


Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication


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Office of LG J&K
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Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Hon'ble Minister for MoRTH Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji for sanctioning much needed Shopian Bypass for an amount of Rs. 224.44 Cr. It will improve connectivity to other districts & ease the transportation of apples from orchards to markets.

Vision 2024
Pioneering Real Estate Growth In J&K



JAMMU: In a significant development aimed at bolstering the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir, a high-profile meeting was convened at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu. The meeting was co-chaired by Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, and Vikramjit Singh. **•P-06**

Gadkari Sanctions Rs 224.44 Crore For Shopian Bypass



NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari in a post said, in Jammu & Kashmir, an allocation of Rs. 224.44 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of the Shopian Bypass on National Highway-444. **•P-06**

LS Polls Ahead
EC Begins Consultation With Political Parties In J&K



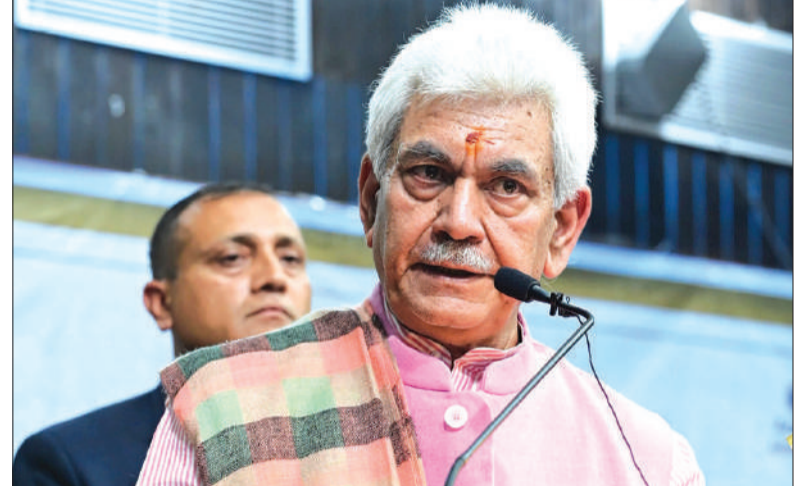
OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: A 10-member delegation of Election Commission of India arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday to assess the preparations for the impending Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Following discussions with political representatives on Tuesday, the team convened meetings with civil administration and police officials. According to officials, similar consultations are planned for Jammu on Wednesday. The Election Commission delegation commenced their three-day visit to Srinagar on Monday, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. Reports inform that there has been a growing demand from political quarters in Jammu and Kashmir for the Election Commission to conduct assembly elections concurrently with or immediately following the Lok Sabha polls. Notably, former Chief Ministers Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, and Ghulam Nabi Azad have advocated for this within the past two weeks. In a notable development, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dullu chaired a meeting on Saturday with civil and police administration officials to outline measures for the seamless conduct of Lok Sabha elections in the Union Territory. Emphasizing the administration's commitment to facilitating free and fair elections with robust public participation, Dullu urged divisional and district administrations to take all necessary steps to **•P-06**

Education Should Be Driven By Creativity Rather Than By Curriculum: LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated the three-day capacity building programme on 'Leadership development of academic administrators' and said that education should be driven by creativity rather than by curriculum in order to develop the capacities of young people to be creative. LG Manoj Sinha said the union territory is committed to reform and revamp higher education with the objective of giving our students the best curriculum and provide them knowledge and skills to compete with the best in the world," the Lt Governor said. In his keynote address, the Lt Governor lauded the collective effort of the University of Jammu and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) for organizing the workshop which focuses on implementation of National Education Policy 2020 and internationalisation of higher education. He said, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is leading the reforms in nation's educational ecosystem. The Lt Governor called upon educational institutions to transform their **•P-06**



J&K UT IS COMMITTED TO REFORM AND REVAMP HIGHER education with the objective of giving our students the best curriculum and provide them knowledge and skills to compete with the best in the world,"

Lays Foundation Stone Of PoJK Bhawan

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday laid the foundation stone of PoJK Bhawan at Suketar Jammu. The Lt Governor congratulated the displaced persons of PoJK and Western Pakistan on fulfilling their long pending demand. The Bhawan will be constructed in 40 Kanal, 17 Marla in the honour of the martyrs. It will consist of a Balidan Stambh and an Amphitheatre besides other infrastructure to showcase the rich cultural heritage and provide the community office space for **•P-06**

CAA Will Not Take Away Citizenship: Amit Shah



IAANS

HYDERABAD: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday assured minorities that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will not take away their citizenship. He alleged that Congress and some other parties are spreading misapprehension among people for vote bank politics. Amit Shah was addressing BJP's polling booth presidents from Telangana at LB Stadium here. He clarified that CAA is a law which gives citizenship and not takes away citizenship. "I want to tell this country's minority brothers and mothers that no citizen will lose his citizenship **•P-06**

PM Inaugurates PMBJ Kendra At Srinagar Railway Station

LG Expresses Gratitude To PM For Revolutionising Rail Infrastructure In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revolutionising rail infrastructure and connectivity in J&K and dedicating number of railway projects to the people of the Union Territory. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone and dedicated Railway projects worth over Rs 85,000 crores. He inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra at Srinagar railway station and Gati Shakti Terminal (OSOP) stalls at Anantnag, Awantipora, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, **•P-06**



Female Commuters Aghast 'Ladies Special Bus' Goes Missing In Srinagar



JAHANGIR SOFI

SRINAGAR: Female commuters, specially college going students in Srinagar, have expressed disappointment over the absence of "Ladies Special Bus" service, stating that the specialized service by Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) for female commuters has vanished from the roads. Several female commuters, especially college students, said that they have rarely seen buses dedicated specifically for female commuters in the city by the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation. **•P-06**

J&K Leads India In Job Creation Under PMEGP



MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: At national level, Jammu and Kashmir has topped for generating maximum employment under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). As per the figure, the union territory received the highest assistance for projects under the scheme and even surpassed states like Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for generating maximum employment under PMEGP. Figures suggest that Jammu and Kashmir saw 44,542 projects assisted between 2021-22 and 2023-24 (until Jan 30, 2024), receiving a margin money subsidy of 921.38 crore. This has led to an estimated 3,56,336 employment opportunities, the highest among all states and accounting for 18 percent of the total employment generated nationwide under the scheme during this period. Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, has seen 32,629 projects assisted with a margin money subsidy utilization of 1,107.4 crore, leading to an estimated 2,61,032 employment opportunities. Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, witnessed 17,337 assisted projects with a margin money subsidy of 500.56 crore, resulting in an estimated 1,38,696 jobs. **•P-06**

Srinagar's Mandi Stocked Up With Fresh Fruits



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: Despite the closure of the national highway, Srinagar's mandi stands stocked with an abundance of vegetables and fruits, President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union said on Tuesday. "As the month of Ramadan has arrived, preparations are in full swing to meet the increased demand for fresh produce. The Srinagar mandi has been well-prepared to cater to the needs of the people during this auspicious period," the union president Bashir Ahmad Basher said. He said watermelons, melons, papayas and various other fruits are available in good quantities. Asked about concerns raised regarding the **•P-06**

MOVIES Schedule
Wednesday 13 March

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

www.bookmyshow.com | www.inoxmovies.com | Paytm, Inox App or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets

GAAMI (TELUGU) 11:00AM (A)	LAAPATAA LADIES (HINDI) 05:00PM (U/A)	SHAITAAN (HINDI) ATMOS 11:45AM, 02:30PM, 05:45PM (HINDI) (U/A)
BREATH TAKING EPIC	DUNE PART TWO 12:15 PM, 03:20PM (ENGLISH) (U/A)	TERI BAATON MEIN AISA ULJHA JIYA (HINDI) 02:00PM (U/A)

INDIA SKILLS COMPETITIONS

JK SDM Contest in Full Swing across 18 Skill Trades

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir, J&K is known for its amazing artistic and cooking skills, now these skills are getting recognized in the Union Territory (UT) through India-Skills competitions. J&K youth is also actively participating in web design, graphic design, software solutions for business, and mobile robotics.



The platform provides youth to showcase their expertise and excellence in diversified skill sets nationally and internationally. The ongoing state-level competitions 2023-24, a collaborative effort between JKSDM, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the Government of India, and the National

Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), are being conducted with the active support of the Skill Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir. The competitions encompass a wide array of job roles, with the State Level Competition for Refrigeration & Air Conditioning and Beauty Therapy Skill Sets recently

taking place on March 12, 2024, at CIIT, Government Polytechnic Jammu - academic partners to the J&K Skill Development Mission. Participants from across the UT of J&K engaged in the State Level Competition, a stepping stone to pre-National competitions, National level competitions, and ultimately the World Skills Competitions set to be held in Lyon, France later this year. Mission Director, J&K Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha said, "JKSDM remains committed to organizing such initiatives, providing opportunities for the youth of J&K. State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT, where more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre-National and National Level Competitions."

Fueling Agri Innovation, Collaboration

Jammu hosts Pioneering NABARD-organized FPO Mela-Tarang

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant move towards bolstering the agricultural sector, Jammu witnessed the launch of the four-day FPO Mela-Tarang, an event dedicated to celebrate the unity and achievements of Farmer Producers' Organisations (FPOs) across Jammu and Kashmir. Organized by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in partnership with Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), the fair commenced on Tuesday at Kala Kendra Jammu and will continue till 15th March 2024. Tarang Mela serves as a testament to the success of this partnership, providing a platform to FPOs to showcase their diverse range of products, from



farm-fresh produce to artisanal crafts. Attendees can expect to peruse stalls brimming with organic fruits and vegetables, aromatic spices, handcrafted textiles, exquisite handicrafts, and much more - all proudly bearing the mark of FPO excellence. Bhallamudi Sridhar, Chief General Manager, NABARD, J&K Regional office inaugurated the fair. During his inaugural speech, B. Sridhar CGM, JK RO highlighted the

importance of connecting farmers directly to markets. He emphasized that the objective of TARANG is to demonstrate high quality products of FPOs and connect them directly to consumers offline and online with assistance from Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). He stressed that the mela aims to provide a platform for exhibition and sale of a diverse range of products produced by farmers, artisans, weav-

ers and SHG women from the rural hinterlands of Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining states. Anamika, General Manager, NABARD, J&K RO briefed that this initiative is not just fair but a testament to the innovative strategies being employed to support the agricultural community. By bringing together FPOs, the event encourages the exchange of ideas and best practices, enabling farmers to gain insights into new agricultural technologies and market trends. The collaboration with SFAC and ONDC further enhances the fair's ability to connect farmers with broader markets, demonstrating the potential of digital platforms in transforming agricultural marketing. On this occasion, progressive farmers from Jammu and Kashmir region, also participated in the inaugural event.

Amar Singh College celebrates International Women's Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Amar Singh College, Cluster University Srinagar observed International Women's Day in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Directorate of Mission Shakti J&K. Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, the nodal principal of Kashmir division colleges and Principal of Amar Singh College Srinagar delivered the presidential address. He emphasized that gender equality is a significant marker of a healthy society. He also pointed out that the equality and empowerment of women must be focused both in the education sector and entrepreneurship. Earlier, Dr. Bazigha Badar Head, Department of Environmental Science, Amar Singh College delivered the inaugural address. She apprised the audience about this year's Women's Day celebration theme and stressed the need for women's empowerment. Hafiz Abdul Bari, Tehsil

Social Welfare Officer North, also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of women in society. Dr. Sabina Rasool, Head Department of Education, Amar Singh College also delivered a detailed lecture on the significance of the Women's Day celebration. Prof. (Dr.) Syed Ajaz Farid, Head Department of Geography also shared his views on the day. The event saw massive participation by the students and other stakeholders. Day-long celebration was observed with artists performing Skits and cultural songs. The Chess event was also organized exclusively for women, along with self-defense training camp for women, and a singing competition. Eleven stalls showcasing different skills and crafts by the women were displayed in the Taseer Hall. The stalls witnessed an encouraging footfall of visitors.

