

Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication



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...Disproportionate Assets Case CBI Books IAS Officer, Family Members



JAMMU: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Thursday that the probe agency has booked two family members of a Jammu and Kashmir IAS officer, who had earlier been booked personally in an FIR pertaining to disproportionate assets amassed by the officer.

CBI sources said that the agency has now booked two family members of 2010 batch IAS officer Kumar Rajeev Ranjan for amassing assets beyond their legal income.

Rajeev Ranjan has already been booked by the CBI. Kumar is presently posted as secretary revenue and secretary labour and employment departments in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sleuths of the probe agency on Wednesday carried out raids at 7 locations including Rajeev Ranjan's

office in Jammu and properties linked to him in Varanasi, Srinagar, and Gurugram.

He already faces charges in an arms licence racket when he was the deputy commissioner in Kashmir Valley's Kupwara district.

The arms licence racket has been probed by the CBI since 2019 after it was found that large scale bungling had occurred in arms licence issuance in which these licences were issued under financial consideration to people not belonging to J&K.

Rajeev Ranjan is not the only IAS officer allegedly involved in the arms licence scam.

The CBI lodged an FIR against eight IAS officers including Rajeev Ranjan in the arms licence racket.

The government of India conveyed its sanction for prosecution of Rajeev Ranjan and others in November 2024.

In addition to the arms licences racket, the sleuth of Anti-Corruption

Rain, Snow Break Prolonged Dry Spell In Kashmir Valley



SRINAGAR: After 50 days, the prolonged dry spell broke in Kashmir Valley on Thursday as rain lashed the plains and higher reaches recorded snowfall.

Widespread jubilation started across Kashmir when people woke up as rain lashed the plains after such a long period.

Scores of springs dried up and power generation from hydroelectric power projects

dropped by 80 per cent due to the dry spell.

Authorities postponed the 'Khelo India 2025' winter games scheduled in the ski resort of Gulmarg due to scant snowfall.

MET Department Director Mukhtar Ahmad told IANS: "Today's rain/snow has broken the extended dry spell. This will lead to increased discharge in rivers and streams in the coming days. If the present weather model holds, Jammu and

Kashmir will have more rain and snow between February 26 to February 28. The present model indicates the forecast to have a strong probability."

Locals have been praying for rainfall and expecting it would restore the perennial springs that had dried up and help those witnessing very low water discharge.

Srinagar recorded 4.4 degrees Celsius minimum temperature, Gulmarg minus 2.8 degrees

SRINAGAR RECORDED 4.4 DEGREES CELSIUS MINIMUM TEMPERATURE, GULMARG minus 2.8 degrees Celsius and Pahalgam 1.2 degrees Celsius. Jammu city recorded 11.9 degrees Celsius minimum temperature, Katra town 9 degrees Celsius, Batote 3.7 degrees Celsius, Banihal 2.4 degrees Celsius and Baderwah 4.4 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar- Jammu Highway Closed

SRINAGAR: Vehicular traffic movement has been suspended on both ends of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to slippery road conditions between Banihal and Ramsoo following heavy snowfall on Thursday.

Quoting an unnamed official, a local news agency JKNS reported that traffic has been stopped on both ends

Rainfall Deficit Breaking All Records

SRINAGAR: From December 1, 2024 to February, 20, 2025, Kashmir has recorded the worst-ever rainfall deficit in the past eight years.

The data reveals that the Valley has witnessed 70% deficit rainfall between December 2024 to February 2025.

Soldier Injured In Landmine Blast

JAMMU: An Army man sustained injuries on Thursday in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

Rifleman Mohd Asif Rather, a member of a patrolling party, accidentally stepped on a landmine in a forward area of the Balakote sector in Mendhar sub-division around 5 pm, officials said. The soldier sustained injuries to his left foot and was evacuated to a military

J&K Govt Orders Transfers Of DSPs

SRINAGAR: In a major reshuffle, the government has ordered the transfer and posting of several Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) across various divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The changes have been implemented with immediate effect in the interest of administration.

As per the official order, Basharat Hussain, previously serving as DSP IRP 11 Bn, has been transferred and posted as SDPO Achabal, while Nisar Ahmad Khan

J&K Gears Up For Maiden Budget Session

Govt Directs Departments To Nominate
Nodal Officers, Constitute Question Cells



SRINAGAR: In preparation for the upcoming budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly scheduled for March 3, 2025, the administration has issued directives to all departments to appoint nodal officers and establish question cells at the departmental level.

According to an official order, the heads of departments have been instructed to nominate nodal officers and set-up question cells to

provide timely and accurate responses during the session. The order also mandates that all government employees remain stationed at their respective offices throughout the session to ensure smooth proceedings.

"No officer or official shall leave their station without prior approval during the session to ensure the smooth conduct of proceedings," reads the order. It further stated that administrative secretaries and heads of departments must ensure compliance with

Omar Stresses On Climate Change Awareness

Highlights Water
Crisis Threat In J&K

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir is facing a severe threat from climate change, particularly in the form of a water crisis, stressing the need for greater awareness and action.

"We are not doing enough to educate our people about what is happening with climate change and the dangers it poses. A lot of that responsibility lies with us as political leaders," Omar said.

He was addressing the inaugu-



ral session of a three-day workshop on 'Capacity Building in Innovation Pedagogy for the Implementation of NEP-2020' at Brig Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu here.

The workshop is being organized by the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Center (MMTTC) in collaboration with the Skill Incubation, Innovation, Entrepreneurship

Ends Pre-Budget Consultation With MLAs, DDCs

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday concluded

the pre-budget consultations with public representatives, holding separate meetings with elected representatives from Kishtwar and Doda districts of Jammu division at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Chairing the session for Kishtwar district, Omar engaged with public representatives, including Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sumil Sharma, who represents Padder-Nagseni in the J&K Assembly, the Chairperson of

Congress Denies Reports Of Rift With NC

We Are Part Of J&K's Govt: JKPC Chief Karra

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra has denied rumours of any rift with the ruling National Conference (NC), reaffirming that the Congress remains an integral part of the NC-led government in the region.

Addressing the ongoing speculation, Karra emphasised that both the NC and the Congress are united in their fight for the restoration of statehood to J&K. He added that while the Congress supports this cause, it continues to raise public concerns with the government whenever necessary.

"We raise these issues for redressal with the government. Since we are a part

of the government, we can advise and raise the issues of the people," he said.

Karra also revealed that a coordination committee between Congress and NC members would soon be formed to clear any misgivings and streamline the working relationship between the two parties.

