


Good Morning Kashmir

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We are at a loss of words to explain this! For a consumer who has spent crores on his palatial bungalow, how does paying #KPDCL a few thousand bucks make any difference? Think!

Sub-Zero Temp Continues In Kashmir



SRINAGAR: Though the mercury rose in Kashmir parts on Friday, the world famous Dal Lake froze as the night temperatures continued to settle below freezing point across the region. After recording the season's coldest temperature last night, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 3.5 degree. **•P-06**

J&K Bank MD Gets 'India's Impactful CEO' Award

SRINAGAR: As part of recognizing leaders who inspired not only with their achievements but also with their unwavering commitment to positive change, J&K Bank MD Baldev Prakash has been honoured with prestigious 'Times Now India's Impactful CEO - 2023' Award. On his behalf, the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (ROI) Rakesh Koul received the award from Ex-Member of Parliament Priya Dutt at the third edition. **•P-06**

JKSCB Loan Fraud Case ED Attaches Land Worth 193 Cr In Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK (ACB) had filed a charge-sheet in the case against Mir, Dar and others for offences under the skirts of Srinagar for construction of a satellite township, according to the probe by the ACB. The application was endorsed to the registrar of cooperative societies, Jammu and Kashmir, for taking up the matter with the J&K Co-operative Bank. In the ACB probe, it was found that accordingly, the J&K Co-operative Bank in Srinagar sanctioned a loan to the tune of Rs 223 crore, without adhering to any codal formalities, including obtaining details of the society such as its balance-sheet, profit and loss, account business, activities, PAN number, income tax returns, and construction of board resolutions. The inquiry revealed that the River Jhelum Cooperative House Building Society had not even been registered with the registrar of cooperative societies, and Mir by acting in league with Dar and others had prepared a fake and fictitious. **•P-06**

SRINAGAR: Enforcement Directorate on Friday attached immovable property measuring over 257 Kanal in Shivpora area of Srinagar in connection with a loan fraud case involving a fake cooperative society. An official said that ED has provisionally attached immovable property in the form of land measuring 257 Kanal and 19 Marlas at Shivpora, which is valued at Rs 193.46 crore in a PMLA case related to the financial fraud. He said that the fraud involved sanctioning of loan to the tune of Rs 250 crore in 2019 to a fake cooperative society named River Jhelum Cooperative House Building Society. The official said that the then chairman of JKSTCB and others were involved in this fraud case. In August 2020, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau



J&K Gets Dev Push ₹ 2079 Crores Spent Till October This Year

SAJID RAINA **SRINAGAR:** The financial 2023-24—up to October 31—has witnessed a whopping investment by the Jammu and Kashmir administration up to the tune of Rs 2079.76 crores, giving a huge push to the J&K's developmental prospectus. Official data reveals that the cumulative investments in the UT from the year 2019 to October 31, 2023, amount to a total of 5319.35 crores, distributed across various fiscal years. "In the fiscal year 2019-20, an initial investment of 296.64 crores was made constituting 5.58% of the overall amount. Moving into 2020-21, there was a notable increase, with an investment of 412.74 crores, representing 7.75% of the total funds," it said.

The documents stated that the subsequent fiscal year, 2021-22, saw a continued commitment with investments of 376.76 crores, accounting for 7.08% of the total outlay. The ongoing fiscal year, 2022-23, has witnessed a substantial boost, with investments of 2153.00 crores, making up 40.47% of the total. From the beginning of 2023 until October 31, an additional 2079.76 crores have been invested, contributing 39.08% to the overall allocation," the data added. The data further states that 53 projects are being implemented at a cost of Rs.58,477 crores by 15 Ministries/Departments in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015 in sectors such as Roads, Power, Health, Education, Tourism, Agriculture, Skill Development etc. has been accelerated. 32 projects have been completed/substantially completed. "7 New Government Medical Colleges have been operationalized. 28 B.Sc. Nursing Colleges and 19 B.Sc. Paramedic Colleges have been added. 800 more MBBS Seats have been added totalling to 1300. Presently 664 PG Medical Seats available out of which 297 PG Seats added after 2019. 1870 B.Sc. Nursing Seats and 125 M.Sc. Nursing Seats added in Nursing Colleges,"



JJM Gets Boost Centre Approves 102 Water Supply Schemes Worth 476.71 Cr

GMK News Network areas/ households was done, by the public, during various public outreach programmes like 'Back to village', Block Divas, JJM Fortnight, Gram Sabhas and JJM awareness camps conducted by the Department, where the public had raised the demands for inclusion of these left out areas in the Jal Jeevan Mission. With the approval of these new 102 schemes by the Centre, it shall be ensured that no household **•P-06**

SRINAGAR: As a major boost to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in J&K, the Centre has approved new 102 Water Supply Schemes worth Rs 476.71 crore for coverage of additional 54752 rural households in the UT for which the provision for Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) had not been planned at the start of the mission. The identification of these



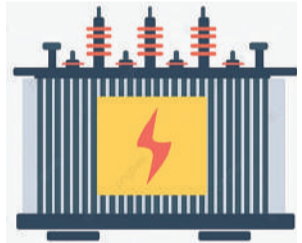
Path To Sustainable Future Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Sparks Electric Bus Surge

GMK News Network **SRINAGAR:** In a transformative stride towards a sustainable and developed India, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is weaving through the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, embodying a commitment to the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. At the heart of this movement lies a comprehensive approach, extending beyond the reduction of carbon footprints to encompass water and plastic footprints, reflecting the urgency outlined in Niti Aayog's 8th Governing Council meeting. Central to this paradigm shift is India's Mission LiFE, echoing the global call **•P-06**



PDD To Replace Damaged Transformers Within 4 Hrs In City Areas

Riyaz Bhat **SRINAGAR:** Amid surge in damage to electric transformers, the government is mulling to replace damaged transformers in four hours in city areas of both Jammu and Kashmir regions. However, in case of damage to electric transformers in rural areas, authorities said that they will replace it within 24-hours. Principal Secretary Power Development Department (PDD) H. Rajesh Prasad said "We want damaged transformers to be maintained and replaced at earliest because when there would be no transformer in the area, there will not be electricity." He said, "The administration had instructed us to replace or repair the damaged transformers in four hours in city **•P-06**



'Anthem Of Cultural Pride' KPs Embrace Cultural Roots Through Folk Song 'Maenz Ho Laagae...'



Raja Syed Rather nostalgia. "This folk song isn't just music; it's a piece of our identity, a connection to our roots," expressed Rakesh Kaul, a local Kashmiri Pandit. "Its timeless melody evokes memories of our homeland, fostering a sense of belonging among Kashmiri Pandits scattered across the globe," he added. The revival of 'Maenz Ho Laagae Walai Walai' has drawn widespread attention, igniting a renewed interest in preserving Kashmiri culture. "The song encapsulates the essence of our traditions. Its resurgence symbolises a reclamation of our vibrant heritage," said Kapil Singh, another Kashmiri Pandit. As the song went viral on social media, netizens started appreciating the gesture, saying 'Maenz Ho Laagae Walai Walai' isn't **•P-06**

SRINAGAR: In a heart-warming display of preserving the valley's rich cultural legacy, Kashmiri Pandits have found resonance in the soulful rhythm of the folk song 'Maenz Ho Laagae Walai Walai'. This melodious ode to heritage and tradition has sparked a wave of enthusiasm among the community, echoing the sentiments of unity and

Govt Invites Applications For Appointment Of Dir SKIMS



GMK News Network **SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has invited online applications for appointment of Director SKIMS Soura. A notification, in this regard, has been issued by the Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar, which reads that "online applications on prescribed proforma are invited from Indian Nationals for the position of Director, Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. The notification is available on the official website www.skims.ac.in of SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar." The date of submission of application form shall be with effect from 16-12-2023 to 15.01-2024, reads the notification. **•P-06**

Movies Saturday

16 DECEMBER



TIGER 3

01:20PM (HINDI) U/A



ANIMAL

10:30AM, 02:30PM, 06:30PM (HINDI ATMOS)
12:00PM, 04:00PM, 05:15PM (HINDI) A

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VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA

Dr. Sehrish urges for saturation of Govt schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) Friday arrived in Urban Areas of Baramulla district after successfully culminating in its objective in rural areas of the district.

The Yatra, with its primary objective to educate the public about the various government welfare schemes, witnessed an exceptional community engagement and raised significant awareness across the municipal areas within the district.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Agha accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Tehsildar Baramulla, CEO Municipal Council Baramulla and others, today led Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Cariapa Park, Baramulla.

At the event, Dr. Sehrish inspected multiple stalls set up by various departments, including Education, Agriculture,



Health, ICDS and Food Supplies among others. These stalls showcased a wide range of government schemes, services, and facilities aimed at benefiting the public.

Dr. Sehrish, accompanied by other officials and the public, eagerly watched Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech

on a mounted LED screen atop an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van.

Following that, the DC administered a pledge, encouraging both officers and the assembled public to affirm their dedication to the nation's unity and advancement.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sehrish highlighted the basic objective of the VBSY, which is to saturate crucial government run beneficiary schemes at grass roots level.

The DC further said that the administration is diligently working to extend the benefits of various schemes such as Ujjwala, Vishwakarma, Ayushman and others directly to the public's doorstep.

Later, the DC distributed Gas Connections, Sanction Letters, Land Passbooks, Ayush Cards and other certificates among various eligible beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, the VBSY also expanded to other Municipal areas of the district with officials continuing engaging with the community and disseminating information to the public about vital government run beneficiary schemes.

160 BEDDED ORTHOPAEDIC BLOCK DC Srinagar inspects project at Barzulla Hospital



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Syed Sehrish Agha, today inspected the site visit of different developmental works being executed in the City to inspect the pace of the works.

The DC inspected the ongoing works on infrastructure upgradation of healthcare facilities at Bone & Joint Hospital. He also inspected works being executed on construction of Walking Path from Barzulla Bridge along Doodh Ganga Bund to Natipora Foot Bridge.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, Medical Superintendent B&J Hospital, Executive Engineer LRCR, SMC, Tehsildar South, Tehsildar Channapora and other Officers.

At Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress of work on Rs 88.95 crore World Bank funded project for construction of 160 Bedded Specialized Orthopaedic Block including Six Bedded ICU, 2 Private Wards, 12 Bedded Pre OP & Post OP

Room, 3 Modular OTs, Radiology, Physiotherapy and Faculty Rooms to augment and upgrade the healthcare infrastructure in B&J Hospital.

On the occasion, the DC took a round of under construction building and directed the executing agency to complete the vital project under the set timeline so that patients are provided better Orthopaedic and other health facilities at the Hospital.