International Women's Day celebrated in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Vajr Division of Chinar Corps celebrated the International Women's Day at Government Degree College, Kupwara to honour the achievements of distinguished women and to felicitate young women achievers in the region. More than 250 young girls and women from various age groups participated in the interactive forum with the panelists to engage in a dialogue about growth, empowerment and the positive impact of women in all facets of life. The United Nations theme for this year, 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,' focuses on addressing the economic disenfranchisement of women. It aligns with the agenda of the event, which was to highlight the impor-

tance of investing in women for the betterment of society. The chief guest for the event was the Chairperson AWWA, Kupwara who highlighted the critical role women play in maintaining societal balance and their burgeoning success across various domains. She emphasized that such strides forward are key to propelling Kupwara and the entire Kashmir region towards a future filled with glory. She also praised the attendees and the women of Kupwara for their pioneering spirit in all walks of life and called upon the community to make a commitment to women empowerment and urged for ensuring that women receive their rightful opportunities to meaningfully contribute in the growth and prosperity of the Kashmir valley and the nation at large.

Shailendra reviews progress on CSSs, CAPEX, HADP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, Tuesday chaired a meeting of agriculture, horticulture departments and allied sectors here to evaluate the progress of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, CAPEX, and HADP implementation. The Principal Secretary also reviewed both the physical and financial accomplishments achieved through these programs. The meeting was attended by Director Finance APD, Director Horticulture Jammu, CL Sharma, Director Agriculture Jammu, Heads of Departments of agriculture and allied sectors and district officers and other concerned. At the outset, Director Horticulture Jammu, CL Sharma briefed the meeting about the expenditure and progress made under UT Capex, HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes in respect of Horticulture sector. The meeting exten-

sively covered centrally sponsored schemes such as RKVY, MIDH, IDDS, ATMA, NFSM, PM KISAN, Soil Health Card scheme, KCC scheme, among others, emphasizing the holistic development approach under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). Addressing the meeting, Shailendra Kumar emphasized the importance of prudent fund utilization across various CSSs, HADP projects, and CAPEX. He urged officers to ensure full expenditure of allocated funds to prevent any gaps, emphasizing transparency and accountability at all levels. He also urged officers to closely collaborate with district administrations to execute initiatives effectively and reach farmers with the latest agricultural and horticultural technologies. Principal Secretary stressed the need for collaborative efforts with local community representatives for successful grassroots-level implementation of schemes.

Two-day HRD Programme on ABLM concludes at SKUAST-K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Srinagar, Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in collaboration with State Horticulture Department, and SKUAST-K, conducted a two-day human resource development programme on 'Apple Blotch Leaf Miner' at Conference Hall of Vice Chancellor Secretariat, SKUAST-K. The two day awareness/training programme was inaugurated in the presence of Director Horticulture, Zahoor Ahmed Bhat; Director Research SKUAST-K, Dr. Haroon Naik; Joint Director (E), IPM Division, DPP&S Dr. Sunita Pandey; Deputy Director (PP), RCIPMC Faridabad, Dr. Vandana Pandey; Assistant Director (PP) CIPMC Jammu, Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya; Prof. & Head Division of Entomology, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Parry; Prof & Head Division of Pathology, Dr. Shaheen Kauser and other officials of Horticulture Department and Senior Scientists of SKUAST-K. Initially opening

remark on the programme was given by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Parry, followed by a detailed lecture given on the Emerging Challenges of Insect ABLM by Dr. Sunita Pandey, wherein thread bear light was shed on management of fruit crop to prevent from the threat of devastating disease of leaf miner. Director Horticulture Kashmir appreciated the initiative and urged that we have to take coordinated programmes and measures to control and eradicate this disease to safeguard our fruit crop. The first step towards this direction is to reach out to the farming community of the Kashmir Division and provide technical consultation and awareness to check the spread out of leaf miner. Dr. Malik Mukhtar, Associate Professor of Entomology discussed different generations of ABLM and Ad Hoc Advisory issued by SKUAST-K in collaboration with the Horticulture Department from time to time which further help farmers to take preventive measures to control this insect pest.

Selected Haj-2024 Pilgrims asked to deposit Haj Arrangement Dues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Haj Committee Tuesday informed all selected Haj Pilgrims to deposit the Haj Arrangement Dues viz. Transport/ Container charges/ Services of Home-guard Volunteers/ Air Cargo Charges/ Service providers and other handling charges to be incurred by JK Haj Committee through J&K Bank in Account No: 1206040500005039. The pay-in-slip can also be downloaded from www.jkshc.org. The payment can also be made using J&K Bank's Application 'M-Pay'.

The concerned pilgrims are required to deposit the receipt (pay-in-slips) of the amount at the office of respective Deputy Commissioners/ Haj House, Srinagar at the time of collection of passports and other travel documents. Pilgrims who do not want to avail boarding/ lodging facility at Haj House, Srinagar shall pay Rs.1000/- per pilgrim only. Pilgrims belonging to Kashmir/ Jammu Division / Ladakh who want to avail the boarding/ lodging facility at Haj House, Srinagar shall have to pay an additional amount of Rs.500 per night.

Advertisement for 'Sogwaran Khadan' (سوگواران خاندان) featuring a woman and text in Urdu/Hindi. The text mentions 'Kadal Bil' and 'Khatun' and provides contact information for 'Sogwaran Khadan'.

Advertisement for the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar. It includes details about a tender for the construction of production wells, with a table listing work items, costs, and completion times. The table has columns for S.No, Name of work, Est. Cost, Earnest money, Cost of Tender Document, Time of completion, Class of Contract, Technical Sanction, Major Head/Programme, and Tender Call.

Advertisement for the Mission Director National Health Mission, J&K. It includes details about an advertisement notice for an internship programme in SHS, National Health Mission, J&K. The text mentions applications are invited from young professionals pursuing Masters in Public Health/ MBA in Health Management/ Post Graduate Diploma in Health Management/ MBA in Human Resources/ Accounting or Financing, for Internship Programme in the State Health Society, National Health Mission, J&K in the offices at Jammu & Srinagar as per the below mentioned dates:

Pencil factory in Pulwama sets example of women empowerment

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: In the Ookhu village of south Kashmir's Pulwama lies a pencil factory which is leading the pencil industry which supplies 80 to 90% of its raw materials across the country and has set a great example of women empowerment.

The factory owner, Haji Abdul Aziz Allai, a man in his 70s, said the pencil factory has been mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme who highlighted their contribution.

"Established in 2012 in Ookhu, we have been consistently supplying 80% to 90% of raw materials for pencil production nationwide," Allai said, adding that they have another fac-



tory adjacent to the current one, providing employment to over 150 people.

"We have a diverse workforce comprising both male and female staff, locals and non-locals. Our male staff works from 8:30 am to 8 pm,

while female staff members work from 9 am to 5 pm," he said. "We offer pick and drop services for our female employees."

Speaking about women empowerment, Allai said that around 60 to 70

females are employed in the factory, earning a livelihood. "Many of these women lacked employment opportunities previously, but here, we provide them with a means of earning," he said—(KNO)

Kashmir bat manufacturers eye big players in upcoming T20 World Cup

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri bat manufacturers have set their sights on prominent players from renowned cricketing nations to play with Kashmiri bats in the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Representatives of bat manufacturers said there has been a surge in demand for Kashmir Willow bats in global markets following their use by international cricket players in the last two World Cups.

Fawzul Kabir, spokesperson of the Bat Manufacturers Association Kashmir, informed KNO that this will mark the third consecutive occasion where players will use Kashmiri bats in the world cup.

He said that during the previous two World Cups, athletes from lesser-known countries played with Kashmiri bats, but this year, discussions are underway with several prominent cricketers.

UAE's star cricketer Junaid Siddiqui smashed



the biggest six of the ICC T20 World Cup against Sri Lanka in Australia last year using a Kashmir Willow Bat from GR8 Sports, he said.

Kabir, owner of the unit established by his late father in 1974, further said, "We are engaging with renowned cricketing nations and players and are optimistic that famous players from famous cricketing nations will use Kashmiri bats in the upcoming T20 World Cup," he said.

He said Kashmiri bats have emerged as formida-

ble competitors to English willow bats due to their cost-effectiveness. "We are the sole producers capable of offering these bats at very lower rates compared to English willow," he added.

Fawzul said while they previously manufactured white-label goods or raw materials for bats sent to Jalandhar, Meerut and other cities for branding and sale to international players, they now produce bats locally. "We are confident that Kashmiri bats

will gain prominence on the international stage, with famous cricketers opting to use them in the upcoming T20 World Cup," he said.

Kabir also mentioned the recent visit of legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar which he said was an endorsement of the quality bats produced in the region. "This endorsement has resonated with cricket enthusiasts not only in India but also in other countries, and has led to a notable uptick in demand," he said—(KNO)

Sangrama villagers face acute water scarcity, seek Govt's intervention

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: The residents of Sangrama village in north Kashmir's Baramulla district here have accused the Jal Shakti department of ignoring their plights, saying that they are being forced to consume contaminated water.

Syed Colony Sangrama villagers said that they have been battling with the challenges of water supply for the last at least 15 years.

They also alleged the concerned department is least bothered about their genuine grievances.

"We are facing an acute shortage of drinking water supply. The authorities have turned a deaf ear towards our repeated

pleas. They are making no effort to ease our difficulties," Moomin Fayaz, a local, said.

Fayaz added that they are being forced to fetch



water from wells and local streams, which usually remain contaminated, thereby leading to the health hazard for them.

"We were getting tanker services to meet the ends, however, the department stopped the services for

the reasons best known to them," said Fatima Begum, a local.

The residents appealed Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and the con-

cerned department to look into the matter at an earliest.

Meanwhile, Assistant Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Sopore, Mudasir Ahmed told KNO that they will look into it and ensure the residents won't suffer anymore—(KNO)

Reshipora Zainapora residents demand shifting of proposed railway line

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SHOPIAN: The residents of Reshipora and its adjacent areas in Zainapora hamlet of South Kashmir's Shopian district are up in arms against the proposed railway line through the village.

The residents of the area said that the government must either shift this proposed railway line or shouldn't construct it as the project will leave hundreds of families landless.

Bashir Ahmad, a senior citizen of the village said that they have planted apple trees 3-4 decades ago and since then they have been taking care of them by spending their money and time.

He said that when these trees started bearing fruits, the government has proposed a railway line that is going to leave



them landless.

Junaid Ahmad, another local, said that most of the people in the village are dependent on their orchards for their livelihood and if this railway line will be constructed, it will snatch their livelihood.

He said they don't need such projects that will snatch their livelihood and even many people will become homeless as well.

Locals said that before taking such projects the government must take local people into confidence. They said that people

will lose their orchards on which they are solely dependent, therefore the project if executed will push them towards starvation.

