

# Good Morning Kashmir



Kashmir's hidden battle

**WATCH**

related story on GMK Web TV

Srinagar • Thursday 04, January 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 03 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 5/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

## Police Attaches Orchard Land In G'bal

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Ganderbal on Wednesday said to have attached an immovable property—an orchard land, belonging to an accused, who is allegedly involved in terror-related act. A police spokesman in a statement issued said that police have taken action by attaching land measuring 10 Marlas falling under Survey/khasra No.984 situated at Revenue Estate Wakoor belonging to Lateef Ahmad Kambay son of Gh Mohd Kambay •P-06



## Gunfight Underway In Kulgam



**KULGAM:** A gunfight broke out between terrorists and security forces in Hadigan area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday.

Official sources said that a joint team of Police, Army and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation on specific information about the presence of militants in the area. •P-06

## Ice Cover Over Dal Lake

# Kashmir Shivers In Sub-Zero Temperature



OWAIS GUL

**SRINAGAR:** With no let up in the shivering cold across the Valley, a thin layer of ice has formed over world famous Dal Lake here as the mercury continued to settle below freezing point across Kashmir on Wednesday. Several pipes supplying drinking water to the people froze amidst the chilly weather conditions in the ongoing 40-day harshest winter period Chillai-Kalan, which commenced on December 21 last year and will end on January 31.

It is followed by a 20-day long Chillai-Khurd (small cold) that occurs between

January 31 and February 19 and a 10-day long Chillai-Bachha (baby cold) which begins from February 20 to March 2.

Meanwhile, the Dal dwellers here had a tough time while breaking the ice sheet over the water body here while the people were also seen covering the pipes in different localities as severe cold conditions tightened its grip across the valley amidst the persistent dry spell.

The Dal dwellers were seen roving their boats this morning and simultaneously breaking the ice formed over the lake, to pave way to reach their destinations.

According to the data,

Pahalgam in South Kashmir was the coldest at minus 6.2 degree Celsius followed by minus 5.3 degree Celsius in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir shivered at minus 4.8 degree Celsius while Qazigund in South Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 4.6 degree Celsius.

Gulmarg, a famous skiresort, has recorded a low of minus 3.8 degree Celsius. Kokernag, however, recorded a low of minus 3.2 degree Celsius.

Pertinently, the weatherman here has predicted generally cloudy with dry weather over plains with possibility •P-06

## Unraveling Catastrophe

# Anchar Lake Confronts Soaring Pollution, Encroachment

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Once renowned for its fish, Nadru, and lush vegetable gardens, Anchar Lake in the Soura area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district is now struggling for survival as it has become a victim of illegal dumping sites being made on its shores.

The lake, linked to Dal Lake through the Nallah Amir Khan water channel, has faced a drastic reduction in size, nearly half of its original area, over the past few decades due to administrative neglect, rampant pollution, siltation, and encroachment.

Formerly, a sought-after tourist destination, Anchar Lake is losing its allure as the nearby residents continue to dispose of solid waste directly into its waters on a daily basis. The lake, once famous for high-quality fish, Nadru, vegetable gardens, and chestnuts, no longer exhibits these features, according to locals.

According to locals,



the current state of the lake has taken a toll on aquatic life, impacting the 93,000 residents who rely on fishing and other sources of income. The lake's size has dwindled from 19.4 sq. km to just 6.8 sq. km, transforming it into a dumping ground for sewage, residential trash, and various pollutants.

Fareeda Begum, residing on the lake's shores, expresses concern as

her area, along with other low-lying areas, is being used as a dumping site for domestic and commercial waste. "The lake, once crystal clear and a source of drinking water, is now heavily contaminated," she said. Migratory birds have vanished due to growing pollution, according to Fareeda's daughter, Shafeeqa.

Local fisherman Mohammad Ashraf

laments the decline in Nadru production, attributing it to pollution, encroachments, and the lake's fast shrinkage.

Abdul Hameed, whose home is in close proximity to the dumping site, expressed concern over the daily occurrence of people disposing of garbage during morning and evening hours. "This waste, either directly or indirectly, •P-06

**ACCORDING TO LOCALS, THE CURRENT STATE OF THE LAKE HAS taken a toll on aquatic life, impacting the 93,000 residents who rely on fishing and other sources of income.**

## Transporter Strike Ends

# Fuel Stations Return To Normal Operations



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** The fuel stations across Jammu & Kashmir resumed the operations normally after the transporters decided to call off strike following the government's assurances.

Earlier on Tuesday, the

people were seen queuing up at almost all the fuel stations, waiting to get the fuel in cans, bottles and other things as the transporters had called for a strike in wake of the 'new penal law'.

In the late evening hours, the transporters called off their strike after •P-06

## Transforming J&K

# Bharat Sankalp Yatra Steers Central Welfare Initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) emerges as an unyielding force, braving the harsh cold. With a warm reception wherever the "Modi ki guarantee ki gadi" arrives, the initiative recently achieved a historic milestone, engaging 3 million participants.

VBSY's primary objective is to ensure the full integration of various Central Government Welfare schemes, creating a pro-



found impact on the lives of the region's residents. Its influence spans wide, achieving a remark-

able 100 percent Ayushman card saturation in 3,523 Gram Panchayats. Furthermore, •P-06

# CS Takes Overview Of 'J&K Gati Shakti'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday took the holistic review of the proposal to make critical interventions in IT sector here in association with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), a society under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) for making Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions part of governance here.

The meeting besides the DG, BISAG-N was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, School Education; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner



Secretary, IT; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Secretary, Cooperatives; Secretary, Grievances; DG, Planning; Director, Industries; SIO, NIC besides other concerned •P-06

## Navigating Challenges

# Behind Kashmir's Floating Heritage Lies A Tale Of Hardship, Livelihood



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Beyond the breath-taking mirror of Dal Lake lies a hidden story etched in wood and vibrant colours.

Nestled amidst the beautiful Dal Lake, serves as a canvas for the craftsmanship exhibited in the iconic Shikaras and houseboats that grace its waters.

The skilled artist whose families have meticulously crafted these wooden

wonders for generations, Ghulam Nabi Kinzou, said, "I have been working in this craft for the last 25 to 30 years. My father used to be involved in this craft, and after him, I took over this craft of Shikaras and houseboat making. We have about 10 to 15 types of Shikara made here, and it takes us about 20 days to make Shikara."

"It is a time-consuming and hectic process but thanks to the Almighty

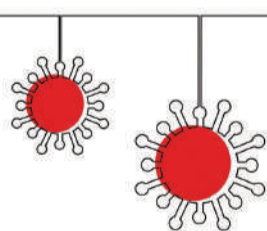
Allah, work is good," said Ghulam Nabi, adding, his workload is dependent on the tourism sector.

"We make our Shikaras from Deodar wood. It incurs huge expenses to shift our material here in the interiors of Dal Lake," he said.

Speaking about government support, he added that if rates are controlled, "it will be easy for us, and we can continue our work easily".

"Though I am skilled in making both •P-06

## India Reports 602 New Covid Cases



IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** India has recorded 602 new Covid-19 infections in the past 24 hours, pushing the total number of active cases to 4,440 on Wednesday.

The country had recorded 865 new cases on May 19.

Five new fatalities -- one each from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Punjab, two from Kerala -- have been reported in the span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data.

As of now, the total number of coronavirus cases in India, since the outbreak in January 2020, has reached 4,50,15,083.

The death toll related to Covid cases in the country has risen to 5,33,371.

The new variant, JN.1 subvariant is descendent of the Omicron subvariant known as BA.2.86 or Pirola, with Kerala being the first state to report a case.

"A total of 511 cases of the JN.1 series variant have been reported from 11 states till January 2. Karnataka has •P-06

TICKETS AT FLAT ₹ 99 & ₹ 199 OFFER VALID TILL 04 JAN

MOVIES WATCHLIST

11:45AM, 03:00PM, 06:30PM (HINDI ATMOS) 04:30PM (HINDI) U/A

11:20AM, 06:45PM (HINDI) A

12:40PM, 02:40PM (HINDI) A

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets

# DC Ganderbal presides over Block Diwas in Manigam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** In an endeavor to take firsthand appraisal of the community issues, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas at Govt. Hr. Sec. School Manigam. Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani, Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri, Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad,

Tehsildar Lar and other officers from concerned line departments, public representatives and locals participated in the Block Diwas. During the event, residents of block Lar raised several developmental concerns and grievances with the concerned officers. These issues include upgradation of Anderwan road, commissioning of Vocational Training Centre at Chountwariar, NOC for construction of boundary wall of Haripora School,

development of playground alongside other pressing community issues. Speaking during the occasion, the DC said that Block Diwas programmes serve as a vital link between the administration and people to directly gather insights into local concerns from the public, allowing for on-site assessments and facilitating a comprehensive and prompt resolution process. Besides, make people aware about the Government schemes so that

they are able to avail their benefits meant for overall well-being of the general masses, he added. Meanwhile, various departments like Agriculture, District Employment, Horticulture and others apprised the participants about the beneficiary oriented and self-employment schemes available and were urged to take benefit of such schemes as per eligibility which have been launched with the purpose to improve socio-economic condition of people.

# DC B'pora presides over Mega Public Darbar in Naidkhai

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** District Administration Bandipora on Wednesday organised a public darbar cum grievance redressal camp at Markundal Naidkhai area of Sumbal Subdivision to get first hand appraisal of various issues faced by local people and other adjacent areas.

The public darbar was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmed, and was attended by ADDC Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, SDM Sumbal Aamir Choudhary, Exen R&B and Exen Jal Shakti Department. The programme was also attended by DDCs, BDCs, PRIs and officers from Police and civil administration besides the general public.

On the occasion, the general public and PRIs put forth various demands relating to improvement of roads, drinking water



supply, upgradation of schools, basic facilities in educational institutions, availability of teachers, transportation, health, children's park, availability of tourist huts etc. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Owais said that holding public interaction programs enables administration to have an on spot appraisal of develop-

mental programs besides other welfare initiatives, schemes run by various departments relating to all sectors. Related to road construction work, Dr. Owais asked people to submit the proposal in the Gram Panchayat meetings in cooperation with PRIs, and further decisions will be taken.

The DC said construction of water supply schemes besides upgradation of water supply schemes under JJM and all other basic facilities are going on in full swing in the district for the welfare of the general public. Dr. Owais directed health officials to ensure basic facilities in all the health institutions falling within the region, especially keeping in view the ongoing winter season. Most of the problems were resolved on the spot, whereas for rest, concerned departments were given instructions for redressal on priority. The DC, on the occasion, urged the public to cooperate with administration and submit all requirements pertaining to their areas in consultation with PRIs. While ensuring proper disposal of the concerns raised by the people, the DC said that district administration is committed to the welfare of people.