The DC was informed that over 85 percent of works on the prestigious project have been completed and the remaining portion of works shall be completed soon.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the ongoing works being executed on construction of the Walk-Way from Barzulla Bridge along Doodh Ganga Bund to Natipora Foot Bridge.

The DC was informed that work on the 656-meter-long Walking Path is being executed under NCAP at a cost of Rs 53.80 lakh.

The DC asked the concerned agency to speed up the works and complete the work by the end of December 2023.

VBSY paving way for development in Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) that commenced on November 25, 2023 in the district has emerged as a catalyst for transformative change in every corner of District Pulwama. The Yatra, living up to its name, has successfully aligned with the vision of a developed nation.

This extensive journey is meticulously covering every portion and Panchayat within the District, ensuring the effective implementation and saturation of Government schemes among beneficiaries. The Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans have played a crucial role in conveying the message and vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, fostering awareness about the Nation's Development Goals.

Beyond mere dissemination, the Yatra has actively engaged with beneficiaries, ensuring that government scheme benefits permeate every segment of society. This holistic approach is integral to achieving the broader goal of a developed and prosperous Nation.

In addition to the saturation of Government schemes, various camps, and on spot services are main highlights of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. These serve as essential platforms for community engagement and ensuring that the advantages of Government initiatives reach those most in need.

In a significant highlight, Health Camps have been organized as part of the VBSY. Till date, 30,710 individuals have been screened in the district, reflecting the Yatra's commitment to the health and well-being of the community. Notably, 472 individuals have availed the Suraksha Bima Yojana, and 353 people have benefited from the Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana during the on-spot services provided in course of VBSY.

The VBSY in District Pulwama epitomizes more than just a Governmental outreach; it symbolizes a comprehensive strategy for community development. The concerted efforts aim not only to saturate Government schemes but also to foster an environment conducive to holistic and sustainable growth.

KU's CCPC conducts motivational session for civil service aspirants

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: An online career guidance cum motivational session was conducted by the Centre for Career Planning and Counselling (CCPC), University of Kashmir in collaboration with Analyst IAS under the auspices of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav for the civil service aspirants of Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina, Srinagar on Thursday.

During the session, Athar Amir-ul-Shafi Khan (IAS), Commissioner, SMC, Srinagar and CEO, Srinagar Smart City Ltd., Dr. B. N. Ramesh, IPS, former DGP and Nitin Shivhare, CMD, Analyst IAS interacted with the students of the college and provided them the roadmap for appearing in civil service examinations.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Simnani,

Principal, Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina highlighted the importance of career counselling and guidance for competitive examinations and underscored the need for such motivational and guidance sessions for students so that they are able to set and achieve their goals in a time-bound manner.

He said that such career guidance sessions pave way for self-awareness and self-discovery of students as well as their self-achievement.

In his talk, Athar Amir-ul-Shafi Khan gave several useful and practical tips to the students on how to prepare for the civil service examinations and guided them about time management, personal management and effective strategies required for cracking the same.

He dwelled upon the

appropriate methods of making notes, reading newspapers, solving question papers, writing essays, choosing and reading course material. He called upon students to study with full dedication and commitment and devote maximum time to their preparation.

Dr. B. N. Ramesh, who has triple Ph.D. to his credit besides several other degrees, honours and medals explained twenty important traits required for cracking civil service examinations and urged upon students to inculcate those traits with missionary zeal so as to achieve their goals.

While citing several examples of a few achievers, he highlighted the importance of will power, excellence, self-respect, discipline, sound health and dedication.

Nitin Shivhare in his interaction with the stu-

dents explained the vision and mission of his academy and the services offered by them to civil service aspirants.

Director of the Centre for Career Planning and Counselling, Prof. M. I. Geer explained the role of CCPC in imparting career counselling, placements and coaching for various national level competitive examinations and expressed his resolve to conduct more such inspirational and motivational guidance sessions for the students of other degree colleges in future in association with academies like Analyst IAS.

He called upon students of Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina to strive hard and contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat by the year 2047 by way of dedicating themselves to the service of their nation.

VBSY: IEC campaign held in 13 wards in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continues in full swing in Kulgam district and has reached urban areas Friday by covering 13 wards of Municipal Council, Kulgam.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat also participated in VBSY at Bungam Kulgam where he administered the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Pledge among participants.

ACR, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz; ACD, Mohammad Imran; EO, Mohammad Imran and other officers and officials of line departments also attended the programme.

The programme also witnessed overwhelming public participation.

Stalls were set up by various departments to

aware people about their schemes and programmes besides on spot registration counters were also set up by the departments. During the programme, video messages of Hon'ble Prime Minister and other promotional videos were also screened on an IEC van.

Addressing the gathering, DC complimented the concerned for organising the yatra successfully and also extended gratitude to people for their pro-active participation and overwhelming response to the events of the yatra since the beginning of the yatra.

He said that the focus of the Yatra is to reach out to the people, creating awareness and providing benefits of welfare schemes.

Students also presented colourful and scintillating cultural programmes and theme based skits.

Shailendra joins Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

VIJAYPUR: Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) and Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Departments, Shailendra Kumar, Friday joined the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Vijaypur Panchayat.

Principal Secretary along with all the officers, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) members and locals took the Sankalp pledge to work for progress and prosperity of the nation. They also listened to the Prime Minister's message through the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van.

The occasion was marked by cultural performances on the theme of "Dharti Kahe Pukar Ke" by school students. The theme reflects the need to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. Besides, the beneficiaries of various government schemes also shared their stories under

the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani" program.

Shailendra Kumar felicitated the sports persons, students, and other achievers from the area. He also appreciated the children for their talent and enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary stated that it is the collective responsibility of all the government departments as well as the citizens to ensure that India turns into a developed nation by 2047. He urged upon the people to participate in the Sankalp Yatra and contribute towards nation building.

The event was also attended by Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Samba; Subhra Sharma, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu; Ram Sewak, Director Horticulture Jammu; Nagendra Jamwal, Director Command Area Development; DDC member Sudarshan Sathia and other officers of district administration.

'COLLEGE ON WHEELS PROGRAM'

Principal S.P College holds interaction with students



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Principal S.P College Srinagar Friday held an interaction session with students who recently returned from College on Wheels Program. The event was organized in connection with Viksit Bharat@2047.

The students and mentors shared their experience they embarked upon in their quest of realizing the "College on Wheels" project- the dream project of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir especially the Lieutenant Governor for imparting path breaking and non-conventional way of knowledge to the students of Jammu and Kashmir, and in the process, directly

empowering hundreds of female students of Jammu and Kashmir.

The students apprised the Principal about the diversity they experienced and said that India is emerging as a powerful nation in terms of Technology and Economy.

It is pertinent to mention here that the students of S.P College were a part of 15 day College on wheels program in which more than 700 female students participated from different states across the country. The experience gained by the students in such tours will go in a long way in grooming our students to play a major role in realizing the true dream of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 161 OF R&B/Anantnag/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/17399-408 DATED 14-12-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Slit clearance of drain from Gadhanipora upto Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh at ward 17 MC Bijbehara	1.55	200	3100	20 Days	Grant In Aid (M&R Desilting)	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Bij/Works/6 of 2023, Dated 09.09.2023	DEE Class Only
2.	Construction of drain from H/O Ab Ahad Sheikh to H/o Ab Aziz Sheikh at Gulzar pora MC Anantnag (Phase 1st)	1.43	200	2860	20 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/376 of 2023, Dated 20.10.2023	DEE Class Only
3.	Construction of path from H/o Farooq Ahmad Wagay to Aijaz Ahmad Shah at Dak Bunglow Khanabal Anantnag Ward No 03	1.74	200	3480	20 Days	Grant In Aid (Budgetary Support)	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/341 of 2023, Dated 06.10.2023	DEE Class Only
4.	Construction of Protection wall from land of Peer Najmudeen to Gurtamnag at Pehroo MC Anantnag (Phase-1st)	2.00	200	4000	20 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/Ang/343 of 2023, Dated 06.10.2023	DEE Class Only

Project Authority: 1. Municipal Council Anantnag. 2. Municipal Committee Bijbehara.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-12-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 15-12-2023 (09:00AM) To 20-12-2023 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 15-12-2023 (09:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 20-12-2023 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	21-12-2023 (01:00PM)

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag(Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag(Tender receiving Authority).

4. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

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

DIPK-13804-23
DT: 15/12/2023

(Er Syed Ishfaq Ahmad)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Athar Aamir launches 'VBSY' in Srinagar City

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Aamir Khan Friday launched 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' (VBSY) at four wards of SMC viz. Nishat, Lal Chowk, Dal and Kralyar.

The campaign was kick-started from SK Park Lal Chowk, Srinagar and commenced with great fervor. The impressive program shall span across all 74 wards of the SMC from 15th to 23rd December, 2023.

The Yatra, a nationwide outreach initiative, is designed to inform and empower citizens about the central government's flagship schemes and programs, with the ultimate goal of raising awareness and facilitating the delivery of welfare scheme benefits.



the Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat campaign, which is specifically focused on reaching the vulnerable population, disseminating information, learning from citizens, and enrolling potential beneficiaries. The Commissioner SMC emphasized the objectives and outlined the upcoming activities and outreach programs.

Furthermore, the Nodal Officer led the gathering in taking the pledge 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' underscoring the commitment to the cause. In recognition of outstanding performance, select individuals were felicitated

during the event, adding a celebratory dimension to the launch. The VBSY has set off on a promising note in Srinagar by SMC, and as it progresses, it is expected to make significant strides in informing, engaging, and benefiting the citizens of Srinagar.

with disabilities etc. The Vice Chairperson reiterated the need for synchronized efforts by implementing agencies and Banks to ensure that the benefits or employment generation programmes viz. PMEGP and JKREGP are percolated among the target population.

Hina Bhat presides over performance review meeting of KVIB

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson J&K KVIB Friday presided over the Performance Review meeting of J&K KVIB at Sanat Ghar Bemina, here.

Secretary/CEO J&K KVIB, senior officers from Board and District officers of J&K KVIB attended the said meeting.

It was informed in the meeting that during the current financial year, Margin Money of Rs. 100 crores has been released to 4596 unit holders thereby creating employment opportunities for 36028 persons.

The Vice Chairperson appreciated the overall



efforts of District Officers viz. successful implementation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme and Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme. She underscored the need for ensuring active engagement of stakeholders to make a meaningful impact on employment

opportunities across UT. She further reiterated that special and concerted efforts be made to ensure that these employment generation programmes are inclusive, providing equal opportunities for all segments of society with special preference to people belonging to marginalized communities, women, and individuals

with disabilities etc.

The Vice Chairperson reiterated the need for synchronized efforts by implementing agencies and Banks to ensure that the benefits or employment generation programmes viz. PMEGP and JKREGP are percolated among the target population.