Dilshada Banoo, a local woman said that she has four daughters while her husband is unwell and the family is completely dependent on their orchard. "We will have no other option than to beg on roads in case the project is executed," she said.

The local urged the higher ups to look into the matter at an earliest—(KNO)

Frequent traffic jam in Pulwama town irk commuters

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: The frequent traffic jam in South Kashmir's Pulwama town continues to irk commuters as the town reports huge traffic jams for a long time especially during evening hours.

People blamed lack of parking space, mismanagement of traffic, lack of footpaths and non-compliance of traffic rules by motorists.

Locals said most people illegally park their vehicles on roadsides without caring about others that lead to the frequent jams.

Showkat Ahmad, a local resident said traffic jams are mainly witnessed from Rajpora Chowk to Newa sumo stand. The district hospital is also located on the same route; thereby the frequent gridlocks cause immense hardship to the patients and attendants to reach their destinations,

he said. Nisar Ahmad, another local, said that people are facing hardships due to the traffic mess in Pulwama town.

He said that despite some efforts from the traffic department, there has hardly been any difference on the ground.

A group of employees said the persistent traffic jams have put their jobs at stake as they fail to reach their respective offices in time.

They said that the authorities have not carried out the widening of roads and it becomes a challenge for vehicles to navigate through narrow roads.

They sought intervention of DC Pulwama in this regard.

Meanwhile, an official said that the action against the erring drivers are being taken on regular basis—(KNO)

CBC's 05-day Exhibition concludes in Ganderbal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Central Bureau of Communication Srinagar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Tuesday successfully concluded its five-day Integrated Outreach Programme and Exhibition at the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The exhibition, which commenced on March 8, served as a platform to showcase the remarkable progress achieved by the government across various sectors over the past decade, with focus on rural development, healthcare, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, ICDS, and education.

Under the overarching themes of Viksit Bharat, Mission Life, Agnipath, and Swachh Bharat Mission, the event aimed to inform and educate the general populace about the government's initiatives and achievements.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, attendees were treated to a series of informative lectures and presentations delivered by experts and officials from diverse government departments. These sessions delved into the intricacies of different schemes, highlighting their successes and future

targets. A large number of beneficiaries participated in the programme and shared their inspiring success stories, showcasing the tangible impact of various government schemes on their lives.

On the final day, representatives from the Agriculture Department, Fisheries, and Horticulture provided detailed insights into their respective sectors, including information on employment generation schemes.

The artists from the City Cultural Group, empanelled with CBC Srinagar presented informative skits on various government schemes.

Director of CBC Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas said that the exhibition received an overwhelming response from the public, fulfilling the event's outcome.

Field Publicity Officer and Nodal Officer of the exhibition, emphasized the vital role of CBC's integrated communication campaigns, facilitating effective communication between the government and the public, ultimately fostering greater awareness and participation in key initiatives aimed at socio-economic development.

Jammu court convicts railway official in bribery case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Special Judge, Anti Corruption (CBI Cases) Jammu has convicted Tilak Raj, then head goods clerk of the northern railway, who was posted at railway station Jammu in a bribery case.

In a statement, issued, a spokesperson said that CBI had registered the case on 08.07.2013 on a complaint against Tarsem Lal and Kameshwar Singh.

The statement reads that it was alleged that accused were demanding bribe of Rs 22,000 from the complainant for reducing the penalty charges, levied due to delay in lifting the consignment from Railway Station.

"CBI laid a trap on 08.07.2013 and during the trap, the accused Tilak Raj accepted bribe of Rs 20,000 from the complainant, which he shared with other

two accused persons as well. The trap team caught all the three accused and arrested them," it reads.

It added that after completion of investigation, chargesheet was filed before the court of Anti Corruption (CBI Cases) Jammu on 02-01-2014 against all the accused and charges were framed against them on 30-04-2014.

"During trial, two accused persons namely Tarsem Lal and Kameshwar Singh expired, hence trial against them was abated. After trial, the court held remaining accused Tilak Raj guilty. Quantum of punishment will be pronounced tomorrow," it reads.

It added that CBI cited 21 witnesses and 31 documents/evidences in support of the charges which stood test of trial in the court—(KNO)

FATEHA KHAWANI

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Zoona Begum, beloved wife of the late Ghulam Mohammad Mir. She breathed her last on March 11, 2024, at her residence in B. K. Pora. Zoona was a loving and cherished member of her family. Her family and friends will gather to participate in the fourth-day congressional prayers of the deceased at the ancestral graveyard, Solina Balla, Srinagar on March 14, 2024, at 10:30 am. We invite all well-wishers to join us in remembering her and offering prayers for her peaceful departure.

Bereaved Family

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION-SRINAGAR-CORE

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (BELOW Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No:- 61 of R&B /Sgr-Core/2023-24

Dated:- 12/03/2024 (E-tendering)

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (in lacs, incl GST)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Project Authority	Ref. to T.S	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10
1.	Construction of toilet Wazu Block at Khankai Moulla Srinagar	32.13	1100/-	64260/-	60 days	Director Planning Tourism Deptt.	EE/Sgr/Co re/ TS/ 52 of 2023-24 Dated: 11/03/2024	"AAV" "BEE"

Major Head of Account = Capex Budget- Dev. Of infrastructure at religious tourist Position of funds = Available.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11/03/2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/03/2024; 18.00 P.M TO 18/03/2024; 18.00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	11/03/2024 from 18.00 P.M
4	Bid Submission End Date	18/03/2024 upto 18.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19/03/2024 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Srinagar-CORE, Safa Kadal Srinagar

- All Bidders have to quote the rates in BOQ Inclusive of GST.
 - 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 above schedule.
- Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Srinagar-CORE, Safa Kadal Srinagar (The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date, also mentioning the NIT No./S.No. / Name Of The Work).
 - The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Srinagar-Core (as the case may be) within 15 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.
 - Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
 - The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
 - The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter of intent.
 - In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
 - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid. Documents which has/have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

No: EE/Sgr-core/6526-33 Dated: 11-03-2024

DIPK-17791-23 DT: 12/03/2024

Executive Engineer (R&B) Srinagar Core

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Online Bullying

The mother of the youngest vlogger of Kashmir valley could not take it anymore after her son was trolled badly for his online videos. She wept badly and appealed to the people to leave her son alone. Imagine the pain and the trouble she must have undergone. For her to come online and weep so badly tells the impact this online abuse is having on the entire family. Let us not reveal the identity of the victims in this particular case. However, the perpetrators must be given the strictest possible punishment.

The boy is just about ten years old. He comes on social media to show how he lives his life, how he plays with his friends and the newer places he visits along with his parents. Nobody should practically have any problem with that. It is his life and one fails to understand how come someone has a problem with that. It is his personal life and if you do not like his content then unsubscribe him. Why call him names, abuse him and his family, troll him ceaselessly and make his life hell. It is very strange that this is happening in Kashmir with a rich spiritual and philosophical history.

In the holy month of Ramadan one should avoid criticizing others needlessly, leave alone abusing others or trolling others. We must prove to be decent citizens capable of allowing everyone to express their opinions freely. We must not intrude into the spaces of other people and respect the boundaries.

Online bullying is a serious legal crime. Abusing someone online is punishable with a jail term. People doing online abuse must face the law and a few tough punishments must be served so that people think twice before abusing someone online.

Kashmir has changed much in the last one decade. The development witnessed in Kashmir is unprecedented. However, with the internet becoming cheaper the people are dedicating a lot of man hours in needlessly surfing through the internet. Amidst this euphoria some users think it right to abuse any vlogger or YouTuber the way they want. It is high time we punish a few of those to set the right precedent.

Sacred Splendor

Abu Dhabi's Magnificent Hindu Temple



DR. SHIBBEN KRISHNA RAINA

The days of returning to my homeland were drawing closer, and for some reason or the other, the opportunity to have a glimpse of the newly constructed Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, which was inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 14, 2024, was not materializing. Today, on the pious occasion of Shivratri on March 8, Lord Shiva showered such grace that all obstacles automatically died out, and I got the joyous and precious opportunity to visit this beautiful temple.

This temple is located about an hour's drive from Dubai. Due to the Shivratri festival, there was a large crowd of devotees and worshippers. Many devotees had come from various cities of the UAE and possibly from abroad as well to pay their respects to the Lord. I found that people of every religion and sect were standing in queues, slowly moving forward for the temple darshan (viewing). The temple premises are quite large, so one has to walk a lot. However, there are facilities like wheelchairs for the elderly and disabled, as well as lifts. The behavior of the designated staff, guides, and volunteers from the temple administration throughout the premises is so cordial that one cannot help but feel pleased. Their friendly behavior gives the impression that they have received proper and adequate training in dealing with the visitors.

Built at a cost of 700 crore rupees, this temple is a remarkable example of Indian and Arabic ancient architectural styles. Constructed in the desert, this temple is not only a center of faith for devotees but also a symbol of amity and harmony on foreign soil.

Before probing into the details about this scenic and magnificent temple in Abu Dhabi, it would not be inappropriate to briefly discuss the UAE, the country where this temple is located. The UAE remained under British rule from 1873 to 1947. In 1971, the seven Sheikdoms of the Persian Gulf - Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Dubai, Umm Al Quwain, Ajman, Fujairah, and Ras Al Khaimah - united to form the independent United Arab Emirates. Ras Al Khaimah joined in 1972. Islam is the national religion of this country, and Arabic is the national language. In terms of vast oil reserves, the United Arab Emirates is the sixth-largest country in the world. The currency of this country is called the Dirham, and currently, one Dirham is approximately equivalent to twenty-two Indian Rupees. Most people mistakenly



consider Dubai as the UAE. In reality, the United Arab Emirates, or UAE, is an organization of seven Emirates/states located in the Middle East of Asia, as mentioned above. The capital of the UAE is Abu Dhabi. The word "Emirate" in Arabic means state or principality. The ruler or head of these Emirates is called an "Emir."

The UAE is a tolerant country. Readers will be pleasantly surprised to know that the UAE government has a "Ministry of Tolerance" whose main objective is to promote a spirit of harmony and brotherhood in the country by encouraging various cultural and intellectual activities. In a world currently rife with unrest and tension, the conceptualization of such a ministry in a country truly conveys a message of humanity. This ministry played a significant role in the establishment of the Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi and the associated planning. During the inauguration ceremony of the temple, the honorable minister of this ministry remained on stage alongside Prime Minister Modi throughout the event. Needless to say, the UAE is the wealthiest country among the Gulf nations. Oil wells are its main asset. Additionally, people from Asian countries like India have come to work here in large numbers. According to one report, around 3.5 million Indians reside here.

During Prime Minister Modi's first visit to the UAE in 2015, the UAE government decided to allocate land in Abu Dhabi for the construction of a temple. Subsequently, the Prime Minister launched the temple project in February 2018. The construction work for the temple began in December 2019. This temple has been built courtesy of the Bocharanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). Temples of the Swaminarayan sect exist in every major city in India and abroad. There are temples in Delhi (Akshardham), Ashok Vihar

(Swaminarayan Mandir), Hyderabad, Kolkata, and other places. Additionally, there are grand and vast temples of the Swaminarayan sect in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka. All these temples worship Swami Narayan. Apart from India, there are Swaminarayan sect temples abroad as well. In the United States alone, there are more than 20 Swaminarayan temples. Besides the US, Swaminarayan temples are present in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, and Adelaide in Australia, as well as in Canada and Fiji.

