

Good Morning Kashmir

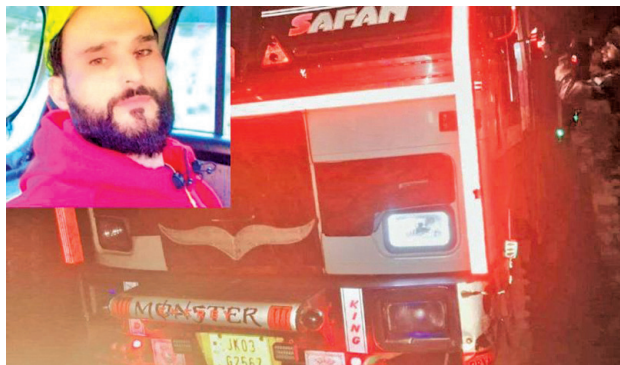
16th Year Of Publication



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Trucker Shot Dead After 'Jumping Checkpoint'



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A truck driver from Sopore was killed in a firing incident after he allegedly ignored a security forces' checkpoint (Naka) in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday.

An official said that the incident occurred when a vehicle carrying apple boxes was signalled to stop at the Naka set up by security forces in Baramulla. The vehicle, however, failed to comply with the order, following which the security forces opened fire, resulting in injuries to the driver, who was shifted to the hospital where he succumbed to his

injuries, he said.

The driver has been identified as Waseem Majeed Mir (35), son of Abdul Majeed Mir, resident of Goripora Darpura Boma Sopore. His family members and relatives on Thursday said that Waseem was innocent and had never taken part in any anti-national activity. They said the authorities must make the CCTV footage viral so that everything will come to light. They have sought the attention of higher authorities and demanded a thorough investigation and justice in this regard.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and started an

● P-06

Youth Accused Of Terror Link Ends Life

JAMMU: A 26-year-old man, accused of being

involved in militancy, allegedly committed suicide following alleged harassment by police in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district.

The death of ● P-06

LG Sinha Asks Youth To Work For Strong, Viksit Bharat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Calling upon the youth to work collectively to build a strong and Viksit Bharat, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Thursday that he wants youngsters to focus on needs and aspirations of weaker and vulnerable sections of the society so that they are able to participate in the development process and contribute to all-round progress.

Interacting with the youth from North-Eastern states visiting Jammu under ABVP's Students' Experience in Inter-State Living (SEIL) initiative, here at Convention Centre, Sinha also lauded the efforts of ABVP, everyone associated with SEIL programme for creating an emotional bridge between the youth of North-East region and rest of the country.

"I want our youth to focus on the needs and aspirations of weaker and vulnerable sections of the society so that they are able to participate in the development process and contribute to all-round progress," he said.



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In his address, the LG commended the initiative by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) aimed at promoting oneness and providing opportunities to youth to experience Unity in Diversity.

"I am extremely proud that as the world's largest student organization, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad,

since its inception, is making a significant contribution in strengthening the spirit of unity and brotherhood by eliminating geographical distance and has connected the youth with the cultural roots of India," Sinha said.

The SEIL programme, launched in 1965, has created an emotional bridge between the youth of the North-East region and the rest of the

country. This wonderful initiative with its motto - One Nation - One People - One Culture, is playing a pivotal role in realizing the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" and enabling youth to live and understand Unity in Diversity in real sense."

The distinctive feature of the SEIL programme is that each student stays with a local family, which does ● P-06

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RDD Employee Falls In ACB Net

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said to have trapped and arrested a Computer Operator of Rural Development Department, Block Gund, Ganderbal while demanding a bribe of Rs 3000.

"Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint wherein it was alleged that Mohammad Ashraf Malik R/o Shahpora Ganderbal, Computer Operator (presently assigned the job of MIS Operation) in the office of Rural Development Department Block Gund is demanding Rs 10,000 as bribe for uploading required documents regarding the bill for release of payments due to the complainant in respect of completion of a work under MGN-REGA Scheme at Kulmohar Qalwat near Masjid Sharief Chohan Mohalla, Harri Ganwan, Gund, Ganderbal," a spokesman said.

He said that the pre-trap verification revealed that Mohammad Ashraf Malik is asking bribe of Rs 10,000 which ● P-06

HC Seeks NIA Stand On Er Rashid's Bail Petition



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the stand of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on a plea filed by Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid seeking interim bail to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

Engineer Rashid, who won the Lok Sabha election from J&K's Baramulla constituency by defeating National Conference (NC) Vice President and now J&K Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah by over two lakh votes while he remained lodged in Tihar

Jail, is accused in a terror funding case being probed by the NIA.

"He (Rashid) is an elected Member of Parliament. What is the difficulty in sending him in custody? Come back with instructions tomorrow," a bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan asked the counsel representing the federal anti-terror agency.

Engineer Rashid has petitioned the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the trial court judge to expedite a decision on his pending regular bail application or decide the matter itself.

Earlier, a court ● P-06

Governance Priorities Align With Needs Of People: CM Omar

Holds Another Round Of Pre-Budget Consultations With Public Representatives

GMK NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: On the second straight day Thursday, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah continued pre-budget consultation with stakeholders, emphasizing that feedback from public representatives is crucial as they remain directly connected with the people.

As part of this exercise, the Chief Minister held a series of consultative meetings with District Development Council (DDC) Chairpersons and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Baramulla, Udhampur, Kulgam and Ramban districts.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to an inclusive budget-making process. "The Assembly may pass the budget, but it should not be



framed in isolation. Our aim is to ensure that the proposals of people's representatives, including DDC Chairpersons and MLAs, are considered and their needs and aspirations are reflected in the budget," he stated.

He further highlighted that such consultations provide a

clear picture of ground realities, enabling the government to formulate policies that effectively address public concerns. "These discussions will not only help us in short-term budget planning but will also contribute to long-term policy formulation, ensuring that ● P-06

Saudi Court Sentences Kashmiri Engineer To 31-Yr Jail



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri engineer Abdul Rafi Baba, who was arrested in Saudi Arabia two years ago, has been sentenced to 31 years in prison on charges of "cyber-related crimes linked to terror activities" and for "circulating objectionable videos on social media."

Baba, a resident of Srinagar's Soura area, was working at King Faisal University in the Hofuf region when he was arrested in early March 2022.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association stated that India's Ministry of

External Affairs (MEA) has responded to their appeal for intervention in Baba's case. According to the association, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh confirmed that Baba, holding Passport No. S7725981, has been imprisoned in Dammam Intelligence Jail since March 1, 2022.

Initially, Baba was sentenced to 11 years in prison. However, following an appeal filed both by him and the Public Prosecution, the court increased the sentence to 31 years under relevant Saudi laws. His case is currently under review by the Supreme Court. ● P-06

Rajouri **Mysterious** Deaths

All Pesticide, Insecticide Shops Sealed Across District

AGENCIES

JAMMU: All pesticide and insecticide shops have been sealed by authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Rajouri district as part of preventive measures taken after 17 'mysterious deaths' took place in Budhal village, officials said on Thursday.



Officials said that as part of an ongoing investigation and preventive ● P-06

JCO Found Dead With Gunshots In Poonch

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Indian Army was found dead with a bullet injury in the Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

The incident took place in a border area when fellow soldiers discovered the Naib Subedar lying injured. He was



immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The Army has launched an investigation to ● P-06

21,568 Houses Built In Last 3 Yrs Under PMAY-U In J&K

Ladakh Gets Rs 25.23 Crore Assistance, Completes 876 Houses

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have seen considerable progress in terms of Central assistance and the completion of housing projects, according to data from the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

As of the latest figures, J&K has received rupees 483.48 crore in Central assistance, with a significant portion allocated during the current financial year.

A total of 29,258 houses have been completed since the inception of PMAY-U, with 21,568 of them delivered in the last three years and the current year.



Ladakh, though relatively smaller in terms of housing projects, has also made strides under PMAY-U, receiving 25.23 crore in Central assistance.

With a total of 876 houses

completed since the scheme's inception, 465 houses have been delivered in the last three years and the current year.

These initiatives are part of the government's ● P-06

Sopore **Shocker!**

Govt Suspends 2 Doctors Over Botched Up Surgery

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Authorities in north Kashmir's Sopore have sealed the operation theatre of Hakeem Sonullah Hospital and suspended two doctors following an alleged case of medical negligence, where a woman admitted for ear surgery reportedly had her uterus removed instead.



Sources told a local news agency KNO that the woman

had been undergoing treatment at the private hospital

and was scheduled for ear surgery. However, in the absence of the doctor treating her, the procedure was allegedly conducted by another doctor, who mistakenly performed a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus).

Following public outcry, authorities acted swiftly and sealed the hospital's operation theatre, citing ● P-06

DC Pulwama presides over Grievance redressal review meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: A grievance redressal and review meeting was held by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Thursday to provide a crucial platform for stakeholders to voice their concerns and discuss developmental priorities.

The meeting saw participation of Ex-Presidents and Councilors of the Municipal Council Pulwama, along with representatives of Traders, civil society groups and community forums, including, Local Auqaf Committee Pulwama, Citizen Welfare Committee Pulwama, Youth Forum Pulwama and Street Vendors Association Pulwama.

Several prominent traders from Pulwama actively participated in the discussions, reflecting a representation of stakeholders invested in the district's development.

The session was structured into two distinct phases.

The first phase focused on listening to grievances and recommendations presented by stakeholders, while the second phase involved responses and resolutions from the concerned departments.

The proceedings commenced with a welcome address by the Deputy Commissioner, who voiced for participatory governance, efficient public service delivery and the timely redressal of citizens' issues.

A diverse range of issues including infrastructure, civic amenities, public ser-



vices and socio-economic development, were brought forth during the meeting.

The representatives emphasized the completion of key public infrastructure projects, including the Marriage Hall, Slaughterhouse and Conference Hall, highlighting their importance in enhancing civic amenities.

They also stressed the need for improved drainage systems, the installation of solar-powered streetlights and the widening of major roads to enhance urban planning and traffic management.

The development of ecotourism at various places was strongly advocated to boost local employment and economic growth, with

for citizen engagement and government accountability.

Following the deliberations, officials from the relevant departments, including the Executive Engineer (EXEN)R&B, PHE, KPDCL, General Manager DIC and Police authorities, provided detailed responses to the concerns raised.

They assured that necessary steps would be taken to resolve the issues in a structured and time-bound manner, with a focus on ensuring transparency and accountability in project execution.

Subsequently, a review meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner to assess the progress of various ongoing developmental projects.

During the session, the Dr. Qayoom emphasised the significance of inter-departmental coordination and proactive governance. He directed regular monitoring and implementation of decisions taken in the meeting and assured that follow-up reviews would be conducted to track progress and address any emerging challenges.

The meeting concluded on a note of optimism and collective responsibility, with the administration reiterating its dedication to responsive governance and the welfare of the people. The stakeholders expressed their appreciation for the open and inclusive platform, reaffirming their commitment to working collaboratively with the administration for the holistic development of District Pulwama.

Capacity building prog for child help groups held in B'pora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Child Protection Unit, Mission Vatsalya, Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Administration, on Thursday organized a capacity building programme for various stakeholders, including the District Juvenile Police Unit, Bharat Scouts and Guides, NSS Volunteers, Self-Help Groups, and representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations.

The programme was aimed to sensitize participants about the formation of Child Help Groups at the sub-district, ward, and PRI levels. These groups play a crucial role in identifying children in need of care and protection at the grassroots level.

During the programme, Gowhar Mahmood, Protec-

tion Officer, highlighted the role and responsibilities of Child Help Groups in implementing the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Dr. Asima Hassan emphasized the responsibilities of the District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, and Special Juvenile Police Unit besides Dr. Nasir Ahmad Bhat discussed the role of the Child Helpline.

In the closing remarks, Sahir Majeed, District Child Protection Officer, thanked the participants and stressed the importance of Child Help Groups in tracing children who require care and protection.

The programme was part of the Mission Vatsalya initiative, which aims to strengthen child protection services at the district level

sans and workers, enabling them to contribute effectively to the local economy.

During the event, the DC interacted with beneficiaries, encouraging them to make full use of the scheme's benefits. He urged them to leverage their training and motivate more artisans to register, thereby maximizing the scheme's impact across the district.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme is designed to provide skilled workers with better tools, specialized training, and an incentive-driven credit facility to improve their efficiency and productivity while enhancing their overall quality of life.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to ensure the seamless implementation of the scheme, fostering economic empowerment and skill development in Ganderbal.

Jatin Kishore presides over One-Day workshop on PMVS



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Thursday presided over a one-day workshop on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The workshop aimed to reiterate the objectives and benefits of the scheme among all stakeholders, ensuring its effective implementation at the grassroots level.

The program was organized by the Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Centre Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Administration Ganderbal.

At the outset, General Manager, DIC Ganderbal, Bilal Mukhtar, briefed the DC on the progress achieved under the scheme so far. He emphasized the significance of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in empowering skilled arti-

Workshop on Fostering Leadership Excellence in Forestry Held at Forest HQ

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The J&K Forest Department organized a one-day workshop Thursday at Forest Headquarter, Srinagar focused on fostering leadership excellence among Range Officers.