On February 13, Congress launched a 15-day campaign in the Jammu region demanding the immediate restoration of statehood, which included organising workers' conventions in five districts.

While he stressed that the restoration of statehood was not just a core issue for Congress, Karra acknowledged its significance for the people of J&K. "Despite promises made by PM Modi

5 Arrested For Assaulting Kashmiri MBBS Student

BENGALURU: Karnataka police have arrested five final-year MBBS students in connection with the alleged ragging of a first-year student from Kashmir, police sources said on Wednesday, February 19.

The incident took place in the limits of the Vijayapura Rural Police Station in North Karnataka.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Mohammad Kaisar (23), Samir Tadapatri (24), Mansoor Basha (24), Shiekh Dawood (23), and Mohammad Jamadar (23). They have been booked under Sections 155(2), 329(4), 352, 351(2), 189(2), 191(2), and 190 of the BNS Act.

According to the police, the incident took place at Al Ameen Medical College and Hospital, located on Athani Road on the outskirts of Vijayapura city, on Tuesday, February 18. The alleged ragging reportedly followed a quarrel between



seniors and juniors during a cricket match.

Later that night, the accused allegedly entered the hostel room of Hameem, a first-year student from Anantnag district in Jammu and Kashmir. They reportedly forced him to dance and sing for their entertainment, warning him that he still had four more years to spend at the college.

The victim subsequently posted messages on social

media, tagging the Prime Minister, the Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka, and Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Upon receiving the information, Vijayapura Rural Police rushed to the college and conducted an inquiry, collecting statements from the medical superintendent, principal, and students.

"One of them asked

'JK Relies 85% On Coal, Solar Power'

Since 2024, Local Hydro Power Generation
Witnesses Huge Deficit In Winters: Officials

SRINAGAR: Amid acute deficit of hydro power generation, Jammu and Kashmir is currently relying on more than 85 percent of coal and solar power.

Officials of Power Development claim that local hydro power generation from the local power plants have reduced by nearly 90 percent.

"At present Jammu and Kashmir is 85-90 percent dependent on coal and solar energy that is being procured from the other states because as of now we don't have a local power generation," a top official of PDD told a local news agency KNO.

"In winters the local hydro power generation of Jammu and Kashmir power plants has reduced by almost 90 percent and in order to cater

the requisite power demand, we need to have a base power availability that we procure from outside states. The energy is coal based energy," the official said.

The official further said that the department is already in different Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs) with other states.

"Last year we entered a PPA of coal based power of over 390 MWs under Shakti Policy. In future more coal based power and more PPA has to be entered to meet the demand of electricity in Jammu and Kashmir," the official said.

It also said, "In 2024 and the ongoing year there is a huge deficit in local hydro power generation. Situation is not good for local power generation in winters."

Earlier this week

Need To Keep Mother Languages Alive: Dr Farooq



SRINAGAR: Stressing on the need to keep mother languages alive, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said that "living nations keep their civilization and culture alive."

On the eve of Mother Language Day celebrated every year on February 21, Dr Farooq said, "To protect our identity, we must sustain our existence, which can only be achieved by keeping our mother languages alive."

He said that history bears witness to the fact that nations that forgot their language, cul-

ture, and traditions eventually faded into history.

Dr Farooq stressed that safeguarding all languages spoken in J&K is essential for preserving the region's unique identity and Kashmiriyat.

Expressing concern, he said it is unfortunate that adversarial elements were trying to harm Urdu and Kashmiri by labelling them as regional or religious languages. He urged people to resist such efforts and ensure that these languages are passed onto future generations so that they, too, can protect and uphold them.

He stated that

CJ inaugurates Court Room, Bar rooms at HC complex Janipur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: With a view to enhance infrastructural facilities in the Jammu Wing of High Court and provide speedy justice to the litigants, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Thursday inaugurated a newly constructed Court Room on the ground floor of High Court Complex at Janipur, Jammu, in presence of companion Judges.

The Chief Justice also inaugurated newly upgraded Lady Advocates' Bar Room and Senior Advocates Bar Room, which was long pending demand of High Court Bar Association.

Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd.



Akram Chowdhary, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri graced the occasion by their presence. Besides, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General; M.K.Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice; Anoop

Kumar Sharma, Registrar IT; Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial, Jammu Wing; Meyank Gupta, Joint Registrar (Judicial/Protocol); Nimral Kotwal, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu; Senior Members of Bar Association besides other

officers and officials of the Registry were also present on the occasion.

The High Court Bar Association extended gratitude to the Chief Justice and companion Judges for enhancing infrastructural facilities in the High Court Complex, Jammu.

NIELIT convenes its 28th All India Directors' Meet at SKICC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), J&K, successfully hosted the 28th All India Directors' Meet of NIELIT at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The prestigious gathering brought together Directors from across India to engage in discussions on institution's future growth, academic advancements and industry collaborations.

The meeting focused on key topics including revamping of proposals and schemes, expansion strategies for NIELIT centers, advancements in research and academics, consultancy services, strengthening industry partnerships, introduction of new courses and enhanced placement initiatives for the students.

Directors from 53 NIELIT centers namely Ropar, Kolkata, Delhi, Aizawl, Aurangabad, Ajmer, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Chennai, Gorakhpur, Patna, J&K, Ladakh, Calicut, Kurukshetra, Shimla, Haridwar, Bhubaneswar,

Imphal, Tirupati, Agartala and Itanagar, participated in the meet. Each center showcased its achievements and ongoing initiatives, emphasizing contributions to the fields of electronics and information technology.

Tulika Pandey, Group Coordinator and Scientist-G of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and Dr. M.M. Tripathi, Director General of NIELIT and Vice Chancellor of NIELIT Deemed-to-be University, addressed the attendees. Their insights highlighted the need for strengthening research, broadening academic programs, fostering stronger industry linkages and ensuring skill development to enhance employability.

The event underscored NIELIT's commitment towards driving innovation and excellence in the field of electronics and IT education. It served as a significant platform for collaborative discussions and strategic planning to further NIELIT's mission of developing a technologically skilled workforce that meets the evolving demands of the industry.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Mahashivratri



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: In order to review and finalise arrangements for Mahashivratri celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan Thursday convened a meeting of officers here at Mini-secretariat.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted supply of power and water at Vessu Migrant Colony, Manzgam, Kulgam, Chawalgam, Devsar and other habitations of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

To facilitate the availability of traditional festive essentials, the Assistant Director Fisheries is instructed to establish sale outlets for trout fish at various locations, while the concerned officers were directed to ensure supply of vegetables, flower's and walnuts.