Spread over 27 acres near Abu Muraikha along Sheikh Zayed Road in Abu Dhabi, this temple has been built at a cost of 700 crore rupees. An idea of the grandeur of this temple can be gained from its height of 32.92 meters, length of 79.86 meters, and width of 54.86 meters. The exterior of the temple features 96 bells. The temple has seven peaks, representing the seven Emirates of the UAE. Additionally, the walls depict scenes from the Ramayana, Shiv Puran, and the journey of Lord Jagannath. A Ganga Ghat has also been constructed nearby, where Ganga water will be made available. The temple also features the confluence of the rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati. Notably, no iron or steel has been used in its construction; instead, stones have been employed. These stones and the idols to be installed in the temple have been specially procured from India.

As already mentioned, similar to the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, no iron or steel has been used in the construction of this temple in Abu Dhabi. The temple has been built by Indian artisans. It features 12 domes in the shape of pyramids and has 7 peaks and 402 pillars. It is said that the temple will remain as it is for 1000 years. This temple is made of 40,000 cubic meters of sandstone, including white Italian marble, 1,80,000 cubic meters of pink sandstone, and over 18 lakh bricks.

On the ground floor of the temple is

the Abhishek Mandapam. The temple houses idols of Ram-Sita, Lakshman, Hanuman, Shiv-Parvati, Ganesha, Kartikeya, Radha-Krishna, Lord Venkateshwara, Lord Ayyappa, and Lord Jagannath. The walls of the temple are adorned with intricate carvings depicting stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

The temple complex features a large arena, a prayer hall, an art gallery, a library, a food court, a gift shop, a play area for children, and two community halls (each with a capacity of around 5,000 people). According to reports, 100 sensors have been installed in the temple to monitor seismic activities, temperature fluctuations, and pressure changes.

According to temple authorities, the seven peaks of the temple represent the seven Emirates of the United Arab Emirates. Swami Brahmvihari-dasa, head of international relations for BAPS, said, "The seven peaks have idols of Lord Ram, Lord Shiva, Lord Jagannath, Lord Krishna, Lord Swaminarayan, Lord Balaji of Tirupati, and Lord Ayyappa. These seven peaks also represent the seven Emirates of the UAE. These peaks highlight the inter-relationship between cultures and religions. Typically, our temples have either one peak or three or five peaks, but here the seven peaks express our gratitude for the unity of the seven Emirates. To give equal representation to the host country, animals like elephants, camels, and lions, which hold significant positions in Indian mythological stories, as well as the UAE's national bird, the falcon, have been incorporated into the temple's design."

The carvings on the exterior pillars of the temple are quite interesting and beautiful. They depict various stories from the Ramayana. On one side, scenes like Ram's birth, Sita's swayamvara, Ram's exile to the forest, the war, the burning of Lanka, the Ram-Ravana battle, and the reunion of Bharat and Ram have been beautifully carved. Watching these scenes provides a soothing experience of witnessing the Ram-katha. The carvings feature elephants, symbolizing Indian culture, as well as camels representing Arabic culture. Arabian horses depict the friendly relations between India and the Arab world.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that there are Hindu temples in other parts of the Gulf region as well. According to one report, the capital of Bahrain, Manama, has the temple of Lord Shrinathji, which is said to be over a century old. Devotees residing in Saudi Arabia visit this temple for worship on auspicious occasions. The capital of Oman, Muscat, has two Hindu temples. The first is the temple of Lord Shankar, located in the Muttra area of Old Muscat, and the second is a 150-year-old temple dedicated to Lord Krishna and Lord Vishnu.

Writer is Former Fellow IAS, Shimla (HP), Currently in Dubai (UAE).

Jantoon Festival

Paving The Way For Pilgrimage And Adventure Tourism

SADAKET MALIK

Doda district has enchanting valleys, waterfalls, picturesque uplands, and historical valleys in every nook and corner of it. Beyond the Beautiful Bhaderwah to lush green uplands of Tehsil Bhalessa, Chilly Pingal, Kahara, Hans Raj Peak to Devigol embrace the natural lovers and have the potential to be unlocked. Bhalessa comprising the trio tehsils of Kahara, Chilly Pingal, and Gandoh having 42 offbeat sites needs fleeting attention. One of such beautiful and most visited places we can see in Doda is Jantoon lying in the Chiralla and Joura Kahara area of Sub division Thathri in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. It is an unexplored hill station and is being gauged by the efforts of District Administration Doda.

This is situated 15 kilometers away from Thathri and offers a unique natural beauty, solitude, and cultural charm. While it might not be as famous as some of the more renowned hill stations in the country, Jantoon Dhar has the potential to become a hub for tourists, contributing to the local economy, preserving the rich culture, and fostering a greener future.

The place that seems to be straight out of a dream. The meadows, surrounded by lush greenery, are a sight to behold. In the winter, a pristine layer of snow blankets the landscape, transforming it into a

winter wonderland. The dense vegetation that envelops the area adds to the charm of this hidden gem. The contrasting beauty of the meadows, snow, and vegetation is what makes Jantoon Dhar a truly enchanting destination.

Every year, thousands of local tourists visit this place to witness a unique cultural event - a wrestling match. This event not only showcases the physical prowess of the local youth but also highlights the rich cultural heritage of the region. It's an opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the local traditions and witness the competitive spirit of the people.

Jantoon lies between the Chiralla and Kahara, which was previously a part of the Thathri tehsil in Jammu and Kashmir. One remarkable feature of this area is that it remains uninhabited, devoid of any population or households in its vicinity. This isolation adds to the serene and untouched aura of the place.

The remoteness of Jantoon is, however, both a blessing and a challenge. It is approximately 5 kilometers away from the nearest road. Plans have been discussed by the district administration of Doda to connect it to the road network, which could significantly boost its tourism potential.

The potential of Jantoon as a tourist destination is immense. With its natural beauty, cultural significance, and the possibility of road connectivity, this hidden gem is waiting to be discovered. The development of Jantoon Dhar



for tourism activity can bring about numerous benefits. The influx of tourists can stimulate the local economy. It can create job opportunities in the hospitality sector, handicrafts, and other related industries. Moreover, the revenue generated from tourism can be reinvested in the local infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

Tourism can play a vital role in preserving the rich culture and traditions of the region. Visitors have the chance to learn about the local way of life, art, music, and cuisine.

This cultural exchange can be mutually enriching, ensuring that the traditions are passed down to future generations.

The place with minimal human interference. Developing it for tourism can be done in an eco-friendly and sustainable manner. The focus should be on preserving the natural beauty and ensuring the local ecosystem remains unharmed.

To explore Jantoon Dhar, several steps need to be taken. First and foremost is the road connectivity, which is important for easy accessibility. Once

the road network is established, other infrastructure, such as accommodations, restaurants, and recreational facilities, can be developed.

A responsible and sustainable approach to tourism development is essential. Strict guidelines and regulations should be in place to protect the area's environment and cultural heritage. Additionally, the local community should be actively involved in the decision-making process to ensure that their interests are considered.

With the right approach to development, this serene place can become a thriving hub for tourists, contributing to the local economy, preserving the rich culture, and fostering a greener future. It's a place where nature and culture coexist, waiting to be explored and appreciated by the world.

The Snow Festival 2024 organised under the patronage of the District Development Commissioner Doda will pave the way to exhibit its beauty and will attract more visitors. What we need is the implementation of strategic schemes i.e Integrated development of tourist facilities, Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD), Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre, and inner approach road to this place is important to bring it under the map of the country's tourism.

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

Perspective And Prospect

Public Awareness And Climate Change



DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

Climate change is a critical global issue characterized by changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and more extreme weather events. It's primarily caused by human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes, leading to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. Public awareness of climate change has been growing, driven by scientific research, media coverage, and the visible impacts of climate change, such as more frequent and severe wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, and flooding. This awareness has led to increased activism, with individuals and groups advocating for policies to reduce carbon emissions, conserve natural resources, and shift towards renewable energy sources.

Educational campaigns, governmental policies, and international agreements, and all alike aim to enhance public understanding and encourage action on climate change. However, levels of awareness and concern can vary significantly across different regions, cultures, and demographic groups, influenced by factors such as political ideology, economic interests, and access to information. Efforts to improve public awareness often involve emphasizing the immediate and local impacts of climate change, highlighting the economic and health benefits of taking action, and providing clear, actionable steps individuals and communities can take to mitigate their impact on the environment.

Public awareness plays a pivotal role in addressing climate change, with significant implications for both policy and individual actions. The significance of public awareness in the context of climate change can be understood through several key aspects: a. Informed Decision-Making: Awareness fosters a better understanding of the causes, impacts, and solutions to climate change, enabling individuals and policymakers to make informed decisions that contribute to mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Behavioural Changes: Educated individuals are more likely to adopt sustainable practices, such as reducing energy consumption, supporting renewable energy, and minimizing waste, which collectively contribute to lowering greenhouse gas emissions. c. Public Pressure on Policymakers: A well-informed public can exert pressure on governments and institutions to implement effective climate policies, invest in sustainable infrastructure, and commit to international climate agreements. d. Support for Renewable Energy and Technologies: Public demand can drive the development and adoption of renewable energy sources and green technologies, influencing market trends and encouraging investment in sustainable innovations.

Community Resilience and Adaptation: Awareness of climate change impacts can motivate communities to implement adaptation measures, such as improving infrastructure resilience, adopting sustainable land use practices, and enhancing emergency preparedness. f. Global Collaboration: Climate change is a global issue requiring international cooperation. Public awareness and concern can foster a sense of global solidarity and support for international efforts to address climate change. g. Education and Future Generations: Integrating climate education into curriculums can prepare future generations to deal with climate challenges more effectively, fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship. i. Countering Misinformation: Increased public awareness can help counteract misinformation and climate change denial, ensuring that the discourse is guided by scientific evidence and leading to more constructive discussions on



solutions. j. Economic Shifts: Public awareness and demand for sustainable products can drive shifts in the economy, encouraging businesses to adopt greener practices and innovate in areas such as circular economy and sustainable supply chains.

Empowerment through Knowledge: Awareness empowers individuals and communities to participate in climate action, from local initiatives to global movements, making them active stakeholders in the fight against climate change. Prospect and challenges: The global prospect of awareness in climate change is both promising and challenging, reflecting a complex interplay of cultural, economic, and political factors whose overview include: Promising Aspects: a. Increased Access to Information: Advances in technology and

of climate action and mobilizing people across different regions.

Educational Initiatives: Educational programs and curricula are increasingly incorporating climate science and sustainability, shaping a more climate-literate generation prepared to tackle environmental challenges. e. Media Coverage: The media plays a crucial role in shaping public perception, and increased coverage of climate-related news, documentaries, and discussions can help keep the issue at the forefront of public consciousness. Facilities must set an example and use energy efficiently, by, for example, using energy from renewable sources. They must also promote efficient use of water and offer opportunities to interact with the environment. And they must be robust enough to withstand extreme

formation campaigns can undermine scientific consensus and sow doubt about the severity of climate change and the effectiveness of proposed solutions. c. Economic and Political Interests: In some regions, economic dependencies on fossil fuels and other high-emission industries can lead to political resistance against climate policies, affecting public opinion and awareness.

Cultural and Social Factors: Cultural beliefs, values, and social norms can influence how climate change is perceived and addressed, making it challenging to foster a unified global response. e. Equity and Justice Concerns: Awareness must also encompass issues of climate justice and equity, recognizing that the impacts of climate change are not felt equally and that vulnerable

of climate change impacts and solutions.

