensure that this compensation is fair, transparent, and equitable. Additionally, involving these communities in the design and implementation of the project, respecting their rights, and fostering local ownership are crucial aspects to make such initiatives truly effective and sustainable," he told IANS.

In a message ahead of the COP28 that is bringing the world together, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said: "It is profoundly shocking to stand on the ice of Antarctica and hear directly from scientists how fast the ice is melting. The cause is clear: fossil fuel pollution."

Leaders at COP28 must not let the hopes of people around the world for a sustainable planet melt away, he warned.

Quoting new figures of September, he said Antarctic sea ice was 1.5 million square kilometres smaller than the average for the time of year -- an area roughly equal to the combined size of Portugal, Spain, France and Germany.

"And this year, Antarctic sea ice hit an all-time low," he added.



and has acknowledged that engaging indigenous people and local communities in implementing climate actions is crucial.

The stocktake builds on evidence suggesting that scaling up the land rights and heeding the values and knowledge of indigenous and local communities represents one of the world's most cost-effective solutions for protecting forests and preventing the damage that fuels climate change and biodiversity loss.

The outcome will set international norms for climate action over the next five years, and it must include an explicit call to accelerate and invest in nature.

Leaders from tropical forest countries will demand urgent action to ensure countries are allowing indigenous peoples and local communities to influence local plans for implementing climate solutions that, in some regions, are already violating commu-

## Nitish govt slashes holidays on Hindu festivals in Bihar, BJP demands rollback

IAN S

**PATNA:** In what is being perceived as a minority appeasement strategy ahead of the Assembly and the Lok Sabha polls, the Mahagathbandhan government of Bihar has reduced the holidays on Hindu festivals while increasing the same for Muslim festivals.

On Monday evening, the education department issued a leave notification in this regard. Besides, it has also increased the summer vacation by 10 more days.

As per the fresh notification for year 2024, the education department has made mandatory 220 days of studying for the students.

However, the holidays for Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-

Juha and Muharram were enhanced from 2 days to three.

Even the summer vacation has also increased from 20 days to 30 days for the year 2024.

Holidays for Hartalika Teej, Janmastami, Mahashivratri, Ram Navami, Saraswati Puja, Rakhi, Teej and Jitiya stand cancelled.

Interestingly, the central government announced a holiday on Janmastami, Mahashivratri, Ramnavami, with all central government offices and banks closed every year.

Union minister Giriraj Singh reacted sharply to the development saying Nitish Kumar is working under the agendas of Quran and Sharia law to make Bihar a Muslim state.

## Work of laying pipes in Silkyara tunnel completed, workers to be brought out soon: CM Dharam

IAN S

**DEHRADUN:** In a major breakthrough to bring out the 41 trapped workers from Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dharam on Tuesday afternoon said that the work of laying pipes in the tunnel has been completed and all the workers will be brought out soon.

In a tweet posted in Hindi on X, Dharam said, "With the grace of Baba Baukh Nag Ji and prayers of crores of the people of the country and the tireless work of all the rescue teams engaged in the rescue operation, the work of laying pipes in the tunnel to take out the workers has been completed."

"Soon all the labor brothers will be taken out," he said.

Ambulances and a medical team have arrived at the spot to rush the 41 trapped workers.

Rat-hole mining was started as rescue efforts to reach the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel entered its 16th day on Monday.

Earlier in the day, while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Sixth World Disaster Management Conference in Dehradun, the Chief Minister said that the rescuers involved in the operation to rescue the 41 trapped workers in the collapsed Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakashi have dug through 53 metres of debris.