While lauding the efforts of the Board in creation of employment in UT, Secretary/CEO J&K KVIB enjoined upon the officers to adopt a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure target-oriented implementation of these schemes; besides ensuring that all activities align with the overarching goals and objectives.

Div Com inspects progress of work on Barzulla Bund Road

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To put an end to the traffic congestion and recurring traffic jam on Natipora road, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri during his spot visit Friday impressed on the R&B officers to make Barzulla Bund Road functional by the end of December.

The Div Com was accompanied by senior officers of R&B, Traffic Police and revenue officials.

It is worth mentioning here that a road is being constructed from Natipora to Barzulla Bridge to divert the traffic during peak hours to ease the traffic flow on the main road.

Div Com while walking the entire length of the road inspected the completed as well as ongoing works on the road. He instructed for removal of encroachments from the road and



expedite the completion of pending work.

He was informed that half of the road has been completed while another half is being developed and shall be completed within fifteen days.

The locals on the occasion expressed gratitude to the Divisional Administration for addressing their long pending demand of putting an end to recurring traffic jams at Natipora by the development of parallel Bund Road.

The Div Com also inspected the ongoing works of development of walkway and cycle track on the left bank of Barzulla Canal.

On the occasion, he was briefed about the beautification and development projects being executed by SSCL.

Locals, students raise concern over use of loudspeakers by street sellers

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The increasing use of megaphones and loudspeakers by street sellers in Kashmir has led to growing disorder in the streets, raising concerns among locals and stakeholders. They have called for regulatory measures to address the heightened noise levels, particularly during peak hours.

Citizens from various sections of society, expressed their frustration with the disturbance caused by street sellers using megaphones and loudspeakers to attract customers. They said the amplified noise is not only affecting normal activities but also raising health concerns, especially for patients and the elderly, who may be more vulnerable to the adverse effects of noise pollution.

Extensive research has highlighted the significant health risks associated

with both indoor and outdoor environmental noise pollution. The detrimental effects encompass not only noise-induced hearing loss but also a range of non-

valley have raised concerns about the impact on their studies, saying the use of the public address systems by the sellers is impacting their studies and



auditory health issues.

The use of loudspeakers for selling goods in residential areas and close to educational institutions has become prevalent, resulting in higher noise levels and various related issues. From scrap collectors to vegetable and fruit sellers, many have adopted this technique to attract customers through public address systems.

Students across the

educational performances. "The constant disruption from these loudspeakers is taking a severe hit on our academics," students from the Central University of Kashmir told KNO.

Residents, voicing their concerns about the increasing nuisance, said excessive noise disrupts daily lives and compromises the overall quality of the living environment. However, when questioned

about their use of megaphones and loudspeakers, some street sellers told KNO that a ban would adversely affect their businesses.

"If megaphone is banned, we will have to shout and some may not hear us, which will affect our sales," a street seller at Ganderbal town said.

In the recent past, authorities issued directives and took action against those using megaphones and loudspeakers during peak hours in some areas. Such directives were implemented in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, with a ban on public address systems within municipal limits.

However, over time, enforcement appears to have waned. The citizens have urged authorities to consider amendments and enforce regulations to strike a balance between economic activities and the need for a peaceful environment—(KNO)

PS PDD joins VBSY event in Kathua

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad, Friday visited Panchayat Rakh Hoshiyari of Barnoti block in Kathua district as part of ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

During his visit, he interacted with the local residents and assessed the progress on development works being carried out in the area. The purpose of the yatra was to highlight the development initiatives undertaken by the government besides monitoring their progress and creating awareness among the people regarding different government schemes.

While addressing the gathering, Principal Secretary emphasized the Prime Minister's vision behind the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) of ensuring widespread awareness among

rural masses, reaching the unreached population, and facilitating the utilization of government welfare schemes. He highlighted the transformative impact of VBSY in fostering development, promoting engagement with government schemes, and achieving saturation under citizen-centric schemes.

The arrival of the Viksit Bharat Rath (IEC Van) symbolized the government's commitment towards continuous public welfare and improved facilities at the grassroots level. The participants listened keenly to the recorded message of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

On the occasion, various beneficiaries shared their success stories, emphasizing the tangible benefits reaped from government welfare schemes through "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani."

Principal Secretary administered the "Hamara

Sankalp Viksit Bharat" pledge to the officials, PRI members, and citizens.

During the event, cultural programs presented by the students of Government Middle School Jasrota highlighted the flagship schemes, aiming to sensitize the local population about the objectives of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Later, Principal Secretary along with DDC Vice Chairman, Raghunandan Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Minhas, SSP, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal, ADC, Ranjit Singh and ACD, Kishore Singh Katoch inspected the stalls set up by various government departments showcasing schemes related to agriculture, horticulture, health, animal husbandry, social welfare, handicraft, handloom and other wings. He interacted with the officers, and reviewed progress achieved, so far, under different schemes on ground.

Tallat Parvez reviews progress on VBSY in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Commissioner Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol (H&P), Tallat Parvez Rohella, Friday visited Ganderbal and chaired a meeting of district officers to review progress on ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra here at Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

While addressing the officers, Commissioner Secretary said that the vision behind the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is to ensure widespread awareness among rural masses, reaching the unreached population, and facilitating the utilization of welfare schemes for socio-economic upliftment of poor.

Commissioner Secretary, while taking review department wise, lauded the efforts of district administration for making this yatra successful. He said that purpose

of holding review meeting was to identify hurdles hindering target achievements and discuss strategies for their resolution.

Interacting with the officers, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted the transformative impact of VBSY in fostering development, promoting engagement with government schemes, and achieving saturation under citizen-centric schemes. He impressed upon the concerned to reach out to all the vulnerable sections of the society and target for saturation of all the beneficiary oriented schemes by way of adopting best practices and coordination among the departments.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambr, presented a detailed overview of the achievements made under flagship schemes in the district since the initiation of the Yatra on

November 25. He said that multiple activities were held at the venues to make the Yatra a successful event.

The DC briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the action plan implemented to ensure widespread awareness among the masses. He informed that 114 Panchayats have been covered in 20 days during which eligible beneficiaries were facilitated on-the-spot besides vigorous awareness was created about all flagship schemes to achieve saturation under such schemes.

While giving details, the DC informed that over 1.2 lakh persons attended the events and 2552 persons shared their experience under 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' besides district administration has achieved saturation under various schemes including PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, KCC, JJM, etc.

Alok Kumar takes part in VBSY in Vijaypur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

VIJAYPUR: Principal Secretary, Education, Alok Kumar, Friday visited Panchayat Gudwal A in Vijaypur block as a part of ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

The event witnessed presence of esteemed guests, including Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Abhishek Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma, ADDC, Rajinder Singh and former Minister, Chander Prakash Ganga. During the event, IEC Van played Prime Minister's message, setting tone for the informative session ahead.

A cultural performance

aligned with the theme 'Dharti Kahe Pukar Ke' added vibrancy to the event. Additionally, the 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' segment provided a platform for beneficiaries to share their success stories.

Addressing the gathering, Alok Kumar emphasized that the purpose of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is reaching every eligible beneficiary by awareness through the IEC Van, and ensuring that no one is left uninformed about the available government schemes.

Principal Secretary encouraged everyone to take advantage of VBSY and applauded the cultural prowess displayed by the students of the government school.

Viewpoints at Kulgam's Walinag draw huge crowd

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

KULGAM: The scenic viewpoints at Walinag in DK Marg helmet of Damhal Hanjipora in Kulgam district, have evolved into a captivating attraction for locals and visitors alike.

The sites have drawn admirers from distant places who seek the mesmerizing beauty of the forested area.

A group of recent visitors shared their experience, highlighting Walinag's status as a hidden green gem in Kulgam, embraced by pine forests and snow-capped mountains.

They said that the area surpasses the beauty of other tourist places in the Kashmir valley, adding that they have never witnessed such beautiful

scenery anywhere else; it is like discovering a hidden paradise.

The government's construction of viewpoints has further enhanced the allure of Walinag, prompting increased interest from visitors. One visitor said, "We learned about this place a few days ago from a friend who visited here, and today, we decided to explore this breathtaking locale."

Such places need to be prioritized for development the area with green meadows is extraordinarily beautiful, beyond expression in words, he said, adding that the Kulgam administration actively promotes such scenic spots through festivals and various activities.

Ali Mohammad, a local said, the place requires a

strong interest on the part of the administration, which will surely change its landscape and stimulate employment in the village.

District Development Council (DDC) member DK Marg said, "Under PRI (DDC sector) for the financial year 2023-24, we have developed viewpoints in Walinag. So far, four viewpoints have been constructed with more planned for the future."

He said that 80 percent of the work with the estimated cost of 32 lakhs has been completed, and the viewpoints have become attractions for people. "The area holds immense potential, and we anticipate its development to rival other beautiful destinations in Kashmir," he added—(KNO)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG
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CORRIGENDUM
Subject: Extension in Critical Dates.
Ref: NIT NO 152 OF R&B/Anantnag/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/16815-24 DATED 01-12-2023
Kindly find below the updated Critical Dates (Due to No response for Item 01 and Item 07) for above referred NIT.

Please Read	Instead of
Bid Submission End Date: 18.12.2023 (04:30PM)	Bid Submission End Date: 13.12.2023 (04:30PM)
Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 19.12.2023 Time 01:00 PM	Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 14.12.2023 Time 01:00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.
No. 17374-83 Dated: 13-12-2023
DIPK-13803-23 DT: 15/12/2023
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Lolab – The Hidden Gem

There is some good news for the whole valley and especially for the citizens of Lolab Valley. The renowned Traveler magazine Outlook Traveler has declared Lolab Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara district as the best offbeat destination for the year 2023. Stating the same in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Outlook Traveller Magazine commented that the valley is an ideal offbeat destination, enveloped by pristine landscapes, apple orchards, and meandering rivers.

Lolab Valley is one of our very best. It is completely secluded. Its lush green meadows, dense forests, and brooklets make it a scene from a Scottish highland or Irish region. This region has produced many stalwarts in different spheres of life. Great scholars, doctors, engineers, politicians, and religious scholars have emerged from the region. This is a great feather in the cap of the whole Lolab valley and this award would ensure that the footfall of tourists to the Lolab valley would increase from next year. This publication is a prestigious publication and it is always found on the office desks of people working in the tourism industry including travel agents, hoteliers, adventure enthusiasts, and recurring tourists. This publication is a first choice for a lot of people in India who want to read about touristy places for future travels.

The trend being witnessed from the last one decade is that the people working in the highly competitive corporate companies in Delhi, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Hyderabad want to spend some quality time high up there in the mountains or on some secluded beach. Many tourists now bypass the highly populated places like Ooty, Shimla and Srinagar and want to head directly to offbeat locations like Gurez, Kangra, Chamba, Lolab, and high-altitude alpine lakes. Kashmir in itself is witnessing a huge rush of tourists on its mountains. Tourists who just want to spend some quality time on our mountains without the hustle and bustle of city life.