The aim of workshop is to equip Range Officers with the necessary skills to effectively lead and manage their teams, promote collaboration among

stakeholders, and address the challenges facing the forestry sector. About 25 Range Officers across the region participated in the workshop.

Irfan Rasool Wani, Chief Conservator of Forests(CCF), Kashmir who was Chief Guest on the occasion, highlighted the importance of leadership in shaping the future of forestry in the region.

The workshop featured a detailed presentation by

expert speakers who shared their valuable knowledge and experience in various aspects of leadership within the forestry sector.

The presentation covered topics such as styles of leadership, motivation theories, communication skills, team building, conflict resolution, and strategic decision-making.

During the workshop, participants engaged in various activities and group discussions designed

to enhance their leadership skills. The workshop proved to be a valuable platform for Range Officers to exchange their ideas share experiences and challenges. The participants expressed their appreciation for the informative and engaging sessions.

The Forest Department plans to conduct more such workshops in the future to further strengthen the leadership capabilities of its officers.

MMA allocates quota to Combined Haj Group Organisers for Haj-2025

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: According to the Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee the public in general and aspiring Haj Pilgrims of Haj-2025 in particular are informed that union Ministry of Minority Affairs has allocated Haj quota to member constituents of Combined Haj Group Organisers (CHGO) for Haj-2025.

Accordingly, M/S LABAIKA HAJ & UMRAH SERVICES, 2nd Floor, M.S. Shopping Mall, Srinagar, (Member constituent of M/s Sacred Trips LLP, MHCHGO) has been allotted quota of 100 pilgrims; while M/S ALHAYATHAJJ AND OMRAH TRAVEL

SERVICES, 1st Floor, Main Road, Budgam (Member constituent of M/S FOUR WAYS CHGO FORUM); M/S UNIVERSE TRAVEL CORPORATION 217, Dr. Ali Jan Complex, M.A. road, Srinagar (Member constituent of M/S FOUR WAYS CHGO FORUM); M/S AL GHAZALI TOUR & TRAVELS, Gawadal, Srinagar (Member constituent of M/S RAHMAT-E-HARAM CHGO); M/S ALHUDA TRAVELS, Maharaja Heights, Airport Road, Srinagar (Member constituent of M/S AZone Haj Services Private Limited MHCHGO); M/S ALSAFEER TOUR AND TRAVELS, 19-Thoker Market, Anantnag (

Member constituent of M/S FOUR WAYS CHGO FORUM); M/S FLY HIGH TOUR AND TRAVELS, 1- Anantnag (Member constituent of M/S AFSHEEN HAJ GROUP INDIA,PCHGO); M/S AL ANSAR TOURS AND TRAVELS,1-AchabalAdda, Anantnag (Member of constituent M/S JUNOOB HAJ SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED,DLCHGO); M/S AL HARAMAIN HAJJ AND UMRAH SERVICES, 3-Gole Market, Srinagar (Member constituent of M/S JUNOOB HAJ SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED, DLCHGO) and M/S JAVID IQBAL, AL-HARAM TOUR HAJJ & UMMRAH SERVICES Shop No. 5, Haj

House Complex near Railway Masjid

(Member constituent of M/S AFSHEEN HAJ GROUP INDIA, UPCHGO) have been allotted quota for 50 pilgrims each.

The pilgrims intending to perform Haj through Haj Group Organisers have been advised to register for Haj through Haj Group Organisers who have been allotted quota by MoMA and finalize terms and conditions with HGO.

It has also informed that as per latest advisory issued by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia no person will be allowed to perform Haj on Umrah or Tourist Visa.

DC Kulgam approves calendar of activities for 2025

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The 5th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DLCDC) meeting of Kulgam was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Athar Aamir Khan to devise the calendar of activities for the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 (IYC-2025).

After detailed discussions, a comprehensive calendar of activities was approved by the DC for organization of awareness programs, financial literacy, training camps, debates and seminars, quiz competitions, sports activities and health camps in collaboration with the Agriculture and allied departments.

Also, the committee reviewed the implementation of decisions taken at the last four Joint Working Committee meetings.

Meanwhile, DC directed the Deputy Registrar, Cooperatives (DRCS), and



other committee members to expedite execution of approved list of activities for the current year.

DC directed the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies (DRCS) to increase the number of Cooperative registrations by facilitating the formation of new Multi-Purpose Agricultural Cooperative Societies (M-PACS), as well the Diary and Fisheries Cooperative Societies.

He also instructed them to identify potential pan-

chayats for mobilizing cooperative membership through awareness camps in collaboration with allied departments like CAPD Education & Health besides formulation of a proper media plan for effective publicity and awareness among the masses.

Earlier, Deputy Registrar, Cooperatives, Javid Ahmad Bagwan provided an overview of the cooperative sectors performance in the district through a power point presentation.

The presentation highlighted the annual business, turn over of Women Consumer Stores, Marketing Societies and other Cooperative Societies operation in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Altaf Ahmad Khan, CPO Zahid Sajad, ACP Nazia Hassan, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, Dy. Registrar Cooperative, AD Handicraft/ Handloom, LDM, DDM NABARD, AR Cooperative, staff of cooperative department and others.



HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG
COLLEGE CAMPUS, DIALGAM ANANTNAG J&K-192210
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Subject: Engagement of candidate for the post of Nursing & Paramedical Staff/Technical Assistant/Technician on academic arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020, dated: 27.11.2020 in GMC Anantnag.

References: 1. Advertisement Notice No. 05 GMCA of 2024, dated: 15.07.2024. 2. Order No: 63 GMCA of 2025, dated: 22.01.2025

ORDER NO 90 GMCA of 2025
DATED: 05/02/2025

Pursuant to the selection list issued vide Notification No. GMCA/Estt./2025/595-99, dated: 22-01-2025 the below mentioned candidate who has submitted his Personal Verification Rolls (PVR) through online mode to the Criminal Investigation Department qrs. is hereby engaged as Nursing & Paramedical Staff/Technical Assistant/Technician on Academic Arrangement Basis under S.O -364 of 2020, dated: 27.1.2020 in Govt. Medical College Anantnag for a period of one (01) year, extendable upto 06 years (on yearly basis subject to the satisfactory performance) or till such posts are filled up by the competent authority on regular basis, whichever is earlier.

S. No.	Name of the candidate	Father Name	Address	Category
1.	Ashaq Hussain Laway	Mohammad Abdullah Laway	Ahmadabad D.H Pora Kulgam	OM

The above-mentioned selected candidate is directed to join GMC Anantnag at main campus Dialgam within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this engagement order and shall be allowed to join on production of following documents/testimonials in original for verification.

- Essential Qualification Certificate(s).
- Marks Certificate's of essential qualification.
- D.O.B. Certificate.
- 10th/ 12th Marks sheet.
- Registration Certificate.
- Domicile certificate.
- Category certificate (if any).
- Health Certificate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- In case the selected candidate fails to join within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this engagement order, it will be presumed that the said candidate is not interested and his engagement shall be cancelled ab-initio.
- If the candidate is found guilty of impersonation or submitting fabricated or tempered documents/ testimonials or making statement which are incorrect/false or suppressing material information shall render such person liable for legal action under law and his candidature shall be cancelled. In case such a defaulter is traced after selection, his contract shall be terminated.
- The candidate shall have to submit an affidavit duly attested by the Judicial/ 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that: -
 - That in case any adverse report about Qualification, Date of Birth, Marks Certificates, Reserved Category certificate, Domicile Certificate etc, if any, is received from the concerned authority, I shall have no right to claim my engagement as such & shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio. I will not also claim for any dues from GMC Anantnag as well in that case.
 - I shi'll not claim for any regular appointment in the department.
 - I will not participate in any kind of strike during my tenure.
 - I shall remain disciplined during my tenure of service in the institute.
 - I am not involved in any criminal/subjudice activity nor there is any FIR pending/registered in the Police Department against me.
 - I have fully understood the terms, conditions and nature of my engagement in GMC Anantnag on academic arrangement basis and will not claim for any regularization after completion of the term or at any point of time.
- The engagement is purely on temporary basis for a period of one year on academic arrangement basis or till posts are filled on regular basis, whichever is earlier. However, the services of the engaged person shall be terminated in case his/her performance is not satisfactory/ upto the mark.
- The contractual engagement shall not confer any right on the appointee to claim extension or for regular appointment at any point of time.
- The above engagement shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition, if any, pending before the Hon'ble court of law.
- The salary of the engaged candidate shall be kept withheld and shall be drawn/disbursed only after the receipt of verification report of documents testimonials from the concerned quarter and till the recipient of CID verification from the concerned issuing authorities.

Note: The engagement is strictly provisional till the recipient of verification of documents/testimonials, CID Verification.

No. GMCA/ Estt. / 2025/863-68
Dated: 05/02 /2025

DIPK-11626-24
DT: 06/02/2025

Principal/Dean,
Govt. Medical College, Anantnag

●●●●● CMYK ●●●●●

Javed Dar emphasises niche crop cultivation, farmer empowerment



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, held a comprehensive review meeting regarding functioning of the Agriculture department at the Directorate Office, here.

The Minister assessed the progress on agriculture initiatives across all districts of Jammu, emphasising the need for innovation, farmer support and sustainable growth in the sector.

Chairing the meeting, the Minister highlighted the immense potential of niche crop cultivation, particularly those with aromatic and medicinal value. He called for greater collaboration between the Forest and Ayush departments to explore new opportunities for farmers.

The Minister asserted on highlighting progressive farming practices for encouragement of other farmers. “We need to showcase our success stories whether in high-tech farming or progressive techniques so that more farmers feel encouraged to adopt modern practices,” the Minister asserted.

He asked the officials to conduct regular field visits, engage directly with farmers and guide them towards sustainable agricultural methods. He also stressed the importance of raising awareness about government schemes, ensuring they reach every farmers at their doorstep.

Javed Dar emphasized speedy distribution of farm machinery, bore wells and poly housing facilities to enhance productivity.

“Despite staff shortages, I see the agriculture

department doing commendable work,” he said, encouraging the officers and field functionaries to play a proactive role in empowering the farmers at the grassroots level.

The Minister also reviewed strengthening irrigation infrastructure, timely distribution of quality seedlings and planting materials besides increasing farmer accessibility to resources that boost yield under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Javed Dar appreciated the outstanding work done in Kathua, particularly in mushroom cultivation, vermicomposting and establishment of a millet restaurant, which has empowered women farmers under HADP.

“I want this Kathua model to be replicated across other districts. Farm-

ers must be encouraged to adopt high-tech farming, exotic vegetables, organic methods, and other high-yield practices to transform agriculture for better economic prospects,” the Minister emphasized.

The Minister stressed that agriculture is key to economic sustainability and called for a collective effort to make the sector more profitable and resilient.

Earlier, Director Agriculture Jammu, A. S. Reen, provided a detailed presentation on the department’s achievements and challenges. He highlighted efforts in irrigation development, organic farming, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and exotic vegetable production.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Extension Satish Sharma, Chief Agriculture Officers, and other senior officials.

Rana inaugurates seminar on eminent Gujar leader, freedom fighter ‘Faiz Hussain Inqalab’

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forests, Tribal Affairs, Javed Rana, Thursday inaugurated a day long seminar on eminent Gujar leader and freedom fighter ‘Late Faiz Hussain Inqalab’ at K L Saigal Hall here.

The program was organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) and conducted in Gojri language.

Prominent writers and scholars from across Jammu & Kashmir participated in the event.

Secretary JKAACL, Harvinder Kour; Chief Editor JKAACL, Dr. Javaid Rahi; Former MLC, Rahim Dad; noted writer Rashid Azam Inqalabi and Choudhary Mohammad Rashid, former Registrar of BGSB University Rajouri were present in the presidium of inaugural session.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Rana stressed on the importance of language in preserving the identity of a community and lauded the efforts of Lt. Faiz Hussain Inqalab in promoting Gojri language and tribal culture.

He highlighted Inqalab’s crucial role in reforming the people of the twin border districts. He stated that his contributions to national integration and uniting different identities of the border regions in testing times against external threats will be remembered for all times to come.

The Minister appreciated JKAACL for holding this purposeful event in this capital city and stressed that more such events should be organised to connect people with their roots.

Harvinder Kour, in her address, underlined the importance of Gojri as a significant language of J&K and reaffirmed JKAACL’s commitment to the preservation, propagation and documentation of



the language. She urged the younger generation to remember and connect with the legacy of heroes like Lt. Inqalab.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, while speaking on the occasion, stated that the main objective of the seminar was to highlight the contributions of the legendary tribal leader. He mentioned that JKAACL has already published a well-researched book on Lt. Inqalab’s life and work and announced plans for another publication following the conclusion of the seminar.