Also, the Chief Medical

Officer was told to ensure availability of medical facilities and deployment of ambulances at key locations.

The Executive Officers (EOs) of the municipalities were directed to maintain proper sanitation at all temples.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Mohammad Altaf Khan, ACD Syed Naseer Ahmad, ACR, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Tehsildars, Engineers from PDD and PHE, Assistant Director FCS&CA, Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO), EOs, and representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

Int'l Temple Convention Brings 1,500+ Temples Together

PM hails event as celebration of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The International Temples Convention & Expo (ITCX) 2025, held in the spiritual heart of Tirupati, served as India's largest and most influential gathering on temple management, concluded with an unprecedented congregation of 1,500+ temples, esteemed political leaders, and revered religious heads from across Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism.

Value-adding to the narrative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047, the event served as a transformative platform for shaping the future of temple governance, sustainability, and technological integration while reinforcing the timeless values of Sanatana Dharma. With thought-provoking discussions on temple autonomy, smart temples mission, and global best practices, ITCX 2025 has set a new benchmark in reimagining temples as centres of religious, cultural, and societal progress.

Envisioned by Gires



Kulkarni, founder of ITCX and Temple Connect, and Prasad Lad, ITCX Chairman who is also the Chief Whip of Maharashtra Legislative Council, the platform has created a ripple effect, opening new avenues for temple leaders to reinvent temples as power centres of Hindu society. With India's temple economy valued at Rs 4-5 lakh crore, comparable to any major global industry, the discussions emphasized the need to operate temples as professional institutions where the common person's donations directly benefit communities through medical aid, education, healthcare, and large-scale food distribution through langars. In only its second edition, ITCX has solidified its role as the driving force in reshaping

temple management. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a letter of appreciation, said: "ITCX reflects the inherent unity in diversity of temples globally, and is in a way, a celebration of the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - visualisation of the entire Earth as one family. The 21st century belongs to knowledge-driven societies. It is particularly in this context that the efforts of Temple Connect to document, digitise and share this rich heritage acquire greater significance."

The first day saw three CMs namely Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra), N Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh) and Pramod Sawant (Goa) come together on one stage for the

first time, as well as Shripad Naik - Central Minister & Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy of India. Day two saw K. Annamalai - State President, BJP Tamil Nadu and Milind Parande - General Secretary, Vishva Hindu Parishad power the cause of liberating Hindu temples from government control. The closing day continued to make an impact with Nara Lokesh, Minister for Human Resources Development, AP, who acknowledged that "the time has come for us to pull together a world class convention like ITCX to bring thought leadership, exchange ideas and best practices. We live in an era where we talk about Spiderman, Superman and Avengers, but we also have our samskriti (cultural heritage) that we need to save and that is going to be very important."

The mega event united thought leaders, spiritual luminaries, and change-makers from different generations and regions by their commitment to exact socio-economic reform within their own temple ecosystems.

DC B'la reviews financial progress of sponsored schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting was held Thursday under the chairmanship of DC Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, to review the financial progress of various government-sponsored schemes and banking sector performance in the district.

During the meeting, while reacting to the concerns raised by several departments regarding delays in loan disbursement by banks, particularly under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation



Programme, DC directed banks to expedite the processing of cases as per guidelines to facilitate self-employment opportunities.

He also emphasized the need to strengthen priority sector lending and achieve saturation of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) under PM Kisan.

To ensure comprehensive coverage of social

security schemes, DC directed the formation of a subcommittee to identify beneficiaries of all government schemes, department-wise, and target them for enrollment under various welfare initiatives.

He also instructed officials to organize awareness sessions to educate people about government welfare

schemes and financial assistance programs.

Additionally, the DC launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for the financial year 2025-26, prepared by NABARD. The PLP serves as a roadmap for boosting credit flow, particularly in agriculture, MSMEs, and rural infrastructure, to promote economic growth and self-employment.

The meeting was attended by District Agriculture Officer, District Lead Manager, Representative of RBI, DDM NABARD, bankers, sectoral officers, and other stakeholders.

Financial inclusion key to empower people: Sakina Itoo

Inaugurates new Axis Bank branch in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday visited Kulgam district and inaugurated a new Axis Bank branch at Main Chowk.

During the inauguration ceremony, the Minister emphasized on the importance of accessible banking facilities in promoting economic growth and financial inclusion. "Financial inclusion is key towards empowering people and economic growth. The opening of this branch will not only facilitate easy banking but also contribute to the economic upliftment of local



businesses and individuals," Sakeena said.

Pertinently, this initiative of Axis Bank aims to enhance financial accessibility and provide comprehensive banking services to

the residents of the region.

The inauguration, among others, was attended by bank officials, members of local business community and members of public.

Lone presides over water management prog at Wagoora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) Baramulla organized a Watershed Yatra at Wagoora to promote sustainable water conservation practices and environmental awareness.

Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Wagoora-Kreeri, Advocate Irfan

Hafeez Lone, presided over the event, emphasizing the importance of watershed management for ecological balance and water security.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Irfan Hafeez Lone highlighted the need for community participation in protecting natural resources. He stressed the significance of watershed management in ensuring

sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and environmental protection.

He urged stakeholders to take proactive measures in preserving water bodies and adopting eco-friendly practices.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and other officers, along with officials, experts and local stakeholders.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

POSHAN PROJECT KAKAPORA

Subject: - Provisional Selection / Merit list of Shayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Kakapora and inviting of Objections thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance to the Government Order No:- 103 JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated :- 28.04.2023 and approval from Mission Director Poshan J&K Vide No :- MD/Poshan/38427-30 dated :- 03.12.2024, an advertisement Notice was issued vide Notification No:- CDPO/Kak/Adv/2024/664-80 Dated :- 04.12.2024 & No:- CDPO/Kak/Adv/2024/756-73 Dated :- 31.12.2024 (Re-Advertisement notice for the post of AWH Kakapora-D with opening date of receipt of application forms as on 08.12.2024 & 02.01.2025 and closing date as on 09.01.2025 of 4 locations for selection of 04 Shayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for 04 Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Kakapora. In response to these notification 06 applications were received within cut-off date against (04) vacancies of Shayikas (Anganwadi Helpers). Merit list of the candidates has been prepared as per the criteria laid down vide Govt Order No:- 103-JK (SWD) Dated:- 28.04.2023, and approved by the selection committee constituted for the purpose vide Govt Order No:- 103-JK (SWD) Dated:- 28.04.2023 and accordingly Provisional selection list has been framed for 04 Shayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) on the basis of merit list.

