

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Achievements of Kashmiri Pandit community fill my heart with pride. I dedicate this vital sports project at Jagti to Community's Youth & to their contribution in nation-building. I urge them to avail limitless opportunities in diverse sectors & fulfill the goal of Viksit Bharat.

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SIA Raids Barkati's Home In Shopian



SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency carried out a raid at the residence of cleric Sarjan Barkati in south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said.

An official said that sleuths of SIA with the assistance of local police and CRPF carried out the raid at Sarjan Barkati home in Reban village.

He said that the **P-06**

Migrant Worker Shot Dead By Terrorists In Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

upon by the terrorists in Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar.

However, the official stated that one among them Amritpal Singh has succumbed to his injuries while Rohit has been shifted to hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, a manhunt has been launched to nab the attackers. "The whole area has been cordoned off," he added.

Kashmir Zone Police in a post on X said, "#Terrorists fired upon 2 persons identified as Amritpal Singh & Rohit, R/O Amritsar at Shaheed Gunj Sgr. In this #terror incident, Amritpal Singh **P-06**

Avail Limitless Opportunities In Diverse Sectors: LG Sinha

Says Achievements Of KP Community Fill My Heart With Pride

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of synthetic football turf on the outskirts of Jammu and said the state-of-the-art sports facility will be developed as per FIFA standards.

The lieutenant governor said international-level sports facilities are being developed in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

Flanked by senior officials, Sinha laid the foundation stone of the turf at Jagti Migrant Camp, housing displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

The Synthetic Football Turf to be developed at a cost of Rs 5.75 crore, will include G+1 pavilion with a covered area having seating capacity of about 600 spectators, change rooms and other amenities.

"The achievements of Kashmiri Pandit community fill my heart with pride. I dedicate this vital sports project at Jagti to the Youth of this Community and to their immense contribution to nation-building," the Lt Governor said.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government is fully committed to the welfare of Kashmiri migrant families and this is also reflected in the interim budget of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor observed.

He said the representation of Kashmiri Pandit Community in J&K's Legislative Assembly is a major step towards the empowerment of the community.

"I urge the youth of Kashmiri Pandit **P-06**




Bank Loan Case

ED Arrests Director Bharat Papers Limited

NEW DELHI: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested the Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited in a case related to bank loan fraud amounting to approximately Rs 200 Crore.

As per a statement issued, a spokesman said that Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested Anil Kumar Aggarwal, Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited yesterday under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a bank loan fraud amounting to approx. Rs 200 Crore. **P-06**

LG Condemns Srinagar Terror Attack




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JAMMU, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday strongly condemned the heinous terror attack on two civilians in Srinagar.

He extended his **P-06**

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF KASHMIRI PANDIT COMMUNITY FILL MY HEART with pride. I dedicate this vital sports project at Jagti to the Youth of this Community and to their immense contribution to nation-building," the Lt Governor said.

Me'raj-e-Alam Being Celebrated Today



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SRINAGAR- Thousands of devotees throng shrines and mosques across Kashmir for special prayers on Me'raj-e-Alam, believed to be the night in which the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) embarked on the famous night journey and ascension.

The biggest congregation is expected at Dargah Hazratbal here where thousands of devotees are likely to attend to have a glimpse of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) after five-time prayers. Hundreds of people also participated in night-long prayers.

The local administration has made special arrangements including **P-06**

POST 2019 Security Situation In J&K Shows Significant Improvement: MoS Home

AGENCIES


SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs Wednesday said that the security situation in J&K has significantly improved post 2019 and the Government of India continues with its policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

In reply to a query related to the security situation in J&K, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Nityanand Rai said that the security situation has shown a significant improvement since 2019. He stated that in 2019, the number of terrorist initiated incidents were 153 that came down to 126 in 2020, 129 in 2021 and 125 in 2022. "In 2023, only 46 such incidents were reported," the reply reads.

He said that in 2019, 102 encounters and counter-terror operations took place. "In 2020, 118 such incidents were reported followed by 100 in 2021 and 117 in 2022. In 2023, 48 such incidents were reported in J&K," the reply reads, adding that as far as the civilians killed in terrorist-related incidents, 44 were killed in 2019, 38 in 2020, 41 in 2021 and 31 in 2022. "In 2023, only 14 civilians were killed in such **P-06**



Rajasthan Tops, J&K 2nd India's Solar Power Potential Estimated At 748 GW



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India's total solar energy potential has been estimated at 748 GWp (Giga Watt peak), Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, R.K. Singh, informed the Parliament on Wednesday.

The estimate has been provided by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), on the basis of data from Waste Land Atlas of India 2010.

Rajasthan tops the list with 1,42,310 MW, followed by the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in second spot with 1,11,050 MW, while Maharashtra is placed third with a potential of 64,320 MW.

The other states that figure in the country's top 10 list for solar power potential are: Madhya Pradesh (61,660 MW), Andhra Pradesh (38,440 MW), Gujarat (35,770 MW), Himachal Pradesh **P-06**

30% Surge In Bookings Nearly 20K Tourists Throng Gulmarg In Six Days Since Snowfall

WARIS FAYAZ



GULMARG: Gulmarg, the picturesque hill station in Kashmir, has experienced a significant influx of tourists, recording a staggering 20,000 arrivals in just six days. The surge was witnessed following the end of a prolonged dry spell that had impacted the tourist destination.

Gulmarg, hailed as the winter wonderland, nestled in the Pir Panjal range in Kashmir is renowned for its breathtaking snow-covered meadows and world-class skiing facilities.

With the recent snowfall transforming the destination into a picture-perfect landscape, visitors started classic winter activities here. The delighted tourists are seen immersing themselves in the magic of snow, with a few creating snowmen and engaging in cheerful snowball fights.

A top official in the tourism department, Gulmarg, sharing the data said that the destination witnessed a staggering influx of 19,532 tourists within just six days following the end of the prolonged dry spell. This notable surge includes 15,086 domestic visitors, 4,290 locals, and 156 foreigners.

"The charming landscape of Gulmarg, adorned with a fresh blanket of snow after the extended dry spell, has proven to be a magnet for tourists seeking winter experiences and snow-related activities," he said.

Local businesses, including hotels, restaurants and adventure sports operators, are experiencing a boost in demand as visitors flock to explore the scenic beauty and engage in various winter sports offered in the region.

Tariq Ahmed, Gulmarg Guide Association President, said the losses incurred during the dry spell are irreplaceable; however, the significant increase in tourist rush, coupled with a 20-30% surge in bookings brings a ray of hope to Gulmarg's tourism sector.


"With more tourists showing interest and bookings on the rise, we're hopeful and looking forward to better days ahead," he said.

Earlier, the association said the industry faced a substantial 60 percent decline in bookings during the period of dry spell.

Similarly, Zahoor **P-06**

After Abrogation Of Art-370 J&K Records Investment Of Rs 5656.78 Cr: Centre

AGENCIES



SRINAGAR: The Central government on Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha that an investment of over Rs 5600 crore has been made in various sectors of Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

In a reply to a query, Minister of State in Ministry of Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai said the Government has notified the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 19/02/2021 so as to attract investors to make capital investments.

This has been supplemented by the policies/schemes, to boost investment in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, which include, J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy, 2021-30, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy 2021-30, Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in Industrial Sector in J&K, 2022, J&K Single Window Rules, 2021, Turnover Incentive Scheme, 2021, J&K Wool Processing, Handicrafts and Handloom Policy, 2020, Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives/Self Help Groups, 2020, Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, 2020 and Kharkhandar Scheme for Development of Craft Sector in J&K, 2021, Revised Education Scheme 2022 for Artisans/Weavers of Handicrafts and Handloom Department and Export Subsidy Scheme, 2021. The impact of the steps have enabled investment of Rs 296.64 in 2019-20, Rs 412.74 in 2020-21, Rs 376.76 in 2021-22, Rs 2153.45 in 2022-23 and Rs 2417.19 in 2023-24. **P-06**

BLOCK DIWAS

DC G'bal addresses public concerns in Shallabugh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Wednesday chaired the weekly Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Ghar Shallabugh, where he interacted with the public to listen to their issues and demands.

The programme, which was also attended by Vice Chairperson DCC Ganderbal, Bilal Ahmad, SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta, Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani and other senior officers, aimed to provide a platform to the people to voice their concerns and aspirations directly to the authorities and seek redressal of their grievances.

The major issues projected during the event include development of roads, street lights, dredging of irrigation canals, ATM facility, installation of transformer at PHC Kachan, development of playground at Girls High School Shallabugh and



other issues of public importance.

After giving patient hearing to locals, the DC assured that all their genuine demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for prompt redressal.

While replying to the demands, the DC assured the locals that all genuine demands would be taken up with relevant authorities for swift redressal. He emphasized that issues raised during the weekly Block Diwas and Back to Village programs would be

given priority in formulating the plan for the fiscal year 2024-25. Additionally, the DC announced the approval of the JJM Plan to address waste supply issues in the district.

Addressing concerns about door-to-door waste collection, DC informed that waste collection had been outsourced by the district administration and urged residents to pay usage charges on a monthly basis for the services rendered.

The Vice-Chairperson DDC expressed appre-

ciation for the proactive efforts of the district administration in Shallabugh Panchayat. He also acknowledged the dedicated endeavors of the administration and extended assurance of full cooperation to transform Shallabugh into a developed and thriving Panchayat.

Among the officers present on the occasion were Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad, District Lead Bank and other district officers and officials.

BLOCK DIWAS

DC Pulwama sets tone for Collaborative Governance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In a remarkable gathering held at Govt Higher Secondary School Koil, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Wednesday presided over the Block Diwas event.

He was accompanied by ADDC Pulwama, ACD Pulwama, and various District and Sectoral officers.

The DC facilitated an interactive session aimed at enlightening the public about government schemes and initiatives.

The event witnessed active participation from departments across various sectors, each showcasing their schemes and benefits through informative stalls. Attendees were apprised of the opportunities available, fostering a deeper understanding of government programs.

A significant turnout marked the occasion, with



public delegations vocalizing their demands and extending gratitude for the responsive actions of the District Administration.

The DC, engaged attentively with the grievances voiced by the public, commending their participation and emphasizing Koil's pivotal role in the success of the program.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the resolution of past issues and adherence to timelines, particularly in projects like JJM. He also mentioned the identification of a playground for residents, underscoring the administration's commitment to community welfare.

Speaking on various

schemes including HADP and the Vishwakarma scheme, DC emphasized the importance of local support, especially from the youth and artisans, in maximizing the benefits of these programs. He stressed the significance of sanitation initiatives, highlighting the infrastructure development in the district and urging residents to contribute to maintaining cleanliness.

Furthermore, the DC directed concerned officials to identify a suitable building for the establishment of a Senior Citizens Hub, equipped with facilities like a library and age specific recreational facilities, catering to the needs of the elderly population.