Strengthening International Collaboration: Continued international collaboration and sharing of best practices can help to elevate climate literacy and action across borders. Empowering Youth and Marginalized Communities: Ensuring that youth and marginalized communities have a voice in climate discussions can lead to more inclusive and effective climate action.

Integrating Climate Awareness into All Sectors: Beyond environmental policies, integrating climate considerations into sectors like finance, urban planning, and healthcare can broaden the scope of awareness and action. The global prospect for climate change awareness is a dynamic field that requires adaptive strategies, inclusive dialogues, and innovative approaches to engage diverse populations and drive collective action towards a sustainable future.

Whether as a separate subject or as a transversal theme in the school curriculum, it is essential to cultivate environmental values and knowledge among young people so that they can lead more sustainable lives. To stimulate their curiosity about the natural world and their concern for the health of the planet, appropriate teaching programmes must be promoted.

The results show that the increase in climate change awareness has spurred dynamics in the debate around climate change both among the population and in the political realm. Fueled by the intense media coverage of the Fridays For Future movement and related activities, a snowball effect has been set off, opening a window of opportunity for significant shifts towards more effective and rigorous climate policies. Politicians and decision-makers now have the opportunity to implement sustainability measures with strong support of the population, even if these imply higher costs. Whether there will be further shifts in the current lifestyle towards a more sustainable one, lifestyle changes should be carefully monitored in the coming years, as relevant data are only now becoming available.

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the internet have made it easier for people worldwide to access information about climate change, understand its impacts, and learn about mitigation and adaptation strategies.

International Agreements and Policies: Global agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, have brought countries together to set climate targets and increase transparency, which can foster greater public awareness and commitment to climate action. c. Rise of Social Movements: Grassroots movements and environmental activism, such as Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion, have gained international attention, highlighting the urgency

weather events.

Corporate Responsibility and Innovation: As consumers become more aware of climate change, there's growing pressure on companies to adopt sustainable practices, leading to innovations in green technology and renewable energy sectors. Challenges to Overcome: a. Information Overload and Desensitization: The vast amount of information available can sometimes lead to desensitization, where the public becomes numb to the urgency of climate change due to constant exposure to alarming news.

Misinformation and Scepticism: Misinformation and deliberate dis-

populations often bear the brunt of climate-related disasters.

Hope of the future: In context of the coming climate change complications the situation is likely to be better due to: Localized and Culturally Relevant Communication: Tailoring communication strategies to local contexts and cultures can improve the effectiveness of awareness campaigns, making climate change more relevant to diverse audiences.

Leveraging Technology and Innovation: Emerging technologies, such as virtual reality and interactive platforms, offer new ways to engage the public and enhance understand-

'Dal' Is Not A Source Of Protein. Explained

The concept that dal is a rich source of protein for vegetarians has been debated for years. But to set the record straight, experts talk about how this beloved food, consumed in almost every corner of the country, might not be a primary source of protein.

To understand why dal is not a source of protein, let's understand what makes up a primary protein source and why it is important. Proteins are indispensable components of the human body, performing diverse roles critical to overall health. They comprise of amino acids that perform tasks like cellular structure, forming the foundation of cells, tissues, and organs, facilitate the transport of nutrients, oxygen, and waste products, regulate gene expres-

sion, maintain pH balance, and serving as an energy source during specific metabolic conditions. They are called the building blocks of life.

Given their multifaceted roles, a balanced diet with sufficient protein intake is crucial for sustaining these fundamental biological functions.

A food group to be classified as protein must contain 9 amino acids in the right proportions. While the body needs 20 amino acids for all essential functions, 11 of them are formed in the body while the rest 9 need to be compensated for through dietary intake. These 9 essential amino acids are needed for the daily functioning of the body.

Nutritionist Sangeetha Aiyer tells IndiaToday. In that dal (including all kinds of lentils and legumes) cannot be classified as a primary source of pro-

tein because it contains more carbohydrates than proteins. Therefore, not all the 9 amino acids needed for the body.

"If you break down the macronutrients of dal (protein, carbohydrates and fats) you will find that their highest content of macronutrients is carbohydrates, then fibre and then some protein," says Sangeetha Aiyer.

This doesn't mean that dal doesn't contain protein, it is just not a primary source of protein. It is a source of complex carbohydrates.

Compared to vegetables and cereals, Dietitian Suvarna Sawant, Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital, says that lentils and legumes when consumed with a variety of sources like milk and milk products and soy, have a higher protein count.

"The daily protein requirement varies for each individual, depending on factors such

as lifestyle, exercise patterns, height, and weight. A balanced diet is key to meeting protein requirements, but this is often overlooked due to the popularity of fad diets," says Dr Sawant.

Sangeetha Aiyer adds that one should consume a variety of pulses and vegetables for their micronutrient intake but "don't be under the misconception that dal and legumes are sources of high protein. They are not."

Aiyer argues that as per the Digestible Indispensable Amino Acid Score (DIAAS), animal-based foods have the highest bioavailable proteins. Protein bioavailability refers to how well your body utilises a specific type of protein.

A protein is considered highly bioavailable if it is easy to digest, absorb and made into other proteins.

The reason plant-based protein like dal isn't high in

bioavailability depends on the presence of anti-nutrients like phytates, tannins and saponins.

While many experts say that combining dal with other food items can fulfil the amino acid requirement for the body, it doesn't translate into practicality, according to Aiyer.

"If you combine moong dal with rice, there are two essential acids that are missing in moong dal which rice has. Now the amount of moong dal and rice to get the required amino acids and the absorbed by the body would be anywhere from 25 to 40% in excess," said Sangeetha Aiyer.

But that amount of moong dal and rice could contain 100 calories.

"If you're getting a certain amount of calories from protein, you're forgetting that you're getting three times more calories from carbohydrates. Any 100 grams of cooked dal, has 8-15 grams of protein and

from 15 to 30 grams of carbohydrates," added Aiyer.

To fulfil even 15 grams of protein from a certain dal would mean having a high quantity of it, which might satisfy the amino acid profile but not be efficient in consumption.

"Eating that quantity of lentils can cause digestive distress," said Aiyer.

So, do vegetarians need to eat more dal for a higher protein intake?

"Yes, vegetarians can consume more dal to match the protein intake of non-vegetarians. But they need to combine dal with other protein-rich foods like tofu, tempeh, nuts, and seeds to enhance protein intake," said nutritionist Nupur Patil.

However, one drawback that arises is nutritional deficiency. While plant-based protein could meet protein requirements to a certain extent, most vegetar-

ians could suffer deficiencies in vitamins B12, D, iron, zinc and omega-3 fatty acids.

What are the options for vegetarians to get their daily protein content?

"You have to be open to dairy. Hung curd, green yoghurt, good quality cheese like feta and mozzarella and paneer should be added to your diet," said Sangeetha Aiyer.

Try to add fermented soy like tofu or tempeh to your diet.

Another way, said Sangeetha Aiyer is by meeting your requirements by having whey protein.

"Consider whey protein as a supplement which is made out of milk. There is an association of whey protein or any kind of powdered protein with bodybuilding. There are all sorts of misconceptions around it. If you're, however, allergic to whey protein, choose a soy item," said Aiyer.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

EC Begins Consultation

ensure citizens face no impediments in exercising their democratic rights—(KNO)

Education Should Be

campuses into the hub of skill development and innovation, and make their important contribution in realising the limitless potential of the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

"Ideas are new wealth and Universities should focus on creating intellectual property. Educational institutions should focus on developing students' capacities to be creative, innovative and focus on programme to bring positive social change," the Lt Governor said.

Addressing the eminent educationists and heads of institutions, the Lt Governor highlighted five aims and vision to create a strong foundation for future-oriented education.

Classrooms should be enabler of imagination. Mentoring and not teaching should be the main focus of educational institutions to thrive in 21st century, he observed.

"Education should be driven by creativity than by curriculum. It should be about developing the capacities of young people to be creative. It should be the main lever for a more competitive economy and educational institutions as well as other social institutions must follow this model," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor called upon the teaching community, students and all the stakeholders to work with the resolve to establish Jammu Kashmir as a knowledge economy and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

He further emphasized on creating a conducive environment for foreign students in educational institutions of the Union Territory.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor and Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council highlighted the reforms to transform the Universities into the centre of knowledge and excellence.

Yashvardhan Sinha, Sh Ashok Kumar Kanth – former Ambassadors; Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, University of Ahmedabad and Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor University of Jammu also spoke on the occasion.

The Lt Governor released several publications including a magazine titled 'Lit-zine', Translation Samvad and Academic Journal 'Pariprekshya'.

Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Manisha Priyam from NIEPA, Vice Chancellors, HoDs and faculty members of various Universities and educational institutions, educationists, experts and scholars were present.

Lays Foundation Stone

meeting and to run the operations for the welfare of displaced persons, he added.

PoJK Bhawan is the testament to the government's unwavering commitment to provide dignity and rights to displaced persons, who were deprived of their rights and suffered atrocities for decades, the Lt Governor said.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji gave displaced families all the rights and other benefits after a long wait of over seven decades. Now, they have the same rights as any other citizen of the country and various other new opportunities are being made available to them," he said.

Today, the displaced persons can not only cast their vote, contest an election but also fulfill their aspirations of receiving professional education and government jobs, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor highlighted the resolve of the government, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister for the socio-economic and political empowerment of displaced families.

"The Government of India and J&K Administration is sensitive to the needs and demands of the displaced families. We are committed to provide land title and ownership rights to displaced persons," the Lt Governor said.

He also called upon the community members to avail the benefits of the special camps being organized by the government. These special camps in Jammu, Samba and Kathua aim to saturate various govern-

ment schemes and provide skill training and self-employment to youth, empower the women and to provide all the support to the farmers of the community.

Sh Anil Kaul, Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; Sh Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants); Sh Deepak Kapoor, President, PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti, senior officers and large number of members of displaced families were present.

Pioneering Real

Commissioner Secretary Industries. The participation included a delegation from the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), signifying a collaborative effort towards the region's real estate growth.

The primary focus of the meeting was to revisit the key outcomes of the Real Estate Summit 1.0, evaluating the current status of its initiatives and strategizing on how to effectively mobilize these for moving forward. This approach underscores the government's commitment not only towards enhancing the real estate infrastructure in the region but also ensuring sustainable urban development.

The discussions emphasized the need for leveraging the unique potential of Jammu and Kashmir's real estate market, making it more accessible and attractive to investors both nationally and internationally.

The meeting explored various avenues to stimulate growth in the sector, including easing regulatory processes, enhancing transparency and implementing investor-friendly policies.

Mandeep Kaur and Vikramjit Singh highlighted the government's vision of transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a real estate and industrial hub, capable of contributing significantly towards region's economy. They reiterated the commitment towards working closely with stakeholders such as NAREDCO to facilitate realization of this vision.

The meeting concluded with a resolution to take proactive steps towards implementation of the discussed strategies to bring out the progressive policies and required changes in the regulatory frameworks making J&K one of the most preferred investment destinations. Besides, roadmap for organizing Real Estate Summit 2.0 was also discussed in the meeting.

Gadkari Sanctions

transforming it into a 2-lane configuration with a paved shoulder. This development, spanning 8.925 Km in the Shopian district, will be executed using the EPC Mode.