# Massive demolition drive held in Kangan areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, a massive demolition drive was conducted Wednesday against illegal constructions at Margund, Satrina and Doctors Colony Plang during which various structures were razed to the ground. The demolition drive was headed by SDM Kangan along with the Executive Engineer I&FC, Tehsildar Kangan and SHO Kangan. The District Adminis-



tration has initiated action against the offenders who have raised structures illegally along Sindh Nallah and other places in the district. District Administration Ganderbal has asked people not to indulge in

illegal construction activities and encroachments as violators would be dealt strictly under law besides all encroachments which have been raised illegally will be demolished and no such construction will be allowed in the district.

## Block Diwas

### DC presides over grievances redressal camp in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Continuing the endeavors to ensure early redressal of grievances and issues of people at their door steps, the District Administration Kulgam Wednesday organized public outreach programmes as part of weekly Block Diwas in three blocks of the district viz. Devsar, Kulgam and D.H.Pora. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat took appraisal of issues of people in grievance redressal camp held at Kulgam.

The grievance redressal programme witnessed participation of people from Khaloora, Qaimoo Nainasti, Hadigam, Shouch, Khandipora, Mohammadpora, Liroo, Mirhama, Kakran and other areas who put forth various developmental and welfare demands before the chair. PRI members from vari-

ous areas also projected developmental demands of their areas. Officers and heads of departments responded to the queries and grievances of the people pertaining to their departments and intimated them about various welfare schemes and ongoing developmental projects. The DC after giving patient hearing to the public issues raised during the camp addressed some grievances of the immediate nature on the spot and assured to take rest with the concerned quarters for their timely redressal. Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged the people to make judicious use of electricity. ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, JDP Zahid Sajjad, ACD Mohammad Imran, ACP Sharjeel Ali and other district officers and officials were also present in grievance redressal camp.

# SMC covers Bemina West under VBSY

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Wednesday expanded its reach to Bemina West of Srinagar City under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) initiative of Government of India. On the occasion, the IEC Van was welcomed by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar,

Ajaz Assad and Joint Commissioner SMC, Riyaz Ahmad Shah to encompass events in Bemina West, marking a significant milestone in the Corporation's efforts to engage with the general public within its jurisdiction. Representatives from designated departments have actively participated in the VBSY events, utiliz-

ing the platform to elucidate the core objectives and procedural intricacies of their respective schemes. The primary aim of this concerted effort is to bridge information gaps and ensure that citizens are well-informed about the multitude of benefits and assistance programs made by the Government of India available to them.

# VBSY programme empowers public engagement in Shadimarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** In a significant community-driven initiative, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra cum Block Diwas programme was Wednesday conducted at the Children Park in Nikas, Block Shadimarg of Pulwama. The event witnessed the participation of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Abdul Aziz along with District and Sectoral officers. Commencing with the playing of a recorded message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister on Viksit

Bharat, the programme resonated with the community highlighting the Government's commitment to development. It was emphasized that the central focus of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is saturating Government schemes to reach every individual. During the programme, various Government departments presented insights into their initiatives and how citizens could benefit from their schemes. Attendees had the opportunity to articulate their grievances, leading to on-the-spot redressal

by concerned departments. Reaffirming the importance of such initiatives, the chair underscored their role in bridging the gap between the government and the public. In conclusion, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra cum Block Diwas Programme in Block Shadimarg exemplified the Government's commitment to transparent governance, public engagement, and efficient redressal of citizen concerns. These proactive initiatives play a vital role in ensuring the effective implementation of Government schemes and services at the grassroots level. PRI members from vari-

# DC G'bal chairs review meeting of DHS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Wednesday presided over a crucial meeting of the District Health Society at Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, here to address and strategize key healthcare initiatives within the district. At the outset, detailed discussion was held on various agenda points including repair and renovation Works of Ayushman Arogya Mandir, pending electricity and water connections of Health Institutions, implementation of WIFS programme, creation of Golden cards of left out population, organizing of Yoga session in Ayushman Arogya Mandir, implementation of Kayakalp, NQAS, approval for civil work of Skill Lab approved under NHM and saturation of ABHA Cards. During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in enhancing healthcare services. Discussions revolved around bolstering healthcare infrastructure, optimizing



resources, and implementing effective public health programs. The CMO Ganderbal informed that the estimations for 13 works have been submitted for the tendering process for which the DC directed the R&B department to ensure the tendering process is initiated at an earliest. While discussing water and electricity facilities in health institutions of the district, the DC directed the concerned BMOs to ensure such facilities are available in all health facilities falling under their jurisdictions. Regarding the Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supple-

mentation (WIFAS) programme, the Programme Officer ICDS was asked to start administration of IFA tablets among the children in all AWCs of the district. While discussing the strategy for creation of Golden cards and ABHA cards of the left out population, the DC directed to carry a joint survey through ASHAs taking help of FCS&CA so that target is achieved at an earliest. The meeting was informed that Skill Lab has been approved under NHM in the district which shall be established at MMC Wayil. The CMO informed that equipment is available

for establishing the lab besides DPR of Rs 20 lakh is also approved. The DC directed her that all works shall be taken as per the guidelines. He said that collaborative efforts are expected to contribute significantly to elevating the overall health standards in Ganderbal. The meeting also explored innovative approaches to tackle prevalent health challenges within the district. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Program Officer ICDS, CMO Ganderbal, MS District Hospital, BMOs and other concerned officials.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER**  
 NOWSHERA, SRINAGAR - 190011 Tele/FAX NO: 0194-2425954  
 email: dshosrinagar27@gmail.com

**(TECHNICAL SECTION)**

**Subject:- Advisory for Sheep farmers.**

In view of prolonged dry weather conditions prevailing in the valley the sheep farmers are grazing their livestock in the open fields and there is every apprehension of parasitic infection by immature Fasciola especially in low lying & marshy areas. In view of the above., the sheep farmers are advised to administer Triclabendazole dosing to their Hocks in consultation with the staff of Sheep Husbandry Department to prevent parasitic infection among their flocks. Further owing to frosty weather conditions, the farmers are advised to keep the flocks indoor during the morning hours & graze their flocks when the frost has melted

**No: DSHQ/Sgr/Tech/2023-24/ 4053-60** District Sheep Husbandry officer  
**Dated: 03 -01-2024** Srinagar

DIPK-14658-23  
 DT: 03/01/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KALAROOS**  
 Email Id: cdpokalaroos@gmail.com

**Selection list of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Kalaroos**

In pursuance to Government order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023, Dated; 28-04-2023 followed by the approval from Mission Director Poshan J&K vide No. MD/Poshan/Estt/13200-13211, Dated 08.05.2023, an Advertisement Notice No. 03 of 2023, Dated 01-11-2023 was Issued by CDPO Kalaroos for selection of (01) Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) for Anganwadi Centre Thayan Gujran Old, of Poshan Project Kalaroos. In response to the said advertisement notice, 03 applications were received within cut-off date and merit list of candidate have been prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023, Dated; 28-04-2023 and selection list have been framed on the basis on merit list annexed herewith as Annexure-A, comprising of 01 candidates selected as Sangini (Anganwadi Worker). The merit list of AWC Thayan Gujran Old., Poshan Project Kalaroos is annexed herewith as Annexure-R. Roth selection list and merit list is hereby published for Information of general public for inviting appeal/objection if any. The appeal/objection if any against the said selection list shall be filled in the office of CDPO Kalaroos located at Main Bazaar Kalaroos against proper receipt by or before 10 - 01 - 2024 up to 4:30 pm. No appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filling appeal/objection.

**Annexure-A**

Selection List of Candidate for the. post of Sanginis (AWW) for Anganwadi Centre Thayan Gujran Old of Poshan Project Kalaroos under Advertisement Notice No. 03 of2023. Dated; 01-11-2023

S. No	Name of the selected Candidate/Applicant with Parentage/Spouse Name	Residence (Panchayat and Ward No)	D.O.B	Qualification	Marks obtained In 10+2	Percentage	Additional two points in case of family of retiree AWW	Total Merit Points	Name of the AWC for which candidate is selected
1	Shaesta Akhter D/O Mohammad Sonawar Malik	Thayan Gujran Old (Ward No. 06)	07-02-1998	10+2	357/500	71.40%	Nil	71.40	Thayan Gujran Old

**Annexure-B**

Merit List of Candidates for the post of Sanginis (AWW) for Anganwadi Centre Khangund Old of Poshan Project Kalaroos in response to Advertisement Notice No. 03 of2023, Dated; 01-11-2023

S. No	Name of the selected Candidate/Applicant with Parentage/Spouse Name	Residence (Panchayat and Ward No)	D.O.B	Qualification	Marks obtained In 10+2	Percentage	Additional two points in case of family of retiree AWW	Total Merit Points	Name of the AWC	Remarks
1	Shaesta Akhter D/O Mohammad Sonawar Malik	Thyan Gujran Old (Ward No. 06)	07-02-1998	10+2	357/500	71.40%	Nil	71.40	Thayan Gujran Old	Selected
2.	Rubeena Bano W/O Shakoora Ahmad Malik	Thayan Gujran Old (Ward No. 06)	18-09-1989	10+2	372/750	49.60	Nil	49.60	Thayan Gujran Old	Waiting
3	Parveena Bano D/O Mohammad Gafoor Malik	Thayan Gujran Old (Ward No. 06)	16-02-2002	10+2	290/500	58.00	Nil	58.00	Thayan Gujran Old	Waiting

CDPO/ICDS/Klr/24/793-803 Dated; -01-2024  
 DIPK-14650-23 DT: 03/01/2024  
 Child Development Project Office Poshan Project Kalaroos

# Two remote Villages of Keran get grid connectivity for first time in 75 years

People hail the efforts of DC Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** It was a moment of joy for the 1300 souls of remote villages Kundian and Patroo of Keran along the line of control (LOC) in Kupwara district, as their villages for the first time got electricity supply (through grid connectivity).

Two Sub Stations of 250 KV (33kv/440 volts) were completed under Samirdh Seema Yojan (SSY) by KPDC Electric Division Kupwara, electrifying the villages, ending the long wait of the residents.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bihuri inaugurated it yesterday.

Residents were ecstatic, they had strong reason to be happy, some even shrieked in joy on witnessing the electricity illuminating their houses, thanks to the efforts of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan.

Happiness of the villagers was evident, as they had gathered at Kundian to receive the Deputy Commissioner, who visited these villages to interact with locals.