He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was being apprised of the status of the operations every day.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
GIST of e-NIT No. 37 of 2023-24 Dated: 25-11-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South (Awantipora), invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Creation, Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Sub-Stations at Rapid Sand Filtration Plants of various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora of District Anantnag". The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid on percentage basis, in the prescribed BQO.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Esttd. Cost (in Rs.)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work
1	Creation, Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Sub-Stations at Rapid Sand Filtration Plants of various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora of District Anantnag.	Work/Scheme wise details given in Form-I of Tender Document	Rs. 300/- for each work	02% of the estimated cost of each work	120 days	As indicate against each item in Form-I of Tender Document

Programme/Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.  
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

**Critical Dates:**

I	Publish Date on Tender Portal	27-11-2023 (09:00 AM)
II	Document Download/sale start Date	27-11-2023 (09:00 AM)
III	Bid submission start date	27-11-2023 (09:00 AM)
IV	Document Download/sale end Date	11-12-2023 (06:00 PM)
V	Bid submission end date	11-12-2023 (06:00 PM)
VI	Date and time of Bid opening	12-12-2023 (02:00 PM)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
- a. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified against each item of work.
- b. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/ BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bid.
- c. The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e Challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
- d. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/ TR/e Challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial cover.
- e. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- f. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- g. Queries by email if any should be made at [xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com](mailto:xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com).

No: JSD/MDSA/5133-35  
Dated: 25/11/2023  
DIPK-12904-23  
Dt: 28/11/2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
PHE Mechanical Division,  
South Awantipora.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
Fresh against Nit no. Fresh-63/EEA/RNB/2023-24/2496-2506 DT.07-11-2023  
E-TENDERING/NIT No: Fresh-88/EEA/RNB/2023-24/3329-39 DT. 28-11-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost of the Project (Rs in Lacs) for which Consultancy is Required as Adv. cost	Estimated Cost of the Architectural Engg. & Consultancy (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Type of Consultancy
1.	Providing Consultancy and other allied services with all working drawings (Digital Layout Plan, /BOQ, Structural, Architectural Design) incld. technical vetting of drawings from DICQ/NIT/IIT and Conducting of all required soil investigations for Construction of working standard Laboratory of Legal Metrological Deptt. at Pulwama.	75.83	0.40	200/-	10 Days	Architectural/ Structural Consultancy with Soil Testing

Position of AAA =Accorded -92-LM of 2023 dt. 15/09/2023  
Position of Funds =Available

- 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-11-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 29-11-2023 (10:00AM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 30-11-2023 (10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 07-12-2023 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	08-12-2023 (11:00 PM)

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 Awantipora [Tender Inviting Authority] (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and the bidders residing Outside UT of J&K can submit DD of any nationalized bank in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora the cost of tender document fee is non refundable.

- If MSME firm is registered with NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) agencies for tendered item then they are exempted for submission of EMD & Tender Cost. If MSME's who are interested in availing these benefits will have to enclosed with their offer the proof of their beings MSME's registered with any of the above mentioned agencies.
- All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Head Draftsman DIPK-12962-23 DT: 28/11/2023 Technical Officer Executive Engineer, R&B Division Awantipora

**COLLEGE ON WHEELS**

# J&K College on Wheels' students visit IISc Bangalore

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BENGALURU:** The contingent of 700 female students from various universities and affiliated colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, currently on a two-week College on wheels journey to various parts of the country, Tuesday visited the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore Campus, popularly known as the Tata Institute, ranked among the country's most prestigious institutions, established in 1909.

This unique experiential learning initiative, fully funded by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT, has set out to break the boundaries of conventional education, providing participants with real-world insights and hands-on experiences. The visit to IISc Bangalore marks a significant chapter in this educational odyssey, offering an unparalleled opportunity for the contingent to engage with cutting-edge research, state-of-the-art facilities, and renowned academic experts.

In the heart of IISc, students went round various departments, laboratories, and research centres, immersing

themselves in a dynamic environment that fuelled curiosity and collaboration. Interactions with leading researchers and scholars provided invaluable insights into diverse fields, sparking inspiration for the participants' future academic pursuits.

At IISc, a distinguished research university founded 114 years ago by visionaries Jansetji Tata and Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, students seized the unique opportunity for a productive interaction with senior faculty members. These exchanges offered profound insights into various labs, significantly enhancing the contingent's understanding of cutting-edge research and academic advancements.