The Provisional Selection list (Annexure-A) are hereby published for information of public in general and Applicants/Candidates in Particular for filing appeal/Objections if any. The appeal/Objection if any against the selection list shall be filed in the Office of the Child Development Project Officer Kakapora against proper receipt within 10 days (in Office Hours) from the date of publication of this notification. No objection/Appeal shall be entertained after expiry of last date of filing appeal/Objection.

No:- CDPO/Poshan/Kak/2025/858-65
Dated:- 19.02.2025

Sd/-
Child Dev, Project Officer
Poshan Project Kakapora

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KAKAPORA

Provisional Selection list of Anganwadi Helpers / Sahayikas Advertised Vide No:- CDPO/Kak/Adv/2024/724-40 Dated:- 21.12.2024 of Poshan Project Kakapora (Annexure-A)

S.No	Name of Applicant	Parentage		Date Of Birth	Residence	Panchayat Hatqa Name	Punch Ward No	Name of AWC Applied for	Block	Qualification	Marks Obtained Out of	Percentage	Widow Yes/No	Divorced Yes/No	Income Status	Remarks
		D/O	W/O													
01	Kulsuma Akhter		W/o Sajad Ahmad Zai	28.02.1991	Pahoo	Pahoo	PC-03	Pahoo-E	Kakapora	Matric	199/500	39.80	No	No	BPL	Selected
02	Arshida Jan		W/o Muzafar Ahmad Dar	01.01.1987	Marwal	Marwal	PC-01	Marwal-A	Kakapora	Under Matric	0	0	No	No	BPL	Selected
03	Sabina Majeed		W/o Aslam Yousuf	10.10.1989	Kakapora	Kakapora-B	PC-01	Kakapora-D	Kakapora	Matric	0	0	No	No	APL	Selected
04	Shayasta Rashid		W/o Mudasir Ahmad Pandith	01.11.1989	Lajoora	Lajoora	PC-V	Lajoora-E	Kakapora	Matric	207/500	41.40	No	No	BPL	Selected

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KAKAPORA

The Merit list of Applicants applied for Engagement of Anganwadi Helpers / Shayikas Advertised Vide No:- CDPO/Kak/Adv/2024/724-40 Dated:- 21.12.2024 of Poshan Project Kakapora (Annexure-B)

S.No	Name of Applicant	Parentage		Date Of Birth	Residence	Panchayat Hatqa Name	Punch Ward No	Name of AWC Applied for	Block	Qualification	Marks Obtained Out of	Percentage	Widow Yes/No	Divorced Yes/No	Income Status	Remarks
		D/O	W/O													
01	Kulsuma Akhter		W/o Sajad Ahmad Zai	28.02.1991	Pahoo	Pahoo	PC-03	Pahoo-E	Kakapora	Matric	199/500	39.80	No	No	BPL	
02	Arshida Jan		W/o Muzafar Ahmad Dar	01.01.1987	Marwal	Marwal	PC-01	Marwal-A	Kakapora	Under Matric	0	0	No	No	BPL	
03	Sabina Majeed		W/o Aslam Yousuf	10.10.1989	Kakapora	Kakapora-B	PC-01	Kakapora-D	Kakapora	Matric	0	0	No	No	APL	
04	Gazata Firdous	D/o Lt Firdous Ahmad Bhat		04.05.1998	Lajoora	Lajoora	PC-V	Lajoora-E	Kakapora	Matric	247/500	49.40	No	No	BPL	
05	Shayasta Rashid		W/o Mudasir Ahmad Pandith	01.11.1989	Lajoora	Lajoora	PC-V	Lajoora-E	Kakapora	Matric	207/500	41.40	No	No	BPL	
06	Gulshana Akhter		W/o Bilal Ahmad Mir	01.04.1987	Lajoora	Lajoora	PC-V	Lajoora-E	Kakapora	Matric	199/500	39.80	No	No	BPL	

DIPK-12221-24
DT: 20/02/2025

CDPO Kakapora

Javed Dar reviews development landscape of Budgam

Emphasises prompt public services, development in consonance with ecology, awareness on welfare schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives, and Election departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting in Budgam to assess the developmental landscape of the district.

The Minister reviewed progress on key ongoing and proposed projects like establishment of a 125 bedded district hospital, 100 bedded critical care hospital at Reshipora, road infrastructure, new bus terminal at Chadoora, robust mobile connectivity at tourist destinations including Yousmarg and Doodhpathri besides implementation of agriculture and allied sector schemes.

DDC Chairman, Nazir Ahmad Khan; MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Wani; MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar and MLA Khansahib, Saif-ud-Din Bhat also attended the meeting.

Emphasizing the importance of effective implementation of government schemes, the Minister underscored the need to ensure successful execution of all centrally and UT level initiatives including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), to maximise the beneficiary coverage. He asserted the significance of raising awareness about all



government schemes and called for taking all public welfare initiatives directly to the people to ensure that benefits reach every citizen. He instructed for bringing more vibrancy to ensure prompt services to the general public.

Reviewing the status of brick kilns in the district, the Minister directed that their operations must be streamlined and conducted strictly as per the prescribed guidelines. He issued strict instructions that no illegal brick kiln operation is allowed in the district.

Addressing the status of milk cooperatives, the Minister instructed the officials to organize agriculture awareness camps and fairs to educate the farmers about various government schemes.

Highlighting the significance of grassroots governance, the Minister directed that MLAs must be actively

involved in the planning and decision making processes for their respective constituencies. He further instructed the government officials to frequently visit the field, interact with the public and proactively address ground level local concerns.

The Minister further called for holistic development across Budgam district, emphasising key sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, agriculture and allied units and connectivity to be given the priority. He asserted that the development particularly in rural areas be carried out in harmony with ecological balance and no environmental degradation should occur under pretext of development anywhere in the district.

During the meeting, the legislators raised constituency specific demands and issues, urging time bound resolution of public concerns.

The demands and issues raised by the public representatives included establishment of trauma hospital in Magam, construction of Dadina-Lakhipora road, creation of vegetable mandis, new animal husbandry centers, village level sale centers under the Ad Food scheme, inclusion of Tosamaidan under Jal Jeevan Mission, improved connectivity for Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan, construction of an alternative road from Mujpathri to Doodhpathri, Mini Secretariat in Budgam, Women's Degree College, Sub-University Campus and a cyber surveillance system to monitor social media activities.