The Block Diwas event in Koil served as a platform for meaningful interaction between the administration and the public, fostering a collaborative approach towards community development.

DC reviews Works undertaken by Municipal Council Bandipora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman Wednesday convened a meeting of the Municipal Council (MC) Bandipora at the DC office complex here to review the progress and status of various ongoing development works undertaken by the Municipal Council within the town.

On the occasion, Executive Officer MC Bandipora presented a detailed report on progress and status of various developmental projects undertaken by the council.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of each project, including its current stage, timeline for completion, and any challenges faced.

He emphasized the importance of expediting the pace of work and ensuring timely completion of all projects for the benefit of the public.

The meeting reviewed the physical and financial progress of different works under execution in the town including Marriage Hall Bandipora, Slaughter house, Open gym and Children's Park, etc.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the progress of sanitation, drainage, and waste management initiatives, development of parks and public spaces within the town, street lighting and beautification initiatives.

Emphasising on quality and transparency, the DC stressed the need to maintain high standards of quality in all works undertaken by the Municipal Council and related executing agencies. He also advocated for transparency in the execution of projects.

While stressing on the timely completion of projects, the DC directed the concerned officials to work diligently and remove any bottlenecks hindering the progress of projects. He set clear deadlines for the completion of various works and emphasized the importance of meeting these deadlines to avoid inconvenience to the public.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora besides others concerned.

DC Bandipora visits far-flung areas of Aloosa



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: To address the concerns of residents in remote areas, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman visited several far-flung areas of Aloosa Tehsil including Binlipora, Ketson and other adjoining areas.

During the visit, the DC interacted with locals, listened to their issues and demands, and assured them of prompt action.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi, Tehsildar Aloosa and other officers from the district administration.

On the occasion, residents raised various concerns. At Aloosa Binlipora, the families affected by the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) project sought compensation for land acquisition and other damages.

The Villagers of upper Ketson highlighted the inadequacy of access to clean drinking water and requested the establishment of new water supply schemes. The residents also demanded the installation of additional electricity poles to improve power supply in their areas.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all the grievances and assured the

residents that the administration would take necessary steps to address their concerns on a priority basis. He directed the concerned officials to conduct a thorough assessment of the demands and submit a detailed report within the stipulated time frame.

The DC instructed the PMGSY department to expedite the process of land acquisition compensation and ensure timely disbursement to affected families.

He directed the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department to conduct a survey to identify areas facing water scarcity and formulate a plan for establishing new water supply schemes.

The Power Development Department (PDD) was instructed to conduct a power audit in the affected areas and install additional electricity poles as required.

The DC also visited Binlipora-A Water Supply Scheme where he inspected different components of the scheme and interacted with the concerned regarding different aspects of the scheme. He was informed that the scheme is complete and shall be made functional in near future for the larger interest of the residents.

DC presides over Unani Day celebrations in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a run-up to World Unani Day Celebrations 2024 to be observed on 11th of February, the Department of Ayush Bandipora Wednesday organised a district level event at Conference Hall, Mini-Secretariat Bandipora.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman was chief guest on the occasion, while as ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandit was guest of honour.

The program was attended by District Nodal Officer Ayush, Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Khan, Medical Officers, Department of Ayush, Medical Officers of NHM, Mid Level Health Care Pro-

viders (MLHP) paramedics and other concerned.

In his welcome address, District Nodal Officer Ayush deliberated on the working of Ayush and exemplary vision of Hakim Ajmal Khan, who dedicated his life for the development and promotion of the Unani System of medicine.

He also highlighted achievements of the Department, including High Altitude Medicinal Plant Nursery at Nyle Gurez on 10 kanals of Land, installation of fitness equipment at Aragam, Nadihal and Check Ganastan Shahgund Dispensaries.

The DC was apprised that in Bandipora 21 dispensaries are functional

with 21 Medical officers, besides various issues faced by department were also put forth before the chair including establishment of Herbal Gardens, fencing for Herbal Garden, land issues for cultivation of medicinal plants, availability of land in schools for establishing herbal Gardens and others.

On the occasion, Dr. Irfan, Medical Officer Department of Ayush, presented a PowerPoint presentation to highlight various IEC activities carried out by the Department of Ayush in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the role of Hakim Ajmal Khan in the Unani system of medicine. He said, "to honor Hakim

Ajmal Khan, we need to implement Government Schemes regarding Unani System of Medicine in letter and spirit on ground level."

Stressing on conducting awareness camps at Panchayat level, the DC asked the concerned for the Ayush to draft a plan for conducting more extensive awareness camps at panchayat level for raising awareness regarding benefits of Unani System of medicine, Drug de-addiction and role of health and wellness centres.

Shakeel Rehman, on the occasion, assured full support from the district administration for implementing Ayush Related schemes in the district.

DC Budgam reviews Revenue related matters



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo Wednesday chaired Revenue related meeting to review functioning of the Revenue services in all Tehsils at Conference Hall, Budgam.

At the outset, the DC instructed the concerned to clear pendency under various heads and prompt service delivery to the general public at all Revenue offices across the district.

He stressed on proper record room streamlining, file indexing and prompt case disposals at Revenue offices for convenience of the general public.

He instructed all Tehsildars to conduct Revenue facilitation camps at each Patwar Halqa for better Revenue services to the people at their doorsteps.

Instructions were given to ACR Budgam and concerned SDMs to conduct random checks to assess rejected and reverted

cases under Public Services Guarantee Act in their respective areas.

Acquiring fireproof lockers, racks and other necessary infrastructure for safe custody of records was also discussed during the meeting.

Earlier, the DC also reviewed the status of disposal of land acquisition related cases, fencing of State land, disposal of cases on Revenue Court Cases Management Portal, action taken on RDA cases, land issues relating to infrastructure projects, disposal of inheritance mutations, maintenance of stock registry and other related file records at Revenue offices.

The DC also instructed concerned Revenue officials to check availability of assured minimum facility at designated draft polling stations in all Tehsils.

The meeting was attended by ACR Budgam, SDMs, concerned Tehsildars, Dy.DEO and concerned Revenue officials.

DDC Shopian presides over Block Diwas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: As part of the Government's public outreach programme, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas programme at Block Hermain, Shopian to assess the local issues and listen to the grievances of the people for their speedy disposal.

While interacting with the public, the DDC said that the Block Diwas is being organised across the length and breadth of the JK UT, with the sole objective to provide more transparent, accountable, public-friendly and responsive administration to the people.

This initiative of the Government is contributing immensely to good governance, DC, added.

On the occasion, several public issues including road connectivity to uncovered areas, better drinking water supply to the people of Reshipora and Alamgunj, upgradation of PHC, Hermain, replacement of damaged electric poles, cleanliness of irrigation Khuls, especially Tongri Nallah, segregation shed

for wastage, augmentation of health infrastructure, repairing of Nagisharan road, High Mass lights for Hermain, shifting of LT Line at Alamgunj playground, etc. were projected by the people.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the demands raised by the people and delegations. Some of the issues were redressed on the spot, while others were forwarded to the concerned departments, with strict directions to resolve the same expeditiously and submit the action taken report for all issues flagged-off.

The DDC directed the officers of Irrigation to gear up their men and machinery for cleaning the Tongri Nallah and other Nallahs at an earliest to facilitate the general masses.

Later, he inspected the Alamgunj Bridge and directed the concerned executing agencies for completion of the bridge within a stipulated time frame.

Earlier, accompanied by ADC, ACR, Xen, R&B, Tehsildar, BMO, EO, the DDC visited Aasar-i-Sharief Pinjoora, Shopian and took stock of the arrangements in place for the auspicious day of Shabi-i-Meraj.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 122 of 2023-24 DATED: - 06-02-2024 SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

S. no	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Cost of tender Documents	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Head of Account	Treasury challan account head
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Development/Upgradation of Amrit Sorovar at Khonmoh (Wearwar Bongam)	4.865	200	9730	30 Days	D Class	PMKKKY	0515
2	Construction of Health Cum Nutrition Centre at Khonmoh District Srinagar	32.10	1500	64200	30 Days	A/BEE Class	PMKKKY	0515
3	Construction of drain or laying of spun pipes to stop seepage of canal water to the land of Haji Ab. Rashid and Gh. Mohd Chowdhary Lasjan A (Re-Tender 2nd Call)	2.697	200	5394	30 Days	DEE Class	PMKKKY	0515

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

A	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06.02.2024
B	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06.02.2024
C	Bid submission Start Date	06.02.2024
D	Bid Submission End Date	14.02.2024 6.00PM
E	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15.02.2024 at 11 A.M in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Srinagar

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0515 REW) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR @ 2% OF THE ADVERTISED COST in favour of Executive Engineer REW Srinagar failing which the tender will be rejected outright. The issuing date of Treasury Challan and CDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents in Original shall be obtained from the lowest bidder including 3% CDR/FDR before the fixation of contract.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- The works are approved under District Capex Budget -2022-23
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No. Xen/REW/SGR/9763-79
Dated: -06-02-2024

DIPK-16139-23
DT: 07-02-2024

Sd/
Executive Engineer (REW)
SRINAGAR

J&K residents were deprived of progressive laws' before 2019: Centre

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Wednesday said that before abrogation of Article 370, J&K residents were deprived of the benefits of number of progressive laws but now they are enjoying rights available to citizens of other parts of the country.

In a reply to a question in the Rahya Sabha, Minister of State Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said that after abrogation of Article 370 and application of all the provisions of Constitution of India, the Central

Laws which were earlier not applicable to erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, were made applicable and are implemented in the Union territory.

"After abrogation of Article 370 all the progressive laws such as the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006,

the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis Act, 1993 etc. have been extended to Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "The minister said that now, residents of J&K are enjoying rights which are available to citizens in other parts of the country—(KNO)

Over 1000 complaints of financial fraud cases registered in J&K last year

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Over 1000 complaints of financial fraud cases amounting to more than Rs 780 lakhs have been registered by Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System in Jammu and Kashmir last year.

As per the figures accessed, 1046 cases of financial fraud have been registered in the Union Territory last year. These complaints amount to Rs 786.56 lakh.

The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' was set up under the 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre' by the Ministry of Home Affairs to report financial fraud.

Data further reveals that 253 cases of financial frauds were put on hold with a lien amount of Rs 62.55 lakhs.

Figures further reveal



that a total of 1.13 million cases of financial cyber fraud were reported in 2023 in India.

Uttar Pradesh was at the top with around 200,000 cases, the highest across 36 states and union territories. Next was Maharashtra with 130,000 complaints reported, followed by Gujarat (120,000), Rajasthan and Haryana (80,000 each). Lakshadweep was at the bottom with 29 cases.

Officials said that frauds including UPI, Digital Banking and Credit Card and QR Code are some of the commonest financial frauds registered in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, we witnessed that a

lot of people fall prey to financial frauds. Apart from these frauds, scams related to employment and social media are also being registered in Jammu and Kashmir," they said.