DC on reaching Patroo



and Kundian congratulated the people and PRIs for getting grid connectivity for the first time. She said that it is a job well done. Everything was done in mission mode. From Officers to Line men of PDD, Local PRIs and concerned contractors, all have contributed in timely completion of this electrification project which was handed over to people in a record time of two months. It is a big achievement and testimony of transformation down at the grassroots

level as only two months ago approval and allocation of this project was made.

The DC further said that the road stretch from Dutt Bridge to Keran has been handed over to Beacon and work on it will be started. She said that by the end of this year all the villages of Keran will get saturated by the BSNL mobile network.

DC added Airtel and Jio companies will be roped in for providing and enhancing cell phone connectivity to the area.

Chairperson, BDC Keran, Mohammad Syed Khoja while expressing his gratitude to District Administration Kupwara said that District Administration led by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara deserves all the appreciation for getting the villages electrified in a short span of just two months. He said that for the residents here it is like a dream come true. We used to receive 2 to 3 hours of low voltage power through a decade old Diesel Generator Set (DG Set) which could hardly light up a bulb. We were using candles to lighten our homes. Now our children will study under electric lights and perform well."

On the occasion, Locals hailing the efforts of DC Kupwara said the hard work of the District Administration has paid off and their remote villages have got electric supply.

Commanding Officer, 6 RR, Lt. Col Harshad Saini, OC Beacon, V.V Sharma, Tehsildar Keran, Omer Bashir, EXEN PDD Javid Ahmad, AEE PDD, Latief, AEE, STD Sohail Nisar, PRIs and a large number of people of the area were present on the occasion.

# Taking Article 370 case to SC was a blunder: Altaf Bukhari

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari has criticised the local political parties for what he said making a blunder by taking Article 370 abrogation case to the Supreme Court, as the issue "was political and should have been resolved politically."

"The decision was unfortunate and against the expectations of people of Jammu & Kashmir. We believe Supreme Court is a temple of justice, so we have to go with the decision it pronounced. We have to accept it," Bukhari said.

"We willingly or unwillingly made a huge blunder to take Article 370 to the Supreme Court and helped those who were chasing it



to scrap. If we had political roadmap on it, we would have done better but we lacked on this front and so lost the case."

Bukhari, who was a finance minister in the PDP-BJP coalition government, said the regional political parties have "befooled us enough" on Article 370. "They were playing political cards and making people realize

they will give their blood and sweat in its protection. Why didn't they make it permanent in last seventy-years?" he asked.

"Many governments come and go and many politicians as well, but Article 370 remained unresolved (temporary) till its last breath. Why these politicians didn't ensure it during 1987 accord? Why it was not done in 2014 when they form coalition with BJP, who was against this provision since its beginning. Why they left it unattended in these times? If National Conference (NC) is responsible for weakening Article 370, similarly Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is equally responsible for their wrongdoings

it committed with the special status in their times. They all played emotional politics on it and made people fool enough," he said.

Bukhari said that the people of J&K should extend their support to his party in the elections so that "we will bring back snatched rights".

"Local political parties did enough blackmail of our people in past seventy-years and didn't ensure a single right for them. Although there is a provision that after fifteen-years any outsider can get domicile of J&K for land and jobs, but I assure you once we come to power, we will stretch this time period from 15 to 30 years," he said.(KNS)

# 'Battle' against spurious fertilizers will continue: Director Agri

Authorities mulling PSA against those involved in counterfeit fertilizers

WARIS FAYAZ

**SRINAGAR:** Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal on Wednesday warned of stringent measures against those selling spurious fertilizers in the valley, urging people to report such elements.

The director said the department is committed to protecting the agriculture industry's interests and would not allow such elements to deceive innocent growers and farmers.

"We will take tough action against them," he said, adding that the "battle" against duplicate spurious

fertilizers will continue. Encouraging community members and farmers to report any suspicious activities related to fertilizer sales, Iqbal reiterated the commitment to ensuring the availability of genuine inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, seeds) to the farmers of Kashmir.

"We encourage details about suppliers or dealers suspected of dealing in duplicate or spurious fertilizers. Confidentiality will be maintained to ensure the safety of those reporting," the Director Agriculture assured.

The department recently confiscated around 620 bags of duplicate spurious fertilizers in Sopore and Kulgam

during raids. Choudhary Iqbal said they traced the consignment from Rajasthan and successfully seized it, particularly referencing the Sopore seizure.

The recent raids, the President of the Fruit Growers and Dealers Association, Fayaz Ahmed Malik, called for robust action against dealers involved in the sale of spurious fertilizers.

Expressing deep concern over the detrimental impact on the agricultural sector, he said these unscrupulous individuals threaten to undermine Kashmir's vital industry.

Malik, who heads Asia's second-largest Fruit Mandi

in Sopore, said the agriculture industry is the backbone of the economy, and compromising its integrity by selling spurious fertilizers is disheartening. "There is a need for immediate and decisive action, including the implementation of the Public Safety Act (PSA) against those found guilty of distributing counterfeit fertilizers," he said.

"We are actively collaborating with authorities to identify and penalize those responsible, as the Public Safety Act will act as a strong deterrent against the elements involved in illicit activities in the agriculture sector," Fayaz added—(KNO)

# DGP sanctions Rs 3.72 cr special welfare relief, welfare loan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Continuing with its endeavor to provide financial assistance to the families/NoK of the deceased police personnel, the Director General of Police (DGP) R.R. Swain Wednesday sanctioned Rs 2.20 crore as Special Welfare Relief in favour of dependents, legal heirs of 10 deceased police personnel.

As per a statement issued, a police spokesman said that the DGP has also sanctioned over Rupees 1.51 crore welfare loans in favour of 119 serving police personnel to meet their immediate financial needs and Rs 02 lakh financial assistance in favour of Nok of 02 martyred Police officials.

The special welfare relief of Rupees 22 lakh each has been sanctioned in favour of dependents/legal heirs of deceased police personnel SI Ab Hamid, ASI Sukh Dev Singh, HC Mohammad Yaseen, HC Ichpaul Singh, HC Mohd Sadeeq, HC kamal Kishore SgCt. Daya Kishan, SgCt Kuldeep Singh, Ct Bilal Ahmad and follower Altaf Hussain who passed away while in service.

Out of this amount (special welfare relief) rupees one lakh each has already been paid to the families/NoK for performing the last rites as immediate relief by the PHQ through their concerned units/Districts. The financial assistance has been given out of Contribu-

tory Police Welfare Fund. Welfare loan of Rupees 42 lakh has been sanctioned in favour of 42 police personnel for self marriage. While as Rupees 1.50 lakh each has been sanctioned in favour of 63 police personnel to meet the expenses of the marriage of their sons/daughters. 11 police personnel have been provided welfare loan of rupees 1.5 lakh each for higher/professional education of their wards.

While as rupees one lakh has been sanctioned in favour of one police personnel for the technical education of his son. Rupees 50 thousand each has been sanctioned in favour of two police personnel for circumcision/Akhandpath of his ward.

The welfare loan sanctioned to the Police personnel is refundable and is recovered in monthly installments from their salaries without any interest. Besides, the DGP has also sanctioned rupees one lakh each in favour of Nok of martyr Ct. Mushtaq Ahmad & Ct Raj Kumar as financial assistance for marriage ceremonies of their daughters.

Police Headquarters is running many schemes for the welfare of its personnel and their families. There are also schemes for the wards of Police personnel and SPOs. Besides, there are schemes for the Nok of martyrs, their wards and also for the retired Police personnel and their spouses.

# Commissioner State Taxes chairs departmental review meeting

Exhorts officers for robust action against tax evasion cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Commissioner State Taxes, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Wednesday called upon the officers of Jammu division to take timely and robust action against cases of tax evasion and ensure compliance to tax law across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through optimization of data analytics and field intervention.

The Commissioner made these remarks while chairing departmental review meeting of the State Tax Officers of Jammu Division here today.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Commissioner commended the department for successful completion of audit cases overcoming several challenges. She asked the officers to undertake multifaceted revenue recovery efforts at the earliest, assuring officers of any inter-departmental support required for the same. Dr. Rashmi Singh directed the enforcement wings to intensify their field actions and take appropriate measure to curb undervaluation with special focus on outer and remote areas.

Underlining the massive infrastructural expansion undertaken by government across Jammu and Kashmir with several under construction national projects, the Commissioner directed officers to pay special attention on work contract and construction sector within specific areas of project to ensure compliance and augmentation of UT revenue.

The Commissioner advocated for joint efforts with other departments to make sure that payments of non-compliant dealers are not released by DDOs of various departments.

She also stressed upon the need for wider publicity of recent government circular regarding release of payments by the DDOs. She further directed the field officers to undertake field inspections and ensure compliance by hotels, banquets, restaurants and adopt innovative approaches to identify tax evasions.

"Department is undertaking multiple IT interventions in this direction, one such initiative is installation of RFID readers at uncovered locations to keep check on tax evaders", she said. Dr. Rashmi Singh further said that tax officers should facilitate the honest taxpayers and chase the evaders and expressed her confidence that officers will adopt all necessary measures by taking assistance of business intelligence inputs for ensuring that the department achieves the required revenue target to the fullest.

During the meeting, Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Namrita Dogra, apprised the Commissioner of various departmental activities and presented circle wise report on successful completion of scrutiny and audit of taxpayers for the financial year 2017-18. She stated that State Taxes Department has completed audit and scrutiny for the FY 2017-18 and has in the process been able to identify substantial amount of unrealized revenue.

The Additional Commissioner reiterated that there is a positive growth in GST collections during the year in the UT of J&K stating that more than 30% growth has been seen over the comparative period last year and the overall growth in the SGST cash component has shown a healthy upward swing of around 28.26%.

# Dir Agri reviews progress on establishment of Aromatic Plants farm in Verinag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Wednesday visited Verinag and reviewed the progress on the work of establishing a Medicinal and Aromatic plants farm, there.

Addressing officers, Director Agriculture said that quality/quantity of the work should be maintained during the execution of different works. He highlighted the importance of coordination among different executing agencies for the successful completion of the work.

Iqbal reiterated the department's commitment to promote the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants across the Kashmir division. He said that owing to the diverse agro-climatic condition of the region there is a huge scope for aromatic and medicinal plants.

Director Agriculture said that under HADP special attention has been paid/ approved for the development of aromatic and medicinal plants. He said that Kashmir being one of the best tourist destinations in the country has immense opportunities for aromatic and medicinal plants.