Noted writer Ch. Rashid AzamInqalabi paid homage to Lt. Inqalab, stating that the best way to honor his legacy is to work towards upliftment of the poor, downtrodden and people living in far-flung areas.

Several scholars and researchers presented papers on Lt. Faiz Hussain Inqalab, including Dr. Ishtyaq Ahmed Masba, Dr. M.K. Waqar, Engineer Liaqat, Prof. Mohd Rashid, Dr. Liaqat Nair Professor BGSB University and Hussan Perwaz renowned broadcaster.

The seminar also featured musical tributes to the late leader, with performances by Ayaz Ahmed Saif, Anisa Kareem, Barkit Hussain, and Qammar Shabbah, accompanied by Rakesh Anand on flute, Sayall Jasrotiya on tabla and Rakesh Kumar on octopad.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mehmooh Raiz while Shoukat Naseem of Gojri section conducted the proceedings.

J&K PCC expands water, air pollution monitoring network

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) Kashmir has considerably prioritised one of its basic mandates of environmental monitoring and pollution control in the past one year.

All the laboratories in Kashmir Division have been equipped with new machinery and environmental monitoring has been expanded and streamlined covering different aspects like water, air, microbiology and vehicular pollution.

J&K Pollution Control Committee has been monitoring the performance of all 10 Common Sewage Treatment Plants (CSTPs) operational in Kashmir Division having a combined capacity of 68.0 MLD (million litres per day), with the particulars of designed capacity, utilisation and quality of influent and effluent. Besides, the

performance of all individual industrial STPs and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) like those installed in hotels, hospitals and other water polluting industrial units are under constant observation.

Besides, important water bodies like Dal Lake, River Jhelum, Lidder, Sindh and wetlands are being constantly monitored for their water quality viz a viz parameters like DO, BOD, COD, Phosphates and pH.

In this regard, the capacity of JKPCC water laboratory located in Rajbagh Srinagar has been enhanced in terms of new monitoring and analysis equipment. During the current financial year (April 2024 to January 2025) total 1394 water samples were collected and analysed for various physico-chemical parameters.

To study parameters like total coliform and faecal coliform in these

water bodies, JKPCC has streamlined and improved the capability of its microbiology laboratory by installing latest equipment and increasing the manpower. During the present financial year, total 865 samples were collected and analysed.

JKPCC also regularly monitors the air pollution levels at its stations spread across Kashmir division with parameters being studied including PM 2.5, PM 10, NOx and SOx.

At present, 23 air quality monitoring stations are operational in Kashmir division while installation of 14 more stations in different districts of Kashmir valley is in the pipeline. A state-of-the-art Continuous Online Air Monitoring Station (COAMS) is already functioning in the Rajbagh campus of JKPCC which monitors and displays the air pollution levels in real time. During the present financial year, total 5303

air quality monitoring samples were analysed.

The Vehicular Emission Monitoring Laboratory has also been geared up to keep a check on the functioning of the Pollution Testing Centres and also to randomly cross-check the emission from individual vehicles. Total 1638 vehicles have been checked for emissions and PUC certificate besides 90 inspections have been conducted during the current financial year.

A number of recent reports submitted by JKPCC Kashmir in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in different matters regarding Dal Lake, wetlands and tourist resorts have resulted in significant directions from the apex environmental court of the country. The reports were submitted after carrying out detailed surveys and analysis of water samples from the water bodies, wetlands and Sewage Treatment Plants.

Advisor Nasir Aslam engages with public at Raabita Office Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani Thursday held an extensive interaction with delegations and individuals here at Raabita Office.

People from Srinagar, Budgam, Sopore, and other parts of Kashmir valley came forward to discuss key developmental and civic issues affecting their areas.

A wide range of concerns, including road infrastructure, power supply, water availability, health services, education, and employment opportunities, were raised during these interactions.

Advisor Wani, while patiently listening to the concerns, assured the delegations

that their issues will be taken up with the relevant authorities for swift resolution.

He reiterated the government’s unwavering commitment to public welfare and its proactive approach to addressing citizens’ concerns.

“The government is fully committed to bridging the gap between administration and the people. We are here to listen, act, and ensure that public concerns are addressed in a time-bound manner,” he stated.

He further emphasized that public engagement is the cornerstone of the government’s development agenda, and such interactions will continue to ensure that governance remains people-centric and transparent.

IAS probationers enthralled by treasure display at Handicrafts Dept’s School of Designs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR – A delegation of IAS Officer Trainees of 2024 batch was enthralled by the rare collection of exquisite handmade products at display in the School of Designs of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, in the summer capital.

During the visit, the probationers were taken over by the guided tour given by Chief Designer, Amina Assad, who highlighted the product diversification in traditional crafts which could be customised to

today’s requirements and taste.

The School of Designs in Kashmir Haat offers a rare combination of Live Craft display along with a unique collection of handicrafts and handloom products which rivet the visitors every time a visit is made.

At the conclusion, the Trainee IAS officers expressed great delight over the intricate craftsmanship displayed in the Craft Museum. They also appreciated the hard work that goes into making such artefacts, indicating years of perseverance, patience and skill.

CS reviews admin efforts towards safeguarding Badhal residents

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday again chaired a meeting of all the concerned from Health and Police Departments along with the representatives of nationally reputed institutions to take assessment of the efforts made to safeguard the lives there besides identifying the causes behind these deaths.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, Home and Secretary, H&ME was attended by ADGP, CID; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; IGP, Jammu; IGP, CID; DC, Rajouri; SSP, Rajouri; Principal, GMC Jammu and other local health experts.

It was also joined by Director, AIIMS; Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh; DG, ICMR; Director, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow; Director, CFSL; Experts from National Institute of Virology (NIV), DRD, Gawaliar and experts from other reputed laboratories carrying out investigation of the samples sent by the Health Department.

Dulloo took this occasion to impress upon the concerned not to lower their guard and take samples of fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides used locally to identify the root cause of these deaths. He



also asked for augmentation of facilities in the local hospitals so that these are well equipped to deal with any such eventuality in future.

He directed for carrying out audit of the health facilities to examine the need of adding more ICU beds, oxygen plants, isolation wards in addition to availability of specific drugs and specialists there.

The Chief Secretary also urged the AIIMS, New Delhi to extend their support in enhancing the capacity of the local medics here for dealing with such situations. He also suggested for sending some doctors there for specialized training and also sending

some experts from there to build capacity of many more here in the hospitals of the UT.

He also talked to the Health experts from different national institutions and sought their suggestions for adopting the future course of action. He simultaneously directed the Law Enforcement Agencies to conclude their investigations in light of the test reports received from these institutions and the ones which are yet to come.

The Secretary H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah informed the meeting that every measure has been taken to isolate the families and provide them food

and water after testing the same. He further informed about the drugs and medical teams that had been made available locally at PHC Kandri and GMC Rajouri.

The Secretary also gave out that out of the 55 symptomatic persons 38 were discharged after recovery and 17 deaths had been registered so far. He revealed that there are currently no admissions in any of the hospitals and patients had even been examined by teams of doctors from PGIMER, Chandigarh and AIIMS, New Delhi here.

It was further given out that the health teams are stationed there to keep

surveillance for any of the symptoms appearing in any person with whole population of the village screened by healthcare providers.

The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu informed the meeting that it is ensured that no food or eatables are exchanged as the families had been removed from their homes and kept under continuous surveillance.

He informed the meeting that at present 363 souls from 60 different families had been quarantined with 592 animals being tended by the officials from Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments to safeguard their lives.

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER PULWAMA

Ph. No. 01933-241215 Fax-phone: 01933241215 Mail ID: dshopulwama@gmail.com

Technical section

NOTICE

This office is going to conduct sale/auction of 04 (four) Govt Rams on 13-02-2025 at 11:30 am at District Sheep Husbandry Office Pulwama. The auction /sale shall be carried out under the supervision of a designated committee. The terms and conditions of sale/ auction shall be provided to the bidders by the said designated committee at the time of auction.

Accordingly, the general public is informed through the medium of this notice to participate in the said process.

Note:-

01. The part) which shall be accepted as highest bidder shall have to remit the whole amount on spot.

No: DSHOP/Tech/2024-25/5500 DIPK-11639-24 District Sheep Husbandry Officer

Dated: 06/02/2025 DT: 06/02/2025 Pulwama



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Email: diraam-jk@jk.gov.in
Ph. 0191-2578834 (J) /0194-2311185 (S)

DIRECTORATE OF ARCHIVES, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS, J&K

Subject: Installation of Sign Boards and Information Boards at Sites-reg

Circular No; 103 (DAMA) of 2025 Dated; 01/02/2025

It has been observed that at project sites, essential information boards and signboards are either missing or not installed as per prescribed standards.

To ensure transparency, public awareness, and compliance with regulatory requirements, all Executing Agencies through medium of this circular are hereby directed to install appropriate information boards detailing History, Significance and importance of the Heritage site/Monument in Hindi, Urdu & English and signboards at sites as per the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) specifications which clearly displays the following:

Name of the project with title & E.Cost:

Year of Execution:

Name of the Department: Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K.

Contact details for complaints and inquiries:

Additionally, safety and directional signboards must be placed at appropriate locations to guide workers and the general public.

All the Nodal Officers in the Districts and Executive Engineers concerned are instructed to ensure compliance with this directive with immediate effect. Non-compliance may result in administrative action & immediate stop of further release of funds.

For any clarifications, please contact Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, Assistant Director, AAM, Jammu, Mobile No. 9419331476 for Jammu Division and Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Beigh, Assistant Director, AAM, Kashmir, Mobile No. 9419982772 for Kashmir Division.

No: DAMA/4209a-4212a/AD-22 DIPK-11647-24 Kuldeep Krishan Sidha (JKAS),

Dated: 01.02.2025 DT: 06/02/2025 Director.

Good Morning **Kashmir**
EDITORIAL

"The Digital Underworld:
Tackling The Surge In Online
Crime And Protecting Our Youth"

In an age where the internet and social media have become integral to our daily lives, a darker side of this digital revolution is emerging—one that is keeping parents awake at night. The rising crime rate, particularly through online platforms, has become a pressing concern, with gambling, casinos, and other dubious platforms luring young minds into a web of addiction and criminal activities. The allure of quick money and the thrill of online gambling have ensnared countless young individuals. What starts as a harmless bet can quickly spiral into a crippling addiction, leading to financial ruin and, in some cases, pushing them towards illegal activities to sustain their habit. The anonymity provided by the internet makes it easier for these platforms to operate with impunity, targeting vulnerable youth who are often unaware of the consequences. Social media, while a powerful tool for connection and communication, has also become a breeding ground for cybercrime. From phishing scams to identity theft, the digital landscape is rife with dangers that can have devastating effects on individuals and families. The lack of stringent regulations and the rapid evolution of technology make it challenging for authorities to keep up with these emerging threats. Parents, already grappling with the challenges of raising children in a digital age, now face the added burden of protecting their kids from these online dangers. The fear of their children falling prey to online predators, gambling addictions, or cyberbullying is a constant source of anxiety. It is a wake-up call for society to take collective action. Governments, tech companies, and communities must come together to address this issue. Stricter regulations on online gambling and casinos, coupled with robust cybersecurity measures, are essential to curb the rise in digital crime. Education and awareness campaigns can empower young people to navigate the online world safely and responsibly. As we embrace the benefits of the digital age, we must also confront its darker aspects. The future of our society depends on our ability to protect the next generation from the perils of the digital underworld. It is time to act before more young lives are lost to the shadows of the internet.



DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

Seven years ago, we ignited a movement with the launch of the Khelo India School Games (KISG) in 2018. Today, as I look at how far we've come, I am filled with immense pride—not just for the medals we've won, but for the way Khelo India has transformed the very fabric of sports in our nation. Conceptualized under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Khelo India was never just about winning medals—it was about igniting a nationwide movement for sports, fostering a culture where every child has the opportunity to play and develop holistically. Today, this movement has evolved into a multi-faceted national program spanning 16 editions of Khelo India Games, creating an ecosystem that nurtures young talent, builds world-class infrastructure, and promotes inclusivity in sports—laying the foundation for India's ambitious goal of becoming a dominant global sporting nation. The inaugural Khelo India School Games (KISG) set the tone for India's grassroots sports revolution. Recognizing the immense potential within school-level competitions, KISG created a structured pathway for young athletes to transition from inter-school competitions to national and international sporting events. Over the years, this initiative has identified and nurtured thousands of athletes, some of whom have gone on to represent India at the Olympics and Asian Games. The biggest example of the system has been Khel Ratna awardee Manu Bhaker, who transitioned from the School Games to the University Games to becoming a double bronze medalist at the Paris Olympics. With the expansion of KISG into the broader Khelo India Games framework, grassroots talent identification has become more robust. Schools remain the hotbeds of raw talent, and Khelo India has played a pivotal role in ensur-



ing that these young athletes receive world-class training, infrastructure, and exposure. Today, school and university-level champions from Khelo India are winning medals at the highest levels, a testament to the program's effectiveness. Since its inception, Khelo India has conducted 16 editions of its Games, including six Youth Games, four University Games, five Winter Games, and one Para Games. Each edition has introduced new dimensions to India's sporting landscape. The school games and the subsequent youth games have now become the flagship competition for young athletes and a crucial talent-spotting event for India's future Olympians. This expansion has ensured a seamless transition for athletes across different levels of competition, reinforcing India's sporting pipeline. Khelo India has evolved far beyond just an athlete identification program. It now encompasses multiple stakeholders, including corporates, state governments, private academies, and grassroots organizations. The role of the private sector has grown significantly, with corporations investing in sports development through sponsorships, infrastructure projects, and athlete mentorship programs. The "One Corporate, One Sport" initiative is being introduced to further enhance corporate engagement in sports by ensuring targeted support through partnerships with the Government, National Sports Federations (NSFs), and corporate entities. State governments have also taken

the initiative, proposing Khelo India Centres (KICs) based on regional sporting priorities, ensuring that sports development is aligned with local needs. In addition, plans are in place to establish Olympic Training Centres (OTCs) across different zones of the country. These world-class high-performance centres will provide elite athlete training, including for para-sports and indigenous sports, and will be equipped with state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, sports science, and sports medicine facilities. Furthermore, State Centres of Excellence (SCOE) will be established to provide high-quality training programs, supporting athletes in priority sports. Inclusivity has been a cornerstone of Khelo India, and initiatives such as the 'Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action' (ASMITA) League have played a crucial role in empowering women in sports. Since its launch in 2021, ASMITA has organized over 880 competitions, impacting more than 100,000 women athletes, including Olympic medalists like Mirabai Chanu. Prime Minister Modi has always emphasized the importance of supporting athletes from rural India and smaller cities, who often need additional backing. Through Khelo India, we have ensured that financial constraints do not hold back talent. Women's football leagues under Khelo India have reached even remote areas like Monigong in Arunachal Pradesh, fostering sports participation in regions previously untouched by organized sporting activities.

For para-athletes, Khelo India Para Games have provided an inclusive platform, with multiple athletes now qualifying for global events like the Paralympics. Additionally, the initiative has actively promoted indigenous sports such as Yogasana, Mallakhamb, KalariPAYATTU, Thang-ta, and Gatka, ensuring their preservation and growth by integrating them into the Khelo India Youth & University Games. To further promote indigenous sports, efforts will be made to establish India-based International Federations for traditional sports like Kabaddi and Kho-Kho, with the aim of organizing world championships and working towards their inclusion in international multi-sport events. To further professionalize the coaching structure, we have ensured the integration of Past Champion Athletes (PCAs) as mentors at the 1000+ Khelo India Centres (KICs) all over India. Further, through free certification courses at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) Patiala, these former international/national athletes now contribute to India's coaching ecosystem, ensuring the next generation benefits from their experience and expertise. As India moves forward, the Khelo India movement is more than just a sports development program; it is a strategic initiative that aligns with the country's long-term goal of hosting the Olympic Games in 2036 and finishing among the top 10 sporting nations. Hosting international sports competitions will be a crucial aspect of this vision, with efforts being made to support National Sports Federations (NSFs) in bidding for international events and bringing major global sporting competitions to India. As we look towards 2036, the impact of Khelo India will be measured not just by medals won but by the millions of lives it has touched, the grassroots revolution it has fostered, and the culture of sports and fitness it has embedded in Indian society. With continued investment, collaboration, and innovation, India is well on its way to realizing its dream of becoming a global sporting powerhouse.

(The author is Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment-PIB)

Will The New Agriculture Scheme Make Farmers Prosperous?



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

India's economy relies heavily on agriculture, but it faces structural problems such as market inefficiencies, fragmented land holdings, and limited access to credit. Initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana and an increase in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan limit were included in the most recent budget to strengthen farmers' financial stability. The degree of progress made in addressing inefficiencies in agricultural markets will depend on their performance. To ensure food security, this initiative seeks to improve agricultural productivity and climate resilience through sustainable farming practices and improved farming practices. States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka have seen increased productivity thanks to precision farming methods such as drip irrigation and AI-driven soil analysis implemented under comparable programs. The loan limit has been increased from 3 lakh to 5 lakh, giving farmers more money to spend on fertilizers, seeds, and contemporary farm equipment. Higher loan limits have made it possible for small farmers in Punjab and Haryana to buy mechanized equipment, thereby increasing productivity and reducing dependence on manual labor. The budget targets 100 low-productivity districts and introduces region-specific measures to boost yield and profitability, including improved irrigation systems, high-yield seeds, and better storage infrastructure. By improving irrigation and soil management, a similar district-focused strategy in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat has resulted in a signifi-

cant increase in cotton yield. The National Mission on High-Yield Seeds aims to enhance seed quality and reduce crop failures caused by erratic weather patterns and soil degradation. In recent years, Uttar Pradesh has reduced yield losses during sharp temperature changes by introducing climate-resilient wheat varieties. The budget has given greater priority to financial assistance than direct subsidies, ensuring that farmers receive tailored support based on crop-specific and regional needs rather than general subsidies. Targeted support for paddy farmers through digital advisory services and soil health monitoring has resulted in improved crop yields and market prices in Telangana. A focus on improved irrigation and high-yielding seeds will increase production per acre, boost farmers' incomes, and enhance national food security. Under a comparable program, Madhya Pradesh adopted hybrid maize varieties, leading to increased production over three years. By enabling small and marginal farmers to access larger loan amounts, the increased KCC loan limit has reduced their dependence on unlicensed moneylenders who charge exorbitant interest rates. By encouraging farmers to use water-efficient and climate-smart farming techniques, the Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana reduces risks associated with erratic monsoons and climate change. Despite a decline in rainfall, farmers in Rajasthan have been able to maintain production by promoting drought-resistant millet varieties. Better infrastructure and easy access to credit allow farmers to invest in cutting-edge technology, which reduces post-harvest losses and boosts market prices. Emphasis on improving credit and implementing focused interventions in financially distressed districts will reduce financial hardship and reduce the number of farmer suicides due to debt burden. A debt restructuring program in Vidarbha, Maharashtra, helped farmers stabilize their



incomes, ultimately resulting in a reduction in cases of debt-related distress. Increased KCC loan limits have provided farmers with greater financial flexibility, reducing their dependence on informal moneylenders. For small and marginal farmers, who account for about 86% of India's agricultural population, official credit can be difficult to access. They can use this measure to finance investments in high-quality machinery and seeds. The Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana encourages climate-resilient farming and high-yield seeds, which are essential for maintaining food security in the face of climate change. Availability of drought-resistant and high-yield seeds can stabilize production in states like Punjab and Haryana, where unpredictable monsoons affect yields. Reducing unnecessary expenditure and promoting more effective resource allocation is the goal of focusing on targeted credit support rather than general subsidies. Unlike excessive fertilizer subsidies, which distort input markets, direct cash transfers under PM-KISAN have enhanced farmers' income security. With more credit available, farmers can purchase irrigation systems, storage facilities, and modern equipment, which reduces post-harvest losses and increases production. By empowering marginal farmers,

increased financial support makes it possible for them to adopt sustainable farming practices and better technologies. The Millet Mission in Odisha, which helps small farmers grow millets, is an example of how targeted credit can increase production of crops resilient to climate change. Farmers lack a guaranteed pricing mechanism, leaving them vulnerable to market fluctuations, even as credit availability improves. In 2023, tomato farmers in Karnataka lost a lot of money despite producing a bumper crop because prices fell due to excess supply. Inefficient supply chains and marketing in agriculture, which lead to farmers getting low prices for their produce, cannot be fixed with credit support alone. Increasing credit limits without enhancing income diversification risks trapping farmers in a debt cycle, especially in areas vulnerable to climate shocks. Due to erratic monsoons, farmers in Vidarbha have difficulty repaying short-term loans for inputs, increasing their debt. Policies do not address India's low agricultural exports (2-3% of global agricultural trade), which restricts farmers' access to international markets and premium prices. Although India produces the most millets, farmers find it difficult to sell their produce abroad at competitive prices in the

absence of strong export regulations. Farmers can increase their production by taking more credit, but they still face post-harvest losses in the absence of processing and storage facilities. To improve farmers' price realization, the government should encourage contract farming and increase MSP coverage. Cooperative farming and guaranteed pricing can increase farmers' incomes, as shown by the success of AMUL's dairy model in Gujarat. Investing in cold storage, warehousing, and food processing facilities can stabilize prices and reduce post-harvest losses. The mango cold storage network in Maharashtra has helped growers increase the shelf life of produce and get higher prices in export markets. To reduce dependence on water-intensive crops, farmers should be encouraged to cultivate high-value, climate-friendly crops. Telangana's efforts to promote oilseed cultivation have helped farmers move from water-intensive paddy to more environmentally friendly options. Policies should aim to increase agricultural exports by enhancing market access and quality standards. Using digital land records, AI-powered precision farming, and real-time price discovery tools can help reduce inefficiencies in the agricultural value chain. The electronic National Agriculture Market, or e-NAM, has facilitated farmers' access to better prices by bringing them directly into contact with Indian buyers. Strengthening the agriculture sector requires a focus on financial inclusion, market access, and technology integration. While initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana and increased KCC limits may provide short-term relief, tackling structural market issues will require a more comprehensive strategy that includes sustainable agricultural practices and better infrastructure.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science

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Achieving Foundational Literacy And Numeracy Goals

MUKHTAR AHMAD QURESHI

Being a teacher is wielding one’s magic wand on a child. There is so much to say about Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, and it’s not only reading and counting; it’s the helping of the mind to understand, think, and apply knowledge to real-life situations.

FLN is the backbone of education, and its success depends on us the educators. Both the National Education Policy 2020 NIPUN Bharat Mission have a bold target to bring about a state of providing basic literacy and numeracy to every child of India up to Grade 3. But let’s be honest policies and programs alone are not enough. It will be us the ground teachers who make this vision a reality.

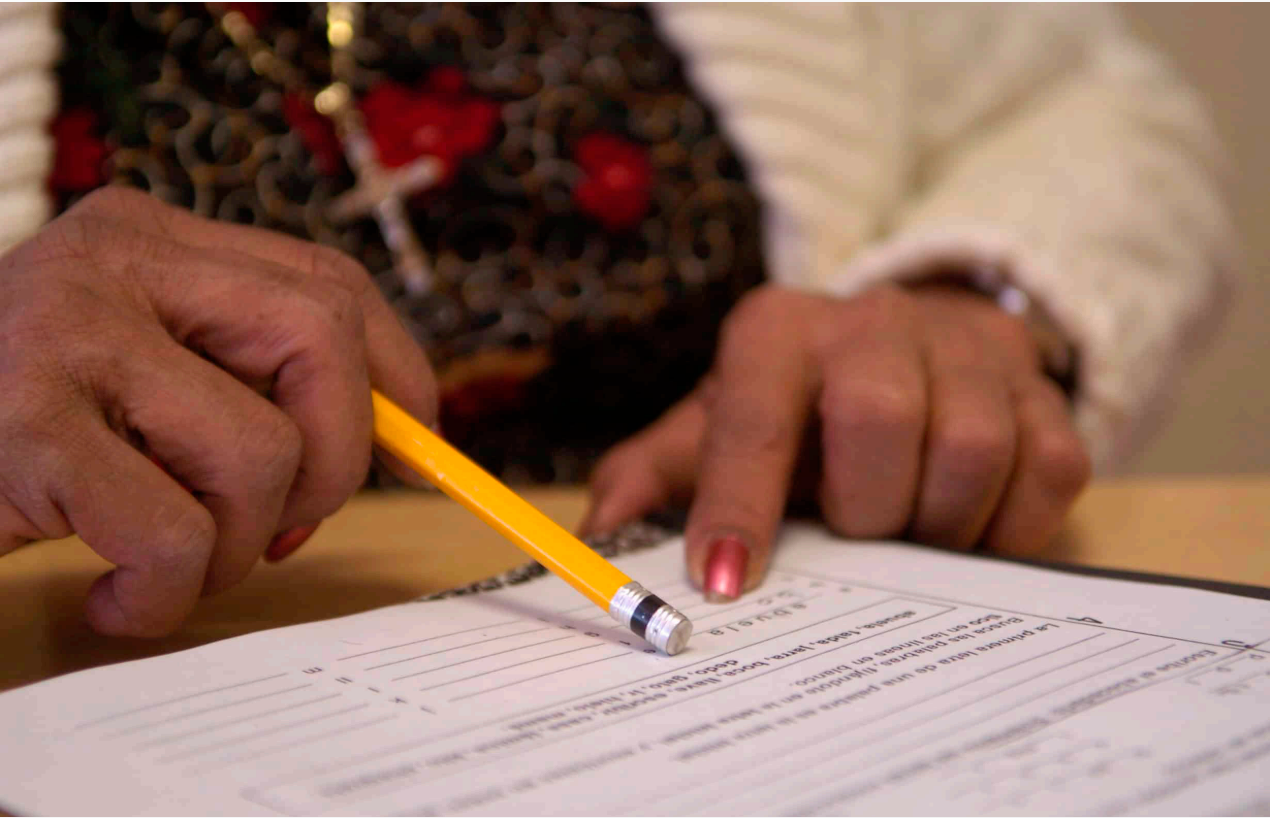
A chance to change lives by entering a classroom each and every time. The words from a child’s mouth is not necessarily a term in academics but about more confidence, curiosity, and lifelong learning in being able to read a simple sentence or to solve a simple math problem.