He said, linking Shopian District with Pulwama on one side and Kulgam on the other within the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, the project holds strategic significance. It is poised to significantly benefit apple growers in south Kashmir, particularly in Shopian district, known as the "Apple bowl of the valley," by facilitating swift transportation of produce to markets. The overall impact includes improved connectivity and heightened road safety measures. (KNS)

CAA Will Not Take

because of CAA. CAA is a law to give citizenship not to take it. Owaisi, Kharge and Rahul Gandhi all are speaking lies that this will take away citizenship of minorities. I assure you that under CAA, there is no provision for taking away anybody's citizenship but there is provision to give citizenship to our refugees," he said.

Amit Shah, who earlier addressed a meeting of social media warriors of BJP, said the Modi government yesterday implemented the promise of CAA.

"Our constitution drafters had promised that refugees coming from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan after suffering oppression will be granted citizenship. However, due to appeasement and vote bank politics, Congress used to oppose it. By granting citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs and others, Narendra Modi ji has honoured them," he said.

PM Inaugurates

Bijbehara, Kathua, Pampore, Pattan, Kakapora, Panzgam, Sadoor, Mazhom railway stations and Rail Coach Restaurant

at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station.

In a post on X, the Lt Governor said: "A significant day for railway connectivity & infrastructure in the country. Hon'ble PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji laid foundation stone, dedicated Railway projects worth over Rs 85,000 crores that will shape the economic trajectory of various states and UTs."

"Grateful to Hon'ble PM for revolutionising rail infra & connectivity in J&K. The opening of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Srinagar railway station will ensure quality medicines at affordable prices to passengers & livelihood opportunities to many."

"'One Station One Product' (OSOP) stalls at Anantnag, Pampore, Pattan, Kakapora, Panzgam, Sadoor, Mazhom, Avantipora, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, Bijbehara, Kathua will provide additional income opportunities to artisans from marginal sections."

"OSOP will promote rich heritage of these areas and it will also strengthen 'Vocal for Local' and 'One District One Product Campaign'. These stalls will provide passengers the opportunity to experience and purchase authentic local goods."

"PM has also gifted a Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba & Rail Coach Restaurant at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station. Gati Shakti terminal will play a pivotal role in bolstering transportation networks and streamlining movement of goods across the region"—(KNO)

'Ladies Special Bus'

"Since colleges reopened, I haven't spotted the ladies' special bus. Firstly, the route doesn't even directly connect to my college, I have to change buses multiple times," said Insha, a student at MA Road College.

She mentioned that in the absence of the ladies' special bus on Srinagar roads, many students like her are forced to board overcrowded public transport buses to reach their colleges or other educational institutions.

Miss Shaheen, a banker, expressed the inconvenience of standing among males in overloaded buses daily for her commute to the office, stating that having a ladies' special bus would have been more comfortable.

Several students from Women's College MA Road Srinagar and other colleges shared that reaching their colleges through public transport was often challenging due to overcrowded buses.

"Ladies' special bus service should be reinstated to provide commuting relief for females. These buses should have direct access to areas dominated by educational institutions, government or private offices, and workplaces," suggested a group of women.

According to JKRTC officials, the 'Ladies Special Bus' service which has a seat capacity of 32 in each bus, previously the service used to operate from Lal Chowk to four routes. On Soura route the bus would make four singles in a day, two specials to Kashmir University, also with four singles, and to downtown areas passing through Nalla Amir Khan Road, with two singles in a day.

Meanwhile, a senior official from the JKRTC told KNO that post Covid-19 pandemic the regular ladies special bus service was hampered, but that they would resume the services soon.

"We are on it, modalities are being discussed, in next 10-15 days we will resume the Ladies Special Bus Service", the senior official said—(KNO)

Srinagar's Mandi

consumption of early-ripened fruits, Bashir said only the experts could provide accurate insights on the matter.

He assured the

public of the quality and freshness of the available produce, saying the mandi is fully stocked with a wide range of fruits and vegetables to meet the needs of consumers.

"With the spirit of Ramadan, the Srinagar's Mandi is stocked up," he added—(KNO)

J&K Leads India

Overall, the PMEGP has assisted 2,53,710 projects with a margin money subsidy of 8,099 crore, generating an estimated 20,29,680 jobs over the past three years. Since its inception in 2008-09, the PMEGP has assisted a total of 9.35 lakh enterprises, creating employment for 76.35 lakh persons. The scheme, implemented by the Ministry of MSME through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), aims to provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans and unemployed youth, particularly in rural areas.

The UT government has also enhanced the financial support through various schemes to the youth to generate employment for themselves and others.

As per the figures given during the UT Level Bankers Committee Meeting, banks operating in J&K have sanctioned Rs 1,213.60 crore in favour of 25,875 beneficiaries under various employment generation schemes, including PMEGP, NRLM, NULM, PMWY, CCS for artisans and weavers and JKREGP up to September 30, 2023.

Out of Rs1,213.60 crore, the banks sanctioned Rs 882.64 crore for 15,230 beneficiaries under PMEGP, Rs 274.14 crore for 9,145 beneficiaries under NRLM, Rs 9.99 crore for 323 beneficiaries under NULM, Rs 1.31 crore for 116 beneficiaries under PMWY, Rs 8.22 crore for 516 beneficiaries under CCS for Artisans and Weavers and Rs.37.30 crore for 545 beneficiaries under JKREGP—(KNO)

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دفتر تحصیل دارا اکیڈمی مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول لار

عنوان: درخواست منجانب توصیف احمد گوہر پٹھان والد/ والدہ ظہی توصیف ساکنہ چنھیں گلاب پورہ تحصیل لار بمبراد حکم یوم پیدائش سند (DOB)

اشتہار عام

بمعاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول اندراج کرنے یوم پیدائش بحق مندرجہ ذیل شخص جنکی یوم پیدائش، سکونت بذیل ہیں۔

ظہی توصیف، ولدیت توصیف احمد گوہر پٹھان سکونت چنھیں گلاب پورہ، یوم پیدائش 2014-2-25۔ اس بارے میں ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اندرسات یوم عدالت ہذا میں اپنے عذر یا اعتراض تحریری طور پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

اکیڈمی مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول لار

Over Rs 1 lakh crore worth of projects launched by PM Modi in Ahmedabad

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched development projects worth over Rs. 1 lakh crore, including major advancements in the railway and petrochemical sectors, from the Dedicated Freight Corridor Operations Control Center in Ahmedabad.

Emphasising the vision of 'Navnirman for Viksit Bharat,' the Prime Minister highlighted the government's pursuit of progress, with projects worth Rs. 11 lakh crore initiated or completed in the current year alone, including Rs. 7 lakh crore in the last 10-12 days.

The inauguration featured the foundation stone laying and dedication of many projects to enhance national infrastructure.

Among these, railway projects valued at Rs. 85,000 crore and a significant Rs. 20,000 crore investment in a petroleum campus at Dahej, Gujarat, stood out, signifying a leap forward in the hydrogen and polypropylene sectors.

Furthermore, the launch of ten new Vande Bharat Express trains and the extension of four exist-



ing ones, marked a monumental upgrade in connectivity across various Indian states, from Ahmedabad to Mumbai Central and beyond.

The event also saw the flagging of two new passenger trains, enhancing rail connections between Asansol, Hatia to Tirupati, and Kollam.

The Prime Minister's comprehensive initiatives include operationalising extensive freight corridors, enhancing railway safety by eliminating unmanned crossings, and achieving 100 per cent railway elec-

trification.

The establishment of over 1,500 'One Station One Product' shops, the dedication of 50 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janashadhi Kendras at railway stations, and the unveiling of 51 Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals, are among the other significant steps taken to modernise the railway network and support local economies.

In a push for sustainable development, the Prime Minister dedicated solar-powered stations/buildings at 975 locations, align-

ing with India's renewable energy goals.

The foundation stone for a petrochemical plant by Petronet LNG at Dahej, with a projected employment impact of over 70,000 jobs during construction and operational phases, was also laid, marking a significant economic development milestone.

Additionally, Ekta Malls in Gujarat and Maharashtra were inaugurated. These malls promote Indian handlooms, handicrafts, and traditional products, symbolising the nation's unity and diversity.

BJP's strategy to change CM in Haryana may reap rich electoral dividends

IAN S

CHANDIGARH: Eyeing a strategy to change the helm in the run-up to assembly elections that may pay off like Uttarakhand, the BJP legislature party in Haryana on Tuesday elected Lok Sabha MP Nayab Singh Saini, belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC), as its leader, paving the way for the next Chief Minister after Manohar Lal Khattar's exit.

The election of Saini, a first-time MP, may help the party strengthen its hold among the Other Backward Classes.

Also, political observers believe, the new face at the helm is part of the BJP's strategy of changing chief ministers and resetting the cabinet ahead of assembly polls to thwart anti-incumbency, an exercise previously done in Uttarakhand and Gujarat where the party repeated its governance.

"With the strategy working earlier in its favour in Uttarakhand and Gujarat, the BJP is encouraged to



undertake similar steps in Haryana, where assembly polls are due in October, to counter factors that might work against it," a senior party leader told IANS.

As soon as Saini's name was proposed, Home Minister Anil Vij left the meeting. The outgoing Cabinet comprised 14 ministers, including Khattar and three members of the JJP. All have resigned.

At present, the BJP has 41 MLAs in the 90-member House while the JJP has 10. The BJP also enjoys the support of six of seven Independents. The main opposition Congress has 30 MLAs and the Indian National Lok Dal and the Haryana Lokhit Party have one seat each.

Khattar in October 2019 was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Haryana where the BJP formed a government, state's first non-Congress government at the helm for the second consecutive term. In the second term, the BJP formed the government in alliance with the then newly formed Janayak Janta Party (JJP) led by Dushyant Chautala, who took oath as Deputy Chief Minister.

"Hearty congratulations and best wishes to State BJP President Shri @NayabSainiBJP ji on being elected as the leader of the legislative party," BJP Haryana in charge Bipal Deb wrote on X.

"I am confident that he will take forward the development works of Haryana started under the guidance of Honorable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji and the leadership of chief minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar ji and will take the state forward in terms of development," he added.

Earlier in the day, Khattar resigned as the chief minister amid breaking up of an alliance with the JJP as the two parties failed to reach an agreement over seat-sharing ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Chief Minister-designate Saini, a close confidante of Khattar, is a Lok Sabha MP from Kurukshetra. He was appointed as state BJP chief last October.

Saini entered politics almost 30 years ago. He was elected as an MLA from Narayanganj in the 2014 Assembly polls. He was inducted in the Cabinet in 2016.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Saini contested and won from the Kurukshetra constituency, defeating Congress' Nirmal Singh by a huge margin.

India's retail inflation eases to 4-month low of 5.09% in January

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India's retail inflation slowed to a four-month low of 5.09 per cent in February bringing some relief to household budgets, official figures released on Tuesday showed. The retail inflation in January was a tad higher at 5.1 per cent.

There was a sharp decline in cooking oil prices during February which came down by as much as 11.67 per cent. The price rise in spices slowed

to 13.51 per cent compared to 16.36 per cent in January.

However, the data show that vegetable prices shot up by as much as 30.25 per cent in January while pulses turned costlier by 18.9 per cent. The prices of cereals went up by 7.6 per cent.

The consumer price inflation is now above the 4 per cent midpoint of the RBI's 2-6 per cent target range and is the main reason why the central bank is not going in for a cut in interest rates to spur economic growth.