Responding to the public demands, the Minister assured that all their genuine concerns would be taken up with the relevant authorities for early resolution.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo, briefed the Minister about the status of various key development projects and ongoing works in the district. He also deliberated about the implementation of welfare schemes and flagship programs for public welfare in the district.

Among others the meeting was attended by the Director Rural Development, Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Kashmir, Heads of Departments (HODs) and district officers.

Div Com reviews progress on transit accommodation for Migrant Employees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday chaired a meeting to review progress of construction of transit accommodation for Migrant Employees, allied construction works and allotment of flats.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner; Chief Engineers KPDC, PHE, PWB R&B and Representative from Administrative Department, DMRRR Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

During the meeting, Div Com reviewed development of transit accommodation towers in each district and directed concerned agency to expedite



the completion of work on pending blocks.

He also directed for completion of allied works

including construction of boundary wall, barricades for security, approach roads, besides provision of basic amenities like electricity & water supplies.

He enjoined on concerned to resolve the issues pertaining to requirement of additional land at some places and completion of tendering process for pending works to finish the projects within given timelines.

Earlier, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner gave a detailed powerpoint presentation regarding physical & financial progress of the transit accommodation for Migrant Employees, total number of flats constructed, flats under-construction, allotment of flats and pending allied works.

Govt deposes staff for J&K Combined Competitive Exams

KNO CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU: The government of Jammu and Kashmir has deputed officials from various departments to assist the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) in conducting the J&K Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination 2024, scheduled for February 23.

As per the order, the officials, who have been assigned to JKPSC including Abdul Jabbar Butt, Head Assistant, Public Works (R&B)

Department, Nikhil Khajuria, Junior Assistant, General Administration Department, Deepak Manhas, Junior Assistant, School Education Department, Nisar Ahmad Malla, MTS, General Administration Department, Idrees Ahmad, MTS, Hospitality & Protocol Department.

These officials have been directed to report to the Office of the Secretary, JKPSC, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu, on February 21, 2025—(KNO)

As tourist season knocks Handicraft Dept intensifies drive to weed out counterfeit products



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR – Intensifying its enforcement drives to weed out sale of counterfeit products, the Quality Control Division of Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, Thursday conducted inspections of various showrooms dealing in sale of hand-made products in Durganag and Dalgate sections of the City Centre, here.

During the inspections, craft dealers were advised to desist from selling machine-made items in the garb of genuine handmade products.

In an official press release issued here today, Deputy Director, Quality Control, Mirza Shahid Ali stated that with the advent of tourist season in Kashmir, the Department will intensify ongoing drives and ensure that buyers are sold certified handmade products in various sale outlets in capital city and routes towards the famous health resorts of Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, which attract a heavy footfall of tourists. "The Quality Control wing

has constituted various inspection squads which are regularly checking sale and purchase of genuine hand-made products," he added.

The Deputy Director further stated that Government is exercising a zero-tolerance policy towards sale of counterfeit products in the name of hand-made products. "Anyone found misbranding of notified products would be dealt under the relevant provisions of Quality Control Act, 1976, including imposition of heavy penalties and cancellation of registration, including blacklisting," he added.

Shahid Ali said the inspection drives shall continue on regular basis for maintaining highest standards of quality and customer service. "In order to promote sale of exquisite hand-made products, we urge stakeholders to approach our Department for GI tagging, testing and certification of their products at PTQCC, IIC and Quality Control labs, which shall ensure customer satisfaction and safeguard the rich heritage of Kashmir," he added.

JKPCC files legal complaints against 4 senior SMC officers

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) has filed legal complaints against four senior officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for their alleged failure to curb pollution in River Doodhganga.

In a compliance report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the JKPCC highlighted ongoing violations of environmental laws, such as the discharge of untreated sewage and improper solid waste disposal, which continue to threaten the river's health and surrounding ecosystem.

The report, submitted in response to the NGT's October 2024 directives, reveals that despite efforts to tackle pollution, untreated sewage discharge and mismanagement of solid waste remain critical issues.

The JKPCC sought updates from the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) and SMC on the progress of sewage treatment plants (STPs), which are key to addressing these concerns.

According to the findings, although UEED has issued a tender for the construction of STPs, delays have hindered progress. These plants are essential for preventing untreated wastewater from flowing into the river, especially in seven wards under



the SMC's jurisdiction. A significant development noted in the report is the transfer of sewage treatment responsibilities from SMC to UEED. SMC officials clarified that their focus is on stormwater management, leading to the transfer. However, delays in the execution of the project have allowed untreated sewage to continue entering the river.

The report also emphasized violations of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Despite prior warnings, untreated sewage from dewatering stations continues to flow into Doodhganga, while solid waste dumping along the riverbanks remains a persistent problem, further degrading water quality.

In response to these ongoing failures, the JKPCC has initiated legal action against key officials.

Former SMC Commissioner Athar Aamir Khan is facing action for not establishing

necessary sewage treatment infrastructure, while former UEED Chief Engineer Ifkhar Ahmad Kakroo is being held responsible for inadequate waste treatment mechanisms.

Additionally, former Executive Officers of the Budgam and Chadoora Municipal Committees, Mohammad Iqbal Bhat and Syed Nayeem Rizvi, are being accused of negligence in managing solid waste and sewage disposal.

The report also noted that, while UEED has initiated a tender for the STP construction, delays due to funding and execution challenges persist. It further highlighted that the four senior municipal officials are being held accountable for their failure to implement effective pollution control measures.

The tribunal has been urged to closely monitor the situation and ensure timely action to address the pollution crisis and hold the responsible officials accountable—(KNO)

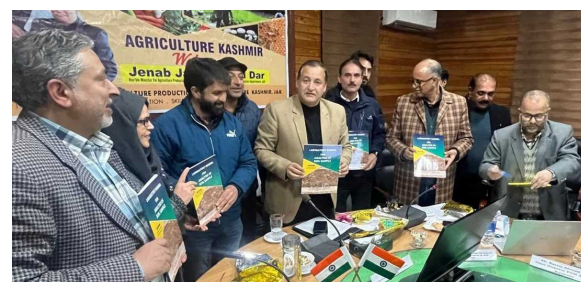
Agri Min reviews achievements under HADP, CAPEX, other CSSs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, Thursday convened a meeting with Director Agriculture, Joint Directors, Provincial Heads, Chief Agriculture Officers, Scheme Heads and sectoral officers of the department of Agriculture, to review the physical and financial achievements under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

During the meeting, implementation of projects under HADP and different Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the department was discussed in detail.