Our tourism planners must make good use of this fact and execute plans in providing some skeletal housing facilities in these regions. At the same time, we have to ensure that we do not indulge in over-tourism and kill the exclusivity of the offbeat destination. We must learn from Bhutan which allows a quota-based tourist population to some of its ecologically fragile zones. Once again congratulations to the people of Lolab.

Adenoidectomy: What To Know & When To Have It Done



DR. SUMIT MRIG

Adenoidectomy is a surgical procedure used to remove adenoid glands when they become swollen or enlarged due to infections or allergies. Enlarged and inflamed adenoids are known as adenoiditis, this makes breathing difficult and causes respiratory infections.

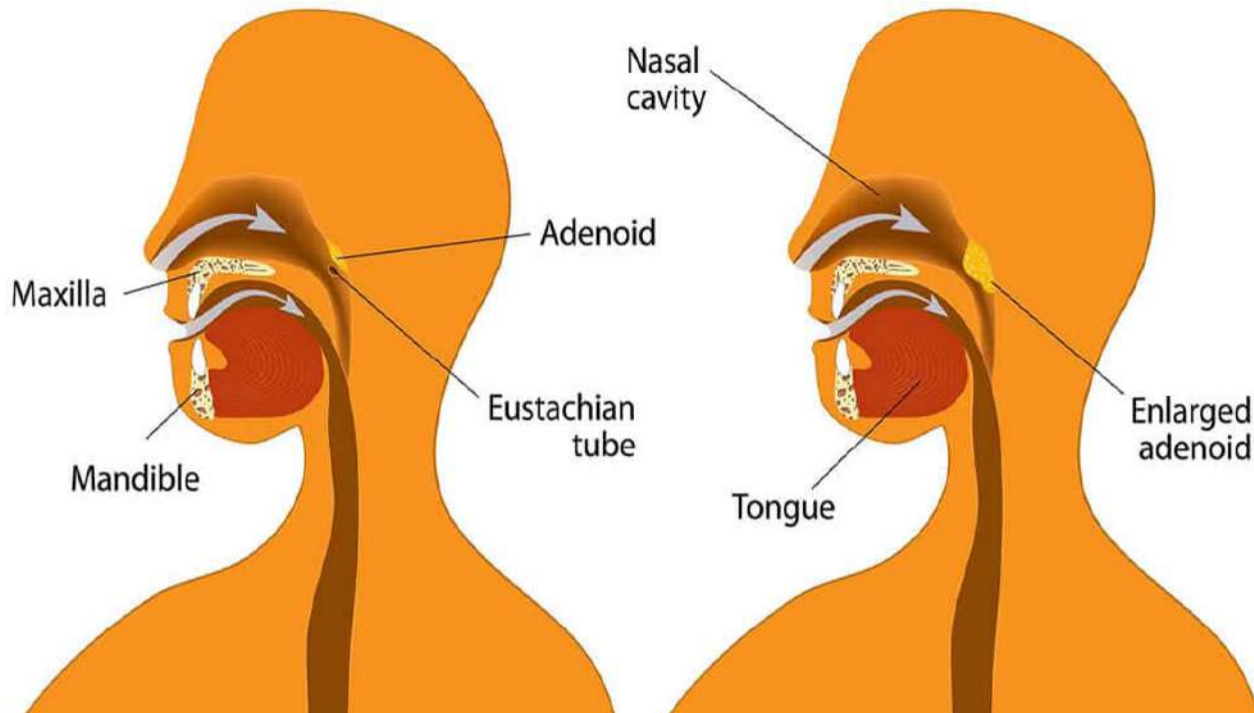
Adenoid glands are situated behind the nose at the roof. It is a mass of lymphoid tissue (which appears as a small lump of tissue) behind the nasal passage. Adenoids serve an important purpose in young children, as they act as a part of the immune system and protect the child's body from bacteria and viruses.

Removing adenoid glands can help the patient to breathe easily and sleep more comfortably. Adenoids automatically shrink around the age of 10-11 years and are completely gone by the teenage years.

When is Adenoidectomy surgery needed?

A patient needs adenoidectomy surgery when their adenoids gland becomes enlarged, which can partially or completely block the airway. Patients with enlarged adenoids can have breathing problems, infections, and other complications which may lead to snoring problems or conditions such as sleep apnea.

It can cause complications such as chronic nasal drainage, sinus infections, frequent ear infections, or fluid in the ear which can lead to temporary hearing loss. A patient with enlarged adenoids, who is not responding to medical treatment needs immediate attention to remove adenoids through surgery and prevent complications that can



have long-term effects.

- A patient needs adenoidectomy surgery when:
- Antibiotics do not clear ear infections
- Buildup in fluid in the ear due to adenoid swelling
- When dentition and oral hygiene starts getting affected
- Sleep apnea or snoring

Diagnosis

A patient with enlarged adenoids glands can have breathing problems, ear infections, and recurring sinusitis. A doctor will check the symptoms, and patient's health history and examine the adenoids by placing a small camera in the patient's nose. The doctor may also recommend imaging tests such as x-ray to examine the adenoids.

Based on symptoms and physical examination of the ears, nose and throat, doctors may recommend adenoidectomy.

Treatment

Adenoidectomy is a short surgical procedure performed by an ENT surgeon (ear, nose, throat specialist). The procedure takes about 20 to 30 minutes on an average.

General anesthesia is given to the patient before the surgery. The anesthesiologist combines the mixture of gas and intravenous medication for general anesthesia. This is given through the mouth and it keeps the patient asleep during the surgery.

The process of adenoidectomy:

- The surgeon places a small tool inside the mouth to keep it open
- Adenoids glands are removed using a debrider/coblator under endoscopic guidance

After surgery, the patient is taken into the recovery room until he or she awakens from the anesthesia. There are no scars or stitches involved in this surgery.

Taking Care of the patient after Surgery

After an adenoidectomy, a patient experiences mild pain and discomfort including sore throat, bad breath, and running nose. Taking

proper care can prevent complications. A parent can take care of the child by:

- Giving prescribed pain medicines on time
- Offering plenty of water and other fluids to drink to stay hydrated
- Giving soft foods such as pudding, soup, or mashed vegetables to soothe the sore throat
- Avoiding hot and hard food and only give a light and soft diet during recovery
- Avoiding nose-blowing, or any other rough activity and sports
- Applying an ice pack on the neck to reduce swelling
- Have the child rest for the first few days

After adenoid removal, with care and medicines, children recover within 4-5 days.

Author is Associate Director & Head ENT (Ear Nose Throat), Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, New Delhi

Virtual Autism: A Growing Concern Among Children



JAHANGER GANAIE

Virtual Autism refers to the potential negative impact of excessive screen time and virtual interactions on toddlers' development, leading to symptoms that resemble autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Understanding this phenomenon is essential for parents, caregivers, and society to ensure our youngest generation's healthy development.

In recent years, the intersection of technology and autism has become a subject of growing interest. As virtual spaces become increasingly prevalent, researchers are delving into the unique

applications are being developed to create simulated spaces where users can practice social interactions, develop communication skills, and manage sensory stimuli in a controlled and supportive setting.

However, as technology

from these technologies. Customizable features, user-friendly interfaces, and thoughtful design are essential elements in creating

interactions with parents, caregivers, and peers hinder their development of essential social skills and

actions or hobbies, impairments in speech and language development due to limited social interaction outside the virtual world.

Frequent irritability and frustration may be due to difficulties transitioning from the virtual environment to real-life situations,



evolves, so do the ethical considerations surrounding its use. Concerns have been raised about the potential for overreliance on virtual solutions, leading to decreased face-to-face inter-

virtual environments that cater to diverse needs.

While virtual interventions show promise in aiding individuals with autism, ongoing research is crucial to understanding the long-term effects and refining these technologies.

As the digital landscape continues to shape our world, it is essential to navigate the integration of virtual solutions with sensitivity and a commitment to inclusivity for individuals with autism.

Toddlers exposed to excessive screen time, including smartphones, tablets, computers, and television, are at a higher risk of developing virtual autism due to overwhelming virtual stimuli.

Insufficient opportunities for toddlers to engage in real-world, face-to-face

emotional understanding, further contributing to virtual Autism.

Reduced time spent engaging in physical play and outdoor activities leads to an imbalance in your toddlers' sensory experiences, affecting their overall development and making them prone to the risk of virtual Autism.

Excessive use of digital devices by you or caregivers in front of your toddler models unhealthy technology habits and further contributes to Virtual Autism.

Some prevalent signs among toddlers are excessive levels of activity and restlessness beyond what is considered typical for their age, inability to concentrate or sustain attention on tasks or activities, strong preference for virtual activities over other real-life inter-

ations, and difficulty in maintaining focus on a particular activity or conversation for an extended period.

Sudden and significant changes in emotions and mood lead to unpredictable behavior.

Virtual autism has an impact on social development, cognitive development, emotional well-being, Physical health, Parent-Child Bond, and education of the child.

While there is no specific cure for virtual Autism, you can take proactive measures to mitigate its effects on your child.

Some strategies include establishing screentime limits, encouraging social interactions, providing a nurturing environment, and seeking professional guidance.

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Good Morning Kashmir

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Taking TB Services Closer To The People In Africa Is Pivotal To Stop TB



ZARINA GELOO

If we are to end TB as promised by all the governments of African countries and globally, we need to find all people with TB, link them to effective standard treatment and care. If full cascade of TB services fails to reach people with TB, then not only will it result in avoidable human suffering but also fail us in stopping the spread of infection. Finding TB remains the critical entry-point to TB care pathway.

The sense of urgency is palpable with only 84 months left to end TB by 2030. "In the African region we have an alarmingly high number of TB-HIV co-infections. One in three people with HIV is killed by TB. We will not be able to end AIDS unless we end TB. We have to bring TB services closer to the people and diagnose people with TB and HIV as early as possible. We need the TB services to come so close to the people that there will be no barriers between the people and the service, because as of now, we have a lot of barriers impeding people's access to existing services," said Dr Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of Stop TB Partnership at the 22nd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (22nd ICASA), in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Dr Ditiu is right: More than half of the people with TB in Africa do not even get a WHO recommended molecular test diagnosis. As per the latest Global TB Report of the World Health Organization (WHO) only about four out of ten people

Githinji says the initial rollout of the machines was a little bumpy, as is expected with all innovations as it takes some time to learn how to manage the tools, but now the process is smooth. "We are seeing good results; there is a collaboration between the mobile machines and the static laboratories, increasing testing."

who got diagnosed with TB in the African region had received a WHO recommended molecular test diagnosis in 2022.