The RBI is keen to keep inflation under control to ensure stability and has held the repo rate steady at 6.5 per cent for six consecutive times in a row in its bi-monthly monetary policy reviews.

The latest inflation data comes weeks before the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets again on April 3-5. ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said barring food and beverages, the inflation across all other sub-groups eased in February 2024, indicating that the momentum in the non-food items continued to track a welcome moderation.

The food and beverages inflation printed above the 7 per cent mark for the fourth month in a row. While the food and beverages inflation posted an unpleasant uptick in February 2024 vis-a-vis January 2024, this was not broad-based, with seven of the 12 sub-items witnessing a moderation in their YoY inflation print, she added.

CAA RULES DECODED

How refugees will acquire citizenship & Constitutional immunity in India

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi notified the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on Monday, five years after it was passed in Parliament. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the implementation of CAA would enable minorities persecuted on religious grounds in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to get citizenship in India.

Definitely, it is a big relief given by PM Modi-led government to the refugees who have been in the state of uncertainty ever since they migrated to India from the aforesaid nations due to religious persecution.

The CAA is going to achieve the objectives that were set by the government when it had got the bill passed in Parliament on December 11, 2019.

In fact, The Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955) was enacted to provide for the acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship.

Historically speaking, trans-border migration of population has been happening continuously between the territories of India and the areas comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Millions of citizens of undivided India belonging to various faiths were staying in the said areas of Pakistan and Bangladesh when India was partitioned in

1947. What is worth noting is that the constitutions of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh provide for a specific state religion.

As a result, many persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities faced persecution on grounds of religion in those countries.

The situation was so worse that some of them also had fears about such persecution in their day-to-day life where the right to practice, profess and propagate their religion has been obstructed and restricted.

As a result, several such persons fled to India to seek shelter. The problem was that they continued to stay in India even if their travel documents expired or they had incomplete or no documents.

Under the provisions of the previous act in which amendment was done by the government in Parliament, the migrants from Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian communities from Afghanistan, Pakistan or Bangladesh who entered into India without valid travel documents or if the validity of their documents has expired are regarded as illegal migrants and ineligible to apply for Indian citizenship under section 5 or section 6 of the Act. 4.

Considering their problems, the Central government exempted the said migrants from the adverse penal consequences of the

Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 and rules or orders made thereunder vide notifications, dated 07.09.2015 and dated 18.07.2016.

Subsequently, the Central government also made them eligible for long term visa to stay in India vide orders dated 08.01.2016 and 14.09.2016.

But PM Modi-led government has now made the said migrants eligible for Indian citizenship.

The CAA says that the illegal migrants who have entered into India up to the cut off date of 31.12.2014 can acquire Indian citizenship.

PM Modi-led government will now begin granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Christians, Parsis, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs and Hindus -- from the above said countries who arrived in India up until December 31, 2014.

The government or an authority specified by it, shall grant the certificate of registration or certificate of naturalisation subject to such conditions, restrictions and manner as prescribed.

Since many of them have entered into India long back, they may be given the citizenship of India from the date of their entry in India if they fulfil conditions for Indian citizenship specified in section 5 or the qualifications for the naturalisation under the provisions of the Third Schedule to the Act. 6.

Remarkably, the CAA further grants immunity to the migrants of the aforesaid Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities so that any proceedings against them regarding their status of migration or citizenship do not bar them from applying for Indian citizenship.

This is being seen as a big relief for the citizenship-seekers.

The competent authority shall not take into account any proceedings initiated against such persons regarding their status as illegal migrants or their citizenship matter while considering their application under section 5 or section 6 of the Act, if they fulfil all the conditions for grant of citizenship.

Many persons of Indian origin including persons belonging to the said minority communities from the aforesaid countries were applying for citizenship under section 5 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 but they were unable to produce proof of their Indian origin.

Hence, they used to be forced to apply for citizenship by naturalisation under section 6 of the said Act, which, inter alia, prescribed twelve years residency as a qualification for naturalisation in terms of the Third Schedule to the Act. This denied them many opportunities and advantages that could have accrued only to the citizens of India, even though they were likely to stay in India permanently.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT
 DIVISION QAZIGUND
 Email: qazigundphedivision@gmail.com (Phone No./Fax No. 01931-295040)

CORRIGENDUM NO: 02

Due to poor response received from e- No: 40-PHEQ of 2023-24 Dated:04-03-2024 issued under No: PHEQ/CC/6125-45 Dated:04-03-2024 read with corrigendum No/ PHEQ/CC/6264-84 Dt: 09.03.2024. The critical dates are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid submission end date	14.03.2024 4.00 PM
2	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	15.03.2024 10.00 AM

Furthermore the conditions No: 07 and 08 in the standard bidding document i.e Scanned copy of list of works completed for the last 05 financial years along with the details of Allotment/work order with date of start of work and completion duly self- attested by the authorized signatory of firm. The performance and completion certificate of these works shall be issued by an officer of rank of Executive Engineer or above and Scanned copy of list of on-going works (works in hand) to be completed along with the details of Allotment/work order with date of start of work and current physical status duly self-attested by the authorized signatory of firm are hereby deleted.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the said NIT shall remain unchanged.

NO/PHEQ/CC/6310-30
 DATED : 11.03.2024

DIPK-17740-23
 DT: 12/03/2024

Executive Engineer,
 J.S PHE Division Qazigund

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD
 CPO Chowk, Panjithirti, Jammu/Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar
 (www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: Provisional Selection list for the posts of Drivers/Driver-II/ Tractor Driver/Truck Cleaner, belonging to various departments, advertised vide Notification Nos. 07 of 2020 dated 31.12.2020, 05 of 2021 dated 22.09.2021, 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022, 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022 and 01 of 2023 dated 11.04.2023.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board received various Indents, from time to time, for the posts of Drivers/Drivers-II/Tractor Driver/Truck Cleaner from various departments for selection under direct recruitment. These 127 posts were advertised by the Board under Notification Nos. 07 of 2020 dated 31.12.2020, 05 of 2021 dated 22.09.2021, 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022, 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022 and 01 of 2023 dated 11.04.2023, seeking applications from the eligible candidates, as per the following category-wise break up:

Cadre of the Posts	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	Total
UT/Division/District	66	16	05	01	03	32	01	03	127

The requisite qualification for selection against these posts, as per the respective Indents, is given as under:

1. **Matric pass with valid hill driving license.**
2. **Middle pass with valid hill driving license.**
3. **Minimum Matric and Maximum 12th with valid HGV/PSV.**
4. **Matric with DL.**

Whereas, in terms of the notified selection criteria, the selection for these posts 'shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in the written examination only. The candidate shall have to qualify Driving Test to be eligible to appear for written examination'; and

Whereas, the JKSSB, conducted the Driving Test for these posts, which was followed by the Written Examination (OMR based) of the successful candidates on 24.12.2023. Based on the performance of the candidates, the Board, vide Notification No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/99/2023-03 (7361997) dated 01.01.2024, published the Result/Score-sheet of the candidates; and

Whereas, after the publication of Result/Score-sheet, the candidates, falling under the consideration zone, were called for Document Verification vide Notification No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/99/2023-03 (7361997) dated 01.02.2024, at both Jammu & Srinagar w.e.f. 05.02.2024 to 06.02.2024, followed by supplementary DV on 12.02.2024. Further the candidates were given the opportunity to club multiple items from 02.02.2024 to 04.02.2024 through email only; and

Whereas, the JKSSB, vide Order No.69-SSB of 2024 dated 14.02.2024, constituted a Selection Committee for preparing the Selection List for the 127 posts of Driver/ Driver-II/ Tractor Driver/ Truck Cleaner, belonging to various departments; and

Whereas, the said Selection Committee, upon careful scrutiny of the Indent/advertisement, prepared the Provisional Selection List for the 125 posts and the same was placed in the Board, in its 263rd meeting, which approved its

Notification. Two posts, one each under Item No. 721/Adv. No. 05 of 2021 (APD/EWS) and Item No. 019/Adv. No.02 of 2022 (RDD/OM), have remained unfilled.

Now, therefore, after taking into consideration all the aforementioned factors, the Provisional Selection List of the candidates for the posts of Drivers/ Driver-II/Tractor Driver/Truck Cleaner, belonging to various departments, advertised vide Notification Nos. 07 of 2020 dated 31.12.2020 05 of 2021 dated 22.09.2021, 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022, 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022 and 01 of 2023 dated 11.04.2023, is hereby notified as per Annexure-A to E' to this Notification. It is further notified that:

- i. This Provisional Selection List shall be subject to outcome of the OAs/Writ Petition(s), if any, pending in the competent court of law.
- ii. This shall also be subject to the outcome of any pending enquiry, involving candidate(s), figuring in this Provisional Selection List.
- iii. This is a Provisional List and shall be subject to the change(s) as per the objections as may be received against it and mere figuring in it shall not confer any right to selection, which shall be finalized after examination of the objections based on merit,
- iv. In case any candidate(s) is aggrieved with this Provisional Selection List or intends to furnish any (self-attested) documents/certificates w.r.t. his/her withheld recommendation, he/she may represent through the email address driver2selection2024@gmail.com, within five days from the date of this Notification, beyond which no representations whatsoever shall be entertained. The representations in this regard shall necessarily include complete details of the candidate including Name, Address, Roll Number and Contact Number.

By Order.
 No. JKSSB-Scry/4/2024-03(E-7411217)
 Dated: 11-03-2024

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS
 Secretary
 J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK-17757-23
 DT: 12/03/2024

ECI TEAM'S KASHMIR VISIT

Political parties call for simultaneous assembly, LS elections in JK

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: Political representatives of various parties in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday jointly advocated for the synchronization of assembly elections with the Lok Sabha polls as they voiced their concerns and demands during a meeting with the Election Commission team in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, the Election Commission team embarked on a three-day tour to Jammu and Kashmir, commencing their engagements in Srinagar on Tuesday. Amidst a charged atmosphere, representatives from various political parties put forth their demands and expectations regarding the electoral process in the region.

Notably, Nasir Aslam Wani, a representative from the National Conference (NC), articulated the long-standing demand for conducting assembly elections concurrently with the Lok Sabha polls. Wani emphasized the need for democratic participation,



highlighting the decade-long hiatus in electing the government. He questioned the rationale behind delaying the electoral process, especially in the context of Prime Minister Modi's push for 'one country, one election', urging equitable treatment for Jammu and Kashmir.

Echoing similar sentiments, another NC leader underscored the urgency of holding assembly elections before the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra, citing security concerns and the imperative of safeguarding democratic rights.

On the other hand, representatives from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) outlined their respective stances on electoral reforms.

RS Pathania, representing the BJP, emphasized the need to enhance voter turnout in Lok Sabha elections and proposed measures to facilitate smoother voting processes.

Additionally, the BJP advocated for the establishment of polling booths in regions with Kashmiri Pandit populations to bolster their electoral partici-

pation. "BJP is in favor of holding assembly elections in the state soon. If Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are held simultaneously, BJP will support it," he said.

PDP representative Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura stressed the importance of conducive security conditions for holding assembly elections, expressing hope for their expeditious conduct.

"If the security situation with the Lok Sabha is good, then assembly elections should be held. We only hope that assembly elections should be held as soon as possible," Hanjura said.