Officials said they have been constantly raising awareness among the public through various mediums to protect themselves from such frauds.

"We make use of social media and the press to make people aware of such frauds. People are being constantly informed not to share bank details, ATM pins and OTPs with anyone and to avoid clicking on suspicious links," they said.

Pertinently, a new study by an IIT Kanpur-incubated start-up revealed that financial frauds accounted for over 75 percent of cybercrimes in the country from January 2020 till June 2023, with nearly 50 percent cases related to UPI and internet banking—(KNO)

Food Safety conducts special drive in various Industrial Units

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A team of Food Safety department along with Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, Yameen ul Nabi Wednesday carried out inspections of manufacturing units operating in Zakura and Hazrabal areas especially food business operators (FBOs) involved in manufacturing/processing of ready to eat foods, bakery and spices.

During the drive, 07 FBOs were compounded on the spot under Section 69 of FSS Act for violating various provisions of the

Food Safety Act, 2006 and 02 FBOs were found operating under insanitary conditions whose challan will be submitted before the competent Court.

About 80 kgs of Minced meat which was transported in unhygienic and unsanitary conditions was destroyed in accordance with environmental laws.

Dy. Commissioner Food Safety Kashmir, Shagoofa Jalal warned all FBOs that they should observe strict adherence to the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, while performing their food business and give due regard to the

safety concerns of the foods they sell.

She also added that in case of the violations made by the Food Business Operators, strict action as per FSS Act will be initiated against the defaulters which can even lead to the closure of facility and such type of market checking will continue in coming days across Srinagar city and all other Districts of Kashmir Division.

All the consumers are requested that in case they have any complaint regarding the food that is being served to them, they can lodge a complaint on toll free number 104.

Non-local woman empowers 500 girls through skill training in Kupwara

TASADUQ HUSSAIN

KUPWARA: Scripting an inspirational and encouraging journey, non-local women married in Kashmir have so far trained about 500 girls in cutting, tailoring and designing, thus enabling them to make their livelihood.

Jameela Begum married a Kunan Poshpora resident some years back and since then has been running a skill centre at Trehgam in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

"Since the inception of the centre, I have been training girls in cutting, tailoring, and designing from time to time," Jameela said.

Begum claimed that in the last three years, she has trained over 500 girls who are now earning their livelihood at their places, with many among them having established shops.

Jameela, who is also a fashion designer, said girls trained at her centre have started to script their success as the training has enabled them to earn their livelihood on their own.

She hailed the administration for providing help



at essential junctures like machines and extending a helping hand to establish a skill centre which has trained over 500 girls from various parts of the Kupwara district.

"This skill centre has gained significant recognition among the local community, attracting women and girls alike to both shop and avail themselves of the services offered," Jameela remarked. She expressed hope that her centre would continue to fulfill the diverse needs of girls and women while expanding its reach to empower more individuals, thereby addressing the issue of female unemployment in the region.

Reflecting on her title as the Flag Woman of Kashmir, Jameela recounted the journey that began in 2017 when the Army approached her to craft national flags. Following the successful completion of their first order, she said subsequent orders for national flags began pouring in from various states across the country.

"Not only did this serve as a source of motivation, but it also enabled all of us, including the trainee girls, to earn a substantial income," she said. "We are delighted to have contributed in this manner, as it has now become a means of livelihood for many girls."—(KNO)

Div Com for acquisition of structures to eliminate bottlenecks from city roads



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Wednesday chaired a meeting regarding acquisition of structures to remove bottlenecks from main roads of Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by SE, R&B Srinagar; Deputy Director Planning; Executive Engineer and Engineering officials.

The meeting deliberated over settling of the issues with proprietors to remove identified bottlenecks of shops and houses on vital roads.

It was deliberated that those parties who agreed to the conditions of acquisition their cases shall be put before HLC for settlement at an earliest and the bottlenecks shall be removed without consuming more time.

Div Com was briefed by the officers of R&B regarding the individual cases of acquisition & demolition of bottlenecks and the solution

offered by the department to the parties.

The meeting was informed about decisions to be taken for road widening and acquisition of structures on Habba Kadal-Baba Pora Road, Khankhi Moula-Fateh Kada, New Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari, Nawa Bazar-Zainakadal, .

Syed Merak Shah road, KZP road Karan, Nagar-Sakidafar Road, Karan Nagar-Kak Sarai Road, Buchpora Hazratbal Road, Nawa Kadal- Nawa Bazar Road, etc.

Further, Div Com directed concerned Executive Engineer of Shopping Complex Rainawari to issue allotments to dislocated shopkeepers whose structures were acquired.

Div Com also emphasized on the concerned to address all cases as per the feasibility of finances & priority.

Meanwhile, the department has already started demolition of acquired structures at Habba Kadal and Rainawari.

Principal Secretary reviews JKAACL's functioning

Asks for regular activities aiming promotion of Art, Culture

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, Wednesday convened a meeting to take stock of activities of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) being carried out for promotion of art and local culture in the region especially among youth.

While addressing the meeting, the Principal Secretary emphasized upon framing of year long calendar of activities to be carried out by the Academy in different parts of the UT. He also advised for creating a well designed coffee table book depicting different works regarding preservation and promotion of our culture, languages and different art forms of J&K. Gupta asked the Academy to engage youth of the UT in their activities so that they get acquainted with rich art and cultural treasures of the region. He enjoined upon them to provide much requisite platforms to the young generation for chiseling and fine-tuning of their art forms in a total professional manner. In this regard, he called for hold-



ing workshops, exhibitions and talent-hunt shows on regular basis.

He said that the art forms like music, dance, poetry, drama and painting are stress busters, the need of which is felt by all during these times. He asked for providing people the art of their choice so that they relish it to add colour to their lives. He also advised for creating awareness among public about the rich and diverse art, culture and languages of different regions of J&K found from Kathua to Kupwara. He directed for adding 'Cultural Vibrancy' to the overall ambience of J&K which is abundantly

bleamed with unique cultural legacy. He called for dissemination of information through circulation of short videos, brochures and leaflets among public so that they can associate themselves with the Academy for showcasing their talent.

On the occasion, Gupta asked for better upkeep of the valuable assets like Tagore Hall and Abhinav Theatre here. He also directed for pulling up further the men and machinery for completing the work on Sufiyana School at Srinagar and Cultural Centre at Kathua. He directed for roping in and duly recognizing those artists from

J&K whose contribution has been applauded at national level.

On the occasion, Secretary, JKAACL, Bharat Singh, informed the Principal Secretary about different works and projects taken up by the Academy across the UT. He informed him that the society has conducted around 419 activities across different districts of the UT in this financial year till January, 2024. He said that the Academy has constituted different bodies including the General Council, Central Committee and Finance Committee for smooth running of its affairs.

It was also informed that JKAACL is mandated to promote and develop Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Pahari and Gojri languages besides English and Punjabi.

Regarding the literary works of the Academy, it was informed that the major publications issued by it included Sheraza, bimonthly in Hindi, Dogri, Punjabi, Kashmiri, Urdu, Gojri, Pahari and English, Gatha, quarterly in Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi, Kashmiri, Pahari and Gojri, Hamra Sahita, yearly in Hindi,

Punjabi, Dogri, Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri and Urdu.

Additionally, the Academy has published dictionaries in Kashmiri, Dogri, Pahari, and Gojri languages besides 7 volumes of Encyclopedia in Kashmiri language while the Dogri Encyclopedia is under process.

The Academy has a rare and rich collection of paintings numbering more than 400 including those of M. F. Hussain, Gokul Dambi, GR Santosh, Tyeb ji, JS Bendre, etc. It has a collection of over 605 manuscripts in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Kashmiri languages representing religion and history. Besides, old 100 miniature paintings, 10 art objects (Wood, stone and terracotta) and some old survey maps also form part of the repository.

The JKAACL has established Translation Research Centers in Jammu and Jammu divisions of the Union Territory respectively. These Centres are undertaking translation of literary works from one regional/national language into another and vice versa, informed during this meeting.

Now MRI facility available at SSH Shireen Bagh on Sundays as well

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The Radio Diagnosis Department has extended MRI services at the Super-Speciality Hospital (SSH) in Shireen Bagh, Srinagar to Sundays as well.

An official from the Super Speciality Hospital, GMC Srinagar, informed that the decision to offer MRI services on Sundays has been taken to reduce patient waiting times.

While MRI services are available daily from 8 am to 8 pm, the facility will now operate from 10 am to 4 pm specifically on Sundays, he said, adding that the hospital currently conducts MRI scans for an average of 20-30 patients daily.

With MRI facilities not yet available at district hospitals and the newly established GMC, there has been a consistent flow of patients to SSH for MRI services, the official said.

"Patients have sometimes experienced short wait times for MRI appoint-



ments, while at other times, they have had to wait several days depending on patient volume. This initiative is expected to significantly decrease patient wait times, ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment," he said.

Doctors said MRI plays a crucial role in diagnosing a range of conditions including neurological diseases, spinal cord lesions,

vascular disorders, musculoskeletal conditions and abdominal and pelvic conditions.

"MRI is more than just a diagnostic tool; it is essential for precise diagnoses and informed treatment decisions," they said.

The decision by authorities to extend MRI services to Sundays has been widely praised by the general public—(KNO)

DC Srinagar inspects different Offices in DC Office Complex

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure proper work culture and efficient public delivery system in the Offices housed in DC Office Complex, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar,

istral East, besides petition writers and stamp vendor zones.

During the visit, the DC interacted with the Officers and other Officials and emphasized the paramount importance of transparency, accountabil-

ity, and efficiency in public service delivery.

He stressed the need for adopting best work ethics and urged the staff to work with a proactive approach while addressing public issues and grievances.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the significance of maintaining clean and organized office spaces and adhering to



Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday conducted a detailed inspection of various Offices and sections.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the Tehsil Office South, District Statistical & Evaluation Office, Office of Additional District Development Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner Nazool, Offices of Registrar and Sub-Reg-

istry, and efficiency in public service delivery.

He stressed the need for adopting best work ethics and urged the staff to work with a proactive approach while addressing public issues and grievances.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the significance of maintaining clean and organized office spaces and adhering to

established protocols. He also discussed the benefits of technological intervention to streamline processes and reduce manual paperwork.

The DC also enjoined upon the employees to ensure utmost punctuality in their respective offices, besides maintaining proper cleanliness and discipline. He further asked them to work with utmost dedication to ensure time bound disposal of files.