# RC LOST

I, Reyaz Ahmad Dand S/O Ghulam Hassan Dand lost RC somewhere in Sopore, Bearing Registration No JK05B 9308. In this regard I'm applying for a duplicate one, anyone having any objection shall consult ARTO Baramulla, HQ Sopore within a period of seven days, after that, no objection shall be entertained.

Reyaz Ahmad Dand  
S/O Ghulam Hassan Dand  
R/O Badam Bagh, Sopore

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER ICDS PROJECT BATWARA

Subject: Publication of ward wise merit list of female candidates for selection as Anganwadi Helpers/Sahayikas, objections if any thereby.

- Whereas in light of the H R Policy issued vide Government order No: 222-JK (SWD) Of 2022 dated 30.11.2022.Nine (09) No. Of vacancies of Anganwadi Helpers were Identified in Poshan Project Batwara in the phase 2nd) of 2023.
- Whereas an advertisement notice bearing No:10 of 2023 dated 09 10.2023 was published in prominent local dailies to invite application from desirous Female candidates residing in respective wards as per the eligibility.
- Whereas in response to said advertisement notice 02 applications have been received by this office till lock date only against 09 vacancies and no application form was received in respect of 07 vacancies which shall be re-advertised in 3rd phase of recruitment.
- Whereas a selection/ merit list has been framed ward wise on the basis of Marks percentage secured by candidate in 10th class examinations and the said merit /selection list was put before selection committee for approval and publication.

Now examination in view of above the ward wise merit/selection list forming annexure to this letter of female candidates who have applied for the post of Anganwadi Helper/Sahayika is hereby published in local dailies to invite objections if any regarding merit of the candidate and being the resident of the ward from the general public within a period of 05 days. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of stipulated time period and said merit list shall be considered final for the selection of Anganwadi Helper and engagement order shall be issued as per the order of merit with fulfilment of other requirements as per HR policy.

No: ICDS/Btw./2023/  
Dated: .01.2024

Child Development Project Officer,  
Poshan Project Batwara.

## OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER ICDS PROJECT BATWARA

Subject: Merit / Selection list of female candidates for engagement as AW Helpers/(Sahayikas during 2nd phase 2023 .Adv.Notic No 10.Of.2023 dated 9.10.2023 URBA

S.No	Name and No of Electoral Ward/ panch ward	No.of vacancies advertised	Name of AWC	Name of candidate with parenage	Residence	Date of Birth	Qualification	Maxi mum Marks in 10th	Marks obtained
1	Ward 04 Dalgate	1	Rasgaritaing	Tahira Bano D/o Mohd Ashraf Kumar	Buchwara Dalgate	01.01.1995	12th	500	204
2	Ward 07 Rajbagh	2	Pathan Bagh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3			Jamia Masjid	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	Ward 06 Lalchowk	1	Abi Guzar lalchowk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Ward 02 Ish-ber Nishat	1	Dod Mohalla Shalimar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Ward 08 Ikhrajpora	1	Ikhrajpora	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Subject: Merit / Selection list of female candidates for engagement as AW Helpers/(Sahayikas during 2nd phase 2023 Adv. Notice No: 10.Of.2023 dated: 09..1.23 RURAL

S.No	Name and No of Electoral Ward/ panch ward	No.of vacancies advertised	Name of AWC	Name of candidate with parenage	Residence	Date of Birth	Qualification	Maxi mum Marks in 10th	Marks obtained
1	Panchayat Halqa Saidpora Panchward 09	1	Murender Bagh A	Shaheena Rehman W/o Waheed Ahmad Gojri	Gojri Mohalla Murender Bagh	05.01.1996	12th	500	206

Subject: Merit /selection list of female candidates for engagement as AW Helpers/(Sahayikas during 2nd phase 2023 Advt Notice No: 10.Of.2023 dated: 09.10.23 CANTONMENT

S.No	Name and No of Electoral Ward/ panch ward	No.of vacancies advertised	Name of AWC	Name of candidate with parenage	Residence	Date of Birth	Qualification	Maxi mum Marks in 10th	Marks obtained
1	Ward 05 Cantonment	1	Mandoo Mohalla Sonwar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Ward 04 Cantonment	1	Jamia Masjid	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

DIPK-14670-23  
DT: 03/01/2024

Child Dev.Project Officer Poshan  
Batwara

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Prolonged Dry Spell

**M**uch as we hate to write this, the Kashmir valley is under a prolonged dry spell. It is foggy in mornings, remaining that way for a few hours till a dull sun breaks the monotony leading up to an unusually pleasant day before setting to lead up to chilly evenings. However, amidst all this we are missing one important detail which is that it is not snowing enough to refill the glaciers and make our winter picnic resorts to have a proper wintry resort look. The visitors who visited Gulmarg for Christmas and New Year celebrations have made numerous vlogs describing displeasure at the lack of proper snow in the highest touristy place in Kashmir. It must be borne in mind that Gulmarg has its exclusivity only because of huge snowfall in winters as the hoteliers up the prices as the operation's food & beverages and heat gadgets are expensive. A visit to Gulmarg is often many times more costly as compared to a visit to Pahalgam or Doodhpatri as it is a highland meadow right at the altitude where it is usually sub-zero even at day time. Tourists these days have access to the internet and make vlogs about their stay which reaches to their millions of followers worldwide. Now, this is a double-edged sword. The news about the lack of enough snowfall has spread like wildfire and one should not be surprised if a few trip cancellations happen in the days to come. Coming to the spring and summer of 2024, if the snow does not fall in January proper and the glaciers do not get refilled in time then we can expect low water levels in the major rivers, rivulets, and tributaries. This can impact our tourism, agriculture, and more importantly, it can severely impact power production. Also, the fact that we would be witnessing huge footfall of tourists in 2024 due to rail connectivity between Srinagar and Jammu which can start any day from now, the lack of efficient water supply in urban areas can trigger an avoidable crisis. The government setup must take immediate plan rescheduling and make amends if it does not snow for the remaining days of January. We are hopeful that the current government establishment can take note of this and spawn immediate remedial measures without any further delay.

...Explained

Why B'desh Court Sentenced Nobel Prize Winner To Jail?



M A HOSSAIN

**T**he recent adjudication of Dr. Muhammad Yunus in the Labor Court stands as a seminal moment in the judicial annals of Bangladesh. Over the decades, he has consistently commanded a conspicuous global presence, drawing the attention of international media, luminaries, and dignitaries, while self-promoting as the 'savior of the poor' and the 'father of microcredit'. Notably, some Western leaders, including former US First Lady Hillary Clinton, praised Yunus, in part because of his significant contributions to the Clinton Foundation. Despite accusations against Yunus of trapping millions of Bangladesh's poor in a spiral of debt through Grameen Bank and other microfinance initiatives, he is celebrated globally as a microfinance pioneer and founder of Grameen Bank, though his alleged exploitation of the poor has been largely ignored. The audacity exhibited by the Bangladesh Awami League government in eschewing the disapprobation of the Western powers has engendered a palpable commotion in the international sphere. However, lately — beneath the surface, a series of controversies have marred the reputation of Yunus, his brainchild Grameen Bank, and its affiliated organizations, Grameen Telecom and Grameen Kalyan. One of the primary accusations facing Yunus and his affiliated entities revolves around financial irregularities, including tax evasion, embezzlement, and the misappropriation of funds from various affiliate organizations. The specific case involving Grameen Telecom, where a legal obligation to share 5 percent of profits with employees allegedly went unfulfilled, resulted in a case filed under Sections 4, 7, 8, 117, and 234 of the Labor Act in Bangladesh. This highlights the serious legal implications and underscores the need for a comprehensive investigation. The involvement of 106 Nobel Laureates, urging Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to halt legal proceedings against Yunus, adds a layer of complexity to the situation. While the laureates may argue that Yunus is being persecuted, critics maintain that this international support ignores the constitutional limits and may inadvertently undermine the rule of law. Bangladesh's government committee's findings in 2011, revealing rule breaches and fund misuse, further



stress the importance of an unbiased examination of the allegations. Another significant point of contention arises from the alleged manipulation of Grameen Bank's ownership structure. Originally, members owned 60 percent of the shares, with the government holding the remaining 40 percent. However, investigations indicate that a 1986 amendment shifted the balance, giving 75 percent of the shares to the members and only 25 percent to the government. This apparent violation of Section 7 of the Grameen Ordinance raises questions about the transparency and legality of such changes. Legal experts in Bangladesh argue that the increase in paid-up capital by Grameen Bank lacks proper authorization. According to them, the power to increase paid-up capital rests solely with the government, and any unilateral action by the bank may constitute a breach of the law. The absence of documented evidence showcasing government authorization for the increase raises concerns about the adherence to legal procedures within Grameen Bank. The process surrounding the appointment of Muhammad Yunus as the Managing Director of Grameen Bank has also come under intense scrutiny. While the initial appointment by the government followed due processes, subsequent amendments shifted the responsibility to the Board of Directors. However, discrepancies in Yunus's appointment, including exceeding the age limit set by government employment rules, cast doubt on the legitimacy of his tenure. The violation of service rules, particularly the alleged absence of preapproval from Bangladesh Bank, adds another layer to the controversy. Yunus's classification as a public

servant, as defined by the Bangladesh Penal Code, adds a legal dimension to the controversies. The 2011 review committee identified several breaches of service terms, including frequent absence, unauthorized foreign travel, and the acceptance of funds without proper permissions. The alleged concealment of Yunus's position while establishing affiliated ventures abroad further complicates the narrative. The controversies surrounding Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank, and Grameen Telecom present a tangled web of financial, legal, and ethical issues. While media and international support may cast Yunus as a victim, the evidence suggests a more nuanced reality. The intertwining of financial irregularities, ownership structure manipulation, and appointment controversies demands a thorough and impartial investigation. As these allegations continue to capture global attention, the need for accountability and adherence to legal processes remains paramount to ensure justice prevails over influential affiliations and international support. Yunus strategically showcased Jobra village and the narrative of Sufia as exemplary success tales, gaining significant international attention. Dr. Yunus got the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his role as a 'pioneer' of microcredit, and he exhibited Sufia's name as a symbol of success, though, unbeknownst to many, Sufia had succumbed to extreme poverty. Sufia, the first borrower from Grameen Bank, struggled after her husband's death, working in vegetables to sustain her family. Despite paying back loans, she never recovered her deposit. Danish journalist Tom Heinemann, internationally acclaimed, along with Weekly Blitz, unveiled the authentic narrative of Sufia's family, revealing their impover-

ished existence in makeshift huts. One of her daughters suffered a mental breakdown due to economic hardships and the burden of loans. Later, Yunus promised of financial assistance to Sufia's family, but his unfulfilled promises and misleading representations further highlight the stark contrast between the acclaimed microcredit pioneer and the harsh reality faced by those he purportedly aimed to uplift. According to media reports, a court in Bangladesh has sentenced the Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to six months in jail for violating the country's labor laws. Following the verdict, Yunus told reporters, "As my lawyers have convincingly argued in court, this verdict against me is contrary to all legal precedent and logic. I call for the Bangladeshi people to speak in one voice against injustice and in favor of democracy and human rights for each and every one of our citizens". Here again, an influential international figure like Dr. Yunus has reverted to his longstanding tendency of disseminating misinformation, and it is highly likely that he will continue leveraging international media coverage to mislead through his Western friends. In such instances, if global journalists are to uphold the ethical standards of their noble profession, they ought to diligently probe into Yunus's questionable actions. In doing so, rather than defending him, they may find themselves accusing him of deceiving millions of impoverished women in Bangladesh over the course of decades. In a civic society, the law must prevail and be equal for all.