The students explored facilities dedicated to microscopy and microanalysis, experiencing firsthand the intricate world of advanced research techniques. Additionally, they engaged with the interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research, delving into the forefront of energy studies. The visit extended to the Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing, providing insights into the convergence of creativity



and technology and simultaneously fostering an environment of curiosity. Interactions with leading researchers and scholars further enriched the contingent's understanding of diverse fields, sparking inspiration for future academic pursuits.

Beyond the traditional classroom setting, the students were privileged to be taught by eminent minds at IISc Bangalore.

The learning experience was enriched by the wisdom and expertise imparted by the distinguished faculty members, creating a dynamic environment that transcended theoretical boundaries.

During the visit, Prof. Umesh Rai Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu expressed gratitude to Director IISc for extending the facility for the contingent of

College on Wheels to visit IISc to get the first hand experience of technological advancement and its optimum use in the learning process.

"The College on Wheels programme is designed to redefine education by taking it beyond the confines of traditional classrooms. The visit to IISc Bangalore exemplifies the commitment of Higher Edu-

cation Council and University of Jammu to provide students with a holistic and immersive learning experience," said Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, while giving a detailed overview of the initiative to Director and Deans of various faculties at IISc Bangalore.

The College on Wheels initiative, conceived to break the shackles of traditional education, has resonated with overwhelming enthusiasm from both students and educators alike. The contingent's engagement at IISc vividly epitomizes the spirit of experiential learning and academic exploration, pushing participants beyond the confines of conventional classrooms.

As the College on Wheels journey continues to unfold, it leaves an indelible mark on the educational landscape, empowering students with real-world experiences and fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration.

Later in the day, the students also went around for sightseeing to various places and temples in the southern city.

The College on Wheels after visiting Bangalore shall flag off at Bangalore Railway Sta-

tion by Sh. T. Subramanya Ganesh, Scientist/ Engineer-G Deputy Director, NSA, ISTRAC Telemetry Tracking and Command Network ISRO in presence of Sh. B. Sankar Madaswamy, Scientist/ Engineer- SF Manager HRDD, ISRO and Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu for its onward journey to Wardha, Maharashtra.

Envisioned by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the College on Wheels, a special train exclusively earmarked for the two-week trip of girl students from Jammu and Kashmir to premiere institutions and places of the country, was flagged off from Mata Vaishno Devi University Railway Station Katra on November 19. The Lieutenant Governor said the College on Wheels is inspired by the life of Mahatma Gandhi, where he undertook epic tour of the country by train, interacted with people from all walks of life and awakened the society with universal and eternal values Satya and Ahimsa, Truth and Non-Violence. He exuded confidence that the journey will be a lifetime opportunity to discover diverse regions, culture of country and to explore new aspects of life and wisdom.

## VBSY witnesses massive public response in Kupwara

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**KUPWARA:** The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a nationwide outreach initiative aimed at informing and empowering citizens about the Centre's flagship schemes was held in 19 remotest Panchayats of Tangdar and Teetwal blocks of Kupwara district.

People thronged the venues of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (campaign) in Panchayats of Kandi Payen, Khoverpora A & B, Kona Gabra, Nachiyar, Nowagabra A, B & C, Tangdar A, B & C, Amrohiee, Bahadurkote, Chemkote A & B, Chanipora A & B, Gundi Gujran, and Hajitara.

VBSY witnessed enthusiastic response from PRI members and locals who gathered around the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) setups.

Participants listened keenly to the recorded message from the Prime Minister of India. As

part of the program, participants took the Viksit Sankalp Bharat pledge, affirming their commitment to the nation's holistic development.

SDM Karnah Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather administered the Pledge to the participants at Government Boys' High School Tandar.

Simultaneously, the festivities today featured a vibrant display of cultural events, presented by local artists.

The schemes being publicized included Ayushman Bharat; National Rural Livelihoods Mission; PM Awas Yojana (Rural); PM Ujjwala Yojana; PM Vishwakarma; PM Kisan Saman; Kisan Credit Card (KCC); PM Poshan Abhiyan; Har Ghar Jal-Jal Jeevan Mission; Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas (SVAMITVA); Jan Dhan Yojana; Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana; Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.