Commissioner State Taxes reviews functioning of Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner State Taxes department, P K Bhat Wednesday chaired a meeting with all State Tax Officers (STOs) of Jammu division here at Excise and Taxation Complex here to review the functioning of the department.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Administration & Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra;

STOs of Jammu district attended the meeting in person while as STOs of outer districts joined the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the focus was laid on revenue augmentation, proper scrutiny and tracking of E-way bills, optimal use of technology for assessment of red flags, tax evasion and input tax credit mismatch cases.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS CERTIFICATE BLOCK WAILOO NOTICE

Sub: Issuance of birth certificate

Whereas, the birth certificate block Wailoo, has submitted a case file of the person namely Freeda Akhter D/O Peer Saif-Ud-Din R/O Behrampora, Tehsil Kunzer, has approached the BDO Office with an application seeking issuance of her birth certificate, born on 19-06-1967 at her home as reported by concerned Sarpanch and Secretary Panchayat Halqa Behrampora. For this the said applicant has submitted an affidavit and other documentary evidences. Now the said applicant wants to apply for issuance of the birth certificate. Anybody, if having any kind of objection in this regard may file the same at BDO Office Wailoo, within 4 days period from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Chaotic Pakistan

The elections in Pakistan signify nothing. The script is already written by the deep state. It's known that Pakistani Army's election meddling as usual dashes hopes for the country's real transformation. Over 128 million Pakistanis are eligible to vote in the general elections on February 8 (Today). But hardly anyone believes that the vote will bring real change in a country that is grappling with political instability, economic crisis, and rising terrorism. The current situation of Pakistan looks like an unedited horror movie. Corruption rules the roost, its army generals building huge mansions in Dubai and the United Kingdom, and relatives of politicians owning properties worth billions of dollars in Qatar, Saudi, and UAE. The poor public has to suffer. A sedan car from a particular company which costs about ten lakh in India is sold at ten times more price in Pakistan. According to a survey, forty percent of youth in Pakistan want to leave the country and settle abroad. The currency of Pakistan is going down the barrel every single day and its currency may get devalued beyond imaginable limits very soon. The tragedy is that the deep state of Pakistan wants Nawaz Sharif plus Zardari combo back in power- both are now taught as chapters on institutionalized corruption in American universities. In contrast, the Indian economy is projected to reach ten trillion dollars by 2030. In the next two decades, India will be the third or even the second-biggest economy in the world. India has a youthful population that is skilled and English-speaking. There is better road and railway connectivity in India and some highways can easily be compared to any top highway in the world. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has made India's entry into an elite list of countries - recently countries like Japan and Russia failed to successfully land their satellites on the moon. India has seen lesser corruption in the last ten years. The establishment is working hard to ensure that the benefits of these developments reach to every Indian. India is closing in towards becoming a welfare state as in a lot of metropolitan cities there is free power supply in civilian areas. India's healthcare is so advanced that it is a usual site to see patients from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE come to India for treatment. As for Pakistan, only a miracle can save them from bankruptcy. These elections will not change anything in such a chaotic country. It might, in fact, add to the chaos.

Tribute

Farooq Nazki - I Know Him As Poet



HAROON RASHID BHAT

"Poets never remain silent, they give voice to their feelings through their writings. Nazki Sahab attained the same style throughout his life to reflect on various facets of life."

میں اک گاؤں کا شاعر ہوں
کھلی فافاؤں کا شاعر ہوں

Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki popularly known as Farooq Nazki was a multidimensional personality- a well-known author, editor, poet, and veteran broadcaster. He was a well-known figure not only in the valley but outside. Just to click his name on Google, one can get ample information about his life and contributions. I never met him physically but his appearances in print and electronic media gave me a chance to know about his life. No doubt, all the dimensions of his life are inspirational, but I mostly admire him as a Poet.

So, it will be a tribute to the departed soul if I highlight his personality in the backdrop of his Urdu poetry which



I have been enjoying since my college days. Poets never remain silent, they give voice to their feelings through their writings. Nazki Sahab attained the same style throughout his life to reflect on various facets of life. He talked about his personal life experiences, nature, and the societal changes that occurred from time to time. I read the following Urdu poem penned down by him under different titles- "Tazaab Aakaar Khusbu Ka", "Main Ik Goan Ka Shaer", "Apni Ghazal Ko Khoon Ka Saelab Lay Gaya", "Aur Main Chup Raha, "Matam Neam Shab", "Basti Se Door Ja Kay Koi Ro Raha Hae Kion". " Aik Pari Aakash Say Utri". "Rung Khakay Mein Naya Bhar Dunga Main". "Ajeeb Lamha Hai." All these aforementioned Urdu Ghazals, Nazims, with appealing titles are fetching the attention of the readers. In the first two poems, "Tazaab Aakaar Khusbu Ka", and "Main Ik Goan Ka Shaer",

he talks about his beloved parents; praises his mother, and talks about the strict mood of his father that developed his entire character. He mentioned how his upbringing took place in a remote village in the valley and how he felt proud to be a village boy who usually describes simplicity and innocent nature. While reading the following poems "Apni Ghazal Ko Khoon Ka Saelab Lay Gaya, "Aur Main Chup Raha, "Matam Neam Shab", "Basti Se Door Ja Kay Koi Ro Raha Hae Kion"., it is evident from the titles that the poet was full of pain and depression over the changing behavior of the society as whole that according to him was not favorable. In this poem "Rung Khakay Mein Naya Bhar Dunga Main" the poet is hopeful that he will fill up the new colors to the picture and make it pleasing and hopeful. "Ajeeb Lamha Hai." This poem is a masterpiece, here the poet (Nazki Sahab) talks about the death

time that happened to him actually on 06 February 2024 but he describes his death scene much ahead. His imagination, use of metaphors, and symbolism, nostalgic elements reflect his versatility as a poet. While reading his poems, one can take a glimpse of the past that remained full of ups and downs. After reading his poems and listened to his various interviews, I can assess his personality as, "A good poet, a flower with attractive fragrance, a nice human being with a lot of love and values" May Almighty Allah bless him with eternal peace! Let me conclude this write-up with his famous couplet that he uttered during one of his interviews "Showla Howa Ya Sharar Howa Ya Gulab Howa Munsoob Jo Bi Tujsa Huwa, Mutabar Howa".

Haroon Rashid Bhat is a teacher. He can be mailed at at minamharoon123@gmail.com

Status Report

Air Pollution And Respiratory Human Health



DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

Air pollution has significant impacts on respiratory health, contributing to a range of conditions and diseases. Key pollutants include particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and ozone (O₃). These pollutants originate from various sources such as industrial activities, vehicle emissions, and natural sources like wildfires and dust storms. a. Particulate Matter (PM): PM, especially fine particles known as PM_{2.5} (particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller), can penetrate deep into the lung tissue and even enter the bloodstream, causing inflammation, aggravating respiratory conditions like asthma and chronic bronchitis, and increasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂): NO₂ is primarily produced from combustion processes, including traffic and energy production. Exposure to NO₂ can irritate airways in the human respiratory system, leading to respiratory diseases, reduced lung function, and increased asthma symptoms. c. Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂): SO₂, produced by the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities, can lead to respiratory symptoms and diseases, particularly in children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing lung conditions. d. Carbon Monoxide (CO): CO is a toxic gas that is produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels. High levels of CO can be harmful to the cardiovascular system and particularly dangerous for people with heart disease. Inhaling lower levels over long periods can also contribute to respiratory diseases.



e. Ozone (O₃): Ground-level ozone, formed when pollutants from cars, factories, and other sources react with sunlight, can trigger a variety of health problems, particularly for the lungs and respiratory system, including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and airway inflammation. It can also worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma. f. To mitigate the impacts of air pollution on respiratory health, it is crucial to implement and adhere to air quality standards, promote cleaner transportation, reduce emissions from industrial sources, and encourage the use of renewable energy sources. Functions of respiratory system: The respiratory system is essential for human life and plays several critical roles in maintaining bodily functions. Its significance can be highlighted through the functions: a. Gas Exchange: The primary function of the respiratory system is to facilitate the exchange of gases between the body and the environment. It brings oxygen (O₂) into the body, which is essential for cellular respiration and energy production in cells, and expels carbon dioxide (CO₂), a waste product of metabolism. b. Regulation of Blood pH: The respiratory system helps maintain the acid-base balance of the blood. Changes in breathing rate can alter the levels of CO₂ in the blood, which in turn can affect the blood's pH. This is crucial because even slight deviations from the normal pH range can

disrupt cellular functions. Protection: The respiratory system has several mechanisms to protect the body from harmful substances. The nasal hairs filter large particles, while the mucous membranes lining the respiratory tract trap smaller particles, bacteria, and viruses. The cilia (tiny hair-like structures) then help to move the mucus and trapped particles out of the respiratory system. Speech and Vocalization: The movement of air across the vocal cords enables speech and vocalization, which are crucial for communication. The lungs provide the airflow and pressure needed to produce sounds, while the various structures in the throat, mouth, and nose modify these sounds to produce speech. e. Olfaction: The respiratory system is also involved in the sense of smell. Olfactory receptors located in the nasal cavity are responsible for detecting odours, which are then interpreted by the brain. This sense is important not only for enjoyment and quality of life but also for detecting hazards, such as smoke or spoiled food. f. Regulation of Temperature: The respiratory system plays a role in regulating body temperature through the process of breathing. Exhaling warm air helps to cool the body, while moisture evaporating from the respiratory tract during breathing also contributes to cooling. The respiratory system's ability to perform these functions efficiently is vital for health and well-being. Disruptions to the respiratory system, whether

due to disease, environmental factors, or lifestyle choices, can have significant impacts on overall health. Pollution and treatment: Treating respiratory system conditions and mitigating the effects of pollution involve a combination of medical interventions, lifestyle changes, and public health measures: a. Medications: Bronchodilators: These drugs relax the muscles around the airways, making it easier to breathe. They are commonly used in conditions like asthma and COPD. Steroids: Inhaled corticosteroids reduce inflammation in the airways and are key in managing chronic respiratory diseases. Antibiotics: These are used to treat respiratory infections caused by bacteria, though they are ineffective against viral infections. Antihistamines, Decongestants, and Nasal Corticosteroids: These are used for allergic rhinitis and sinusitis to reduce inflammation and alleviate symptoms. b. Oxygen Therapy: For individuals with severe respiratory diseases that lead to low levels of oxygen in the blood, supplemental oxygen is provided to ensure adequate oxygen supply to the body's tissues. Pulmonary Rehabilitation: This is a program of exercise, education, and support to help patients understand their condition and manage their symptoms more effectively. Ventilation Support: In severe cases, mechanical ventilation may be required to assist or replace spontaneous breathing.