More alarming is the fact that in 2021, WHO estimated that 4.2 million people with TB were not even diagnosed, which is 40% of the overall estimated global burden of TB. This significant gap in access to standard diagnosis stands as one of the largest shortfalls in the global TB response.

There are several reasons for



this: one is the still used outdated 140 years old microscopy test, which has poor sensitivity and misses many TB cases; the other and more important one is the lack of access to the currently available WHO recommended highly sensitive molecular diagnostics, especially for populations in rural and hard to reach areas where the need is the greatest. That is why WHO's highest level initiative launched in 2018 (Find. Treat. All) had called on governments to replace microscopy 100% with upfront molecular tests by 2027. This call to completely replace microscopy with molecular tests to diagnose TB

microscopy with WHO-recommended molecular tests as soon as possible, along with a paradigm shift from a lab-centric to a fundamentally people-centric model to find TB, leaving no one behind.

Find the millions of people who are missed by the TB services! Screen everyone (and not just those with TB symptoms) with WHO-recommended screening tools and use molecular tests to confirm the disease in those with presumptive TB.

Truenat: This time for Africa

Speaking on the sidelines of the 6th biennial conference of African Society for Laboratory

Medicine (ASLM) in Cape Town, South Africa, Deputy Director in the office of the Ministry of Health in Malawi, said at ASLM that his country has four Truenat molecular test machines in use in remote areas. Those communities would never have been served as the roads are mostly inaccessible. "So far, our medical officers are happy with the testing, and we hope to get four more machines. It has been a real game changer for us."

Catherine Githinji from the national TB programme of Kenya, says that with the help of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Stop TB

An example of the versatility of Truenat is the recent experience in India, which bought 1700 machines in 2019 for the national TB programme, but before implementation, COVID-19 hit. The programme was re-purposed to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, India procured another 4000 Truenat machines: "that's the beauty: you can create

More alarming is the fact that in 2021, WHO estimated that 4.2 million people with TB were not even diagnosed, which is 40% of the overall estimated global burden of TB. This significant gap in access to standard diagnosis stands as one of the largest shortfalls in the global TB response.



Taking TB services to the people



was reechoed in September 2023 by world leaders who met at the UN High Level Meeting on TB. Yet, less than half of people with TB worldwide got a molecular test diagnosis as per the latest WHO report launched last month.

Sumit Mitra, the President of Global Sales and Marketing, Molbio Diagnostics (the makers of Truenat, which is the only WHO recommended point of care, decentralized, and laboratory independent molecular test globally), says it is only possible to have inclusive healthcare if a certain demographic is included. "We have to bring the laboratory to the people." He says diagnostics have shifted from being laboratory-centric to people-centric. "That is how we will win the battle against TB," said Mitra at the 6th biennial conference of African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mitra's call to bring TB services to the people reiterates the Global Call to Find All TB to Stop TB (www.bit.ly/findalltb) launched in Goa, India last month, and whose Africa launch took place last week at 22nd ICASA in Zimbabwe. Over 350 endorsements worldwide support this call to demand: 100% replacement of smear

Medicine (ASLM) in Cape Town, South Africa, Mitra said that with the Truenat molecular test being piloted in over 18 African countries, the response so far has been good.

At first glance it does not look like much- just a small portable device with little or no paraphernalia that usually accompanies cutting-edge technology. Yet, Truenat has revolutionized TB diagnostics, as it plays the dual role of using the new molecular testing, and also bringing the laboratory to the doorsteps of communities.

Truenat is small enough to be set up on a small table; it is battery-operated, needs no electricity, and is built to operate in peripheral settings where power outages are common and air conditioning is scarce. For example, Stop TB Partnership documents how solar power is used to charge Truenat in Democratic Republic of Congo in remote settings. Truenat has the added function of a 35-minute wait time for results. "This is perfect." The technicians and the clients do not wait hours for results, which is a big challenge for people in rural areas who have a certain amount of day light hours to work and cannot afford long waits.

Partnership, the country has placed 30 Truenat molecular test machines throughout the seven counties of Kenya. It will distribute another 48 machines through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund) in the coming year.

Githinji says the initial rollout of the machines was a little bumpy, as is expected with all innovations as it takes some time to learn how to manage the tools, but now the process is smooth. "We are seeing good results; there is a collaboration between the mobile machines and the static laboratories, increasing testing."

Mitra adds that in the Philippines, medics took the Truenat in a small utility boat, hopping from one islet to another islet, testing communities. As a result, active case detection rate of TB went up by over 1200 percent. That is the kind of impact we want to make."

He shared that beside TB, Truenat molecular test can diagnose over 40 diseases, such as Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), COVID-19, SARS, Malaria, Hepatitis, HPV, and Cholera, among others, and another 30 are in the pipeline.

the diagnostic infrastructure organically," said Mitra.

Earlier this year, the Stop TB Partnership, USAID, and the Global Fund stated that access to rapid molecular testing for TB is a human right. It also announced a substantial price cut to the Truenat TB diagnostic test under an agreement signed with Molbio Diagnostics. Under the agreement, the price of the Truenat MTB and MTB Plus test has come down to US\$ 7.90 per test from the then price of US\$ 9.

Additionally, Molbio Diagnostics has agreed to provide timely service and maintenance of their diagnostic instruments. This is particularly important for African governments, who often need help maintaining expensive lab equipment. This also resonates with the sentiments of ASLM Chief Executive Officer Nqobile Ndlovu, who says that manufacturers are increasingly asked to lease equipment and charge only for reagents to ease the cost of providing diagnostic equipment.

Zarina Geloo is a freelance journalist based in Zambia writing on health and development, and part of CNS Correspondents Team. She is reporting from 6th biennial conference of African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) in Cape Town, South Africa

ED Attaches Land

registration certificate in the society's name and managed the loan's sanction. The loan amount was disbursed into the accounts of land owners but the land had not been mortgaged to the bank, it found.

Further, the investigation conducted by the ACB was successful in unearthing the siphoned-off Rs 223 crore. Also, an amount to the tune of Rs 187 crore has been frozen by the bureau, the officials said.—(KNO Inputs)

J&K Gets Dev Push

1870 B.Sc. Nursing Seats and 125 M.Sc. Nursing Seats added in Nursing Colleges," it said.

"The academic session of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jammu has been made operational while the work of AIIMS, Kashmir is going on at optimum speed. IIT Jammu / IIM Jammu institutes are functional. 50 new degree colleges have also been established," it added.

"Under Hydro Power generation, MoUs signed for development of 05 Mega Projects, namely Sawlakote (1856 MW), Dul Hasti stage-II (258 MW), URI -I stage -II (240 MW), Kirthai (930 MW), and Rattle (850 MW) with total capacity of 4134 MW. Investment worth Rs. 34,882 Cr to flow in J&K," the data added, adding that Smart Pre-paid metering is under implementation in three phases in J&K. 4.21 lakh smart meters already installed.

"Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 6,912 Km. road length constructed during the last three years," the government said, adding that a new milestone has been achieved by upgradation of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway by way of constructing 8.45 Km long twin tube Qazigund-Banihal tunnel at an estimated cost Rs. 3,127 crore thereby reducing average time from Jammu to Srinagar from 8-10 hours to 5-6 hours, thereby reducing logistic cost of goods and services to the valley. "The Air Traffic to and from J&K has been doubled post 2019. Night landing facilities have been provided in Jammu and Srinagar," it added.

"Under Jal Jeevan Mission, about 13.54 Lakh rural households covering all villages provided with Tap Water Connections since start of the Mission i.e., August 2019 including 5.75 lakh covered before 2019. During 2022-23, an investment of Rs. 2153.45 crore has been realized in the industrial sector. In the current financial year Rs. 2079.76 Crore investment has been realized upto October 2023. Handloom and Handicraft Exports doubled from Rs. 563 Crore in 2021-22 to Rs. 1116.37 Crore in 2022-23," it added. "Around 2900 hectares area covered high density plantation which includes 320 hectares for apple and 2400 for sub-tropical fruits which will substantially increase the income of apple growers besides providing suitable market," the data added.

"PM Kisan saturated to eligible farmers of J&K. An amount of Rs. 2,517.08 crore credited directly into bank accounts of 12.55 lakh eligible farmers. 12.83 lakh farmers benefitted under the KCC. Kashmiri saffron got GI Tagging for its uniqueness, which is being promoted at national and international platforms. Saffron Park has been established at Dusoo Pampore as a one-stop centre for saffron related linkages," it added.

"Tourism Development- 3rd Tourism Working meeting of G20 was held from 22nd May to 24th May at Srinagar. This event has placed the UT of J&K on the Global stage and served as a significant milestone in the progress and development of tourism in UT of J&K," it added.

"In the recent past, the Tourism Sector in J & K has done exceptionally well and witnessed unprecedented growth in the year 2022, as more than 1.88 crore tourists have visited the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. This positive trend has continued during the current calendar year as 1.85 crore tourist arrivals till October 23 have been witnessed," it added.

"Health Sector- "AB-PMJAY-SEHAT SCHEME" a universal health insurance scheme provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir upto Rs 5.00 lakh per family on floater basis. 82.22 lakh beneficiaries have been registered under this scheme. A total of 8.87 lakh beneficiaries availed benefit under the scheme and claims paid amounting to 1,325 Cr," the government added.

"Under Pre, Post and Merit cum Means Minority Scholarship Schemes, the Govt. has been able to register 210% increase in coverage from 1,43,154 (2018-19) to 3,00,651 students in 2022-23. Similarly, 169% increase in coverage of Scheduled Cast Scholarships has been realized with coverage of 63,550 students in 2022-23 as against 8250 in 2018-19," it added.

The Government further said that Tribal Affairs Department has done significant work in various sectors related to tribals including Health, Education, art & culture, lifestyle, literature, infrastructure development, livelihood etc. "8 new hostel buildings, 200 smart schools, coaching facilities, 6 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, skill development to 2000 tribal and scholarship to 46,000 students provided by Tribal Affairs Department. Employment Generation and Recruitment- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken concrete steps to fill all the vacancies available across various departments in the UT of J&K. 31,830 selections (Gazetted and Non-Gazetted) have been finalized by the recruiting agencies after the year

2019 till date," it added.

"The remarkable aspects of these recruitments have been transparency and fairness. Implementation of self-employment schemes across various sectors to establish sustainable income-generating ventures for unemployed youth. A total of 7.4 lakh self-employment/livelihood opportunities generated/ strengthened since the year 2021-22 till date. Youth- More than 62 lakh participation was witnessed in different sports activities in the year 2022-23 compared to less than two lakhs during 2018-19. More than 5 lakh youth are associated with Mission Youth. Mission Youth initiative was awarded the PM Award for Innovation recently," it added.