## Large public turnout witnessed in VBSY in Shopian

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SHOPIAN:** All six designated Panchayats of Keller block, where the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) campaign was undertaken Tuesday, witnessed appreciable participation of people.

Government officers and officials, PRIs, youth and students and beneficiaries of Government welfare schemes took part in Yatra enthusiastically.

The aim of the yatra is to generate awareness regarding the Central government's welfare

schemes and policies to ensure 100 percent saturation of flagship government schemes with the sole purpose to facilitate the general public at their doorsteps.

The campaign organized in six Panchayats includes Mastpora, Moshwara, Narapora, Naserpora, Phelepura and Wathoo of Shopian district.

The highlights of the programme included holding medical camps, on spot registration of people for various beneficiaries schemes, banking services and drone demonstrations.

## 3-day Philatelic Exhibition "KASHPEX-2023" inaugurated

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** The three day KASHPEX 2023, i.e. State Level Philatelic Exhibition was inaugurated by Brig K Bhardwaj, Brig HQ 15 Corps along with Col Vinod Kumar, Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle, at SKICC here Tuesday.

The event was also attended by Col Faraz, Col GS (IW), HQ 15 Corps and Shri Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner SMC and CEO, Srinagar Smart City Limited.

In line with said promotional endeavor, Department of Posts, J&K Circle has organized the KASHPEX-2023 from November 28 to 30, where approximately 50,000 postage stamps and other philatelic items are on display.

The exhibition will highlight India's history, culture, art and heritage across years through stamps and pictorial collections. India Post scented stamps are also on display besides some rare and old stamps dating back to 1800s and 1900s. The exhibition is a rare opportunity to see some of the best stamps, first day covers, miniature sheets, stamp cards etc from India and other countries.



Speaking on the occasion, Col Vinod Kumar, Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle while addressing the audience highlighted the role of India Post in the lives of common people and the vast network of India Post. He said, that the role of India Post in ensuring Financial inclusion while ensuring last mile delivery of mails was also emphasized. Col Kumar urged the audience predominantly comprising of school children to take Philately as a hobby having twin benefits of enhancement of knowledge and monetary value.

Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner SMC and

CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited while addressing the gathering threw light on the vast network of India Post. He urged school children to pursue the hobby of stamp collection and also invited people of Srinagar Smart City to visit the exhibition. He also acknowledged the release of Special Cover on Ghanta Ghar which has achieved prime importance in the context of revamp of Srinagar city and transmission into Smart City.

A special attraction of the exhibition, "My Stamp" which is a personalized stamp, was presented to Chief Guest by

Col Vinod Kumar on the occasion. The personalization is achieved by printing a thumb nail image of the customer's photograph and logos of institutions, or images of artwork, heritage buildings, famous tourist places, historical cities, wildlife, other animals and birds etc., on a selected template sheet having Postage Stamps.

Pankaj K. Mishra, Director Postal Services, J&K presented the vote of thanks. Dr P.P. Singh, Director of Accounts (Postal) also attended the event.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by TV presenter Azhar Hajini.

## VBSY held in 10 Panchayats of Kulgam



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**KULGAM:** Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) started Tuesday in 10 more Panchayat Halqas of the Manzagam block of the district, amid enthusiastic and vibrant participation of stakeholders.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Showkat Ahmad Rather attended the programme along with SDM DH Pora, Bashir UI Hassan; ACD, Mohd Imran and supervised multiple activities organized under the nationwide campaign.

Panchayat Halqas including Ansoor, Mirwani, Korel, Tangmarg, Watoo and KB Pora comprising 10 Panchayats, were today taken up during the fourth day of the Yatra in the district.

Officers and officials continued to aware people about government schemes and interacted with people and motivated them to register for schemes and get benefits under various employment and welfare based schemes.