Lifestyle Changes and Preventive Measures Avoiding Pollution: Staying indoors on days with high pollution levels, using air purifiers, and avoiding exposure to tobacco smoke can help reduce the impact of environmental pollutants on the respiratory system. Quitting Smoking: Smoking cessation is crucial as tobacco smoke is a major contributor to respiratory diseases. Diet and Exercise: A healthy diet and regular exercise can strengthen the respiratory system and overall health, improving resistance to infections and diseases. Public Health Measures Air Quality Regulations: Implementing and enforcing regulations to reduce emissions from industrial, vehicular, and other sources is critical for improving air quality. Monitoring Air Quality: Publicly available air quality indices provide information on pollution levels, helping individuals make informed decisions about outdoor activities. Urban Planning: Designing cities with green spaces and promoting public transportation, cycling, and walking can reduce vehicle emissions. Education and Awareness: Informing the public about the risks of air pollution and ways to protect themselves can lead to community-wide health improvements. e. Effects of Pollution on Treatment Efficacy: Pollution can exacerbate chronic respiratory diseases, making them more difficult to manage. High pollution levels can lead to more frequent and severe exacerbations of conditions like asthma and COPD, increasing the need for medical interventions and possibly reducing the overall effectiveness of treatments. In the situations, long-term exposure to air pollutants can lead to reduced lung function and the development of new respiratory conditions, underscoring the importance of addressing air quality as part of public health initiatives.

The author is a youth motivator and former Head of the University Department of Political Science. He can be mailed at rajkumarsinghp@gmail.com

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Growing **Call**

Make 'Big Tobacco' Pay For Health And Environment Harms



BOBBY RAMAKANT

Would you not be surprised to learn that an industry whose products kill over 8 million people every year (even when used as the manufacturer intended), and cause an array of health and environment disasters of epidemic proportion, has not been held to account fully? Yes, we are referring to the Big Tobacco. Well, perhaps a very long wait could be over as governments of over 180 countries are meeting in Panama for advancing progress on global tobacco treaty - and it is likely that such a decision to make Big Tobacco Pay - may come forth, finally.

Earlier this week, delegates to the intergovernmental meeting of global tobacco treaty were greeted with calls to make Big Tobacco pay for its abuses. Civil society, led by the Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT), and government champions urged governments to the global tobacco treaty to accept a draft decision strengthening nations' ability to hold the industry liable and accountable. The proposal is being championed by Oman, Pakistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran and co-sponsored by Brazil, Djibouti, Ghana, Iraq, Kuwait, Panama, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen. The global tobacco treaty is formally called the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

"When an individual violates someone's health or safety, we as a society are supposed to hold them accountable. The same is true of tobacco corporations, which have inflicted enormous harm around the world. We must hold them responsible for their actions - not only to redress past harms, but also to prevent them from continuing their abusive behavior unchecked," said Daniel Dorado, Tobacco Campaign Director of Corporate Accountability, a NATT member.

For decades, the tobacco industry has caused millions of deaths and cases of preventable disease, polluted the environment, and violated human rights.

Annual tobacco-related global healthcare costs are estimated at \$US 422 billion and economic costs more broadly at \$US 1.85 trillion. There are also extraordinary environmental costs that have not been factored into prior accounting, such as the \$US 2.6 billion tab to clean-up tobacco product waste in China alone.

Holding the industry liable could help governments recoup billions in such costs.

"Big Tobacco can only be profitable because we as a society bear the true costs of their business," said Irene Reyes, a NATT member and public health attorney from the Philippines. "While the tobacco industry rakes in nearly one trillion dollars a year, regular people are forced to pay the price of their deadly products with our lives, our land, and our taxes. And the people who bear the most are those whom the industry targets: youth, people of color, and residents of low income countries. Now, it's time our governments hold the industry liable, and make Big Tobacco pay its many debts to society."

The industry tries to put the blame on consumers for behaving irresponsibly. But the problem starts with the creation of toxic products. Deforestation. Land degradation. Poisonous chemicals. Carbon emissions. Water pollution. Every step of tobacco's toxic life cycle is causing harm.

NATT and its allies presented COP10 delegates with a petition to make Big Tobacco pay for its harms,

For decades, the tobacco industry has caused millions of deaths and cases of preventable disease, polluted the environment, and violated human rights.

which was endorsed by more than 85 legal experts and garnered more than 30,000 signatures - representing people in 95 countries and territories and all 6 WHO regions.

Five countries are proposing a measure that would further strengthen Article 19 of the global tobacco treaty (FCTC), a groundbreaking but underutilised provision that enables the governments to pursue liability. Several nations, including Brazil, Ireland, and Canada, have already filed health-related lawsuits against the industry, while the U.S. city of Baltimore launched a first-of-its-kind lawsuit to make tobacco corporations pay for cigarette butt pollution.

"I strongly and respectfully encourage all governments present at this COP [Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC] to support the draft decision on Article 19 of the WHO FCTC. [...] Panamá is with you. Together, we can hold Big Tobacco accountable for their abuses," said H.E. Dr. Ivette Berrio Aquí, Vice Minister of Health of Panamá.

We can do something about it. We can hold the tobacco industry accountable and make it pay for the environmental harms it causes. Join us, a global tobacco industry watchdog, in the fight to save the environment from the tobacco industry.

Delegates will decide on the proposal in the coming days of the talks, which end on 10th of February 2024. The decision could serve as a model to hold other abusive industries liable, setting a strong precedent for the UN climate treaty, the nascent plastic treaty, and other international bodies.

"Abusive corporations from Big

Tobacco to Big Oil are selling a deadly product and saddling society with all the costs that come with it. It's not right and it's past time for us to put an end to this corporate stranglehold on society," said Akinbode Oluwafemi, Executive Director of Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa.

The Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT) is a global coalition to hold Big Tobacco account-

A new report from the World Health Organisation (WHO) released in year 2022 details the destructive impact of this deadly industry on the environment and health of ordinary people.

Every year, tobacco costs the world 600 million trees, 200,000 hectares of land, 22 billion tonnes of water and releases 84 million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere, according to the report. The CO2 emissions alone are equivalent to one-fifth of what is produced by the airline industry.

Some European countries, like France and Spain, have already taken a stand. The Polluter Pays Principle has seen them ensure the tobacco industry is covering the cost of the pollution it creates.

The WHO is urging others to follow this example and make sure that those creating the mess are paying for it to be cleaned up.

It is also calling for help for tobacco farmers looking to switch to sustainable crops, strong tobacco taxes - which could include an environmental tax - and more support for services that help people quit these addictive products.

"In 2019, the Office of the Attorney-General of Brazil filed a lawsuit against the largest tobacco corporations in the country and their parent companies abroad to recover healthcare costs for the treatment of patients suffering from 26 tobacco-related diseases, treatment for future patients, and collective moral damages caused by the tobacco public health burden. So far the decisions have been favour-

able to the federal government, but there is still a long way to go, in part because the tobacco industry has delayed the case by submitting more than 25,000 pages of documents over the past 4 years," said Thiago Lindolpho Chaves and Viniscus de Azevedo Fonseca of the Office of the Attorney-General of Brazil.

"Tobacco executives and shareholders should be held to the same standards as the rest of us. Our leaders need to show these corporations that they can't get away with murder, theft, or environmental degradation anymore," said Kelsey Romeo-Stuppy, Managing Attorney at Action on Smoking & Health.

The Global Youth Voices, in an open letter to COP10 delegates said: "The tobacco industry should not be given the power to mislead our generation further [...]. Instead, it must be held accountable for the lasting pain and suffering it has inflicted and will continue to inflict upon countless lives. It must bear the financial consequences of the devastation it has wrought on the planet. Front groups and persons that voice industry positions should also be held accountable as they put us in danger. We urge you to prioritize ensuring easy access to justice for the youth and future generations."

"The tobacco industry kills more than 8 million people every year, and sickens many millions more. Nothing can bring back those mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and friends. But we must make Big Tobacco pay for what they have done and continue to do. A healthier world is possible if our governments act with urgency and conviction to hold tobacco corporations accountable," said Labram Musah, Executive Director of Vision for Alternative Development.

Samuel Ochieng, Executive Director of Consumer Information Network, best sums it up: "Billions of people worldwide need the Parties to the WHO FCTC to forestall the ravaging socio-economic effects caused by Big Tobacco. Let's all act now to stop this genocide and blatant destruction of Mother Earth on which we all depend. Let's make Big Tobacco pay."

Bobby Ramakant is part of the editorial team at Citizen News Service and a member of Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT). Follow him on Twitter: @bobbyramakant



DM Jammu Chairs Weekly Block Diwas Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya Wednesday led the Block Diwas meeting at Suchetgarh's Chakroi. He was accompanied by DDC Member Taranjit Singh Tony and senior officers.

The occasion brought to light significant community concerns, covering a range of vital issues. Highlighted matters included the maintenance of irrigation canals and ensuring a steady water supply, tackling encroachment problems and addressing public challenges arising from Jal Jeevan Mission projects.

The Emergency medical provisions, particularly for snake bites, took precedence, along with issues related to the functioning of the Revenue Department and the delivery of welfare schemes.

Concerns of the refugee population, road and nallah conditions and a request for a fire tender vehicle were also discussed during the event.

DDC Member Taranjit Singh Tony expressed gratitude for recent developments and urged the initiation of cash crops and medicinal



nursery projects in the region. He commended the progress in tourism, especially around the Gharana Wetland and extended thanks for the ongoing bunker works.

District Magistrate Vaishya inquired about the quality and status of bunker development, emphasising their significance.

He noted and acknowledged all highlighted issues, particularly those related to irrigation canals

and farming. The DM encouraged public participation, stating that Block Diwas is an open forum for grievances, which are duly noted and prioritised for resolution. He praised farmers for their role in ensuring national food security and encouraged the adoption of best farming practices.

Senior officers, including ADDC Sher Singh, Chief Medical Officer Dr Harbaksh Singh, Chief Plan-

ning Officer Uttam Singh and SDM Seema Parihar, besides other district officers were present at the event.

Post-chairing Block Diwas, the District Magistrate undertook an extensive tour of the block. Notably, he visited Gharana Wetland to interact with locals who promptly presented their concerns. He further progressed to Bulleychak village where he attentively listened to residents' grievances.

MD JPDCL Directs For 24X7 Availability Of Customer Care Executives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCCL) Wednesday strictly instructed the officers to keep vigil over meter tampering, illegal connections and billing irregularities while cautioning the erring consumers of stringent action against any such misconduct on their part.

Managing Director JPDCCL Jammu, Vikas Kundal, issued these directions to the concerned staff during his surprise visit to the Data Centre and Customer Care Centre at Gladni Grid Station, Narwal here.

The MD, while exhorting upon the consumers to refrain from any such kind of illegal activity, said that meter tampering will put their own safety at risk as this can cause electrical fires, explosions

and other safety hazards resulting severe consequences. On the other hand, it will make the consumers to face frequent disruption in their power supply due to the outcome of their own fault of indulging in hooking or meter tampering.

He asked the staff to keep a strict check on hooking and bypassing of meters through online mode and report such cases to the concerned sub-divisions for strict action against the defaulters.

During the visit, the MD inspected the customer care centre and took stock of functioning of the vital unit. He directed the concerned officers to remain available 24x7 for resolving consumer's grievances.