"Art and Culture- The Government of J&K is continuously realigning resources and strategizing efforts to promote a long-term sustainable preservation, conservation and restoration of cultural, architectural, ethnic, linguistic and artistic values of J&K. The Government of J&K has taken various IT initiatives such as M-Seva, digital Village Centre, e-UNNAT portal etc. to provide various G2C online services at the doorstep without visiting the Government offices in person and dealing with public officials in public places," it said.

"100% saturation of various schemes being implemented in UT of J&K. The Government has been working to provide access to the basic amenities of life such as portable water, affordable health care, road connectivity, financial support to vulnerable groups, to realize equality of opportunity and equity of life outcomes through various flagship schemes. Innovative use of technology has become qua non for targeted intervention for ensuring demographic dividend do not leave out the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society," the government added.

"The Government of India has notified a New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 19.02.2021 with an outlay of Rs. 28,400 Cr to boost industrial development. In addition, J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy 2021-30, J&K Wool Processing, Handicrafts and Handloom Policy 2020 have also been notified and various initiatives have been taken by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for making the UT an investor friendly destination," it added—(KNO)

Sub-Zero Temp

Celsius. Amidst the dry spell, the night chill intensified across the region for the past nearly one month.

The sub-zero temperature has been recorded across all the stations while Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.8 degree Celsius.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius while Pahalgam, a famous tourist place, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.0 degree Celsius.

In Kupwara, the mercury settled at minus 4.2 degree Celsius while in Koker-nag, a minimum temperature of minus 1.9 degree Celsius was recorded.

However, the dry and cold weather is expected to continue for the next one week as Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has stated the weather would remain mostly dry and cold at most places of the Union territory till December 24.

On tomorrow, he stated that generally cloudy weather with possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches is expected in J&K while from December 17-December 24, the weather would remain mainly dry.

Furthermore, he stated that shallow to moderate fog is likely to continue at many places of Kashmir division.

Amidst the persistent dry spell in Kashmir, the parts of Dal Lake were frozen due to the chilly weather conditions here.

The Shikara riders were seen breaking the frozen surface of the water body here this morning to make way for their boats.

Furthermore, Jammu & Kashmir, as per the MeT has recorded excess rainfall since October 01 to December 13 here while Bandipora is the only place where 30 per cent deficient rainfall was recorded during the period.

According to the data, six places including Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Kupwara have recorded normal precipitation during the period—(KNO)

J&K Bank MD Gets

of a very high-profile event 'India's Impactful CEOs Conclave' held yesterday at Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai.

The special Initiative by ET Edge - a part of The Times Group - was themed as Trailblazing Leaders: Influence, Empower, Triumph.

Commenting upon the reception of the award, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "I feel deeply humbled by the honour and attribute it to the exemplary staff commitment and resilience of this organisation to drive sustained business growth successfully."

"Such a recognition will further boost our commitment to add value to all our stakeholders while prioritising customer centricity at the top of our institutional priorities", he added.

Notably, to celebrate visionary leadership, innovation, and the remarkable impact of leaders who had a significant

impact on the global business landscape, India's Impactful CEOs Conclave brought together accomplished CEOs, thought leaders, and industry experts from across the country to discuss and share insights on how CEOs can drive positive change, create meaningful impact, and lead their organizations towards a sustainable and responsible future—(KNO)

JJM Gets Boost

is left without a tap connection within its premises.

The UT administration has thanked the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, for timely approval of the new schemes for coverage of additional 54752 households.

Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, has impressed upon the engineers to expedite execution of these schemes to meet the agreed timelines for completion of the Mission. He further emphasized upon the field functionaries to maintain highest degree of transparency, accountability and accessibility to the general public for effective implementation of the mission.

It may be recalled that like other States/ UTs of the country, Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented in J&K with the involvement of various stakeholders like Central Government's Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Jal Shakti Department, J&K, District Administrations and the local communities for providing access to safe and adequate drinking water supply facility through tap connections within the premises of rural households. Pani Samitis representing the local communities are playing a very critical role in the implementation of the Mission by partnering with the Department in planning, implementation and monitoring of the Mission activities.

The Department has been continuously reviewing its planning and implementation for achieving the 100% coverage with FHTCs in the most economic, transparent and technically feasible manner. As on date, J&K has achieved more than 75% coverage of tap water connections, thereby entering into the 'High Achievers' category at the National Level. The FHTCs being provided are reported on the IMIS portal of JJM with Aadhar linkage of the beneficiaries.

So far, about 3300 schemes have been planned under Jal Jeevan Mission at an estimated cost of Rs. 12975.00 crore which are at different stages of execution. The contracts of more than 98% works under these schemes have been awarded through e-tendering in a transparent manner and out of which around 87% works have been started on ground. The allotments orders issued have been placed on the websites of the respective PHE Directorates in both the provinces.

In this regard, the UT has already covered more than 1000 villages, among which are some of the remotest areas like Batlan, Taraiyan and Chanbra villages in Sub Division Tangdar of District Kupwara which are located near the LoC and received piped water for the first time. In these villages people would fetch water from springs and nearby streams by travelling long distances. Similarly, Nilfan village with about 285 households got 100% tap water connectivity for the first time and the women and children of the area got relieved of the drudgery of fetching water by travelling long distances on hill slopes.

By completing and commissioning of Water Supply schemes Rampura and Sujwan at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.67 crore, in district Samba, about 1100 households have been benefited by getting Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) within the premises. The people of these villages were mostly using the water from shallow hand pumps which were quality affected and through the newly commissioned schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission, deep tube wells have been drilled and required storages created for supplying the water of adequate quantity and prescribed quality as per BIS 10500, regularly.

In order to ensure the transparency in work done and households covered, the process of Har Ghar Jal Certification by the Gram Panachayats has been put in place where the villages reported as Har Ghar Jal by the PHE Department are subsequently certified through a Special Gram Sabha resolution. This not only creates the awareness about provision of tap water connectivity in the village but also promotes community ownership.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp

to 'Beat Plastic Pollution.' This initiative underscores the need for collective responsibility in water and energy conservation, alongside structural solutions pursued by the government. Recognizing that climate change poses not only environmental but also economic threats, the mission aligns with the Prime Minister's vision, acknowledging that unaddressed climate issues could jeopardize India's thriving economy.

A pivotal aspect of this journey towards sustainability is the introduction of electric buses under the 'PM-eBus Sewa' scheme. Set to revolutionize urban transportation, the initiative aims to deploy 10,000 electric buses across 169 cities, fostering a symbiotic relationship between public and private sectors. Scheduled for launch in the coming months, the scheme promises

environmental benefits and showcases the comfort and efficiency of eco-friendly transportation.

The recent launch of 100 electric buses in Srinagar under the Srinagar Electric Bus Project is a testament to the practical realization of this vision. In a landmark event at Nishat Bus Terminal, LG Sh. Manoj Sinha flagged off a fleet of 75 e-buses, marking a significant step towards the dream of a metro rail in Srinagar and Jammu. Speaking on the occasion, LG Sh. Manoj Sinha emphasized smart mobility as a top priority, stating that the addition of 100 e-buses is a substantial leap towards achieving carbon neutrality.

As the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra progresses, it not only symbolizes the saturation of government schemes but also represents a call for individual contributions to sustainability. The journey serves as a reminder that beyond structural solutions, every citizen plays a role in securing a better tomorrow. Through initiatives like the 'PM-eBus Sewa' scheme and Mission LiFE, India strides confidently towards a harmonious balance with ecology, setting the stage for a sustainable and developed nation by 2047.

PDD To Replace

areas of both Jammu and Kashmir regions."

"In case of rural areas, we are already trying to replace damaged transformers in 24 hours to provide uninterrupted power supply as per the schedule," Prasad said.

The Principal Secretary however said that it may take more than 24 hours for PDD to replace the transformers in far flung places.

When asked about the installation of smart meters, Prasad said, "Out of 21 lakh consumers, as of now we have already installed 4.27 Lakh smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir."

About the unscheduled power cuts, the principal secretary said that the government has already instructed the concerned authorities to stick to the prescribed schedule.

"We have also instructed that there shall not be any unscheduled power cuts unless that is required for the maintenance purposes," he said.

On asking about the complaints of ongoing unscheduled power cuts in various areas of Kashmir region, Prasad said, "We will streamline everything and will not keep any gap."

"In some areas the unscheduled power cuts may occur due to technical difficulties," he said. Meanwhile, locals of various parts of South, north and Central Kashmir said that they are facing unscheduled cuts during day time especially during evening hours. They sought the LG Manoj Sinha's intervention to end the pesky power cuts during bone chilling cold—(KNO)

Govt Invites

The complete information with regard to the advertisement for the post of Director SKIMS Soura, Srinagar is available on the official website of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar, www.skims.ac.in the notification added.

'Anthem Of Cultural

merely a song but an anthem of cultural pride and a testament to the enduring strength of their traditions.

"It is commendable to witness such a profound connection to their identity, echoing sentiments of unity and nostalgia," commented Tahir, a local Muslim.

Another local Mubashir commented: "The enthusiasm and viral response signify the enduring strength of Kashmiri traditions and their resilience in the face of dispersal across the world."—(KNO)

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BJP 'unhappy' with K'taka leaders or failing to address Belagavi woman case in Assembly

IAN S

BENGALURU: BJP high command is reportedly displeased with the Karnataka BJP unit for not addressing the issue of a horrifying incident in which a mother was paraded on the streets after being stripped naked, according to sources.

This incident occurred following the elopement of her son with a local girl when the winter Assembly session was being held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi city.

The incident had shocked the state and proved to be a significant embarrassment for the Congress government, as it happened in a place located close to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi.

The BJP high command criticized its state leadership for not raising the issue during the session and for not holding the Congress government accountable for the failure in law and order system and protection of women.

Sources state that BJP national President J.P. Nadda criticized the state



leadership for not effectively addressing the issue during the state Assembly session, especially when it was being discussed at the national level and the Karnataka High Court had criticized the ruling government.

As the 10-day winter session comes to an end on Friday, state leaders are urged to raise the issue under Rule 69, highlighting the failure of law and order in the state.

Nadda spoke to state President B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka, directing them to take the matter seriously and question the

government.

The incident occurred on December 10 when Kamalavva, a resident of Vantamuri village, was dragged outside and stripped naked. She was paraded naked and tied to an electric pole and assaulted after her son eloped with a girl from the village. The family members of the girl, infuriated by this, unleashed terror on the boy's mother.

Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara rushed to visit the victim at the Belagavi District Hospital, inquiring about her health condition. He gathered details about the incident

from her and later visited her house in Vantamuri village.

The Karnataka High Court strongly criticized the Congress government for the failure of the police department to prevent the incident.