However, all of us are thus faced with crowded classrooms, a lack of resources, and varying levels of student learning. The question is how we, as teachers, can get over these obstacles and make FLN a success in our schools.

Creating a Print-Rich and Number-Friendly Environment:

Have you ever noticed how easily children pick up language at home without formal instruction? That is because, at home, they are continually exposed to conversation, signs, books, and digital media. We need to give them a similar print rich environment within the classroom setting. Posters, labels, storybooks, or even student prepared charts help these children absorb the language without seeming to do very much. Seeing and using words daily allows reading to simply happen for children.

But FLN is not just about reading numeracy is equally important. We need to make our classrooms number friendly by using everyday objects for counting, puzzles for problem solving,



and interactive activities for basic calculations. Instead of teaching 2 + 2 = 4, let us take real examples in life. “Suppose you had two apples. And I was giving you two more. How many would you have?” The greater we connect whatever they are learning into everyday life the better their understanding becomes.

The other strategy is storytelling for literacy and numeracy. Imagine you’re telling a story where a farmer has five cows, and one runs away. What happens next? The children get engaged, and before they know it, they are learning subtraction! When we make learning fun and relatable, children not only remember concepts but enjoy the process.

Personalized Teaching: Every Child is Different:

We have all seen it some children grasp concepts quickly, while others struggle. Maybe the biggest error we can commit is the naive assumption

that all children learn at the same rate. In order to fulfill the goals of the FLN, we need to leave the “one fits all” sit behind.

Let’s take a moment to reflect on our classrooms. Do we give struggling learners extra support? Do we celebrate small achievements? A child who finally learns to recognize letters or counts correctly deserves the same appreciation as a topper in an exam. Personalized attention goes a long way in boosting confidence.

One effective approach is the “I Do, We Do, You Do” method:

I Do: I introduce a concept, such as reading a sentence aloud.

We Do: We model it together by reading in a small group.

You Do: Child tries independently.

This slow release of responsibility ensures no child is left behind. Peer learning is also a potent mechanism. When more competent students assist less competent ones, both progress.

Do you observe that children learn faster when they explain something to a friend? Let’s utilize this natural ability for our advantage.

Another important feature is continuous assessment, not memorization. We should observe children daily, have oral quizzes, use flashcards, and playful activities to assess their learning. Traditional exams rarely measure what is learned. Let’s monitor progress through activities, storytelling, and hands-on learning experiences.

Building a Strong Teacher-Parent Partnership

You and I know that what happens in school is only part of the learning process. Parents play a crucial role in FLN. A child who is read to at home, engages in conversations, and practices basic math in daily activities has a much stronger foundation than one who learns only in school. But here’s the challenge not all parents understand how they can help.

How often do we engage parents in their child’s learning journey? Do we facilitate them on easy, daily activities that can help improve FLN at home? Most parents believe they require expensive books or tuition classes, but the fact is that every home is a learning environment. We can inspire parents to:

Read stories to their children, even if it’s in their mother tongue.

Ask questions in the course of everyday activities: “How many spoons do we need for dinner?”

Play simple arithmetic games with objects present at home.

One of the practical ways is holding parent workshops where we demonstrate simple strategies for literacy and numeracy development. If parents feel included, they will reinforce what was learned at home. A child who learns at home keeps the information better than he one who only learns in school.

Regular communication with parents is the key. Instead of waiting for report cards, we can send small feedback notes: “Your child learned three new words today!” or “She counted up to 20 without mistakes!” Such updates not only keep parents engaged but also motivate children to perform better.

The Future is in Our Hands:

As teachers, we are more than educators we are nation-builders. The success of FLN depends on our passion, dedication, and innovative approaches. No policy can work unless we, the teachers, make it a reality in our classrooms. Let’s commit ourselves to creating engaging, inclusive, and personalized learning experiences. Let’s collaborate with parents, use interactive teaching methods, and ensure that no child is left behind.

Imagine a future where every child in our classroom can read with confidence and solve basic math with ease. That future starts with us. We can, and we must, to make FLN a success story one child, one lesson, one step at a time. Are you let down to be part of this revolution? Well, let’s roll it out for our students, for our schools, and for education itself.

(The author is a Teacher and a columnist)

Kumbh Mela: A Celebration Of Faith, Fraternity, And Sustainability

DR. VIKRAM BANSAL

The Kumbh Mela, a colossal gathering of faith and humanity, transcends the boundaries of religion and culture to become a global phenomenon. The Maha Kumbh Mela-2025 is an extraordinary event anticipated to draw an immense congregation of 40-45 crore pilgrims to the Triveni Sangam, where they will partake in sacred dips, seeking salvation and spiritual renewal.

According to ancient Hindu mythology, Lord Vishnu, carrying a pot (Kumbh) containing the divine nectar of immortality (Amrit), became embroiled in a fierce battle with demons. During the ensuing chaos, four precious drops of Amrit spilt from the Kumbh and fell to earth, landing at four sacred sites: Prayag, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. These holy sites, revered as Tirthas, are believed to be gateways to salvation for the devout. Taking a dip in the sacred rivers at these locations during the Kumbh Mela is believed to cleanse sins and bring spiritual liberation.

However, the Kumbh Mela is not just a religious congregation. It is a rich tapestry of diverse faiths, cultures, and traditions. Sadhus, or holy men from different orders, all dressed in vibrant robes and covered with ash on their bodies, mingle with the pilgrims. The whole atmosphere is shared humanity, in which social differences disappear, and a sense of universal brotherhood prevails.

Testament to Sustainable Living

Amid this unprecedentedly gigantic extravaganza of this holy Mela, it is worth noting that the Kumbh Mela is increasingly turning towards more sustainable initiatives.

The sheer scale of the Kumbh Mela presents a significant environmental challenge. However, there’s a growing emphasis on minimizing the ecological footprint. Using biodegradable materials, such as eco-friendly utensils and bags, is actively encouraged. Waste collection systems are in place throughout the Mela grounds, with dedicated teams working day and night to segregate and dispose of waste responsibly. Raising awareness among pilgrims about the importance of waste segregation and responsible disposal has become integral to environmental stewardship at the Kumbh Mela.

Considering the fact that Kumbh Mela relies on sacred rivers, water conservation is of key importance.



Sanctity preservation over these rivers is being taken by various initiatives as well. To reduce water wasting, campaigns toward the use of reusable water bottles, and an awareness campaign teaching pilgrims that water should also be consumed judiciously along with other food items are put into action. Innovative water-treatment technologies will be implemented soon to ensure hygiene and purity levels in the rivers.

Conceding that the traditional source of energy generates a lot of environmental damage, the Kumbh Mela is gradually becoming a renewable source of energy. Solar power happens to be at the forefront, where solar panels are installed at the various locations around the Mela grounds to cater to lighting and charging stations, amongst other essential infrastructures. Additionally, exploration into different sources of renewable energy, including wind power, is ongoing in an attempt to diminish dependence on fossil fuels further and minimize the carbon footprint due to this enormous assembly.

The Kumbh Mela has a significant economic effect on the host city and its surroundings. It makes massive revenue through tourism, trade, and employment. Millions of pilgrims arrive for the Mela, and that favours the local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and transportation services.

The Mela also creates employment opportunities for a substantial number of people, including those selling items, providing services, and local artisans. Moreover, the cultural exchange and economic activity developed by the Mela contribute to the comprehensive development of the region.

Cultural and Spiritual Significance

Apart from the rituals, the Kumbh Mela is not just a religious festival. It is a lively cultural potpourri, offering unique opportunities for cultural exchange, socialization, and spiritual discussion.

The Mela is a grand exhibition of India’s vibrant cultural heritage. Traditional folk arts, music, and dance from across the country are tastefully showcased, engaging pilgrims and unveiling the rich fabric of Indian culture. From the devotional music of Qawwali to the energetic Bhangra beat, the atmosphere is charged with the beat of celebration and devotion.

The sheer size of the Kumbh Mela generates an enduring sense of community and social bonding. Pilgrims from all walks of life, from all ages, irrespective of caste, creed, or social standing, converge at the Mela, generating an unparalleled atmosphere of oneness and brotherhood. Pilgrims exchange thoughts, share experiences, and form new relationships, moving beyond social divisions and gaining

an enhanced sense of human understanding.

The Mela is a haven for spiritual seekers and those who desire to discover higher states of consciousness. Sadhus from various orders engage in spiritual discourses, discuss philosophies, and share their wisdom with seekers. These experiences offer profound insights into various spiritual traditions and the potential for individual and spiritual development. The Mela is the forum for spiritual discourse, philosophical discussions, and encounters with enlightened masters.

Multi-faceted Challenges of the Maha Kumbh Mela

Despite its profound spiritual and cultural significance, organizing the Maha Kumbh Mela presents a formidable set of challenges:

Managing the Unprecedented Scale: The sheer magnitude of the event, with an estimated 40-45 crore pilgrims expected to converge, poses a significant logistical and operational hurdle.

Crowd Control and Safety: Ensuring the safety and well-being of such a massive crowd requires meticulous crowd control measures to prevent stampedes, overcrowding, and other safety hazards.

Environmental Sustainability: Minimizing the environmental impact is crucial, including managing waste generation, conserving water resources,

es, and mitigating the impact on the fragile river ecosystem.

Infrastructure Development: Providing adequate infrastructure, including sanitation facilities, medical services, drinking water, and transportation, for such a vast and diverse population is a complex undertaking.

Maintaining Law and Order: Ensuring the safety and security of pilgrims from various threats, such as theft, crime, and potential health risks, requires a robust security and law enforcement presence.

Balancing Tradition and Modernity: Reconciling the ancient traditions of the Mela with the demands of modern-day logistics, crowd management, and environmental concerns requires careful planning and a nuanced approach.

The Kumbh Mela is a testament to the enduring power of faith, a profound celebration of human connection, and a poignant reminder of the universal search for meaning and spiritual satisfaction. This glorious congregational festival transcends denominations, and the ambience is one of a kind in its spirit of communalism, cultural exchange, and shared humanity. Pilgrims from every walk of life converge to create a rich tapestry of faith, culture, and tradition.

Organizing an event of such scale, however, presents daunting challenges. Coordinating the unprecedented entry of millions of pilgrims requires careful planning and management. Crowd management, safety and security, and avoiding over-congestion are some of the major concerns. Maintaining law and order in such a vast gathering requires a robust security machinery and effective coordination between agencies.

The environmental cost of such a significant event, too, cannot be ignored. Reducing waste, conserving water sources, and minimizing the burden on the sensitive river ecosystem is necessary to ensure the sustainability of this ancient tradition.

Despite all these challenges, the Kumbh Mela has much to impart to us in terms of sustainable living, interfaith tolerance, and the enduring strength of the human spirit. By embracing innovative solutions, prioritizing environmental sustainability, and encouraging a spirit of cooperation between all concerned agencies, the Kumbh Mela can inspire and nourish millions in generations to come.

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Trucker Shot Dead

investigation.
Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said he has taken up this issue alongside Billawar incident with the Union Government and insisted that both incidents be inquired into in a time-bound, transparent manner.

"I have seen the reports of excessive use of force and harassment of Makhhan Din in police custody in Billawar leading to his suicide and the death of Waseem Ahmed Malla, shot by the army under circumstances that are not entirely clear. Both these incidents are highly unfortunate and should not have happened," Abdullah said in a post on 'X', adding, "J&K will never be completely normalised and free of terror without the cooperation and partnership of the local population. "Incidents like these risk alienating the very people we need to carry with us on the road to complete normalcy," he said, adding, "I have taken up these incidents with the Union Government and insisted that both be inquired into in a time-bound, transparent manner. The Government in J&K will also order its own inquiries."

People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti termed chasing a truck for 23 kilometres very strange and questioned how the fire hit the driver if the army fired upon the tires of the truck. "Shocking that after a civilian killing in Kathua dubbed as an 'OGW', another civilian from Sopore was shot dead by the army. How strange that after chasing the truck for over 23 km, they claim to have fired at the tires but somehow misfired at him instead. Are Kashmiri lives so cheap? How long will you justify this unbridled impunity by pointing everyone with the needle of suspicion?" Mufti wrote on 'X'.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said they received information that an Army party had established a Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) to intercept potential threats. "A suspicious civil truck was spotted moving at high speed. Despite repeated warnings, the vehicle did not stop and instead accelerated past the check post. Troops pursued the truck for over 23 km, and, as per protocol, fired at the tires to deflate them, forcing the vehicle to halt at Sangrama Chowk," he said.