M A Hossain, a political and defense analyst based in Bangladesh. He can be reached at: writetomahossain@gmail.com

New Year - New Hopes, New Dreams, New Goals



PRIYANKA SAURABH

**E**very year, year after year, we enter the New Year with a song in our hearts and spring in our steps. We believe that the magical year will bring with it solutions to all our problems and fulfillment of all our wishes. Be it a dream house, a dream proposal, a dream job, a dream partner, a dream opportunity... and much, much better. But as the year begins and we deal with everything that comes up, the novelty of the new year, the new resolutions, and the new beginnings start to wear off by the first quarter. By the middle of the year, we are in the grip of too much mediocrity and too many faint hopes, a far cry from the promise we started with. And by the last quarter, we are so overwhelmed by our reality that we can't wait for the year to end. We leave the current year and get all ready to celebrate another 'New Year' and share our best wishes. Sharing good wishes, Happy New Year. May joy and prosperity increase, and may there be joy on every face. Live a proud life, write immortal records.

Saurabh, draw this beautiful lifeline. New Year is the time when we suddenly feel that, oh, a year has passed. We are stunned for a few moments by how quickly time passes, and then we go back to our work. The interesting thing is that this happens at least once a year. If we go deep into these moments of wonder, we will find that there is something within us that is witnessing all the events. This witnessing feeling within us remains unchanged and that is why we can see events changing with time. All those events of life that have passed have become a dream. Knowledge is to understand this dream-like nature of life. This dream is still going on at this very moment. When we understand this, a strong power emerges from within us, and then events and circumstances do not shake us. However, events also have their importance in life. We should learn from the incidents and keep moving forward. The New Year brings new hopes, new dreams, new goals, and new ideas, so everyone welcomes it happily without any regrets. Years come and go, don't regret. Saurabh, please pray that everyone remains happy. Life is short, forget hatred and friendship. Welcome the new dawn, and increase your love. Although it is great for us to have our hopes up for the New Year, we need to understand that with hopes also come dis-



appointments. Life is a game of conflict and the new year is no exception to it. If we reflect honestly on 'the year gone by', we will realize that the year may not have necessarily delivered what we wanted from it, but it did give us some valuable lessons and experiences. These may not seem very significant in isolation, but they are probably nature's way of preparing us for the gift she has in store for us which she will deliver in her own time. At the same time, if the year has taken away something very precious from us, it has certainly compensated for it in equal measure. At the end of the year, we realize that our balance sheet is quite fair. So, let us enter the coming year with the confidence that the magic of the New Year lies in knowing that no matter what happens, there will be compensation for every disappointment, a lesson for the fulfillment of every desire, pain, and suffering. There will be an end, there will be sunshine of belonging-

Dispersed fog is the form of silence, the form of a bright mind. The sunshine of belonging blossomed in all relationships. May there be an end to pain and suffering, and may calamities go away. No one is anywhere, forced to cry. Set goals for yourself in the new year. Be it a student or a working person, it is important for everyone to have some goal. After determining what you can do to improve the future and in which direction you have to make efforts, resolve to accomplish it. Your resolution will always remind you to accomplish your goal. Everyone associates 'New Year' with a lifetime and our lifetime is all about hopes and disappointments, successes and failures, joys and sorrows and this year will be no less magical. So how can you stick to your resolutions this year? Be thoughtful about this, seek support from others, and ask your friends and family to cheer you on. Tell them your goals and what

you want to achieve. Create a reward system for yourself, set short-term goals, and reward yourself for completing them. Be kind to yourself, no one is perfect. Instead of cursing yourself, take a deep breath and keep striving for new heights. Reveal all the secrets, and achieve new heights. May the conscious and subconscious bloom, Saurabh this New Year. May there be laughter, happiness, and peace, may happiness be alive. Saurabh spring blooms on the dry branch of the mind. It is believed that if the first day of the year is celebrated with enthusiasm and happiness, then the entire year will be spent with the same enthusiasm and happiness. However, according to Indian tradition, the New Year represents a new beginning and always teaches us to move forward. Whatever we did, learned, succeeded, or failed in the previous year, we should move forward with new hope. So that this year becomes a pleasant identity. Life should be in bloom, and desires should be fragrant. Hope for a happy new year and happy acquaintances. The sweet notes of love are teasing. On the wings of the New Year, fly full of fragrance. Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. She can be mailed at priyankasaurabh94161@gmail.com

Good Morning Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner, Editor in Chief: Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor: Mir Suhail

Bureau Chief Jammu: Harbans Nagokay

Manager: Peer Sajad

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

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email: goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address: B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From: Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer: Aijaz Ahmad Dar

## Green **Gram** Sabhas

# A Participatory Pathway For Environmental Conservation



FAROOQ AHMAD BAKLOO

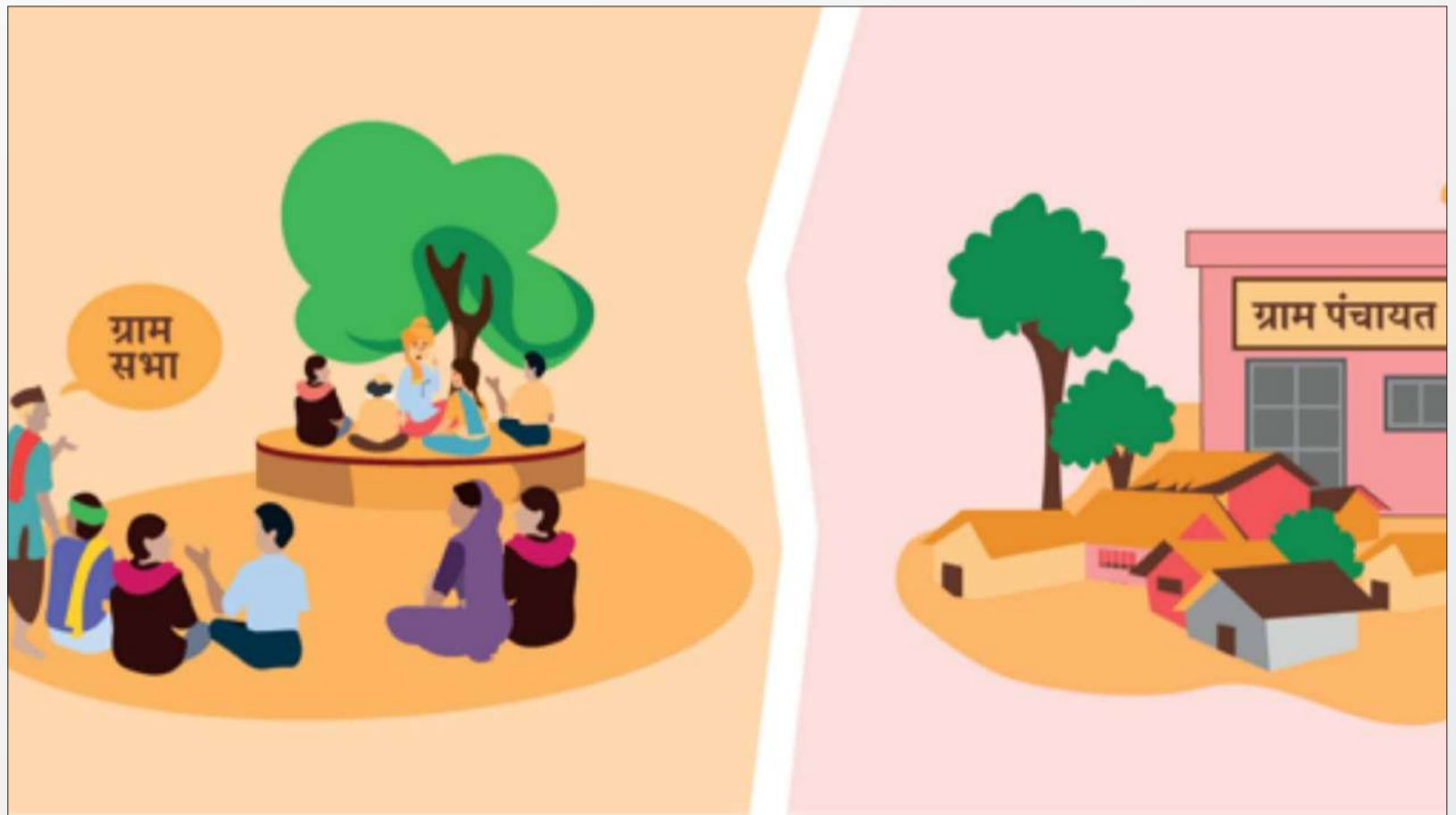
**G**ram Sabha is the general body of voters in a village. It is a village assembly that represents the entire community and acts as a forum for discussing and deciding various local issues. Gram Sabha plays a crucial role in the implementation of Panchayati Raj, contributing to decisions on local development, welfare schemes, and resolving disputes. They are vital in ensuring the participation of villagers in democratic processes.

After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked, and it was reorganized into two separate Union

Territories: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The extension of the Panchayati Raj system to Jammu and Kashmir established a framework for local self-governance. The PRIs consist of Gram Panchayats at the village level, Block Development Councils (BDCs) at the block level, and District Development Councils (DDCs) at the district level. Positive changes at the grassroots level were observed, such as the timely implementation of the 73rd constitutional amendment, the facilitating of participatory Gram Sabha meetings in the panchayat system of the valley. The issues related to women's empowerment and marginalized sections in all three tiers were addressed by granting them their rights according to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

Development initiatives were evident at the ground level. However, despite these positive changes, various challenges persist at the grassroots level, requiring serious attention. In the serene valleys where nature's beauty intertwines with human existence, a silent crisis is brewing – environmental degradation. The escalating pace of environmental issues poses a threat to the delicate ecosystems that form the heart of these valleys. Amidst this challenge, an innovative initiative called Green Gram Shabas has emerged as a beacon of hope, providing a platform for local communities to actively engage in the battle against environmental decline.