Javed Dar highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different projects of HADP, CAPEX and other CSSs. He asked the officers to ensure time bound expenditure of funds allocated under HADP projects, different components of centrally sponsored



schemes. He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability while incurring all the expenditures under development schemes.

The Minister emphasized the importance of innovative initiatives in monitoring of KCC and Point of Sale (POS) machines. He asked the concerned officers for expansion of vegetable crops to newer areas besides completing the presentations for kharif cropping season. He also unveiled the quality control manual of the department.

Javed Dar directed the officers to reach out to the farmers of every area and make them aware about HADP, latest farmer friendly technologies in agricul-

KVK Shopian starts skill dev training prog on Sheep Farming

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian Thursday inaugurated one-week entrepreneurship skill development programme on "Sheep Farming" at Berthipora, Shopian.

The programme was attended by Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK-Shopian; Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit, Scientist Horticulture; Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad Scientist Animal Sciences; Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai Scientist Food Technology, Scientists from KVK-Shopian besides other participants.

occasion deliberated upon the approach of horticulture and sheep farming which can lead the district to the new heights of glory and improve the soil health to a larger extent. He considered sheep farming viable means for sustainable progress of the farming community.

Dr. Mir Shabir, Course Coordinator of the programme through a power point presentation focused on import of high quality sheep breeds besides importance and scope through multiple streams of sheep farming like mutton, wool, and pelt/hides.

Dr. Mir Shabir informed that SKUAST-K is planning

to import the latest sheep breeds like Dorper, Texel, Finn, etc. under HADP project "Self Sufficiency in Mutton" and introduce in the valley to harvest the benefits of vast grazing area available in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Senior Scientist and Head KVK Shopian opined on the easy availability of fodder in district and grazing area which are the prerequisites for profitable sheep farming.

Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai, Scientist Food Technology highlighted the HADP scheme for the benefit of the public.

EXHIBITION CUM SALE OF HANDICRAFTS ITEMS

VENUE: HOTEL BURJ, RAINAWARI, SRINAGAR J&K -UT

FROM: 17-02-2025 TO 26-02-2025

ORGANISED BY: M/S SHAHBI HANDICRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED, GANDERBAL J&K-UT.

SPONSORED BY: OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (HANDICRAFTS), MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, GOVT. OF INDIA, WEST BLOCK NO.7, R.K PURAM, NEW DELHI.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (HANDICRAFTS)
Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OFFICER KUPWARA

Email: cahokupwara@jkanimalhusbandry.net | Phone: - 0911955252283

CAHO/Kup/Tech/ | Dated: / /2025

Subject: - Extension of last date for submission of application forms under APDS for the year 2024-25.

This notification is in continuation to notice issued by this office vide no. CAHO/Kup/ Tech /2383-87, Dated: - 07-02-2025, for submission of application forms for establishment of Mini Layer Farms in villages Baderher (Block Handwara), Bubemag including panchayat Oubgal & Kandi B (Block Kupwara) under APDS.

Now, the last date for submission of application forms is extended upto 24/02/2024. The extension is done in view of poor response of the public.

DIPK-12249-24 | Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kupwara
DT: 20/02/2025

Govt, of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER KUPWARA

NOTIFICATION

The final seniority list of following categories has been framed and finalized by this office on the basis of their service bio data provided by the concerned controlling officers (Drawing and Disbursing Officers) and circulated among all controlling officers and is available at Block Headquarters for Information of all the concerned employees. Moreover the final seniority list has also been submitted to Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

S.No.	Category
01	Junior Staff Nurse
02	Junior Theatre Technician
03	Junior X-Ray Technician
04	Junior Laboratory Technician
05	Junior Ophthalmic Technician
06	FMPHW

NO. -CMOK/EST-11/FSL/2025/1308-13 | DIPK-12251-24 | Chief Medical Officer Kupwara
Dated: -20-02-2025 | DT: 20-02-2025

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

The Food Boom

A Crisis Of Quality And Conscience

In recent years, the Kashmir Valley has witnessed an unprecedented surge in restaurants, food hubs, and eateries. It appears as though business innovation has taken a backseat, with the culinary industry being the dominant pursuit. While entrepreneurship is commendable, this sudden influx of food establishments has raised serious concerns about quality, hygiene, and ethics. Many of these eateries are offering products that barely meet basic health standards. The rampant disregard for hygiene, the ambiguity over halal authenticity, and the use of substandard ingredients are alarming. It is no longer about savoring authentic, nutritious meals but rather an indiscriminate rush to consume whatever is available. Food, a symbol of culture and tradition, has now been reduced to an industry driven by profit margins rather than quality. The question arises—are we truly eating food fit for consumption, or simply filling our stomachs with products that even animals would reject in the wild? This unregulated boom in the food industry demands strict oversight. Authorities must implement stringent quality checks, while consumers must be vigilant about what they consume. The need of the hour is to restore the sanctity of food by prioritizing hygiene, authenticity, and ethical business practices. A thriving food industry should not come at the cost of public health and morality.

Dying Springs – An Upsetting Situation

HAROON RASHID BHAT

“Our Rishies, Sufi sages considered the place around the spring spiritually consecrated. They preferred to sit there for hours to attain enlightenment. They planted trees mainly Chinar trees around the springs to beautify its surroundings. Locals especially our Pundit community used to do necessary cleaning to maintain their glory as they considered it a religious obligation”

The recent upsetting news regarding the springs across the valley is not a good sign. Wali Kak- an elderly person from a remote village had very beautiful memories of the past related to springs. He narrated, Our Rishies, Sufi sages considered the place around the spring spiritually consecrated. They preferred to sit there for hours to attain enlightenment. They planted trees mainly Chinar trees around the springs to beautify its surroundings.

Locals especially our Pundit community used to do necessary cleaning to maintain their glory as they considered it a religious obligation. During those times literacy rate was low but people were educated in a true sense. They believed that cleanliness is a prerequisite for physical and spiritual sustenance. They knew the significance of these vital resources. But our so-called modern educated people don't give that respect to these water bodies. They left no stone unturned to pollute these water resources and ruined their landscape”.

While narrating his experience, he took a long breath and reflected on this worried situation, “Human beings are the best and the noblest creation that Almighty Allah created on this planet. Let us rethink our past and present, just contemplate whether we have retained that position or not. Are we moving towards sustainable development or self-destruction? No doubt, in this post-modern stage, we feel proud to erect sky-touching buildings, change the direction of rivers, establish tunnels or bridges through mountain peaks and oceans, and invent missiles and machines. But, Alas! Our individual and collective odd actions and irresponsible attitude led us into deep chaos and confusion.