He said a detailed search was conducted, and the injured driver was immediately evacuated to GMC Baramulla, where he was declared dead. "An FIR has been registered in PS Baramulla. The truck has been moved to the nearest police station for a thorough search. Post-mortem proceedings have been initiated to ascertain the cause of death," the spokesperson said.

Police urged the public to maintain peace and refrain from spreading rumours or misinformation regarding this incident. "A thorough investigation is underway, and all updates will be communicated through official channels. Any attempt to disrupt public order or spread false information will be dealt with strictly," police said.

Meanwhile, the army in a statement issued on Thursday said that on 05 Feb 2025, based on very specific intelligence input about the movement of terrorists, a Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) was established by security forces. "One speeding suspicious civil truck was spotted. When challenged, the truck didn't stop despite repeated warnings and instead accelerated further while crossing the check post. Alert troops pursued the vehicle for over 23 km. Shots were fired aiming at the tyres to deflate them, which forced the vehicle to halt at Sangrama Chowk," the statement reads.

"Consequent to the detailed search, the injured driver was immediately evacuated to GMC Baramulla by security forces, where he was declared dead," it reads further.

The fully loaded truck has been sent to the nearest police station, the army said. Detailed search of the truck in police custody is underway, and an investigation into the antecedents of the suspect is in progress, it added—(KNO)

Youth Accused

Makhan, a 26-year-old resident of Batodi village, has prompted the police and administration to order separate probes into the incident.

A purported video has gone viral in which Makhan claims to be innocent and states that he has never had any connection with terrorists.

Makhan died on Wednesday night allegedly after consuming poison in the Billawar area of the district.

Family members alleged that both Makhan and his father were picked up by local police and tortured to extract information about militants, which they believe forced him to take his own life.

Taking serious note of the incident, the district magistrate of Kathua has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the death of Makhan, son of Murid.

"A magisterial probe is required in this case to ascertain the cause of death," the DM said in an order.

According to the order issued on Thursday, Anil Kumar, Tehsildar Lohai Malhar, has been appointed as the inquiry magistrate to investigate the case. He has been directed to submit a detailed report within five days.

The inquiry will involve recording statements of all relevant individuals and following all necessary legal procedures, the order said.

Police have also ordered a time bound probe into the matter, led by the deputy inspector general (DIG), officials said.

Meanwhile, Bani MLA Rameshwar

Singh came in support of the deceased's family and demanded justice for him.

"The body will not be removed from here until justice is served to the family. I stand by them. I cannot bring him back to life, but I will fight until we get justice," Singh told reporters.

LG Sinha Asks

not treat them as guests but as family members. This allows students to understand local culture and lifestyle while host families also get an opportunity to experience Bharat's cultural diversity.

"The main basis of the unity amidst diversity is our emotional bond and all the students must have felt it among the families during their stay in Jammu. I hope the ideals and values of unity that the youth have learnt during their visit will always guide them throughout their life," he said.

The LG also spoke on the development journey of North-East States under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He paid tributes to the prominent personalities from North-East states and recalled their contribution to nation building.

He urged the people to visit the North-East region in large numbers and experience their natural beauty and warm hospitality. He further asked the visiting youth to be the ambassadors of the new Jammu Kashmir.

On the occasion, the students from the North-East states also shared their experience of SEIL programme. The host families where the young delegates stayed during the tour were also felicitated by the LG.

This year, under the SEIL initiative, 30 students from Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim visited Jammu and each student got the opportunity to live as a member of a local family. During their stay in Jammu, the delegates also experienced various interactive sessions, cultural programs and educational visits to understand the rich heritage and traditions of the region.

Yudhvir Sethi and Dr Narinder Singh Raina - Members of Legislative Assembly; Dr Nagesh Thakur, Special Invitee & Member, National Executive Council, ABVP; Dr Ajay Sharma, President, ABVP J&K; Sanak Shrivats, Secretary, ABVP J&K, and other members of ABVP and youth in large number were present.

RDD Employee

the complaint did not want to pay and after negotiations the matter was settled at Rs 3000 to be paid as 1st instalment.

The pre-trap verification established the demand and accordingly FIR No 03/2025 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption act 1988 was registered at PS ACB Srinagar and investigation has been taken up, it reads.

"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant Mohammad Ashraf Malik of RDD Block Gund, Kangan, Ganderbal red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 3000 from the complainant," the statement added.

After completing all formalities, the accused Public Servant was taken into custody, it said, adding that further investigation into the case is going on.

Saudi Court Sentences

The association's spokesperson stated that consular access was provided to Baba on multiple occasions, including May 3, 2021, September 6, 2022, February 20, 2023, September 5, 2023, and September 11, 2024.

Governance Priorities

governance priorities align with the needs of the people," he added.

During the meeting, DDC chairpersons and MLAs of the concerned districts presented demands prioritized by them. The participants raised key issues and demands related to roads, health infrastructure, power supply infrastructure, rural development, water supply, education, sports facilities, recruitment, irrigation & flood control and animal husbandry.

Additionally, concerns regarding urban development, forest clearances, drug menace, tourism promotion, solid liquid waste management, parking facilities and new development projects were also discussed.

MLAs also underlined the need for effective implementation of water supply schemes in main towns under AMRUT 2.0 and called for sorting out issues in tendering of works so that funds under JJM are utilized. Among other issues & demands, the upgradation of power infrastructure, solid waste management, providing critical staff to hospitals & PHCs, physical audit of building infrastructure in schools, Wullar lake conservation, flood protection works, setting up of fire service stations in rural areas, decongestion of district headquarters, parking facilities and construction of mini-secretariat buildings in districts and sub districts were proposed by MLAs and DDC chairpersons.

The meeting was attended, both in person and virtually by Ministers

Sakina Itoo representing D.H Pora, Javed Ahmad Dar, representing the Rafiabad Assembly Constituency and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani.

Also present were Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Director General Budget, Director General Expenditure Division-I as well as, MLAs, DDC chairpersons and Deputy Commissioners from the respective districts.

Chief Minister thanked the public representatives for their suggestions and insights, and emphasized that the primary objective of these meetings is to formulate a people-centric budget by incorporating their valuable input and listening to their feedback.

Yesterday, as part of the ongoing consultations, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had held similar meetings with public representatives from Anantnag, Kathua, Samba and Budgam districts in which demand for various development projects and budgetary requirements were discussed.

HC Seeks NIA

here, instead of passing an order on the application for regular bail, had recommended the District Judge to transfer his case to the MP/MLA court as Rashid became an MP.

In his plea pending before the Delhi HC, he moved an application seeking interim bail to attend the ongoing Budget session of the Parliament, which began on January 31 and will conclude on April 4.

In the alternative, Engineer Rashid prayed that he be given custody parole, if not interim bail, to attend the Parliament session.

The NIA has opposed the interim bail plea of Engineer Rashid.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Delhi High Court called for a reply from its registry over the designation of an appropriate court to hear Rashid's bail plea.

After the NIA's counsel submitted that the anti-terror agency in November last year had made a representation to the registry on the issue of designation of the NIA court as a court which could hear cases against lawmakers, the Justice Mahajan-led Bench issued a notice to the Registrar General to ascertain the status and posted the matter for hearing on February 6.

In the course of the hearing on Thursday, the counsel representing the Registrar General stated that an application has been moved before the Supreme Court seeking clarification on the issue of designation of a court, adding that the issue will be mentioned before the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Friday for urgent listing.

Engineer Rashid was arrested by the NIA in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The ED had also filed a money laundering case against him and the accused persons on the basis of the NIA's FIR, which accused them of conspiring to wage war against the government and fomenting trouble in the Valley.

Engineer Rashid has represented the north Kashmir Langate Assembly constituency in J&K twice. His brother, Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad won the 2024 Assembly election from the Langate Assembly constituency.

21,568 Houses

commitment to providing affordable housing to the urban poor and ensuring that the housing needs of citizens in these regions are addressed.

Both J&K and Ladakh are set to continue benefiting from the PMAY-U scheme, with more houses expected to be completed as part of the ongoing efforts to improve living conditions in urban areas—(KNO)

Govt Suspends

serious violations of medical protocols.

"We are investigating the matter thoroughly and have served notices to the hospital management, doctors, and staff to explain their position. Preliminary inquiry and evidence suggest that this operation theatre should not have been operational in the first place, and therefore, we have sealed it," said Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, SA Raina.

He assured that a comprehensive probe is underway and strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

Taking further action, the Jammu and Kashmir government has suspended two doctors allegedly involved in the incident. According to an official order, a copy of which lies with KNO, the following doctors have been suspended: Dr. Anjum Nazir, Consultant Gynaecologist, SDH Sopore, and Dr. Tariq Ahmad Dar, Medical Officer (Diploma in Anesthesia), DH Bandipora.

The government has also barred both doctors from engaging in any form of private practice across Jammu & Kashmir until further orders.

The order further states that the operation theatre of Hakeem Sonuallah Hospital will remain sealed until the investigation is completed.

Authorities have assured that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure accountability and prevent such incidents in the future. The investigation is

expected to conclude in the coming days, after which further action will be taken based on the findings—(KNO)

JCO Found Dead

determine the circumstances surrounding his death. While initial reports suggest the possibility of suicide, other sources indicate that the officer may have died due to gunfire. The exact cause remains unclear, pending further inquiry.

All Pesticide,

legal measures after 17 people died over the past nine weeks due to the 'mysterious illness' in Budhal village, the authorities conducted surprise inspections of all insecticide, pesticide, and fertiliser stores in the district and initiated their closure.

Officials said as many as 11 patients who were admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH) after falling ill in Budhal village have fully recovered and were discharged on Tuesday.

In a major late evening action taken by authorities, surprise inspections of all insecticide, pesticide, and fertiliser stores were initiated followed by the closure of all the stores until further orders.

Joint teams from the department of agriculture, department of food and drugs control organisation, assisted by police and headed by an executive magistrate, conducted simultaneous surprise inspections at all these outlets located across the district.

The number of these outlets is believed to be around 250.

The action came after a team of doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, concluded a three-day visit to Rajouri.

They examined the patients from Badhal village and collected various samples as part of their investigation into the recent deaths in the area.

During their visit, the five-member team of experts from Delhi AIIMS, including specialists in toxicology, conducted interviews and recorded clinical histories from the 11 patients currently undergoing treatment.

Dr A.S. Bhatia, principal of GMCH, Rajouri told IANS that all patients, who had reported to the hospital with symptoms of the mysterious illness, were treated with atropine and all have survived.

Dr Bhatia said that atropine is an antidote for organophosphorus group of poisons and it is safe to believe that the 17 deaths had occurred due to organophosphorus poisoning.

Asked why the doctors in J&K missed detecting the killer poison, Dr Bhatia said that the typical symptom of organophosphorus poisoning is that the victims report with dilated eye pupils, but those admitted to hospital with high fever, vomiting, excessive sweating, and unconsciousness had constricted eye pupils.

"Why patients with organophosphorus poisoning exhibited constricted eye pupils in these cases is being investigated", Dr Bhatia said.

"The good news is that all 11 patients who reported to the hospital with symptoms of the mysterious diseases are now being given atropine and none of them have died and they have been released after recovering," he concluded.

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Pariksha Pe Charcha: PM Modi to engage with students; Sadguru, Mary Kom, Deepika to join discussion

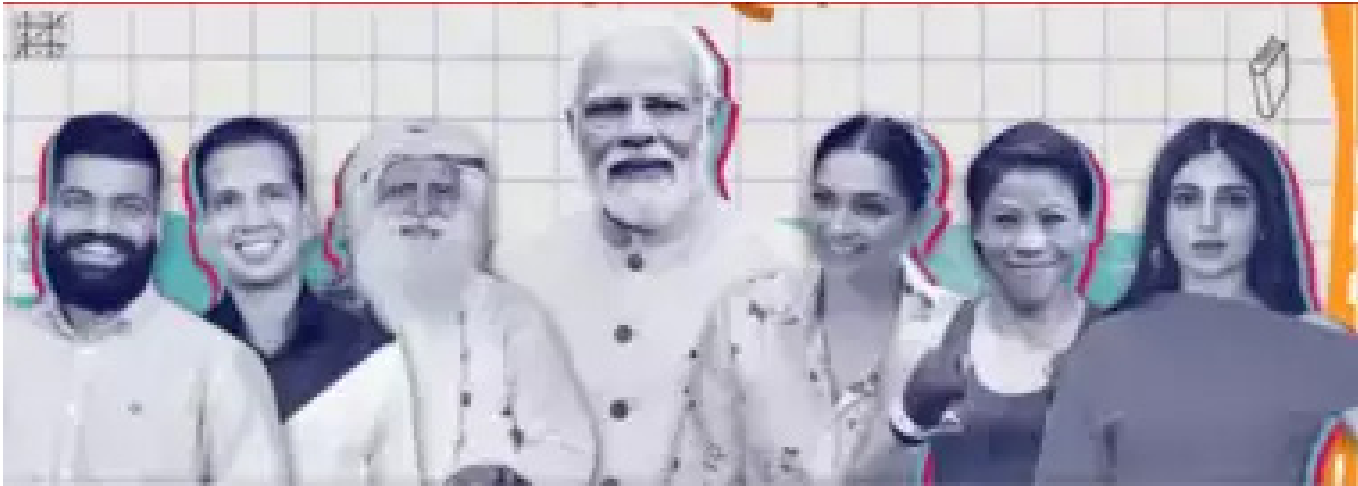
IAN S

NEW DELHI : The much-anticipated eighth edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC) is set to return in an expanded format, featuring an array of distinguished experts and guests, alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Aimed at fostering a stress-free and holistic approach to education, the interactive session will be broadcast at 11 a.m. on February 10, promising engaging discussions on exam-related challenges, mental health, career choices, and the effective use of technology.