The bench, headed by Chief Justice P.B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, remarked on December 14, "What will be the fear among other women? She will feel unsafe in the country. It did not even happen in Mahabharata. Draupadi had Lord Krishna who came up to help her, but in the modern world, no one came to help her. Unfortunately, this is a world of Duryodhanas and Dushyasanans."

The bench further commented that "it is an extraordinary case and will receive extraordinary treatment at their hands. This will impact future generations, questioning whether society is being created where someone would feel it is better to die than to live, and where there is no respect for a lady."

Maha babu's son mows down girlfriend in pre-dawn murderous attack, Thane cops probing

IAN S

THANE: In a chilling incident, Ashwajit Gaikwad, the son of a top Maharashtra bureaucrat, allegedly mowed down his girlfriend with his SUV in Thane recently, seriously injuring her.

The victim, Priya Umenra Singh, 26, a professional beautician, has narrated her shocking ordeal of the murderous attempt on her life in a social media post on the incident and her injuries.

"Need justice... Culprit Ashwajit Anilkumar Gaikwad, son of Anilkumar Gaikwad, Joint Managing Director of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation," said Singh on her post.

She also named Ashwajit's friends, Romil Patil, Prasad Patil and Sagar Shelke, all Thane residents, in her post, plus her boyfriend's driver-cum-bodyguard, Shiva.

Singh has tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Union Minister Smriti Irani, Shiv Sena

UBT's Aditya Thackeray, in her post with an emotional header: "My boyfriend rammmed his car over me and left me dying in pain on the street."

Despite several attempts

and her right leg is broken and in a cast.

Singh also detailed how she was allegedly abused by Ashwajit and his friends, how he invited her to the Courtyard Hotel around 3

her right leg, before speeding away in the darkness.

Surprisingly, Shiva, the SUV driver, turned out to be a Good Samaritan, he left them and rushed to help the bleeding and crying Singh, and also informed her family about the assault. Later they alerted the Thane Police on the entire sordid drama.

The prime accused Ashwajit and his friends reportedly warned the woman against involving the police and even boasted that they would use the political clout of the Gaikwad family.

Meanwhile, based on the complaint of Singh - who is in the ICU of Titan Medicity Hospital - the Kasarvadavai police have lodged a complaint against Ashwajit, Shelke, and the Patil duo (said to be linked to a retired police official), but no arrests have been made so far, even as the victim's post went viral on social media.

Given the sensitive nature of the case, top Thane police officials remained incommunicado despite attempts to get their version.



by IANS, Anilkumar Gaikwad - who was recently elevated as the MSRDC Vice-Chairman & Managing Director - was not available for comments on the serious allegations against his 34-year-old son, or the incident that happened in the CM's home district.

The alleged incident occurred on Ovala Road in the Ghodbunder area of the district, and Singh has suffered grievous injuries in the stomach, back, arms

a.m. on December 11. There, a bitter fight ensued, when Ashwajit assaulted her, and then his friends Romil, Prasad and Shelke also joined in the attack.

As the situation appeared to worsen, she went to take her bag and mobile from the SUV but the youths allegedly attempted to cause her grave harm by first bulldozing the SUV into her back near a divider, then returned and drove it over

Fresh Raj Bhavan - Bengal govt tussle brewing over interim VCs' authority issue

IAN S

KOLKATA: Fresh tussle between the Raj Bhavan and state secretariat in West Bengal seems to be brewing amid repeated denials from the state education department to Governor-appointed interim vice chancellors in state universities to convene crucial meetings of the working committee of syndicates.

Raj Bhavan insiders said that amid repeated denials of permissions from the state education department on this count, a communiqué has been forwarded to all state universities nullifying the contention of the state government department that interim vice-chancellors do not have the authority to convene such meetings.

In the communiqué, Raj Bhavan insiders said, it has been pointed out that the relevant State Act in the matter authorizes any interim vice-chancellor to convene and conduct any meeting of any policy-making committee of any state university, be it working committee or syndicate or senate.

Explained a state government insider that the tussle between the state secretariat and the Raj Bhavan in the matter has surfaced over the fine-line on who actually can convene policy-making committee meetings of the state universities.

On one hand, he explained, the state education department's argument is that only permanent vice-chancellors, and not the interim ones, are authorized to convene such meetings. However, the argument of the Governor's House is that since both permanent and interim vice-chancellors are appointed by the Governor, as the chancellor of state universities, both have authority to convene such meetings.

The tussle over the matter surfaced recently after the state education department first denied the interim-vice chancellor of Jadavpur University (JU) Buddhadeb Sau to convene the working committee meeting and then Sau's counterpart in the University of Calcutta Shanta Dutta to convene the university's syndicate meeting.

Parliament 'attack': Bengal police begin probe to check Lalit Jha's Maoist 'connections'

IAN S

KOLKATA: The West Bengal Police have started a probe to see if the NGO having links to Lalit Jha, the prime accused in the Parliament security breach incident, had any connection with the Maoists, an official said on Friday.

An apprehension over Maoist links emerged after it was learnt that the NGO -- Samyabadi Subhash Sabha runs a free coaching centre at Tunturi district in West Bengal's Purulia district, which was once a stronghold of the Maoists.

Jha's acquaintance in West Bengal, Nilakkha Aich, is said to be one of the founding members of the NGO.

Aich had already been questioned by the West Bengal Police on Thursday.

As per preliminary information received by the police about the coaching centre, it is housed in an isolated and dilapidated room with asbestos shade and broken windows.

According to the local

residents of Tunturi village, some children used to come there.

Aich, a second-year under-graduate student at a reputed college in West Bengal, was reportedly acquainted with Lalit Jha and the latter had sent video of the security breach in the Lok Sabha to the mobile phone of Aich through WhatsApp on Wednesday, hours after the incident took place.

Meanwhile, a Delhi Police team, headed by two senior officers, has arrived here for an investigation into the matter, especially on the antecedents of Jha during his stay in Kolkata.

According to sources, during his stay in Kolkata, Jha had rented a place in the Burrabazar area.

As per the owner of the house, Jha used to pay the rent online.

The neighbours have told the police that Jha was an extremely introvert person who rarely interacted with them. The Delhi Police are expected to question Aich in this connection.

Huge pilgrim turnout in Sabarimala, but revenues fall by Rs 20 cr

IAN S

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: For the past few days the authorities concerned with the pilgrimage at the famed Sabarimala temple were caught unawares on account of the huge turnout, but the revenue generated appears to have fallen as compared to the previous season.

The Travancore Devaswom Board -- the body that runs the temple -- on Friday pointed out that in the 28 days (starting November 17th till date) of the present season the total revenue that has been generated by way of offerings and sale of 'appam' and 'payasam' was Rs 134.44 crore compared to the 28-day period in 2022, which was Rs 154.77 crore.

Incidentally, early this week, there was a huge hue and cry as pilgrims had to wait for around 20 hours to get the 'darshan', which in the



past was around 5 to 6 hours. On these days there were around 75,000 pilgrims every day and also the roads leading to the temple town witnessed massive traffic snarls.

Situated on the mountain ranges of the Western Ghats at an altitude of 914 meters above sea level, the Sabarimala temple is four kms uphill from Pamba in

Pathanamthitta district, which is around 100 kms from the capital city.

The temple, which bars the entry of women who have attained puberty, is accessible only on foot from Pamba.

Every pilgrim carries with him a kit -- 'Irumudi', which contains coconuts that are broken just before climbing the 18 steps. A

pilgrim carries 'Irumudi' on his head during the pilgrimage and without it, none is allowed to step onto the holy 18 steps at the Sannidhanam.

The first phase of the present two-month long season that began on November 17 ends on December 27 and reopens again on December 30 for the second phase.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Subject: Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management in Block Anantnag District nantnag.

On behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the eligible and interested agencies are hereby invited for the execution of a Solid Waste Management Plan in District Anantnag Block Anantnag .

BACKGROUND:
The Solid Waste Management program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Anantnag , in line with the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The program will cover the CD Block Anantnag comprising of 24 Gram Panchayats mentioned below :

S.No	Name of Panchayat	Approximate No of Households	No. of other establishments
1	ANZWALLA	580	
2	AUNG	413	
3	BATENGGOO	656	
4	BON-DIALGAM	433	
5	CHEE	670	
6	CHICHRIPORA	556	
7	DONIPAWA	427	
8	HANJ DANTER	454	
9	KAMAD	480	
0	KHANDIPHARI	810	
11	KANJIGUND	529	
12	MUNIWARA	469	
13	MATIPORA	465	
14	MIRGUND	470	
15	MONGHALL	568	
16	PETH DIALGAM	622	
17	RUHOO	402	
18	SHAMSIPORA	822	
19	SHOUL	514	
20	SOFIGUND	507	
21	T.B SHAH	710	
22	UTRASOO NAJIGUND	385	
23	WANIHAMA	305	
24	URANHALL	544	
	Total	12791	1000

SCOPE OF WORK:
The contracting agency will be responsible for the following processes:
Solid Waste Collection
Sanitation and door-to-door collection of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from all households of one of the three designated clusters covering all households, shops, factories, industrial establishments, etc. at least thrice a week.
A Panchayat-Halqa-wise schedule of waste collection shall further be notified in consultation with the concerned Block Development Officer and Gram Panchayat.
The intending agency shall collect all types of waste-door-to-door waste, waste from already installed dustbins, and legacy waste so that the objective of ODF plus is obtained and sustained.
Ensuring segregation of waste preferably at the household level and mandatorily at the already constructed segregation shed sites.
Effective and scientific management and disposal of collected waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. A weekly review/report shall be submitted by halqa panchayat to ascertain the effectiveness of weekly disposal.
Revenue realization
Conducting a fresh survey, in consultation with the field functionaries of the Rural Development Department, to update the household data and include commercial factories, business units, institutions, shops, etc. Collection of monthly Fees/Charges from the households preferably in digital mode in consultation with the officials of this department.
Revenue generation through sustainable waste management practices, such as selling segregated dry waste to authorized dealers.
User charges collected shall be deposited in Halqa Panchayat Fund of concerned Gram Panchayat on a monthly basis out of which 10 to 40% (to be decided later) of the Fee/ user charges so collected shall form a revenue part and the remaining shall be utilized for incurring the expenditure on account of sanitation work done.
Maintenance
Maintenance and use of departmental garbage collection vehicles and other amenities used for waste collection and ensuring their dedicated use only for solid waste management purposes.
The Vehicles used for waste collection shall be departmental and the agency has to use these Vehicles/e-rickshaws etc. by engaging its own staff and ensuring the vehicle's maintenance in all respects.
The intending agency shall be responsible for the smooth handing over of all assets/Vehicles/machinery/Civil Structures and possession of the sites in good condition to the concerned department after completing the allotment of one year (without any damage)
Manpower&Machinery
The contracting agency has to engage sweepers/ waste collectors, Drivers, and Management staff with a unique uniform having a unique logo, the design and details of which shall be conveyed to the contracting agency later.
The contracting agency has to operate and maintain all three-carts, garbage collection vans, and machinery at its own level and has to bear the electricity, POL, and maintenance /repair charges of the machinery. The contracting agency will be required to obtain necessary permissions/approvals from the BDO concerned for repair, and maintenance of the existing machinery, if required, at any time.
Dispute Resolution and Penal provision
In case of any dispute, the Block Development Officer concerned shall be the first appellate authority, the 2nd appellate authority shall be the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Anantnag and the third appellate & final authority shall be the District Level Sanitation Committee for implementation of SBM-G.
The contracting agency shall have to report to the Block Development Officer concerned in case of any violation by any Household/establishment for imposing a fine. Further, the agency may be required to paste color-coded notices across the panchayat
In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District Level Sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.
IEC endeavors and inciting behavioral change
The contracting agency shall chalk out a plan for a sustained IEC campaign for inciting behavioral change among the people through various means. The means could be composing appealing and effective sanitation jingles played through overhead speakers