The Concept of Green Gram Shaba: Green Gram Shaba, a



can directly participate and discuss the specific environmental challenges plaguing their area. The term 'Shabas' itself evokes a sense of communal participation, reflecting a collective effort to address and combat environmental issues.

**Community Engagement:** One of the key strengths of Green Gram Shabas lies in its ability to engage the local community effortlessly. By bringing together residents from diverse backgrounds, these gatherings foster a sense of shared responsibility and empower individuals to actively contribute to the environmental well-being of their surroundings. Often, the local populace is unaware of the magnitude of environmental concerns, and Green Gram Shabas serve as a crucial educational platform.

**Environmental Awareness:** In many valleys, environmental issues are not at the forefront of local consciousness. Green Gram Shaba act as catalysts for change by raising awareness about the significance of environmental conservation. Through interactive sessions, workshops, and presentations, participants gain insights into the intricacies of their local ecosystems and the imminent threats they face. This newfound knowledge becomes a driving force for collective action.

**Discussion and Problem-Solving:** Green Gram Shaba provide

the attention of external experts. This localized approach ensures

empower local communities to devise and implement solutions

Shabas present a promising avenue for addressing environ-



that the strategies devised to combat environmental degrada-

tailored to their unique circumstances. Whether it's soil erosion, water pollution, deforestation, or other environmental challenges, the collective intelligence of the community is harnessed to develop strategies that are both realistic and achievable.

**Role of Technology:** In the age of connectivity, technology plays a pivotal role in the success of Green Gram Shaba. Digital platforms facilitate communication and collaboration among community members, ensuring that the momentum generated during these gatherings is sustained over time. Online forums, social media groups, and mobile applications serve as extensions of physical gatherings, contribute continuous engagement.

**Partnerships and Support:** For Green Gram Shabas to realize their full potential, collaboration with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and environmental experts is essential. These partnerships bring additional resources, expertise, and a broader perspective to the community-driven initiatives, enhancing the overall impact of environmental conservation efforts.

**Challenges and Overcoming Hindrances:** While Green Gram

mental issues, challenges such as resistance to change, lack of resources, and external pressures may hinder their effectiveness. Strategies to overcome these obstacles involve targeted awareness campaigns, resource mobilization, and advocacy efforts to garner support from both local and external stakeholders. Green Gram Shabas stand as a demonstration to the power of people-driven initiatives in mitigating environmental degradation.

By fostering inclusivity, cognizance, and native solutions, these meetings empower locals of the valley to become stewards of their environment. As the environmental impediments continue to intensify with high velocity observed in recent years, the success of Green Gram Shabas serves as a stimulating model for nurturing sustainable change from the grassroots level upwards. Through cooperative action and shared responsibility, these communities pave the way for a greener and more resilient future.

*Author is Working as a Political Science Faculty Contractual at GDC Kalakote Rajour. He can be mailed at farooqmajeed19@gmail.com*



## पंचायती राज

unique instrument, stands at the forefront of mitigating environmental concerns in the valley. Unlike conventional approaches, these gatherings serve as dynamic forums where local residents

a structured space for open dialogue on environmental problems. Local residents, equipped with firsthand experiences and intimate knowledge of the terrain, share insights that might escape

tion are not only effective but also culturally sensitive and sustainable.

**Empowering Local Solutions:** The strength of Green Gram Shaba lies in their ability to

# GIF Empowers 24 Indian Tech Startups In 3-Day Evaluation Triumph



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Greenovator Incubation Foundation (GIF), an Inclusive Technology Business Incubator (i-TBI) supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) established by NIT Srinagar, concluded a highly successful 3-day startup evaluation for Ignition Grant of i-TBI – GIF NIT Srinagar.

GIF orchestrated a platform for startups nationwide to showcase pioneering ideas, emphasizing technological advancements and entrepreneurship. The event garnered enthusiastic participation, with startups presenting

their unique concepts. A distinguished panel of judges, featuring luminaries in technology and entrepreneurship, including Dr. Prof. Saad Parvez, Mr. Shahid Ansari, Mr. Rajiv Bose, Mr. Irtif Lone, and Mr. Shahid Mir (CEO of GIF), played a pivotal role in evaluating the diverse range of ideas.

Following meticulous evaluation, standout ideas were shortlisted for GIF's support and mentorship. These selected startups will receive funding to realize their innovative visions, guiding them towards sustainable growth and success.

Mr. Shahid Mir, CEO of GIF, expressed excitement

about the evaluation's outcome, lauding the creativity and innovation displayed by startups. He affirmed GIF's commitment to nurturing these ventures and providing essential resources for success in the dynamic technology and business sphere.

The evaluation underscored the significance of

collaboration within the startup ecosystem, involving key stakeholders like the Department of Science and Technology Government of India through GIF, NIT Srinagar. Their collective efforts showcased a unified initiative to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

GIF's pivotal role in fostering innovation and excellence was reaffirmed by the event's success. The foundation remains dedicated to cultivating a culture of innovation, anticipating the growth and triumphs of the selected startups in their entrepreneurial journey supported by GIF.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### Kashmir Shivers

of very light snow over isolated extreme higher reaches in the next two days. Furthermore, Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that mainly dry weather is expected from January 06 till 7th evening, adding that on 8th January, generally cloudy weather is expected over plains with possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches. On January 9-10, the weather conditions would remain generally dry. However, a low visibility led to the hardships of commuters in Jammu today while the weatherman here has stated that moderate to dense fog with cold day conditions would likely to continue over plains of Jammu during next two days—(KNO)

### Anchar Lake

finds its way into the lake. Also, vehicles are consistently leaving garbage at this location. The pervasive smell has become intolerable, preventing us from opening our windows," he said. Hameed urges the government to address this issue promptly. Boatmen harvesting Nadru from the lake report a significant drop in production due to pollution and encroachments. Furthermore, the locals highlight the adverse impact on water species and note the lake's shrinking dimensions over the past few years. They call for an immediate halt to waste dumping on the lake's banks. Despite the concerted efforts of authorities, including the establishment of the Wetland Development Authority (WDA) to protect water bodies, Anchar Lake continues to be at risk. The government, responding to reports of encroachments, pledges action to secure the lake's future. Another official asserted that he would instruct the relevant department to initiate appropriate actions against those found responsible for disposing of garbage and other solid waste materials in the area. "Strict measures will be enforced to prevent the lake's shore from turning into a dumping site, and decisive action will be taken against anyone found involved," he added—(KNO)

### Police Attaches

resident of Wakoora, in pursuance to orders passed by Honourable Court of Additional Session Judge (Special Judge designated under NIA Act) Ganderbal vide CNR No. JKGB010005642024 dated 29-12-2023 in Case FIR No. 110/2022 U/S 353 IPC, 13, 18, 23, 38, 39 UA (P) Act, 7/25 I.A Act, 207 M.V Act of Police Station Ganderbal. "This decisive step is part of ongoing efforts to address activities falling under the purview of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The Accused is currently under trail & is lodged at Central Jail Srinagar. The said property is attached U/S 33 (1) of UA (P) Act," police said. The attachment follows the due legal process outlined in the law, UA (P) Act. Ganderbal Police continues its vigilant stance against elements involved in activities detrimental to public safety and national security, police said, adding that this operation underscores the commitment of Police to curb unlawful activities, particularly those with potential connections to acts against the UT J&K. "Such measures play a crucial role in maintaining law and order, contributing to the larger goal of ensuring the safety and security of the area. The action sends

a strong message about the zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism that pose threats to peace and harmony in the area," police said—(KNO)

### Gunfight Underway

He said that as the joint teams of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired upon them which was retaliated, triggering an encounter. Meanwhile, Kashmir Zone Police in a post on X, said that "Encounter has started at Hadigam area of Kulgam district. Kulgam Police ,Army and crpf are on the job. Further details shall follow."

### Fuel Stations Return

holding a meeting with the government, assuring them that they will be taken on board before implementing the new law. However, all the fuel stations resumed their operations normally today while a rush of commuters continued to be witnessed there throughout the day. "It took me almost half an hour to get the petrol at fuel station near Munawarabad here as the rush of vehicles remained high," one of the commuters said, adding that unlike yesterday, the fuel was available at all the fuel stations—(KNO)

### Bharat Sankalp Yatra

the successful implementation of the Har Ghar Jal initiative in 401 Gram Panchayats and the coverage of 3,544 Gram Panchayats under the ODF+ initiative showcase the extent of its impact. A noteworthy accomplishment is the 'Healthcare on Wheels' initiative, screening nearly 6 lakh participants at on-the-spot camps across the Union Territory. This not only enhances healthcare accessibility but also safeguards the well-being of a significant portion of the population. VBSY's commitment to reaching every corner is evident in its coverage of over 4,345 Gram Panchayats in Jammu & Kashmir. Ayushman Cards have been distributed comprehensively, ensuring coverage in 3,523 Gram Panchayats. Additionally, over 1.8 lakh individuals have undergone TB screening, addressing health concerns at the grassroots level. The essence of VBSY lies in its dedication to reaching every village, every doorstep, symbolizing inclusivity and the pursuit of 100% scheme saturation. The participation of about 3 million citizens reflects the resonance of the initiative, underscoring the overwhelming support it has garnered. VBSY's impact extends beyond statistics, signifying a transformative shift in the quality of life for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. As the yatra progresses, it not only brings welfare benefits to doorsteps but also instills a sense of empowerment and assurance among citizens. In conclusion, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra stands as a beacon of progress, achieving unprecedented success in realizing the vision of 100% scheme saturation in Jammu & Kashmir. The yatra's journey is about catalyzing positive change, transforming communities in the Union Territory.

### Cs Takes Overview

officers. In the onset of the meeting the Chief Secretary maintained that the time is ripe for

providing customised solutions based on Artificial intelligence to the public issues. He intervened that when the IT has forayed into every aspect of our lives it is necessary to make our processes more compatible with the technology. He asked for fixing timeline for achieving specific tasks focusing on each of them one by one to achieve optimum results.

He impressed upon each Department to add as many layers as possible to the PM Gati Shakti portal as there is scope for same. He advised each of them to prioritise their problem statements for seeking corresponding IT solutions from BISAG. He further asked them to rework their requirements with respect to their significance for public and seek AI based customised solutions for each of them.