We became greedy and selfish. We



have started a war against nature. Exploring nature and the utilization of natural resources for sustainable development is in no way wrong. It should be done judiciously. Unfortunately, Shrinking forest areas in the name of development, encroaching water bodies, grazing lands – Kahcharia, snatching the rights of both land and aquatic animals, and excessive use of pesticides and fungicides without caring about their impact on other living species. Food adulteration, sale of fictitious drugs, unnecessary prescription of medical tests by so-called doctors, the rising graph of drug abuse, growing immorality, cursing forefathers in the backdrop of the claim that they did nothing good for society, religious intolerance, and corruption have become a mere matter of the course.

People don't feel guilty, instead, they are enjoying such acts. If we do not change this irresponsible attitude and reshape our character, it will have serious consequences on our future endeavors. Our economy which is mostly based on agriculture, horticulture, and tourism will be affected. Snow-capped mountains, springs, flowing rivers, freshwater lakes, wells, green pastures, apple plants laden with fruits, and saffron fields glittering like golden sheets, tourist destinations packed with local and foreign tourists. This is the real identity of Kashmir which is currently in deep crisis due to this dry climatic condition.

This crucial phase of winter without rain and snow is not a good omen. Let us go for collective forgiveness. Let us bring positive changes within ourselves and try to contribute towards our mother land-Mouj-Kasheer as per our knowledge and capacity to regain its glory”. Glimpsing through the window with hopeful eyes, and praying for rain and snow, Wali Kak pinned a hope that Almighty Allah would bless this paradise again with a sufficient shower of rain and snow.

Author is a teacher. He can be mailed at minamharoon123@gmail.com

Organic Poultry: The Key To Better Health

AUBAID AHMED AKHOON

Poultry farming has been a cherished tradition in Kashmir Valley for generations. In earlier times, almost every household kept chickens and other domestic birds, serving multiple purposes. These birds not only beautified courtyards but also provided a reliable source of fresh eggs and meat.

Moreover, they played a crucial role in the household economy, as they could be sold when financial needs arose. Unlike commercial poultry, home-raised birds were known for their superior taste and nutritional value, free from artificial additives and growth hormones.

Among domestic poultry, chickens, ducks, turkeys, and geese hold significant commercial and nutritional importance. However, chickens and their eggs remain the most widely consumed due to their easy availability and high nutritional benefits. The consumption of chicken meat, when done in moderation, can greatly benefit health.

Experts suggest that an average adult can safely consume around 200 grams of chicken per day to maintain a balanced diet without risking excessive weight gain. Chicken is a rich source of protein, essential for muscle growth and body repair, and contains tryptophan, an amino acid that enhances serotonin levels, promoting a sense of well-being.

Additionally, chicken is packed with selenium, a powerful antioxidant that helps combat aging, supports heart health, and improves cognitive function. It is also an excellent source of vitamin B3, which aids in lowering cholesterol and reducing the risk of heart disease.

Furthermore, vitamin B6 in chicken supports metabolism, helping in weight management and overall well-being. However, the method of preparation significantly impacts its nutritional value. Grilling, baking, or boiling chicken retains its benefits, whereas frying or cooking with excessive oil can reduce its health advantages.

Eggs, often considered a superfood, have been a staple in diets worldwide for thousands of years. They are an



economical and high-quality source of protein, packed with essential nutrients like vitamin D, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, selenium, lutein, zeaxanthin, choline, and minerals such as zinc, iron, and copper. Regular consumption of eggs offers numerous health benefits.

They support liver function due to their choline content and slow down the aging process with their antioxidant-rich composition. Egg whites are particularly beneficial for weight management as they provide high-quality protein with minimal fat.

The presence of biotin, vitamin B12, and protein in eggs contributes to healthy skin and hair, while omega-3 fatty acids help in maintaining cardiovascular health. Additionally, eggs contain essential vitamins that support vision, reduce inflammation, and strengthen bones by providing adequate vitamin D and calcium. Pregnant women benefit from eggs as they are rich in folic acid, which plays a crucial role in preventing birth defects and ensuring proper fetal development. Furthermore, eggs contribute to brain function, improving memory and cognitive abilities.

The advantages of consuming eggs extend beyond just physical health. They enhance brain function, protect against age-related vision problems, aid in muscle recovery, and even help in maintaining a balanced mood. Their rich antioxidant content lowers the risk of certain cancers, while their protein composition supports strong nails and healthy hair. Including eggs in a balanced diet helps maintain an ideal body weight and improves metabolism.

Government Poultry Department: A Wasted Potential

Despite possessing substantial infrastructure and manpower, the government poultry department has failed to utilize its resources effectively. While poultry farms operate under government supervision, their productivity remains minimal, offering little to no contribution to the market. The department's inefficiency is evident in its limited operations, as government-produced poultry and eggs are sold only twice a year—on major festivals like Eid—while the local market remains underserved throughout the year.

This lack of consistent supply not only forces consumers to rely on external poultry suppliers but also cripples the growth of local poultry farming. Instead of fostering self-sufficiency, the authorities have allowed a system of dependency to flourish, undermining the region's potential for homegrown poultry production. The absence of government poultry shops further highlights the administration's negligence, leaving small-scale poultry farmers struggling to compete with large-scale external suppliers.

The government's failure to create sustainable poultry policies reflects a broader pattern of mismanagement and lack of vision. Despite having the necessary framework to support local poultry businesses, there is no initiative to streamline production, ensure fair pricing, or establish proper distribution channels. The department's inaction not only leads to economic losses but also deprives consumers of healthier, locally sourced poultry options.

If the authorities truly intend to support domestic poultry farming, they must take immediate corrective measures. Establishing gov-

ernment-supported poultry shops, ensuring year-round market availability, and implementing policies that encourage self-reliance are essential steps. Without such reforms, the government poultry department will remain an example of wasted potential, failing both farmers and consumers alike.

Eating mindfully is crucial for maintaining good health. Being aware of the food we consume and making healthier choices can have a lasting impact on overall well-being. Incorporating domestic poultry products, especially home-raised chicken and eggs, into daily meals ensures a natural and nutrient-rich diet. These foods not only provide essential nourishment but also contribute to a healthier lifestyle.

Health is the greatest blessing from God.

Taking care of your body through nutritious and wholesome foods is a step towards a better, healthier life. Choosing natural food sources like domestic poultry can significantly enhance well-being and overall health.

(The author is a motivational speaker and a columnist)

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

PM Modi And Trump Forge A New Dawn In US-India Relations

RAHUL PAWA

Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States not only deepened the strategic alliance between the two nations but also set in motion a cascade of initiatives that promise to reshape the geopolitical landscape for decades to come.