Beneficiaries, who have availed services, also

shared their experiences under Meri Kahaani, Meri Zubaani initiative and expressed gratitude for the seamless services delivery. Drone and soil health card demonstrations, health camps for NCD, Anaemia screening and other on spot services were provided on the occasion.

Assistance under different government schemes, felicitation events, painting and drawing competitions were also held on the occasion across the Panchayats. Officers and officials remained busy in IEC activities at all the Panchayats of the block in an effort to reach the unreached population.

Welfare, employment, insurance, social security and income generation based schemes were highlighted by all departments who had installed stalls. IEC Vans were pressed into service also.

Block officers and officials from line departments, PRIs, students and locals participated in Viksit Bharat Yatra programmes in aforesaid panchayats, fervently.

## SVEEP

## SP College, DEO Srinagar organise Mega Awareness Programme

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Sri Pratap College, Srinagar in collaboration with District Election Office, Srinagar Tuesday organised a mega awareness programme under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) for special summary revision of electoral rolls, 2023.

The co-ordinator of the program Dr. Shazia Mush-taq in her introduction to the program highlighted the importance of the electoral process in shaping the future of the nation.

Principal SP College Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Jeelani Qurashi in his welcome address underlined the importance of voter registration and voting for establishing a vibrant and truly peoples' democracy where there is accountability and transparency. The Principal further emphasized that voting is the basic building block of a successful democratic setup.

Dr. Manzoor Ahmad



Reshi, in-charge SVEEP programme, in his address explained the importance of voter registration and how young voters can make a difference in the policy making and governance.

Dr. Mehar Rather, IT expert from the District Election Office, Srinagar gave an on-stage demonstration of the voter registration process by using the Voter Helpline App. She guided the students for on spot registration by explaining every step-in detail.

Shazaib Parvaiz, a student of the college, gave a powerpoint presentation on the importance of the electoral process. To make the day long awareness a celebration of the democratic ethos, students of the college presented different cultural programmes. A skit on the electoral process was performed by a group of students led by Hareem Farooq and Sheikh Shahid. High quality singing programmes were performed by Rizwan and his team and Raina Naqee and Farukh Nihad.

## Govt dismisses prosecuting officer over bribery charges

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday terminated a senior Prosecuting Officer (PO) for taking a bribe of Rs 2 lakh in a murder case.

According to an order issued by Home Department, Aijaz ul Hassan had taken Rs 2 lakh bribe from a murder accused while he was posted as Senior Prosecuting Officer in the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Thanamandi.

The order reads that the officer failed in maintaining absolute integrity and acted in a manner unbecoming of a government employee, thereby violating the provisions contained in J&K Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971.

"The act on the part of the officer tantamount to a violation of Rule 3 of J&K Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971," it said.

It added that therefore, in terms of Rule 30(viii) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956, Aijaz-Ul-Hassan, in charge Senior Prosecuting Officer is dismissed from service, with immediate effect, which will also disqualify him from future employment.

## Special enrollment camps held in Kupwara

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**KUPWARA:** In order to ensure saturation of eligible voters and on the directions of District Election Officer Kupwara, Special Enrollment Camps for Assembly Constituency Kupwara were launched today.

On the occasion, large numbers of students who have attained or are likely to attain the age of 18 years by 01.01.2024 were registered.

District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Kupwara, Hidayatullah Mir, designated as dedicated Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) for Kupwara-AC, along with his team and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are conducting Registration cum Awareness camps in various Educational Institutions falling in the geographical limits of Kupwara constituency during which all the

eligible voters who have attained the age of majority will be enrolled.

The electors were apprised about the procedure entailed for the purpose to enable them to exercise their right to vote.

Further, the participants were enlightened about the process of filing advance claims for registration through online portals like NVSP/VHA/VP etc in order to bring them under the ambit of electoral process.

These special camps have been organized in view of the prevalence of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) and prospective electors in these educational institutions.

Meanwhile, it was informed that these special camps shall continue for 3 days and 9 Educational Institutions of Kupwara-AC will be covered.