Dulloo also asked for relooking into the aspect of upgrading the already offered G2C online services for making them more user-friendly and interactive. He asked them to develop applications that are useful in monitoring the quality of solutions offered to public. He further suggested to make grievance resolution mechanism a more result-oriented, interactive and time bound.

In her presentation the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri gave insights into the kind of interventions they are proposing to seek from BISAG. She laid out that department has asked for cooperation in the focus areas like implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Works execution, Public Grievances, end to end solution for tracking public outreach programmes like Back to Village etc besides profiling of villages and panchayats for have better understanding about the infrastructure and human resource available there and the kind of interventions needed in each of them.

The team of BISAG in their presentation displayed several models including those developed for holistic development of J&K. They depicted the kind and nature of interventions they are contemplating for providing better solutions to the users in J&K. They also shared the details about the scope for AI in different governance aspects based upon the data the UT has generated so far.

The team presented the key note interventions they are proposing in the areas of developing apps like Village Amenity and Work Execution Directories. They also showed the models regarding development of comprehensive grievances redressal mechanism, public outreach programme and government scheme integration and convergence.

It was set out that the institute will go on developing the solutions based upon the requirements of each department on day to day basis and deliver at regular intervals. It also offered developing IEC videos for each of them without charging anything in any of the local languages.

It was decided to cooperate with each other and designate Nodal officers from each department for onward transmission of data and other paraphernalia for smooth and time bound delivery of prospective solutions as envisaged by the local administration here.

### India Reports 602

reported 199 cases of the sub-variant. Kerala has reported 148 cases. 47 cases have been reported from Goa, 36 from Gujarat, 32 from Maharashtra," the health ministry has said. The overall recovery from Covid has reached over 4.4 crore individuals, reflecting a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent. The country has administered a total of 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines, as per

the available data.(IANS)

### Behind Kashmir's

houseboats and Shikaras, government regulations have limited me to crafting Shikaras only. I seek to expand my work by building more Shikaras, and houseboats but my heart aches for the declining houseboat industry. Therefore, I urge the government to reconsider the ban and allow responsible construction of houseboats to revive this vibrant tradition," said Ghulam Nabi.

As already reported, the iconic houseboats are declining, with a recorded number decrease from 2000 to just 750, courtesy of a blanket ban on construction and non-availability of master craftsmen. President Houseboat Owners Association (HBOA), Manzoor Pakhtoon, said till early 1980s, there were almost 2000 houseboats in Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake, and river Jehlum. "But today, the number of houseboats in Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake, Chinar Bagh, and river Jehlum is just 750," he said while He expressing serious concern over the fast-fading houseboats, once known as the "Crown of Kashmir."

"Moreover, as a houseboat is usually made out of Cedar wood, which can withstand damage from being in water for long periods, the houseboats usually have a corridor, drawing room, dining room, pantry, two to four bedrooms with attached bathrooms with hot and cold water," he added.

Suhail Yaseen, who owns a houseboat at Dal Lake, said, the number of houseboats is fast shrinking, and they can't construct new houseboats as there are hardly any master craftsmen left now. "Those who are present, the government should activate support for them," he added—(KNO)

# RAHI ADVERTISERS



+91-7006034174  
SARAI DANGERPORA,  
SUMBAL. 193501

# PM Modi holds roadshow in Kerala's Thrissur



**COCHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held a roadshow in Thrissur city of Kerala and was greeted by a sea of people. Modi held the roadshow in a special vehicle which was brought from his

home-state of Gujarat. State BJP president K. Surendran, actor Suresh Gopi and Kerala BJP Mahila Morcha leader Nivedita accompanied Modi in the vehicle. Modi was seen waving to the crowd lined up from the helipad to the public meeting venue. He will also

address a women's rally. Actress Sobhana, P.T.Usha, Minnu Mani were also on the stage with the Prime Minister. State's leading personality the 83-year-old Marjakkutty -- who took to the streets with a begging bowl after the Pinarayi Vijayan government failed to pay

the social welfare pension on time -- was also seen on the stage with the Prime Minister. All Malayalam television channels -- barring People TV (backed by the CPI-M) and Jaihind (backed by the Congress) -- showed the road show live.

## KAR SEVAK ROW BJP stages protest across K'taka condemning Hubballi man's arrest

**BENGALURU:** The Karnataka BJP staged a protest across the state on Wednesday condemning the arrest of an alleged Kar Sevak, Srikanth Poojari, in Hubballi in connection with a 31-year-old case of arson during the Ram Jannabhoomi movement. The Leader of the Opposition, R Ashoka, led the agitation in Hubballi city and the protest was staged in front of the Hubballi Shehar Police Station in spite of refusal of permission by the authorities. State BJP President BY Vijayendra led the protest at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru even as the saffron party staged a protest in all district headquarters of the state and urged the Congress Government to immediately release Srikanth Poojari. Addressing the gathering, R Ashoka stated, "The Congress Government is conspiring to arrest Ram bhakts. There are about 56,000 police cases pending in the state. Why are they focusing on one case in Hubballi? Is it tenable to arrest a Kar Sevak? Why is Congress angry with Lord Ram?" "The cases are lodged against Hindu activists selectively. Srikanth Poojari should be released from

prison immediately. Even I have a case against me, let them initiate arrest proceedings," Ashoka challenged. "Are you doing this out of fear of losing elections," he taunted the Congress. Ashoka raised slogans against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Hubballi Dharwad Police Commissioner Renuka Sukumar from the stage. The protestors also raised "mata, mata, Bharat mata" slogans. "We have come here as Ram bhakts, don't compel us to become Lord Hanuman," he warned. "All across the country people are celebrating the inauguration of the Ram Temple. The Siddaramaiah Government wants to pass on the message to Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi that the party is well-placed in the state to be able to arrest Hindu activists and Ram bhakts," Ashoka alleged. "I had worked as a Home Minister. I can read the developments. The Siddaramaiah Government is instilling fear among Ram bhakts. Through this tactic, the government wants Hindu activists and Ram bhakts to remain indoors at the time of inauguration of the Ram mandir," he claimed.

## Jam packed agenda awaits Jaishankar in Nepal

**KATHMANDU:** A jam packed agenda awaits External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Kathmandu as he is scheduled to arrive in the Himalayan nation on Thursday for the seventh meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission. Jaishankar, who will be on a day-long visit, will co-chair the meeting with his Nepalese counterpart N.P. Saud, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu. The meeting will review the overall state of bilateral relations and various areas of mutual cooperation, it said. Over three dozens agendas spanning from border to boundary, trade, commerce, economic cooperation, energy, connectivity, India funded projects in Nepal to the agreements signed during the 2023 visit of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal to India will also be discussed by the two sides, the Ministry said. According to officials, at least two agreements related to long-term energy cooperation and India's proposal to increase funds for small development

projects under the High-impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs), will be signed. During Dahal's visit to India last summer, the two countries had agreed to sign a long-term agreement on energy, whereby New Delhi would import 10,000 megawatts from Kathmandu in 10 years. At an event on December 22, 2023, Prime Minister Dahal had said: "We are going to sign a long-term energy deal with India soon. A mid-term and a long-term energy trading deal will be signed in Kathmandu." Also during Jaishankar's visit, three transmission lines of 132 KVA will be jointly inaugurated on Thursday. They are the Raxaul-Parwanipur transmission line connecting with Bihar state of India, Kushaha-Kataiyai transmission line and Nautanwa-Mainahia transmission line connecting with Uttar Pradesh. A team from India's Ministry of Energy has arrived in Kathmandu to negotiate a medium-term and long-term energy agreement between the two nations.

# Oil Minister rules out cut in fuel prices

**NEW DELHI:** Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Wednesday that there was no proposal to cut petrol and diesel prices at present as there was "high volatility" in global crude oil prices. The minister dismissed media reports about a fuel price cut as 'speculative', saying the government's top priority is energy availability. He also said that the oil marketing companies -- Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL, incurred heavy losses when the prices of



crude oil had skyrocketed recently. There are no discussions with oil marketing companies on fuel price cuts and

they want a stable and positive forward-looking situation in terms of pricing, the minister added. The minister pointed

out that India was the only country where fuel prices had come down in recent months. "In the South Asian countries, the prices of petrol and diesel increased by around 40-80 per cent. If you look at the Western industrialized world, the prices have gone up there, but in India prices have come down," Puri said. "We are able to do it because of far-sighted and visionary leadership. Central excise duty reduction was done on two occasions, November 2021, and May 2022 and we carried that into 2023," he added.

## SC adjourns hearing on CBI's plea against interim bail to ex-ICICI chief

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned till January 12 the hearing on the CBI's petition challenging the interim bail granted to former ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar in the alleged Videocon loan fraud case. A Bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal took note of the fact that the Bombay High Court was due to hear Kochhar's case on January 5, including the application filed by the CBI for vacation of the interim bail order. During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju, appearing for the central investigative agency, urged the apex court to pass orders requiring Kochhar to not seek adjournment in the High Court. ASG Raju said, "Let them not ask for time (before the High Court)." The matter will now be heard by the Supreme

Court on January 12. In the previous hearing, senior advocate Amit Desai, who appeared on Kochhar's behalf via video conferencing, submitted that he was facing connectivity issues and intended to appear physically for making submissions before the apex court. Thereafter, the top court decided that it will take up the matter for further hearing on January 3, 2024. In a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court, the CBI had challenged the Bombay HC decision directing release of Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar from judicial custody on the grounds that the arrest made was not in accordance with the law. Interestingly, the High Court order of January 9 last year, granting interim bail for two weeks only, is still continuing. Kochhar and her family are alleged to have received kickbacks over her tenure in lieu of loans provided to the Videocon group.

## UP bans those under 18 from driving two-wheelers, four-wheelers

**LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh government has banned those below 18 years of age from driving scooters and cars. If parents allow children to drive scooty or car, they will be punished with three years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000. Following the instructions issued by the government regarding this, strictness will be enforced in secondary schools with the help of the Transport Department, said a government spokesman. For this, the youth will be made aware by running a campaign. Besides, students will also be given information about road safety through various mediums. The spokesman further said that under this, a road safety club will be formed in every school. One student in all classes will be made Road Safety Captain. A class on road safety information will also be held in the school.

Besides, in every school, one teacher will be made nodal head and will be given online and offline training with the help of the transport department. At the same time, strict action will be taken to ensure that children below 18 years of age do not drive any motor vehicle. Detailed guidelines have been issued by Transport Commissioner, Chandra Bhushan Singh, in this regard. The Director of Secondary Education has also been asked to run a campaign in schools for this. He has said that in the prayer meeting, students should be given information about road safety and they should also be given an oath on it. Wall painting related to road safety rules should be done in schools. Information and suggestions related to this should be shared by creating a WhatsApp group of students. The Director has said that social media platforms should also be used for this.