of waste collection vehicles on a regular basis, organizing special sanitation drives by involving local youth clubs, students, and Self Help Groups, organizing monthly felicitation ceremonies for best cooperative and complying Panchayats in consultation with the BDO concerned and the District administration, etc... Monthly IEC plans, 10 days in advance, to be submitted to the concerned BDO for review and approval.
The contracting agency shall influence the general public through its best possible sanitation services and shall motivate and convince them to segregate the waste at the source by means reducing the use of Single Use Plastics.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
The contracting agency must meet the following criteria:
The agency can be a sole proprietor, registered contractor, registered partnership firm, limited liability partnership, public limited company, private limited company, society or NGO, etc.
The agency must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs. 20,00,000 (Rupees twenty Lakh) for the last three years.
Previous experience in managing public utilities as a PPP/outsourcing and knowledge of waste management, including running decentralized solid waste management processes, will be advantageous.
Additional experience in community mobilization and IEC activities will be preferred.
The agency must deposit a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs. 30,000 (thirty thousand rupees) pledged to the Block Development Officer Anantnag.
CONTRACTING PROCESS:
Interested agencies must submit their EOI in sealed envelopes addressed to the Block Development Officer Anantnag, by 24-12-2023 upto 2PM.
The envelopes will be opened on the next day 24-12-2023 at 3PM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.
The EOI will be followed by Technical Evaluation and Financial Evaluation.
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:
The selected agency will be awarded a one-year contract, which may be extendable based on its performance and the necessity of the Department.
The agency shall adhere to all the terms and conditions specified in the EOI document.
The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI without assigning any reason thereof, in the interest of the government, department, and public funds.
SUBMISSION OF EOI AND CONTACT INFORMATION:
Interested agencies must submit their sealed envelopes containing the EOI to the following address:
Block Development Office Anantnag, Bang-Novgam Ruhoo, Anantnag
Email: bdoanantnag@gmail.com
For any inquiries or clarifications regarding the EOI, interested agencies may contact Block Development Officer Anantnag, at the above-mentioned address
NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS:
The results of the EOI evaluation will be communicated to the eligible agencies through official communication channels.
LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:
The selected agency must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards during the execution of the Solid Waste Management project in Anantnag.
The contracting agency has to adhere to a) the Environment protection act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and the bylaws drafted and passed by the Gram Panchayats in letter and spirit.
Sub-contracting shall not be allowed and shall be considered illegal.
The contracting agency has to submit an affidavit duly attested by a Judicial Magistrate affirming their commitment to bear all costs related to damage, theft, or loss incurred to the vehicles /machinery of the department during the execution of the SWM project.
In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District Level Sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.
The process of technical Evaluation will be done by a designated committee based on the score for the solutions & procedures provided by the agencies to transform the entire solid waste management into an efficient, effective, and sustainable one in the Block.
No.BDOA/SBM/23-24/2369-73
Dated 14-12-2023
DIPK-13837-23
DT: 15/12/2023
BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Anantnag

Put in best efforts, don't worry about the results: DGP to Students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Along with academic excellence students should give equal importance to attitude & habits. This was stated by the Director General of Police, J&K, R.R. Swain while delivering a lecture at Sainik School Nagrota, Jammu.

Sainik School Nagrota Principle Capt (IN) A.K Desai, Vice Principal Lt Col Amit Selot, Administrative officers Lt. Col Meena Joon and faculty members of the school received the DGP on his arrival.

The highest-ranking IPS officer of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir delivered an insightful hour-long talk to officers, staff, and cadets, emphasizing the core human value that shape individuals during their prime years. The DGP stressed that along with academic excellence students should give equal importance to attitude & habits. "Put in the best efforts



and don't worry about the results", the DGP advised the students.

As an alumnus of Sainik School Bhubaneswar himself, Shri R.R. Swain shared vivid reminiscences of his formative years as a young Cadet of a Sainik School. He highlighted, how the seven years spent at the Sainik School played a pivotal role in shaping his future and contributing to his personal and professional growth. He also shared his experience of different situations

with students and faculty members.

The event commenced with Cadet Aman Kumar presenting an illustrious profile of Shri R.R. Swain, and extending a warm welcome to the distinguished guest. Brigadier Gurmeet Singh Shan, Director Sainik Welfare Department (J&K) and an alumnus of the school also graced the occasion with his august presence.

Capt (IN) AK Desai, the Principal of Sainik School

Nagrota, presented the school memento to Shri R.R. Swain for his kind gesture of accepting the invitation and taking time out from his busy schedule.

In his concluding remarks, Cadet Arush Verma, the School Cadet Captain, delivered a heartfelt Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude for the valuable insights shared by Shri R.R. Swain. The lecture served as a source of inspiration for the officers, staff, and cadets, instilling a deeper understanding of the core human values essential for personal and professional development.

Before departing, the dignitary was introduced to young achievers of the school which included the members of the Champion Volleyball Team of all India Sainik Schools National Games, Gold medalist in IPSC Athletics, UPSC NDA written qualified cadets and Class Academic Toppers of the School.

ABDM calls for facilitating digital payments in hospitals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To enhance healthcare experience for patients in hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has directed hospital administrators to implement QR code facilities for seamless digital payments.

A formal communication has been issued to Medical Superintendents, Associated Hospitals, GMCs, Dental Colleges, as well as Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals, and Block Medical Officers across J&K, advising them to adopt these digital payment solutions.

Despite the availability of interventions to simplify the payment process, officials have observed that

people still opt for cash transactions in hospitals.

The ABDM, aligned with the Digital India platform, aims to make all payments digital within citizen-centric services provided by the government.

Dr. Shafiqat Khan, Additional Mission Director, ABDM, J&K, emphasized the need for hospitals to facilitate this transition.

"In this context, it is advised to create digital payment facilities for patients in all hospitals/healthcare institutions by providing QR codes of the respective banks for making UPI payments, along with provisions for Debit Card/Credit Card payments through Point of Sale (PoS) machines," the communication issued in this regard reads.

Officials believe that these measures will reduce the waiting time

for payment processes.

Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department, stated, "We have already taken steps to decrease wait times in OPDs, particularly through initiation of Scan and Share Queue Management system. Ensuring hospitals facilitate digital payments is aimed at providing people with a seamless experience."

Dr. Shafiqat Khan remarked, "After successful implementation of a queue-less OPD ticketing facility, the next step is introduction of digital payment gateways for the convenience of patients and their attendants."

He also mentioned that steps are being taken for software upgrading, which will enable patients to book consultations with doctors remotely.

Pollution threatens historic Tulmulla Nallah in G'bal

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: The Tulmulla Nallah, a historically significant water body in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, faces an imminent threat due to increasing pollution and neglect. Originating from freshwater springs in the Lar area, this once-clean stream, commonly known as "Naagpav", has gradually shrunk and become a dumping ground for waste and garbage over the past two decades.

For generations, the Tulmulla Nallah served as a primary water source for thousands of residents. However, its deteriorating condition, exacerbated by pollution along its banks, poses a severe threat to its existence. Ghulam Rasool, a resident of the area said.

He said the irresponsible disposal of waste, negligence by authorities, and an apathetic approach by locals have led to the decline of this historically important water body.

"For years, Tulmulla Nallah has been our lifeline, providing us with clean water and sustaining life, now it is heartbreaking to witness its decline," Rasool added.

'Migrant hardships'

MoE allows concessions for admission in edu institutions

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Education (MoE) has said that it has allowed certain concessions for the wards of Kashmiri migrants in view of their 'hardships'.

Ministry of Education (MoE), Department of Higher Education and Department of School Education and Literacy for Government of India (GoI) in an annual report 2022-23 has said that 'Kashmiri migrants continue to face hardships.'

The ministry in the report has further mentioned that it has allowed concessions to the Kashmir migrant students in the matter of their admission in educational institutions in other parts of the country.

Stating the concession for the wards of Kashmiri Migrants, MoE said that the concession was applicable for the wards of Kashmiri migrants as well as Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) who are living in the Valley in the

matter of their admission to the educational institutions in other parts of the country.

The ministry has stated that it has given 'relaxation in cut-off percentage up to 10 percent subject to minimum eligibility requirement.'

It also said that the ministry has increased intake capacity up to 5 percent course-wise.

Besides, the ministry has 'reserved at least one seat in merit quota in technical and professional institutions.'

"Waiving off domicile requirements for Kashmiri Migrants only. Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) living in the Kashmiri Valley need domicile certificate," it reads (SIC).

Stating the supernumerary seats for students from Jammu and Kashmir in all HEIs, MoE further informed that, "Two seats to be created under supernumerary quota in all recognized Higher Education Institutions for students from J&K."—(KNO)

Bhat Family Bereaved

With profound grief and sorrow, we announce that Khadija Binte Zahid, D/o Zahid Ahmad Bhat, R/o Omer Colony, near Rah Masjid, Lal Bazar left for heavenly abode on Friday 15th of December 2023.

The bereaved shall observe mourning for 03 (Three) days at their residence near Omar Colony, Lane No 4, Lal Bazar, Srinagar.

BEREAVED
Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat & Family

Qazi Family Bereaved

The grandmother of Director News Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar, Qazi Salman passed away on Thursday evening.

The demise has been widely condoled by people from different walks of life. They expressed sympathies with Qazi Salman and other members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss. Kashmir's journalist fraternity too has expressed condolences to Qazi Salman and prayed for the departed soul.

Praying for the eternal peace of the departed soul, Good Morning Kashmir expressed solidarity with Qazi brothers and sisters.

BEREAVED
Qazi Salman & Family



KHYBER CEMENT
Dil se banao

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR

— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —

DIL KE EHSAAAS



Spectrum Adv | 969700698