He appealed the general public to call on toll free numbers 1912/0191-2479122 in case of any grievance related to billing or

power issues. The MD, during the inspection of the centre, was apprised of the system up-gradation which has recently been made in the JPDCCL software to connect it with smart meters and banking software to provide seamless experience to the end consumers.

He emphasised that JPDCCL software should be continuously upgraded to meet the challenging requirements as the consumer base of JPDCCL is increasing and successful installation and shifting to smart meters shall require a lot of back end support.

The MD was accompanied by Chief Engineer, Distribution, Bavinder Kundal and other officers. Earlier, Executive Engineer IT & C Division, JPDCCL, Anil Verma, apprised the MD of the overall working of the IT Division.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Migrant Worker

succumbed to his injuries while Rohit has been shifted to Hospital for treatment. Area cordoned off."

Authorities in the SMHS hospital said that one person has been brought to the hospital with bullet wounds, adding that the injured is being treated, and his condition is said to be critical.

He has received a bullet wound in left abdomen.

Meanwhile, the attack was condemned by the political parties in Jammu & Kashmir.

CPI (M) leader and former Kulgam legislator, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami condemned the attack and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

"Condemning in no uncertain terms the despicable attack which left a non-local man dead and caused injuries to another in Srinagar. Such barbaric attacks on innocent civilians are reprehensible and absolutely devoid of humanity. Deepest condolences to his family !," Tarigami said in a post on X.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) expressed deep sorrow and condemned what it termed as the cowardly and shameful act of terrorism.

Senior BJP leader, Manzoor Bhat vehemently denounced the act, labeling it as a clear manifestation of terrorist frustration aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and developmental progress in Kashmir.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Amrit Pal and conveyed prayers for the swift recovery of Rohit—(KNO inputs)

being installed in several stadia, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to extend necessary assistance and handholding to the budding sports persons and enterprising youth in different sectors.

He said the financial assistance to the 1049 youth identified during the Special camp will be provided by the end of February this year.

He instructed the Relief Commissioner and concerned officials to facilitate more youth interested in self-employment ventures and ensure their inclusion among the already selected candidates for assistance.

The Lt Governor called upon the community members to take the lead in creating large employment opportunities for the local youth and assured them every support from the administration in their endeavours.

He further directed for organizing the second leg of the Special Grievance Camp for Kashmiri Migrants in the coming days.

The work on the approved Yatri Niwas will start soon which will further augment the facilities for the devotees during the Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela, the Lt Governor said.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services & Sports J&K; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K, Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; senior officials, prominent citizens, sportspersons and people in large number were presents.

SIA Raids Barkati's

raid was going on and further details will be shared later—(KNO)

ED Arrests Director

"Anil Kumar Aggarwal was produced before the Special PMLA Court, Jammu on 07.02.2024.

The Court has granted custody to ED till 13-02-2024," the statement said. As per the statement, the ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by CBI against M/s. Bharat Papers Limited and its directors Rajinder Kumar Aggarwal, Parveen Kumar Aggarwal, Anil Kumar and Baljinder Kumar Aggarwal.

"The FIR alleged that M/s Bharat Papers Limited and its directors have perpetrated bank loan fraud amounting to approx. Rs. 200 Crore with consortium of banks with State Bank of India as lead bank. J & K Bank, PNB and Karur Vysya Bank being the other banks," the statement reads.

"ED investigation revealed that Anil Kumar Aggarwal, in his capacity as one of the main Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited, since its incorporation in 2006, has committed the offence of money laundering by siphoning off part of the loan through bogus entities & related entities, illegal sale of machinery by raising fake invoices, selling scrap(machinery) out of books to unrelated entities and adjusting sundry debtors in the books of holding company," it added.

Earlier, ED had conducted search operations on 31.01.2024 & 05.02.2024 at multiple locations spread over Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh including office/residential premises related to the present/past directors of M/s Bharat Papers Limited, M/s International Traders and M/s Choudhary Industrial Projects Pvt. Ltd which resulted in seizure of Indian Currency of more than Rs 34 lakhs, around 600 grams Gold and various incriminating documents in the form of property documents, hard disk, digital device and digital evidence, the statement said, adding that further investigation is under progress—

(KNO)

Me'raj-e-Alam

for management of traffic to ensure smooth movement. Similar congregational prayers are expected in many other shrines in the valley include Jinab Sahib Soura, Aasar-i-Sharief Shahril Kailshpora, Aasar-i-Sharief Lal Bazar, Khanqah-e-Mualla, Dastgeer Sahib Khanyar, Makhdoom sahib Kohimaran and Ziyarat Syed Saib Sonwar.

One of the focal points of the Shab-e-Mehraj observance is the revered Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar, where devotees from all walks of life are expected to converge.

Locals gather in these sacred spaces to offer supplications and seek blessings on this blessed night.

Meanwhile, the administration has taken elaborated measures and also issued the traffic advisory to ensure hassle-free movement to the devotees.

Security Situation

incidents," the reply states.

As far as the security personnel killed, 80 lost their lives in 2019, 63 in 2020, 42 in 2021, 32 in 2022 while only 30 were killed in 2023.

The reply reads that 157 terrorists were killed in 2019, 221 in 2020, 180 in 2021, 187 in 2022 and 73 in 2023—(KNO)

India's Solar Power

(33,840 MW), Odisha (25,780 MW), Karnataka (24,700 MW) and Uttar Pradesh (22,830 MW).

The minister also said that as on December 31, 2023, as many as 51 solar parks with an aggregate capacity of 37,740 MW have been sanctioned in 12 states since the launch of the scheme in December 2014. An aggregate capacity of 10,504 MW of solar projects has been commissioned in 20 solar parks, so far.

The government has set a target of achieving 500 GW (1GW = 1,000 MW) of installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement at COP-26 in Glasgow.

State-wise targets for this goal have not been set yet, the minister added.

J&K Records

Rai further said that the investments in various sectors like tourism, processing etc. and infrastructure such as construction, roads, power etc. will boost the development of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Nearly 20K Tourists

Ahmed Wani, President of the All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) Association, said that with the recent snowfall, their businesses have seen a significant boost, experiencing a notable 25 percent increase. "We anticipate this positive trend to continue and we're optimistic that it may rise up to 50 percent by the 15th of this month," he said.

Wani said that during the dry spell in November, December and January, their businesses were struggling, with only a meagre 10 percent of the usual activity.

A tour operator based in Baramulla said, "The recent snowfall has reignited the interest of travellers and we are delighted to see a surge in reservations as visitors eagerly embrace the magical winter experiences Gulmarg has to offer."

Tufail Ahmed, another tour operator, said the recent snowfall has been a game-changer for them. "Travellers who hesitated due to the dry spell are now excitedly confirming their bookings. The winter wonderland is back in action," he said, adding that their cellphones are ringing off the hook with inquiries and rebookings. Meanwhile, skiers, who eagerly await-

ed the transformation of the famous ski resort, expressed happiness and satisfaction as the recent snowfall covered Gulmarg's slopes in a pristine white blanket. The skiers from various parts of the country are eagerly waiting to carve through the freshly powdered terrain of the region.

"Gulmarg is back in action and so are we," a group of skiers, who were unable to contain their excitement, expressed their happiness.

According to Waseem Ahmed, a ski trainer, "Skiing down these slopes is not just a sport, but a deep connection with nature and right now, nature is at its most beautiful here. As skiers, we are thrilled to be back on these mountains, enjoying the pure delight of skiing in Gulmarg."

Farhat Naik, a snowboarding instructor said, "My bookings for December and January were unfortunately cancelled due to the dry spell; however, with the recent fresh snowfall in Gulmarg, there's been a significant increase in bookings. The transformation is truly remarkable, and I'm excited to welcome eager learners back to the slopes."

He said they have already lost at least 40 days to the dry spell, a period that can't be conquered or regained. "But we are ready to make the most of the remaining season and provide our learners with the best skiing experience," he said.

Aamir Syed, another skier, said "The snowfall has not only covered the slopes but also our hearts with joy."

Similarly, a seasoned sledger, Abid Husain said the snowfall after the dry spell is more than just a white carpet. "It is our lifeline as it brought a sense of relief and a promise of survival to us. For sledge owners like us, the snowfall is akin to a rebirth. It brings back the thrill of our businesses and infuses life into Gulmarg's winter economy," he said—(KNO)

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SARAI DANGERPORA,
SUMBAL, 193501

First brick for new Ayodhya Mosque reaches Mumbai from Mecca

IAN S

MUMBAI: Symbolising reconciliation and religious harmony, the first brick for the foundation of the proposed grand mosque in Ayodhya arrived here on Wednesday after a consecration pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The brick, baked in a Mumbai kiln, was sent for a 'gusl' (wash) with the holy Zam-Zam water in Mecca and in perfumes in Medina before it was brought back here.

This brick is scheduled to reach the new upcoming Masjid Mohammed Bin Abdullah mosque - named in honour of the Prophet Mohammed - at Dhannipur Village in Ayodhya around mid-April, most likely after Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations.

The brick's auspicious journey will commence from the home of Haji Arfat Shaikh, Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation member and Chairman of



the Masjid Mohammed Bin Abdullah' Development Committee, who is overseeing the preparations.

"The new masjid and the institution around it would be an important centre of prayer and healing in India... Its construction and renovation, by the grace of Allah will be magnificent, majestic and would prove to be as aesthetically important a monument as the 'Taj Mahal globally,'" remarked Shaikh.

Terming the upcoming mosque as "special", he said it is the first masjid coming up in India that

will be grand spectacles and processions, starting from Kurla suburb to Mulund, and then it will go to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, with breaks for prayers and people to pay their respects every 300 kms en route.

A descendant of the Sufi saint Sarkar Peer Adil shall have the honour of carrying the first brick along with representatives of multiple and diverse Islamic sects, symbolising inclusivity and unity within the Indian Muslims.

The new mosque will launch its new website on February 29, along with a QR code for complete transparency and will accept donations for the projects inside the mosque complex.

These would include a cancer hospital, a college, a senior citizens' home and a vegetarian kitchen flanking the new mosque, which would be four times bigger than the erstwhile Babri Mosque that was razed in December 1992.

MoS Defence holds talks with Saudi Defence Minister

IAN S

NEW DELHI: MoS Defence Ajay Bhatt on Wednesday held talks with Saudi Arabia Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the sidelines of World Defence Show (WDS) 2024, being held in Riyadh.

"The two diplomats discussed various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation," the Ministry of Defence said.

The ministry said that the WDS is a five-day event which commenced on February 4 and Ajay Bhatt is heading the Indian delegation in Saudi.

The ministry said that the event is showcasing the latest advancements in



defence technology serving as a vital platform for international collaboration amongst the participating companies.