This year, the programme will feature an impressive line-up of personalities, including spiritual leader Sadhguru, Bollywood actors Deepika Padukone, Vikrant Massey, and Bhumi Pednekar, as well as sports icons Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, and Suhas Yathiraj.

Other notable guests include nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar, entrepreneur Radhika Gupta, and digital influencer Technical



Guruji, among others.

Together, they will provide students with insights on handling exam stress, maintaining focus, and achieving academic success.

PPC 2025 will consist of eight episodes, making it the most extensive edition yet. The event kicked off with an online multiple-choice question (MCQ)

competition, held from December 14, 2024, to January 14, 2025.

Open to students from classes 6 to 12, along with teachers and parents, the competition allowed participants to submit questions, some of which will be answered directly by the Prime Minister. Selected winners will have the rare opportunity to interact with him.

Sadhguru will shed light on reducing exam stress through meditation and inner peace, while Radhika Gupta and Technical Guruji will discuss the responsible use of technology and Artificial Intelligence as study aids.

Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, and Suhas Yathiraj will highlight the importance of inte-

grating sports into daily life to manage academic pressure.

Superstar Deepika Padukone will address mental health issues, breaking stigmas, and building resilience, while actors Vikrant Massey and Bhumi Pednekar will highlight the significance of creative learning.

Nutritionist Rujuta Diwe-

kar, along with Sonali Sabharwal and Revant Himatsingka of FoodPharmer fame, will highlight the role of proper nutrition in enhancing cognitive function and overall well-being.

The event will also showcase toppers from various competitive exams who will share their personal journeys and strategies for academic excellence.

With a focus on tackling exam stress and career-related concerns, the discussions aim to inspire students to approach education with confidence rather than anxiety.

As part of the build-up to the main event, the Prime Minister recently interacted with 30-40 students at Sundar Nursery in Delhi.

The grand event on February 10 will take place at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, where 2,500 selected students will participate in person. These students will receive exclusive PPC kits from the Ministry of Education designed to enhance their learning experience.

Additionally, the top 10 'Legendary Exam Warriors' will be granted an exclusive visit to the Prime Minister's residence, offering them a unique and inspiring opportunity.

Since its beginning in 2018, PPC has been a main highlight of the Prime Minister's vision for a stress-free education system. Inspired by his book 'Exam Warriors', the initiative encourages students to approach exams with a positive mindset.

Over the years, PPC has evolved, incorporating new technologies and interactive elements to remain relevant and impactful.

The eighth edition has already set a new benchmark, recording an all-time high participation of 3.6 crore registrations, including 3.3 crore students, 2.7 lakh teachers, and 5.5 lakh parents.

With its enriched format and a stellar panel of experts, PPC 2025 is set to be a transformative experience for students nationwide.

Emergency was aimed to pamper arrogance of Congress' royal family: PM Modi

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Calling the 'Emergency' a measure to pamper the arrogance of the royal family of the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday recalled the attacks on freedom of speech and imposition of 'Emergency', besides the draconian steps taken against actors, singers, poets and lyricists who refused to back the government during the dark days.

Replying in Rajya Sabha to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, PM Modi highlighted how the Congress government during the 'Emergency' persecuted singer Kishore Kumar and actors Dev Anand and Balraj Sahni who refused to support it during that dark phase.

He also attacked the Congress government under first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for imposing restrictions on freedom of the press while taking pride as a democrat.

Citing how during the 'Emergency' MPs like George Fernandes were handcuffed and chained, PM Modi said that the Congress government then turned the entire nation into a jail for pampering the arrogance of the royal family of the Congress.

Taking to poems to make the atmosphere in the House, the PM recited



a few couplets.

"Tamasha karne walon ka kya khabar, humney kitne tufano ko par kar diya jalaya hai," (Those involved in gimmickry don't realise the sacrifices we have made to light up the lamp), said the PM in a poetic response to Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's new-found love for poetic debates.

Highlighting the frustration during the Emergency, he recalled poet Neeraj's lines and said, "Hai bahut andhira, ab suraj nikalna chahiye, jis tarah se bhi ho, yeh mausam badalja chahiye." (The sun must rise to end the darkness, the weather should change for the good).

Reciting another couplet of poet Neeraj, he said, "Mere desh udaas na ho, phir deep jalega, timir dhalega..." (A lamp will be lit one day to end the darkness, so my dear country you need feel disheartened).

Calling the middle class and new-middle class as

PM Modi cites 'ban' on cinestars Dev Anand, Kishore Kumar to rip into Congress

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a no-holds-barred attack on the Congress party, tearing into it over multiple issues ranging from crushing the Constitution, keeping the country backwards and also censuring many film personalities for merely expressing dissent against the then political dispensations.

Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Rajya Sabha, PM Modi lambasted the Congress party over its claims of championing the Constitution and its values and said that it was because of their mindset of keeping the sacred book in their pockets that they abused it so freely.

the engine of the country's growth, PM Modi highlighted how the income tax exemption limit was raised in Union Budget 2025-26 to Rs 12 lakh, adding that the exemption limit was just Rs 1 lakh in 2013.

He also showcased the PM Awas yojana which has offered four crore homes to the shelterless, including one crore in urban areas.

PM Modi highlighted the Real Estate Regulatory Act and the laws for helping the

Prime Minister invoked names of many film personalities including Dev Anand, Kishore Kumar and others to explain how they were debarred and even put behind bars for raising their voice against the then governments.

"Majrooh Sultanpuri, a renowned poet was put behind bars as his poems made the then leadership uncomfortable. Balraj Sahani was imprisoned for just participating in a protest march," PM Modi pointed out.

"Lata Mangeshkar's brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar was about to air a poem on Veer Savarkar. He was shown the door from AIR Akashvani for this," he said while asking the Opposition to not give lectures on the freedom of expression.

The Prime Minister also said that evergreen star Dev Anand

was urged to show support to the 'Emergency' imposed by the then Congress Prime Minister.

"He outrightly rejected it and following this, his films were barred from broadcast on the Doordarshan. Kishore Kumar's songs were debarred from Doordarshan for refusing to sing a song in favour of the ruling dispensation," PM Modi added.

He said that those who boast and brag about safeguarding the Constitution should see the brazen abuse of power by the previous Congress regimes, just for satiating their thirst for power.

"It's because of Congress leaders' mindset who keep the Constitution in their pockets and flaunt it from public forums that such censure culture existed under Congress governments," PM Modi said.

middle class whose investment is stuck in stressed housing projects.

He also talked about measures for promoting the country as a start-up hub and tourism destination, with both initiatives helping the middle class which is determined to march with the country.

Reiterating his dream of making the country Viksit Bharat, he said the country's youth is the force behind achieving the objec-

tive and elaborated on his government's efforts to upgrade infrastructure in a time-bound manner.

To highlight this he talked about Uttar Pradesh's Saryu Nehar project approved in 1972 but was completed by his government.

Apart from promoting sports, PM Modi also highlighted efforts for the youth by introducing the mother tongue in competitive exams and opening up Sainik Schools for girls.

Maha Kumbh: 25,000 tribal devotees to take holy dip at Triveni Sangam



IAN S

NEW DELHI : In a historic event, around 25,000 devotees from tribal communities across the country will converge at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj to take a holy dip at the Sangam and pledge to safeguard their religion, culture, and traditions.

The grand gathering, organised by the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), will take place from February 6 to February 10. The announcement was made by the Seva Prakalp Sansthan, which is facilitating the event.

"In the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, a grand tribal gathering is being organised by the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram from February 6 to February 10," said Salil Nemani, secretary of the Seva Prakalp Sansthan, in a statement.

During this significant occasion, thousands of tribal devotees will take a sacred bath at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers, symbolising their commitment to preserving their faith and cultural heritage.

The organisers emphasised that the gathering will be a powerful assertion of unity and identity for tribal communities.

One of the major highlights of the event will be a grand 'shobha yatra' on February 7, featuring tribal seers and devotees dressed in their traditional attire. They will proceed in a grand procession to the Sangam, where they will take a holy dip, reinforcing their spiritual and cultural values.

Adding to the cultural vibrancy, 150 tribal dance troupes from various regions will perform traditional dances and music,

sending out a message of unity through the theme 'Tu Main Ek Rakt (You and I are One Blood).'

These cultural performances will take place on February 7, 8, and 9, offering a glimpse into the rich traditions of India's tribal heritage.

The event will culminate on February 10 with a special conference of tribal seers who have travelled from different parts of the country to attend the Maha Kumbh.

During this gathering, spiritual leaders will share their insights on religion and culture, further strengthening the sense of identity and belonging among the tribal communities.

The organisers believe that this Maha Kumbh gathering will serve as a milestone in reaffirming the deep-rooted connection between tribal traditions and the broader spiritual fabric of the nation.

Not new procedure, been in place since 2009: EAM Jaishankar on deportation row

IAN S

NEW DELHI : External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that there has been "no change from the past procedure" in the deportation of illegal immigrants by the United States, emphasizing that the process is "not a new one".

"It is the obligation of all countries to take back their nationals if they are found to be living illegally abroad. This is naturally subject to an unambiguous verification of their nationality. This is not a policy applicable to any specific country, nor is it one practised only by India. It is a generally accepted principle in international relations. Members would be aware that the process of deportation is not new and has been ongoing for several years," the EAM said while making a statement in Parliament on the deportation of Indians from the United States.

The statement came after Congress submitted adjournment motions in the Lok Sabha, demanding an urgent discussion on the deportation of over 100 illegal Indian immigrants by the US and urged the Centre to clarify its stance and outline diplomatic efforts being made to ensure the dignified treat-

ment of deported individuals.

He insisted that the focus should instead remain on a strong crackdown against the illegal immigration industry.

Speaking on the matter, Jaishankar said, "People-to-people exchanges constitute the bedrock of our deepening ties with The United States. Indeed, more than any other relationship, mobility and migration have had a key role to play in enhancing its quality."

He further explained that while legal mobility is encouraged, illegal movement is discouraged due to its association with various criminal activities.

He underscored that it is a universal obligation for countries to repatriate their nationals found living illegally abroad, clarifying that this practice is based on the verification of nationality and is not specific to any one country.

Providing figures to illustrate the ongoing nature of the process, Jaishankar shared, "I would like to share with the House details of deportation from the US since February 2009. In 2009, number of deportees were 734, in 2010 it was 799, in 2011 it was 597, in 2012 it was 530, in 2013 it was 515, in 2014 it was 591, 2015 it was 708."

He continued with the figures, "In 2016 it was 1303, in 2017 it was 1024, in 2018 it was



1180, in 2019 it was 2042, in 2020 it was 1889, in 2021 it was 805, in 2022 it was 862, in 2023 it was 617, in 2024 it was 1368, and 2025 it is 104."

Jaishankar noted that the deportations are conducted under the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) effective from 2012, which allows for the use of restraints.

"The deportation by the US is organised and executed

by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authority. The SOP of deportation by aircraft used by ICE which is effective from 2012 provides for the use of restraint. I repeat, that is effective from 2012 and provides for the use of restraints. However, we have been informed by ICE that women and children are not restrained," he mentioned.

The minister further clari-

fied that deportees' needs, including food, necessities, and medical emergencies during transit, are attended to and that temporary unrestraining is provided during toilet breaks, applicable to both chartered civilian and military aircraft.

"During toilet breaks, deportees are temporarily unrestrained if needed in that regard. This is applicable to chartered civilian aircraft as

well as military aircraft. There has been no change. I repeat, no change from past procedure for the flight undertaken by the US on February 5, 2025," Jaishankar added.

He also emphasised ongoing engagement with the US government to ensure the humane treatment of deportees during transit.

"We are engaging with the US government to ensure that

the returning deportees are not mistreated in any manner during the flight. At the same time, the House will appreciate that our focus should be on a strong crackdown on the illegal migration industry while taking steps to ease visas for legitimate travellers. Based on the information provided by returning deportees about the agents and others involved, law enforcement agencies will take necessary preventive and exemplary actions," he said.