Following the deliberations with political stakeholders, the Election Commission officials are scheduled to conduct comprehensive reviews of the election preparations in collaboration with local authorities. This includes consultations with District Election Officers and Superintendents of Police to assess logistical requirements and security arrangements—(KNO)

Trout fish farm in Khag achieves record production of rainbow seedlings

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: The Trout Fish Farm in the Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district has produced over four lakh rainbow trout fish seedlings, breaking its previous record. The farm is making dedicated efforts to further enhance production.

Farm Manager Riyaz Ahmed Khan said, "Khag Trout Fish Farm specialises in rearing rainbow trout, and stands out as the sole fish farm in Budgam district equipped with a hatchery. It extends its services not only to private fish farms within the district but also to those in central and north Kashmir."

Khan said since he assumed the role as manager, there has been an



increase in seed output. "Through consistent efforts, the hatchery has now produced almost four lakh rainbow trout fish seedlings, surpassing the previous record of 1.5 lakhs," he said. He said the farm is making all-out efforts to further enhance output to ensure a steady supply of seedlings.

Regarding the economic impact, Riyaz said sales of rainbow trout previously generated over fifteen lakhs annually. The projected figure for this year indicates an increase to 25 lakhs, he said. Coupled with revenue from trout fish seeds, the overall revenue is anticipated to exceed fifty lakhs, he added.

Explaining the growth process, Khan said that rainbow trout fish, known for their slower growth compared to common carp, typically take about two months to reach fry size (seedlings). The water temperature plays a pivotal role in influencing the duration of this growth stage, he said.

The Department of Fisheries has introduced schemes aimed at empowering unemployed youth by providing financial assistance for establishing fish farms.

Presently, approximately 85 private Rainbow Trout Fish Farms are operational in Budgam district, not only creating employment opportunities for local residents but also contributing to regional job creation, Riyaz added—(KNO)

Chairperson JKBOSE pays surprise visit to various exam centres

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Prof. (Dr) Parikshat Singh Manhas, conducted surprise inspections at several Class 12 Annual Regular Exam Centres across the Union Territory. A total of 47,255 candidates are participating in the Annual Regular-2024 Examinations, being held at 446 centers in the Kashmir Division.

During his visit to examination centers, including Kashmir University Model High School Hazratbal, Govt Boys/Girls Higher Secondary School Ganderbal, and Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Manigam, Prof. (Dr) Manhas expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and urged supervisory staff to ensure a comfortable environment for examinees.

The Chairman, accompanied by Joint Secretary, Examination, and Deputy Secretary, Administration,



Kashmir Division, emphasized the importance of creating conducive conditions for students to focus on writing their answer scripts. The surprise visit aimed to verify and ensure the seamless execution of the ongoing Higher Secondary Examination Part-II (Class 12th).

As the examinations progress, the JKBOSE remains committed to upholding the integrity of the evaluation process and providing a fair platform for students across Jammu & Kashmir.

Centre bans J&K National Front for 5 years

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Tuesday declared Jammu and Kashmir National Front as unlawful association for 5 years for supporting terrorism and challenging the integrity of the nation.

In a post on X, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Modi government today declared Jammu and Kashmir National Front as an Unlawful Association.

He said that the outfit was found carrying out secessionist activities to sever Jammu and Kashmir from Bharat and supporting terrorism, challenging the sovereignty, security, and integrity of the nation.

"We are committed to uprooting terror forces to ensure the security of the people of Bharat," he said—(KNO)

After PDP, Omar now trains guns at Congress

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah declared that his party would not relinquish any of the three seats in the Kashmir Valley to the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Instead, he offered the Congress the opportunity to allocate either two seats in Jammu or one seat in Ladakh from their share. This statement comes amidst ongoing discussions between the NC and Congress regarding seat sharing for the upcoming elections.

Speaking in Jammu, Omar emphasized NC's firm stance on retaining their existing seats in Kashmir while engaging in negotiations with Congress for potential allocations in other regions.

"The NC has previously announced its intention to contest all three seats in Kashmir, and discussions are underway with

Congress regarding two seats in Jammu and one in Ladakh," Omar said.

He reiterated the party's demand for synchronizing assembly elections with the Lok Sabha polls, emphasizing that denying the people of Jammu and Kashmir their right to participate in assembly elections would be unjust. He pointed out that if the Lok Sabha elections could proceed and Prime Minister Modi could hold rallies in Srinagar, there should be no impediment to conducting assembly elections as well.

In a veiled critique directed at Congress regarding seat sharing, Omar asserted that while they were open to allocating seats from their share to the PDP, NC would stand firm on retaining its previously won seats. He also expressed skepticism about PDP's chances of securing victory in the Jammu, Udhampur, and Ladakh constituencies—(KNO)

Coast Guard seizes Pak boat with Rs 480 crore drugs off Gujarat coast

IAN S

NEW DELHI: In an overnight joint operation on the intervening night of March 11 and 12, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) apprehended a Pakistani boat off the coast of Porbandar, Gujarat, with six crew members and narcotics valued at around Rs 480 crore on board.

The boat was apprehended about 350 km from Porbandar in the Arabian Sea in a sea-air coordinated operation involving ICG ships and Dornier Aircraft. The operation exhibited well-coordinated efforts between the ICG, NCB, and ATS Gujarat.

The ICG said that on specific intelligence inputs from the security agencies, the ICG strategically positioned its ships in the Arabian Sea on Monday.

The ICG also deployed its Dornier aircraft to scan and locate the boat in the likely areas. After an exhaus-

tive search in the area, the ICG ships, accompanied by teams from the NCB and ATS Gujarat, arrived at the location and identified the boat, which was moving suspiciously in the dark.

On being challenged by the ICG, the boat tried to escape but was deftly chased and forced to stop by the ICG ships. The boarding team immediately embarked on the ship for preliminary checking.

It was found to be a Pakistani boat with six crew members. After further searches, 80 kg of drugs worth about Rs 480 crore were recovered from the boat.

The boat, along with its crew, has been apprehended and brought to Porbandar for further investigation.

This was the 10th such apprehension by the ICG, in collaboration with the ATS Gujarat and NCB, in the last three years, leading to a total seizure of 517 kg of narcotics worth about Rs 3,135 crore.

02 day workshop for BLOs concludes in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In the second phase of the workshop, a total of 105 committed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from the 17-Kangan (ST) constituency actively participated, enhancing their understanding of Chunarv Patshalas, Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs), Model Code of Conduct and Voter Awareness Forms (VAFs) at meeting hall BDO Office Kangan.

The presence of the Nodal Officer SVEEP enriched the discussions with strategic insights, emphasizing the importance of voter education and awareness.

Expanding the collaborative effort, key stakeholders including AERO Kangan (Tehsildar Kangan), Zonal Education Officer Kangan, and master trainers also played integral roles in the workshop. This collective engagement fostered a multifaceted approach to address challenges and enhance strategies for effective electoral participation in the 17-Kangan (ST) constituency, ensuring a well-rounded and informed democratic process.

Each BLO provided valuable feedback, sharing insights into challenges and offering suggestions to boost voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

PMs Modi, Sunak agree to work for early conclusion of FTA

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a "good conversation" with his British counterpart Rishi Sunak on Tuesday and both leaders agreed to work for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement.

The telephonic conversation between the two leaders comes as India looks forward to sealing the free trade deal with the UK before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"Had a good conversation with PM @RishiSunak. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and work for early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement," PM Modi said in a post on X.

They also expressed satisfaction with the progress made under the Roadmap 2030 in diverse areas includ-

ing trade, investment, defence, security, emerging technologies, and others, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office.

Exchanging views



on regional and global developments of mutual interest, the two leaders "assessed positively" the progress made towards the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, the statement added.

greetings on the upcoming festive occasion of Holi.

The development comes just as India on Sunday inked a landmark agreement with the four-nation

trade pacts with countries like the UK, Oman, Peru, and Israel.

Last week, UK Trade Minister Kemi Badenoch reportedly suggested that an FTA is possible before elections in India but added that it would be "challenging".

"We can actually sign an agreement before the Indian election. I suspect that that is not necessarily going to be the case because I don't want to use any election as a deadline," Badenoch said during a Global Trade conference at Chatham House in London on Thursday.

Earlier this month, a team of negotiators from the UK was in New Delhi to smooth out the differences during the 14th round of talks on the deal. The 13th round of talks was held on December 15, 2023, with the hope that the 14th round, currently ongoing, will result in a mutually beneficial agreement.

Dilapidated road irk Pantha Chowk residents

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: The dilapidated road conditions in Pantha Chowk in Srinagar are posing significant challenges to commuters and residents alike.

Located along the busiest highway in the region, the condition of Pantha Chowk road has become a cause for concern among locals and authorities.



The locals from the area said that the roads at Pantha Chowk are riddled with potholes and cracks, making travel hazardous for motorists and pedestrians alike.

They added commuters often find themselves navigating through a maze of uneven surfaces, risking damage to vehicles and encountering delays in reaching their destinations.

A pediatrician in Pantha Chowk told KNO, the condition of the roads here has been deteriorating for a long time, as it's not just inconvenient; it's also a safety hazard for everyone

using these roads daily. Another passenger, Sajad Ahmad, said they are aware of the challenges posed by the poor condition of the roads at Pantha Chowk. "Whenever I travel from this route, it feels like I am climbing a mountain, and there are many potholes which make the travel difficult. The authorities should think of it," he added—(KNO)

Death of teaching faculty at KU's north campus forces students to stay at home

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: In view of 'non-availability' of teaching staff in different departments at north campus of University of Kashmir (KU), the students Tuesday alleged that they have not attended a single class since the reopening of satellite campus after winter vacations.

One of the students of International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) department informed that the students have been staying back at home because of non-availability of teaching staff.

"We are back at home and we do not attend the classes because no faculty is available to teach the student," the student said. The fifth semester student further said, "No permanent teacher is teaching us. If this situation will continue,

we won't be able to complete our syllabus." "Most likely, our exams for the fifth semester will be held next month," the student said. Another student of Computer Science Engineering said, "Irony is that the University is establishing the satellite campuses without hiring or engaging the teaching faculty."

Sources in the north campus of Kashmir University said that they require more than contractual lecturers. "However, as of now a few are in place." The official further said that the death of teaching staff is mostly in CSC and IMBA department. In CSC department, we require at least 11 contractual lecturers. "Across the satellite campus, we have around 20 permanent teaching faculty."

The official said that in the recently conducted interview of

the contractual lecturers, some have been selected but as of now, no formal order have been issued. It also said that in MCA department, there are five permanent teaching facilities followed by IMBA department with three.

"M.Ed department is run by only one assistant professor." "Across the campus in all departments, we have nearly 700 students enrolled, the official said. It also said, "The director of the campus has taken the matter with all concerned officials of University of Kashmir."

"We are already in process of recruiting new contractual lecturers and I hope that the matter would be resolved in weeks time," the official said. Vice Chancellor of KU, Professor Neelofer Khan was not available for her comment in this regard—(KNO)

Dr Abid Rashid assigned charge of Director SKIMS Soura

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday assigned the charge of Director SKIMS Soura to Dr Syed Abdi Rashid Shah in addition to his own duties.

According to an order, the

appointment has been made in view of the retirement of Dr Parvez Koul on March 03.

"Consequent upon the retirement on superannuation of Prof. (Dr.) Parvez Koul, Director, SKIMS and ex-officio Secretary to the Government, on 08.03.2024 (A.N.) and pending appointment

of a suitable candidate against the said post, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department is hereby assigned the charge of the post of Director, SKIMS, in addition to his own duties till further orders," reads the order—(KNO)