The ministry said that Ajay Bhatt also held talks with the Assistant Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia

in areas of mutual interest, including increasing the scope of joint training exercises, technology transfer and exchange of expertise," the ministry said.

It said that Ajay Bhatt also held a meeting with the Governor of Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI) Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Ohali.

"They discussed the way ahead towards collaborating in various areas of defence production, Research and Development, besides niche technologies," the ministry said.

The ministry said that Ajay Bhatt also visited the pavilion of Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI).

Rajnath approves waiver for BRO's casual labour to avail ex-gratia compensation

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday approved a proposal to waive the requirement of completing 179 working days at the time of accident for the payment of ex-gratia lump sum compensation to Casually Paid Labourers (CPLs) working in Border Roads Organisation (BRO) or General Engineering Reserve Force (GERF).

The ministry said that the BRO units are located in far-flung, snow-bound, high-altitude areas where no proper public as well as medical facilities are available. "Factors like uncoincidental climate, inhospitable

hilly terrain, hazardous work sites and occupational health hazards pose enormous risk to life of the CPLs," the ministry said.

It said that considering the cases of deaths occurring during their engagement, the waiver of the condition of minimum 179 working days on humanitarian grounds would be a great reprieve for the families of the CPLs who lose their bread winner while on government duty and will go a long way in securing their livelihoods.

The ministry had also recently approved some welfare measures for the betterment of CPLs, irrespective of the number of days of engagement with the BRO.

Sanjay Singh produced in Sultanpur court in 2008 case

IAN S

SULTANPUR: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh was brought to an MP-MLA court here on Wednesday for a hearing in a 2008 case registered against him during a protest.

Singh was produced before Special Magistrate Yogesh Yadav amid tight security and his statement was recorded, his counsel Madan Singh said.

The court has fixed February 14 as the next date of hearing, he added.

Singh, who is in judicial custody after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi Excise policy scam, was brought by train



this morning and taken back after the hearing.

The 2008 case was lodged against Singh at the city police station following a "Ghera Dalo, Dera Dalo" campaign.

The FIR was lodged under various IPC sections including 341 (wrongful restraint) and 353 (using criminal force specifically to deter a public servant from performing their duty).

Voting for BJP akin to voting for Lord Ram: K'taka BJP leader

IAN S

UTTARA KANNADA: Former Karnataka Speaker and senior BJP leader Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri said on Wednesday that voting for the BJP is like voting for Lord Ram.

Addressing party workers at Sirsi town, Kageri, who is an aspirant for a

BJP ticket from the Uttara Kannada Lok Sabha seat, also called upon the party cadres to spread the message and create awareness among the people in this regard.

"The Lok Sabha candidate for the constituency is 'lotus'. The contestant would be declared at an appropriate time by the top

leaders of the party. The BJP will emerge victorious here by a record margin. Last time, the BJP won by a margin of 4.80 lakh votes. In the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, we will create another record," Kageri said.

"I want to tell the party workers and the people that if they vote for BJP,

it is like giving their vote to Lord Ram. The vote for BJP is for PM Narendra Modi and the integrity of this country. Let us take this message to the people and create awareness," he added.

Presently, the Uttara Kannada Lok Sabha seat is represented by BJP's Ananth Kumar Hegde.

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

Subject: Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management Block Dachnipora District Anantnag
On behalf of the Block Development Council, Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the eligible and interested agencies is hereby invited for the execution of a Solid Waste Management Plan in Block Dachnipora District Anantnag.

1. **BACKGROUND:**
The Solid Waste Management program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Dachnipora District Anantnag, in line with the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The program will cover the 29 Gram Panchayats of CD Block Dachnipora comprising 29 Gram Panchayats in single cluster:
The Block wise / cluster-wise tentative details of households of 29 Gram Panchayat of CD Block Dachnipora District Anantnag are as under:-

S No	Block Name	Panchayat	No of HHs	Commercial Estb.
1	Dachnipora	Adlash Magam	378	27
2		Banderpora	399	19
3		BEWOORA	510	45
4		BUDROO	413	21
5		HARDA KATHAL	320	21
6		HATIGAM	310	41
7		K. KALLAN	345	30
8		KANALWAN Upper	600	120
9		KANALWAN Lower	250	20
10		Katsoo	422	30
11		KHIRAM Upper	312	35
12		KHIRAM Middle	375	30
13		KHIRAM Lower	315	28
14		LEHENDAJAN	489	11
15		Liver	273	23
16		Mahind	322	33
17		NOWSHERA	301	25
18		SALLAR Upper	498	21
19		SALLAR Lower	410	120
20		Satkipora	235	12
21		SHEIKHPORA	550	5
22		sirhama Upper	643	73
23		SIRHAMA Lower	365	35
24		Sofipora	270	45
25		SRI GUPWARA	415	98
26		TRAIL Upper	399	27
27		TRAIL Lower	204	27
28		Vidday	132	9
29		Wulerhama	262	8
		Total		

2. **SCOPE OF WORK:**
The contracting agency will be responsible for the following processes:

► **Solid Waste Collection**

- Sanitation and door-to-door collection of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from all households of Block Dachnipora details of tentative HHs and commercial establishment is given in above table covering all households, shops, factories, industrial establishments, etc. twice a week.
- A Gram Panchayat-wise schedule of waste collection shall further be notified in consultation with the agency who will be awarded bid.
- The intending agency shall collect all types of waste-door-to-door waste, waste from already installed dustbins, and legacy waste so that the objective of ODF plus is obtained.
- Ensuring segregation of waste preferably at the household level and mandatorily at the already constructed segregation shed sites.
- Effective and scientific management and disposal of collected waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. A weekly review/report shall be submitted by concerned secretary Panchayat to this office to ascertain the effectiveness of weekly disposal.

► **Revenue Collection**

- Conducting a fresh survey, in consultation with the field functionaries of the Rural Development Department & Panchayat Raj, to update the household data and include commercial factories, business units, Govt/private institutions, shops, etc.
- Collection of monthly Fees/Charges from the households and all establishments preferably in digital mode.
- Revenue generation through sustainable waste management practices, such as selling of processed dry waste / wet waste.
- Minimum of 1% of the Fee/user charges so collected have to be deposited in the bank account of the concerned Gram Panchayat on a monthly basis, a window of six months as incentive will be provided in order to make the sanitation successful in rural area.
- Maximum of 99% to be kept by Agency.
- The monthly user charges collection will be done by Agency through their authorized service providers.

► **Maintenance**

- Maintenance and upkeep of departmental garbage collection vehicles/e-rickshaws which shall be provided after purchasing of vehicles which is in process, which will be used for waste collection and ensuring their dedicated use only for solid waste management purposes.
- The Vehicles used for waste collection shall be departmental only (when available) and the agency has to use these Vehicles/e-rickshaws and their own vehicles also by engaging its own staff and ensuring the vehicle's maintenance in all respects.
- The intending agency shall be responsible for the smooth handing over of all assets (Vehicles/machinery/Civil Structures and possession of the sites in good condition to the concerned department after completing the allotment of one year (without any damage).

► **Manpower & Machinery**

- The contracting agency has to engage sweepers/ waste collectors, labor for segregation of waste at segregation sheds, Drivers, and Management staff with a unique uniform having a SBM-G logo, the design and details of which shall be conveyed to the contracting agency later.
- The contracting agency has to operate and maintain all garbage collection vans, and machinery at its own level and has to bear the electricity, POL, and maintenance / repair charges of the machinery. The contracting agency will be required to obtain necessary permissions/approvals from the BDO Dachnipora for repair, and maintenance of the existing machinery (as and when provided), if required, at any time.
- The Contracting agency has to make special agreement duly signed before Judicial magistrate regarding the maintenance, upkeep of departmental vehicles/ assets etc. when provided.

► **Dispute Resolution and Penal provision**

- In case of any dispute, the Block Development Office, of the concerned Block shall be the first appellate authority, the 2nd appellate authority shall be the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Anantnag and the third appellate & final authority shall be the District Level Committee for implementation of SBM-G with Deputy Commissioner Anantnag as its Chairperson.
- The contracting agency shall have to report to the Block Development Officer of the Block Dachnipora in case of any violation by any Household/ establishment for imposition of fine. Further, the agency may be required to paste color-coded notices across the Panchayat regarding user fee structure.
- In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the Anantnag District Court shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.

3. **Eligibility Criteria:**
The contracting agency must meet the following criteria:

Technical Evaluation

- The agency can be a sole proprietor, registered contractor of Class A/B/C/D, registered partnership firm, limited liability partnership, public limited company, private limited company, society or NGO etc
- The agency must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs:- 1500000(Rupees Fifteen Lakh) for the last three years and ITR in this context may be furnished.
- Previous experience in managing public utilities as a PPP/outsourcing and knowledge of waste management including running decentralized solid waste management processes will be advantageous.
- The agency must deposit a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs:- 30000/= (Thirty thousand rupees only) pledged to the Block Development Dachnipora.
- Availability of machinery to be used during Sanitation

Financial Evaluation

- % of the Fee/user charges be deposited in the bank account of the concerned Gram Panchayat on a monthly basis.

Contracting Process:

- Interested agencies must be submitted their EOI in sealed envelope addressed to the Block Development Officer Dachnipora within the EOI timeline
- The envelopes will be opened on the next day in the presence of the bidders or before their authorized representatives. Assistant Engineer REW Dachnipora, SO(Pig) Block Dachnipora, J.E Block Dachnipora, PAA Block Dachnipora & Jr Assistant Block Dachnipora as its members and the whole proceedings of opening of bids shall be video recorded to ensure transparency.
- The EOI will be followed by Technical Evaluation and Financial Evaluation.

5. **General Instructions:**

- The selected agency will be awarded one-year contract which may be extendable based on its performance and the necessity of the Department.
- The agency shall adhere to all the terms and conditions specified in the EOI documents.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI without assigning any reason thereof, in the interest of the Government Department and Public Funds.
- In case of Tie during financial evaluation, on spot RA method would be adopted between H1s bidders. The bidder claiming highest X% price would be awarded.

6. **Submission of EOI and Contact information:**

- Interested agencies must submit their sealed envelope containing EOI to the following address:
Office of the Block Development Officer Dachnipora Srigufwara Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir, Email: bdodachnipora11@gmail.com

For any inquiries or clarification regarding the EOI interested agencies may contact Block Development Officer Dachnipora at the above mentioned address or via email.

Note: EOI shall be submitted personally by the contractor or by the authorized agent of firm/contractor/speed post/registered post.

7. **Notification of Results:**
The results of the EOI evaluation will be communicated to the eligible agency through official communication channel.

8. **Legal and Ethical considerations:**

- The selected agency must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards during the execution of the Solid Waste Management project in Block Dachnipora.