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION

#### KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)

PDD COMPLEX BEMINA, SRINAGAR  
E-mail: ceo.rapdrp.a@gmail.com Tel No: 0194-2490821 Fax No: 0194-2490829

e-NIT No: CEO/IT&C/21 of 2023 Dated: 18-12-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of U.T of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in two cover system) are invited by Chief Executive Officer, IT & C Division KPDCL for "Replacement of defunct Addressable Fire Alarm System, Rodent Repellent System, High Sensitivity Smoke Detection System, CCTV System and Access Control System at Data Centre, Bemina, Srinagar"

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date of issue of Tender Notice	18/12/2023
B	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	20/12/2023; 04:00 PM
C	Clarifications start date	20/12/2023; 04:30 PM
D	Clarifications end date	23/12/2023; 04:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	23/12/2023; 04:30 PM
F	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF / XLS)	13/01/2024; 04:00 PM
G	Online Technical e-Bid Opening date and Time	16/01/2024; 02:00 PM
H	Venue of opening of technical Bids	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IT & C division, KPDCL
I	Online Financial e-Bid Opening date and Time	Will be separately communicated to the technically eligible bidders
J	Estimated Cost	Rs 14,53,628/=
K	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1,000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only, Non-refundable)
L	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	EMD amounting for Rs 29,072/=
M	Last Date for Submission of Hard Copies	16/01/2024 12:30 PM
N	Address for submission of Hard Copies	Office of the CEO IT&C Division, KPDCL (Data Center), PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar
O	MSME Exemption allowed.	

- The bidders need to submit the proof / cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through non-refundable Demand Draft (Any Nationalized Bank or Scheduled Commercial Banks) pledged to Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IT & C division (KPDCL) and payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed with e-Bids but the original Demand Draft should reach the office of Chief Executive Officer, IT & Communication Division Kashmir (Data Center), PDD Complex Bemina upto 16/01/2024; 12:30 PM
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by EMD as stated in the above table, hard Copy of which shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer, IT & Communication Division Kashmir (Data Center), PDD Complex Bemina upto 16/01/2024; 12:30 PM
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This shall be conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site at the office of the Chief Executive Officer, IT & C division (KPDCL)
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids / the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule /BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Other details can be found in the standard bidding document.

No: CEO/IT&C/1987-90 Dated: 18-12-2023

Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer  
IT & C Division KPDCL

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**

## DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR

e-mail: [ddtreg123@gmail.com](mailto:ddtreg123@gmail.com)

**Subject: - Inclusion of partner from the Registration Certificate of "M/s Kosher Hospitality" situated at Zaldagar Srinagar".**

**PUBLIC NOTICE.**

Whereas, Mr. Shahid Nazir Rangrez S/o Mr. Nazir Ahmad Rangrez, owner of the Travel unit namely M/s Kosher Hospitality, wherein he has requested this office for Inclusion of partner namely Mr. Bilal Ahmad Rangrez S/o Nazir Ahmad Rangrez in the Registration Certificate of the said Travel unit under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the said Travel unit is registered with this office under the Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Tourist Trade Act, /Rules, 1978/82/2011-12 under No. Reg/T/1405/310/DTK/L-10 (JKTA00000407) dated 24.02.2015 valid upto 31.12.2024.

Whereas, the applicant submitted the following documents in support of their claim with regard to retirement/Inclusion of partners:-

- Registration Certificate.
- Experience Certificate of new partner.
- Character Certificate of New Partner.
- Non conviction Affidavit from new partner.
- Qualification certificate of new partner.
- Partnership Deed.
- Affidavit.
- PAN Card of new partner
- ID Proof of new partner

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for Inclusion of one partner in the Registration Certificate, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. Objections received beyond a period of 7 days will not be entertained and changes in the Registration/ records shall be made under rules.

No:Reg/T/1405/780/DTK Dated: 03.01.2024

Sd/-  
Assistant Director Tourism,  
Registration (Kashmir).

DIPK-14633-23  
DT: 03/01/2024

# Jugal Kishore delivers welfare to beneficiaries during VBSY

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** In a continuation of the nationwide outreach program, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reached Ward-7 of MC Ghou Manhasan Wednesday.

Leading the charge was Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma, whose presence resonated with the aspirations of the locals. Accompanied by SDM Manu Hansa, Tehsildar Rampal Sharma and other dignitaries, MP Sharma first paid his respects at the revered Narsimha Temple, seeking blessings for the Yatra's noble mission.

The MP embarked on a captivating journey through the heart of Ward-7. He visited stalls showcasing local handicrafts and entrepreneurial ventures, engaging in warm conversations with residents and



inquiring about their well-being.

In a heartfelt address, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the Yatra, highlighting its pivotal role in bridging the gap between the government and the grassroots. "This Yatra is not just

about spreading awareness about the plethora of schemes available to our citizens," he resonated, "It's about ensuring that no one, especially the most vulnerable sections of our society, gets left behind in the march towards a developed India." The event also witnessed

a heartening moment when Ayushman cards and approval letters for widow, old age and disability pensions were distributed to eligible beneficiaries. The Yatra's success resonated in the presence of distinguished guests and eminent citizens besides the locals.

# Saurabh Bhagat visits Shopian, chairs awareness camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology and Skill Development Department (SDD), Saurabh Bhagat, Wednesday visited Government ITI Shopian where he interacted with the first batch of Trainees under PM Vishwakarma scheme. He also presided over an awareness camp.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary underscored the pivotal role of PM Vishwakarma scheme in empowering the artisans. The initiative will crucially help in equipping the artisans and youth with skills that align with present industry demands, thus enabling them to become valuable contributors towards the economy. He elaborated on the numerous initiatives being undertaken under PM Vishwakarma scheme to enhance



the skill set and employability of local youth and traditional artisans.

Saurabh Bhagat emphasised that skill training not only narrows the unemployment gap but also brings in opportunities for job creation. He appealed the youth of the district to get themselves registered with PM Vishwakarma Scheme and get a toolkit of Rs. 15000= besides a loan of Rs. 3 lakh for establishing different business units.

Saurabh Bhagat, during interaction with the trainees, emphasized the need for regular up skilling to keep pace with changing trends.

He appreciated the district administration for becoming the first district in the UT to start the first batch of Training of 30 beneficiaries. He also expressed happiness on the selection of significant number of female Candidates.

While addressing the gathering of artisans and trainees, DC Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb, informed that more than 5000 candidates have registered themselves in district Shopian till now. He added that during the training, a trainee will also get Rs. 500 stipend monthly for undertaking the training under the scheme. He

emphasised the role of line departments in effective implementation of the scheme.

Director, Skill Development, Sudershan Kumar, highlighted the benefits of the scheme and its impact on society in general and traditional craftsmen in particular.

Commissioner Secretary also inspected stalls showcasing beneficiary oriented schemes. Saurabh Bhagat also distributed certificates among the beneficiaries of PMV.

Among others SSP, Shopian, Tanushree; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; Joint Director, SDD, Mohammad Peeraz Ahmed Khan; State Management Officer, NSDC, Kehkashan; Superintendent, ITI, Fida Mohammad; officers and officials of ITI and youth in large numbers were present.

# DC Srinagar holds Grievance Redressal camp in Bemina

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp here at Bemina in Shalteng Tehsil of the District under weekly Block Diwas programme in order to bring Administration at the door steps of people for an on spot resolution of their developmental issues.

The Programme witnessed large participation of people from Bemina, Parimpora, Qamarwari, Boatman Colony, Bilal Colony, Umer Colony and other adjoining areas of Shalteng Tehsil of Srinagar District.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, Public delegations and scores of individuals

projected various issues and demands before the DC including augmentation of drainage network system to resolve water logging issue, road upgradation, redevelopment & face lifting of public parks, providing transport services from inner Colonies of the area to Qamerwari.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC sought issue wise on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

He also assured the people of Bemina and other local vicinities that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be looked on priority basis. He said jurisdictional issues have already been taken up with higher author-

ities and will be resolved soon.

The DC also gave on the spot directions to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the District Administration is holding such grievance redressal Camps to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for precise and on-ground assessment to ensure their time bound redressal as all issues are taken up with concerned quarters with proper monitoring on periodical basis. He said providing all civic facilities to people is the top priority of the Government.

During the Public Grievance Redressal Camp, the Deputy Commissioner also led Viksit Bharat

Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), as a special VBSY Mobile IEC Van reached the venue for raising awareness and facilitating delivery of welfare scheme benefits in Ward 24 of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

The VBSY IEC Van was accorded a warm welcome by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar in presence of members of the Swagat Committee along with prominent persons and large gathering of people of the area. The VBSY Van displayed the message of the Prime Minister and also spread awareness among people aimed to ensure seamless reach of Government welfare programmes/flagship schemes.

On the occasion, the DC administered the VBSY pledge to the

gathering and said that the primary objectives of the Yatra include disseminating information, fostering awareness and establishing direct interaction with beneficiaries, besides achieving saturation of all schemes and enhancing awareness among the populace.

He said the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra focuses on both urban and rural areas, highlighting key schemes such as PM Svanidhi, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana (Urban), SBM(Urban), Subhagya Yojana, Digital Payment infrastructure, Ayushman Bharat PMJAY, PMGKAY, DAY-NRLM, PM Awas Yojana Rural, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM KISAN Saman, PM Vishwakarma, KCC,

PM Poshan Abhiyan, JJM and SVAMITVA.

Later, the DC inspected the stalls established by different Departments to cover the beneficiaries under different Government Welfare schemes on the spot. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner visited Batamaloo area and took onsite inspection of ongoing developmental works being executed on Rs 30 crore project of Art and Craft Market Batamaloo being developed as a part of the Smart City project.

At the site, the DC was apprised that over 80 percent works on 4 blocks of the project comprising 52 shops have been completed. He was informed that the Art and Craft Market Batamaloo is being developed on the State of the

Art pattern and will have Shops, Public Plazas, Eateries, Heritage Shops, Foot Court etc., besides will be a new public commercial as well as a tourist attraction place.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned to expedite the construction work and complete the project under the set timeline of March 2024.

Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Joint Commissioner, SMC, Riyaz Ahmad, Secretary SDA, Ishtiyaq Ahmad, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jameel, Chief Education Officer, Abdul Hamid Fani, SDM West, Pimroze Bashir, besides other senior Officers and Engineers of the District Administration were present in the Public Grievance Redressal Camp.

**MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR**  
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —  
**DIL KE EHSAAAS**



0.495 cm

Spectrum Adv | 969700698