The remarks followed the arrival at Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport in Punjab of a US military C-17 aircraft carrying the first batch of 104 illegal Indian immigrants, with the highest numbers coming from Haryana and Gujarat (33 each).

Among the deportees, 30 were residents of Punjab, three each hailed from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, and two were from Chandigarh. The group included 25 women and 12 minors, the youngest being four years old, and 48 individuals were below the age of 25.

The flight, which took off from Texas on Tuesday, also carried 11 crew members and 45 US officials overseeing the deportation process, coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming visit to Washington next week.

Three Karate champs from Anantnag, Shine at International Championship

Muneeb Nazeer

ANANTNAG: Three young karate athletes from South Kashmir made their mark at the Shotokan International Karate Championship 2025 in Amritsar, Punjab, where participants from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka competed.

Zaid Gulzar, Ayesha Aejaaz, and Mohammad Mukaram represented Kashmir at the event. Zaid and Ayesha secured gold medals, while Mohammad won bronze.

Talking to news agency JKNS Zaid Gulzar said, "I give full credit to my parents and coach Aamir Gulzar for providing me with the platform to achieve my dreams."

Another player Ayesha Aejaaz told JKNS that, "I urge young people to take part in such sports events



and stay away from social evils like drug addiction."

Coach Aamir Gulzar expressed his pride, saying, "This is not only a moment of honor for the athletes' families but for Anantnag

and the entire Jammu and Kashmir."

Zonal Physical Education Officer Dooru, Bashir Ahmad, lauded the achievements of the athletes, Bashir Ahmad told JKNS

that, "This is a moment of pride for Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. We must encourage youth to participate in sports to combat drug addiction."(JKNS)

Relief Commissioner reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri Festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani, today chaired a meeting to review the necessary arrangements for annual Maha Shivratri Festival, falling on 25th and 26th of February, 2025.

Abdul Sattar, Joint Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation; Vijay Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (Relief); Dr Tara Chand, Joint Director (Exn), Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu; Dr. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Shiwani Bhan; Chief Accounts Officer, Relief, Sanjeev Kumar; Assistant Commissioner (Relief) and other senior officers of the Departments of FCS&CA, Fisheries, Floriculture, Horticulture & Marketing, Jal Shakti, PDD, R&B (PW) Department attended the meeting.

The Commissioner highlighted the importance of Maha Shivratri Festival, particularly for the Kash-



miri Pandit Community. He asked the district administration to constitute checking squads to monitor the quality and rates of the essential commodities like Flowers, Pooja items, Mutton, Fish, Vegetables, Dairy products etc. He asked the Floriculture Department to ensure supply of flowers especially Bael/Bael leaves and Marigold to all the migrant camps including Jagti, Muthi, Purkhoo and Nagrota and Non Camp areas where Kashmiri Pandits have a sizeable population like Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Jani-

pur Colony, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Gangyal, Subash Nagar, Muthi, Udhaywala, Talab Tillo during the festival days.

The Commissioner exhorted upon the Department of Horticulture to ensure supply of good quality walnuts, green vegetables, especially Nadru, in all the migrant camps and non-camp areas during the festival days on approved rates. He also asked the Department of FCS&CA to ensure smooth supply of all quality food items in all migrant camps and non-camp areas.

The Jammu Municip-

pal Corporation assured arrangements of cleanliness in all the Migrant Camps at Jammu and other non-camp areas where Kashmiri Pandits have a sizeable population. The Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu assured adequate supply of mutton at reasonable rates in close coordination with Jammu Municipal Corporation.

During the meeting, the Department of Fisheries assured supply of adequate quantity of fish in all the migrant camps and prominent non camp areas through Mobile Vans.

Handloom Weavers Slam EJAC for Supporting Handloom-Handicrafts Merger, Demand Reversal

Aazan Manzoor

SRINAGAR: The Handloom weaver community has strongly opposed the merger of the Handloom Department with the Handicrafts Department, while condemning EJAC on supporting merger, arguing that it has severely impacted the sector's growth and sustainability.

Handloom weaver Ghulam Jeelani said that, "Handloom requires a specialized approach to compete with the mill and textile industries," saying that without corrective action, the centuries-old tradition of handloom craftsman-

ship could face extinction. Merger of Handloom with handicrafts department is having no sense, we are suffering from it. Let government show us four or one single benefit of this meger if they don't, let them listen to our ten losses with this merger.

Jeelani said that we are expecting government will walk the talk on these promises.

Another weaver, Muhammad Amin, highlighted the crucial role of the Handloom Department, established in 1977 under the leadership of Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. He said the merger has

diluted the focus on handloom, leaving weavers struggling.

He also condemned the Employees Joint Action Committee's (EJAC) demand for completing the merger, stating, "EJAC, as an employee association, has no jurisdiction over the department dedicated to the welfare of weavers and has ignored the real issues faced by the handloom sector."

The community has called on the government to reverse the decision and restore the Handloom Department as a separate entity to preserve the legacy of handloom craftsmanship. (JKNS)

ARI and Trainings Department Delegation Explores Advanced Printing & Packaging Innovations at PRINTPACK INDIA 2025

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GREATER NOIDA: A high-level delegation led by Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar, Secretary Technical in Administrative Reforms, Inspections, and Trainings (ARI) Department, along with General Managers Govt Press Jammu, Srinagar Purshottam Sharma and Ajyaz Akhoo, as well as managers and technical experts from Government Ranbir Press Jammu and Government Press Srinagar, participated in PRINTPACK INDIA 2025, held at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Knowledge Park, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar



highlighted the significance of the event, stating: "Our participation in PRINTPACK INDIA 2025 has been an invaluable opportunity to witness live demonstrations of cutting-edge advancements in the printing and packaging industry. The insights

gained from this exhibition will play a crucial role in modernizing government printing infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, enhancing operational efficiency, and adopting sustainable practices."

The delegation engaged with leading industry

experts, manufacturers, and technology providers, discussing potential collaborations and strategies to integrate advanced printing technologies into government operations. The visit also facilitated knowledge exchange on automation-driven solutions and sustainable packaging materials, aligning with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir's vision to modernize its printing infrastructure and transition to eco-friendly, high-quality production standards.

PRINTPACK INDIA 2025, organized by the Indian Printing Packaging & Allied Machinery Manufacturers' Association (IPAMA), is among

Asia's largest international exhibitions for printing, packaging, digital solutions, and automation. This year's event brought together over 570 exhibitors and visitors from 52 countries, showcasing the latest technologies, innovations, and trends shaping the future of the industry.

The participation of the ARI and Trainings Department at PRINTPACK INDIA 2025 underscores its ongoing commitment of the Department to leveraging cutting-edge technological advancements to improve service delivery, optimize printing operations, and incorporate sustainable, next-generation printing solutions into government workflows.

Commissioner STD reviews functioning of department in Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner State Taxes department (STD), P K Bhat today chaired a meeting with all State Tax Officers (STOs) of Jammu division to review functioning as well as assess ongoing activities of the department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Administration & Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra; State Taxes Officers from all circles of Jammu Division and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, discussions were held to streamline strategies for improved tax compliance and revenue augmentation while as stress was laid on ensuring 100% return filing compliance and creating deterrence among the defaulters.

The meeting also discussed other key issues like identification of Fake ITC Suppliers, monitoring of TDS Payments, action on Intelligence Reports, Audit and Revenue Realization, Verification of E-Way Bills and other issues.

Addressing the meeting, the Commissioner emphasized on the pivotal role of the department in ensuring financial discipline and highlighted priority areas requiring immedi-

ate attention. He laid focus on revenue augmentation, proper scrutiny and tracking of E-way bills, optimal use of technology for assessment of red flags, tax evasion and input tax credit mismatch cases. He directed to ensure timely return filing.

The Commissioner also directed the officers to create awareness amongst masses for availing a golden chance to settle outstanding tax liabilities for financial years (2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20) under GST Amnesty Scheme without the burden of penalties or interest.

The Commissioner reiterated the department's commitment to maintaining constant vigilance and fostering a culture of accountability. He stressed the importance of a proactive approach in identifying non-compliance and enhancing revenue generation for the state.

During the meeting, Namrita Dogra apprised the Commissioner regarding the status of various activities and presented circle wise report. She stressed inter circle coordination to detect tax evasion and revenue leakage cases. The officers were directed to ensure compliance by banquets, and restaurants and adopt innovative approaches to identify tax evasions.

Dy CM, Transport Minister hold public outreach programme at Chowki Choura

Take stock of local grievances, emphasise early disposal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, along with Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today held a public outreach programme in Chowki Choura, Jammu and took stock of people's grievances and demands. The event aimed to provide immediate solutions to the issues faced by the local residents besides ensuring on the spot redressal of certain development issues.

During the programme, the Deputy Chief Minister and Transport Minister addressed various issues raised by the local deputations, led by the DDC, BDCs and PRIs of Chowki Choura.

The issues mainly pertained to road connectivity, irregular power and water supply, better health services, inadequate staff in

various departments especially schools.

The locals also demanded two degree colleges in Chowki Choura and Maira Mandrian, Guest house, ITI college, upgradation of high schools, fire station, ambulance service and other vital utilities.

The Deputy CM issued strict instructions to the officers to resolve the concerns promptly and implement all directives in letter and spirit for the welfare of public.

He personally met with the individuals, listened to their grievances ensuring prompt action on the same.

Surinder Choudhary directed the officers to conduct frequent visits to rural areas to ensure effective implementation of government schemes. He said that holding these public outreach programmes is a testament to government's commitment towards directly addressing and resolving the grievances of

public at their doorsteps.

The Deputy CM emphasised that the government's initiative of organising village-level camps to provide citizen-centric services, is a step towards making governance more efficient and people-friendly.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma expressed gratitude to Deputy CM for visiting his constituency and listening to people's genuine issues and also resolving them.

He asked the officers of the line departments to put in their sincere efforts in rendering prompt services to the people. He urged them to work in synergy so that people don't face any kind of inconvenience.

Satish Sharma said that the Government is committed to fulfill developmental aspirations of people while taking care that no one is deprived of his basic requirements and all are served equally.

Sadhotra raises alarm over rising crime in Jammu post abrogation of Art 370, 35A

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Jammu, saying that criminal elements have become emboldened, carrying out shootouts and burglaries in broad daylight.

"Such brazen acts of crime have sent shockwaves among the people, especially housewives, elderly citizens, and children, making them feel unsafe even within their own homes", Sadhotra lamented while addressing a workers meeting at Kathua which was organized by Ajit Kumar Sharma District President National Conference Kathua and Neelam Sharma Incharge Women Wing Kathua Block Basholi and K K Bakshi Sr. Vice President Kathua and Shakeel Ahmed Block President Kathua.

He said that criminals appear to have no fear of law enforcement, as they continue their sinister activities against civilized society without any deterrence. This situation reflects serious lapses in policing and governance, due to dual control, leading to an atmosphere of insecurity, he said while holding the BJP responsible for alarming and deteriorating situation.

In this context, Sadhotra also referred to the reports of excessive use of force and harassment of Makhan Din in police custody in Billawar leading to his suicide and the killing of Waseem Ahmed Malla, allegedly by the army under circumstances not yet entirely clear, saying such incidents instil sense on insecurity and fear among the people. He hailed Chief Minister Mr Omar Abdullah for ordering own inquiry to bring out the truth as the present government is helpless to tackle such situations due to dual control. Referring to the political and administrative changes following August 5, 2019, Sadhotra stressed that there must be a course correction to undo the damage caused by those decisions. He asserted that the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and statehood has weakened governance, leading to a situation where crime and lawlessness are on the rise. "The situation is going out of control, and the administration must take immediate and effective measures to address it," Mr. Sadhotra said. The National Conference Additional General Secretary sought full statehood to be restored, and the democratically elected popular government to be empowered to effectively tackle the worsening law and order situation, ensuring fast track development, combating burgeoning unemployment and fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Sadhotra called for clear directives to control the rising crime rate and emphasized that strict action under law must be taken against criminals. He said a visible policing strategy must be implemented to restore the people's confidence in law enforcement.

"Public safety must be prioritized, and it must be ensured that the rule of law prevails," he added.

Addressing the meeting, Abdul Gani Malik Former Minister emphasized the need of strengthening National Conference at grass root level and to strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah President of the Party and Omar Abdullah Chief Minister and Vice President of the Party.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Mohd Ayoub Malik stressed on the workers to go to every door step with the programmes of National Conference and always identify themselves with the problems of the people.

Others who spoke on the occasion are Sham Narayan Mehta District President Kathua Rural, Satwant Dogra Provincial President Women Wing, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghubir Singh Manhas District President Rural, Surjeet Singh Manhas Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Ch Naresh Bittu, Abdul Gani Teli President OBC, Randhir Singh Chib, Ashwani Charak, Pinki Khalsa, Priyanka Sharma, District President Women Wing Jammu, Sumita Bhan, Anju Grover, Veer Ji, S Sewak Singh Retd SSP, Aman Manhas, S Harjeet Singh, S Pardeep Singh.