The contracting agency has to adhere to

- The Environment Protection Act 2986, The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 2974 and the bylaws drafted and passed by the Gram Panchayats in letter and spirit.
- Sub-contracting shall not be allowed and shall be considered illegal.
- The contracting agency has to submit an affidavit duly attested by a Judicial Magistrate affirming therein the commitment to bear all cost related to the damage, theft, or loss incurred to the vehicles/ machinery of the Department during the execution of the SWM project.
- In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, District Court Anantnag shall hold the exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.

The process of technical evaluations will be done by a designated committee based on the score for the solutions & procedures provided by the agencies to transform the entire Solid Waste Management into an efficient, effective and sustainable one in Block Dachnipora.

EOI Timeline.

- Date of start of EOI: -08-02-2024: 10 am
- Date of Close of EOI: -13-02-2024: 04 pm
- Date of opening of Technical Bid: -14-02-2024(10:30 am)
- Date of opening of Financial Bid: -After 1 day of opening Technical bid.

Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Dachnipora

No:- BDOD/Estt/2023-24 /3165-70
Dated:- 07-02-2024

DIPK-16155-23
DT: 07-02-2024

NHRC postpones its hearing in J&K



MUBASHIR ALAM

SRINAGAR: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has postponed its first sitting in Jammu & Kashmir, citing bad weather conditions and some unavoidable circumstances. The Jammu & Kashmir Government has informed the public that the camp sitting of the rights panel scheduled from 7th to 9th February has been postponed. "General public is hereby informed that the camp sitting w.e.f 07.02.2024

to 09.02.2024 at Banquet Hall, Srinagar of National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi to hear the cases has been postponed for some unavoidable circumstances and due to bad weather conditions for the time being," reads a notice issued by Director Litigation, Khursheed Ahmad Bhat. The Commission was scheduled to hear cases of human rights violations which were filed in the State Human Rights Commission before it was abolished by J&K government due to constitutional and

legal changes effected by Union Government in 2019. After abrogation of Article 370, the J&K government abolished the State Human Rights Commission as a follow-up to the legal changes effected by the Union Government through the J&K Reorganisation Act. On March 18, 2020, the Government of India empowered the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to deal with all human rights concerns in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

G'bl villagers urge authorities to repair road



RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Residents of Gangarhama in Ganderbal are grappling with severe difficulties caused by the deteriorating condition of their road. Despite being just half a mile away from the Mini Secretariat, the road's state is worse than that of many underdeveloped rural areas in the district.

The road is riddled with deep potholes, a result of the administration's neglect in initiating immediate repairs. Locals have repeatedly pleaded with the authorities to address the issue, but their requests have fallen on deaf ears. Residents fear for the safety of minors during the rainy season, as the deep potholes pose a risk

of drowning. The poor road conditions not only inconvenience commuters but also endanger pedestrians, especially children and the elderly. Executive Engineer of the R&B department in Ganderbal told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that repair work will commence within days—(KNO)

DC Jammu prohibits news portals from sharing posts having potential to disturb peace

KNO CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR: The authorities in Jammu on Wednesday asked social media news portals operating in the district to refrain from posting messages that has potential to disturb communal harmony, cause breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquility. Deputy commissioner Jammu said that it has been made to appear that there is a likelihood of serious breach of peace and order and disturbance of public tranquility which might cause grave danger to human lives and properties because of the disinformation that is being spread on social media plat-

forms by posting/sharing of derogatory, discriminatory and provocative messages. He said it is desirable that any breach of peace and order and disturbance of public tranquility which might cause grave danger to human lives and properties should be immediately prevented. He added that there is sufficient ground to proceed under section 144 of The Code of Criminal procedure and prohibit the individuals and social media news platforms/portals operating in Jammu from posting/sharing any such post/message that has the potential to disturb the communal harmony, cause breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquility.—(KNO)

Elderly man killed after being hit by vehicle in Qazigund

AGENCIES

QAZIGUND: An elderly man was killed after being hit by a vehicle in Zadoora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, officials said. An official said that the man was hit by the vehicle when he was trying to cross road at Zooder crossing on Srinagar-Jammu highway. "The man died on the spot and his body has been shifted to hospital for further medical formalities," he said. Police taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

Consumers aghast at price variations in Srinagar vegetable markets

Not authorised to regulate prices: Dir Food Supplies

SABHA KHAN

SRINAGAR: Mohammad Shafi, a resident of Srinagar, seems confused as he wanders from one vendor to another, attempting to purchase vegetables along the stretch from Amira Kadal to Lal Ded Hospital road. The reason for the confusion, according to Shafi, is the disparity in prices among grocers within a radius of no more than 200 meters. "I have checked the rates of each vendor, and they are all selling vegetables at different prices," Shafi said. "At Amira Kadal grocers sell onions for Rs 40, capsicums for Rs 120 and tomatoes for Rs 70 per kilogram," he said, adding that the prices set by vegetable vendors differ from those found at Maharaji Bazar



and LD Hospital Road. "There is no fixed pricing on vegetables. Rates fluctuate by 50 to 100 percent between markets located within a stone's throw of each other," Shafi said, adding, "The government seems to be inactive. There is rampant

exploitation happening in the market." He said it was becoming difficult for the common man to purchase essential commodities from the market. Sania Nabi, another consumer, said she was surprised at seeing radishes being sold at Rs 40 by one

greengrocer and Rs 80 by another. "This is utter madness. How can we tolerate such blatant price discrepancies at the same location?" she said. "I didn't purchase the vegetables I was planning to buy." Abdul Rashid War, Director of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), said he is not authorised to set or regulate prices. "Since the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), pricing has been assigned to the ones who sell the products in the market. There is no order that empowers us to set prices as it is contingent upon market dynamics," War said. "Consumers should buy vegetables where they find lower rates," he added—(KNO)

WEEKLY BLOCK DIWAS

DC Srinagar holds Mega Public Grievance Redressal Camp

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to listen to the public grievances and take appraisal of local issues at their door steps, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday visited Bakshipora-Tengpora area in Eidgah Tehsil of Srinagar District and presided over a Mega Public Grievance Redressal Camp as part of weekly Block Diwas.



The programme witnessed large participation of people from Palpora, Achan, Goripora, Reshipora, Takanwari, Bakshipora, Wani Mohalla and other adjoining areas. During the Grievance Redressal Camp, Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues before the DC including augmentation of drinking water supply and irrigation canal, infrastructure upgradation of Health and Education, augmentation of drainage network system in the area, repairs of lanes, drains and street lights, development of play field, macadamization of roads. They also put forth

demands for providing Transportation facilities from Takenwari-Bakshipora to Batamalo, installation of ATM, settlement of revenue records, besides other developmental and jurisdictional issues in the area. Addressing the gathering, the DC said that the purpose of holding such grievance redressal Camps is to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for precise and on-ground assessment for their time bound redressal. Responding to the public demands, the DC assured the people of Bakshipora-Tengpora, Achan and other adjoining areas that all genuine demands and issues projected by them

will be looked into on priority with proper follow up for their speedy redressal. The DC instructed the Officers to reach out to the public through field visits and take first hand appraisal of the public issues and ensure their time bound resolution. The DC urged the local youth to come forward and avail the benefits of different welfare schemes of the Government launched for handholding of the youth so that they earn livelihood with dignity and honour. On the occasion, the DC asked for holding a joint mega awareness camp in the area on Saturday by the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal

Husbandry, Social Welfare, ICDS, Employment and other line Departments for mass awareness of the local people especially youth of the areas so that they are sensitized about the different government sponsored welfare schemes. Besides local representatives, the Public Grievance Redressal Camp was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, SDM West, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Labour, District Mineral Officer, Medical Officer Headquarter, Tehsildar Eidgah and other Zonal and Sectoral Officers of the District.

RIGHTS OF SAMARITAN

'Awareness Drive' held in Anantnag



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As part of National Road Safety Month 2024, Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Anantnag Wednesday held an awareness programme for raising Awareness regarding 'The Good Samaritan Law' among the applicants who had come for driving test here at Harnag. It was given that 'The Good Samaritan Law' was established in India in 2016 in response to widespread harassment of bystanders who helped road crash victims. Those who assisted victims were often assumed to be responsible and arrested or made to pay medical fees. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag, Dr Mohammad Zubair Lattoo said that accident cases require the fastest care and rescue which could be provided by those closest to the scene of the accident. Bystanders' clear support is essential to enhance the chances of survival of victims in the 'Golden Hour' i.e. the first hour of the injury. As per the WHO India

Recommendations, 50% of the victims die in the first 15 minutes due to serious cardiovascular or nervous system injuries and the rest can be saved through by providing basic life support during the 'Golden Hour'. However, the people who are standing near the accident places have fear that touching the body of the accident victim could lay them liable for police interrogation. Therefore, passers-by play safe and choose to wait for the police to arrive and in this process, the injured gradually bleeds to death. People are reluctant to come forward for help to the victims of the accident. It is very necessary to protect Good Samaritans from the harassment being taken by them to save the life of the road accident victims. Dr Zubair further said that people are not aware of the Law which gives them legal protection in case they come to help the accident victim. We need training programmes on such laws so that everybody understands about the law. Later, a pledge ceremony on Road Safety was also organised on the occasion.

Workshop on Nari Adalat scheme held in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The Department of Social Welfare Kupwara in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara Wednesday organized daylong orientation training workshop of Mukhya Nyaya Sakhis (Nari Adalat Scheme) under the banner 'Empowering Women Ensuring Justice', at meeting hall of D.C Office Kupwara. The function was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan. District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Kupwara, Hidaitullah Mir; District Mission Coordinator DHEW, Khalida Yasin; Programme Coordinator from TISS Mumbai, Aarthi Chandra Sekhar; Gender Specialist, HEW J&K, Sameena Mir; Resource person from DLSA Kupwara, Adv. Imtiaz Ahmad Lone, besides, Nyaya Mukhya Sakhis and staff members attended the programme. On the occasion, the ADDC impressed upon the participants to become facilitators and hand holders to help the victims in getting timely justice. He assured all possible support from the District Administration for strengthening the mission of Nari Adalat in the district for empowerment of women. It was informed that 25 Gram Panchayats each from District Kupwara and District Baramulla have been covered under

'Nari Adalat' in the first instance. Meanwhile, a threadbare discussion was held on implementation of 'Nari Adalat Scheme' at Gram Panchayat level. Various experts including DSWO, DMC and others provided detailed awareness to the participants regarding different components of Mission Shakti including Nari Adalat Scheme which includes understanding current work challenges, financial implications under Nari Adalat and Women related Laws. Resource person from DLSA highlighted and elaborated the relevant laws regarding the women and safeguard of their rights. Role of Legal Services in safeguarding women rights was also highlighted to the audience. The Government of India implements 'Mission Shakti' - an integrated women empowerment programme as an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period across the country aimed at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. It seeks to realise the Government's commitment for 'women-led development' by addressing issues affecting women on a life-cycle continuum basis and making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence and citizen-ownership.

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