In a dazzling display of strategic vision and personal rapport, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the United States in February 2025 has set the stage for an era of renewed cooperation and transformative partnerships between two of the world's most influential democracies.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly complex global landscape, the visit showcased a master class in diplomacy, marked by high-level meetings, landmark agreements, and an inspiring confluence of ideas that spanned defence, trade, technology, energy, and cultural exchange.

At the heart of this historic journey was the much-anticipated meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Donald J. Trump in Washington, D.C. In an atmosphere that was as congenial as it was consequential, the two leaders not only reaffirmed the bedrock of the India-U.S.

Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership but also demonstrated a genuine personal rapport that resonated far beyond policy papers and strategic memos. Their conversation, punctuated by mutual admiration and forward-looking optimism, culminated in the launch of the ambitious U.S.-India COMPACT for the 21st Century—a transformative roadmap designed to deliver tangible results across defence, commerce, and technology within the year.

In an era defined by intricate challenges—from rebalancing global tariffs and tackling illegal immigration to addressing the ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine issue—Modi's discussions with President Trump were both candid and constructive. The leaders deliberated on the urgent need to streamline tariff structures to foster a more equitable trading relationship.

They also exchanged views on sensitive judicial issues, such as the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, recognising that robust legal cooperation is pivotal in the fight against terrorism. This frank dialogue underscored their shared commitment to maintaining a rules-based international order, a cornerstone for global stability.

A standout moment during the visit was Prime Minister Modi's engaging discussion with Elon Musk, who, in his dual role as the head of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and CEO of Tesla, symbolised the seamless fusion of public policy and private innovation. In an exchange that was as energetic as it was visionary, Modi and Musk explored the boundless possibilities of emerging



technologies—from space exploration and artificial intelligence to sustainable development. Musk's presence, accentuated by the warmth of his family's company, added a distinctly personal dimension to the dialogue, reinforcing the belief that when innovation is nurtured, boundaries dissolve and progress becomes inevitable.

The visit was also a testament to the two nation's unyielding commitment to security. In his meeting with U.S. National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, Prime Minister Modi delved into discussions centred on strategic technologies and defence industrial cooperation.

The dialogue, which included pivotal discussions on civil nuclear energy and the deployment of small modular reactors, laid the groundwork for an enduring partnership aimed at fortifying both nations' security frameworks. Equally significant was the meeting with U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, where the emphasis was placed on bolstering intelligence sharing, particularly in the realms of counterterrorism and cybersecurity. These high-level engagements highlighted a shared understanding: that in today's volatile global environment, the integration of traditional and technological security measures is indispensable.

One of the most consequential outcomes of the visit was the announcement of a new ten-year major defence partnership framework. This comprehensive agreement is poised to not only enhance the interoperability of the two nations' armed forces through

expanded defence sales and co-production initiatives but also to foster the development of cutting-edge autonomous systems via the newly established Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA). Such initiatives are testament to the strategic foresight of both nations, ensuring they remain at the vanguard of modern warfare and intelligence-sharing capabilities.

In parallel, enhanced military collaboration was underscored by plans for expanded joint exercises such as the "Tiger Triumph" tri-service exercise. This commitment to operational readiness and mutual trust stands as a bulwark against both conventional and unconventional threats, ensuring that the armed forces of India and the United States are ever-prepared to respond to emerging global challenges.

On the economic front, the visit heralded a bold new chapter with the introduction of "Mission 500"—an ambitious initiative aiming to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. This visionary target is complemented by ongoing negotiations for a comprehensive multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement, expected to streamline trade practices and dismantle barriers to market access. Modi's discussions emphasised the importance of greenfield investments and regulatory reforms designed to create an enabling environment for business expansion, ensuring that the economic benefits of the strengthened partnership are widely shared.

Energy security, a linchpin of national stability, featured prominently in the agenda. The U.S.-India

Energy Security Partnership was designed to guarantee reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy supplies through joint initiatives in oil, gas, and liquefied natural gas (LNG). Complementing this was the reaffirmation of the U.S.-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement, aimed at advancing civil nuclear cooperation through the development of U.S.-designed reactors in India. Special emphasis was placed on the development of small modular reactors—an innovation set to revolutionise energy generation by being both cost-effective and environmentally sustainable.

Perhaps one of the most forward-looking initiatives announced was the U.S.-India TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) initiative. This comprehensive programme is poised to catalyse innovation by fostering collaboration among governments, academia, and the private sector in fields as diverse as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and quantum computing. In tandem, the INDUS Innovation Bridge aims to bolster industry-academic partnerships and create secure, trusted supply chains for vital technological components, thereby enhancing both nations' self-reliance and resilience in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

The discussion also extended to strategic mineral recovery and civil space cooperation. Recognising the critical role of raw materials in technological advancement, efforts to accelerate the recovery of essential minerals like lithium and cobalt were highlighted. Joint

space projects, including a NASA-ISRO collaboration, are poised to propel both nations into a leadership role in global space exploration, signalling a new era of scientific and exploratory endeavours.

Beyond the bilateral sphere, Modi's visit also placed a strong emphasis on multilateral and regional cooperation. The Quad and Indo-Pacific frameworks were reaffirmed as vital to ensuring a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. With plans for a Quad Leaders' Summit in New Delhi and enhanced maritime initiatives, both nations are setting a robust agenda to safeguard regional trade routes and maritime security.

Moreover, initiatives in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean region were discussed with an eye towards building broader, inclusive partnerships that extend the benefits of this strategic alliance to a wider international community. The commitment to undersea cable projects and digital infrastructure investments further underlines the forward-looking nature of this expansive agenda.

No diplomatic mission is complete without the human element, and Modi's visit was replete with initiatives aimed at strengthening cultural and academic ties. Efforts to expand academic and talent exchanges, such as joint degree programmes and the establishment of Centres of Excellence, are designed to nurture a generation of leaders who embody the collaborative spirit of this new partnership. Modi's engagement on public platforms—celebrating World Radio Day and inviting public contributions for the famed Mann Ki Baat session—reinforced his commitment to transparent communication and grassroots connectivity.

As the curtains fall on a visit that will be remembered as a watershed moment in India-U.S. relations, the resounding message is one of hope, progress, and unwavering commitment. Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States not only deepened the strategic alliance between the two nations but also set in motion a cascade of initiatives that promise to reshape the geopolitical landscape for decades to come.

In an era where global challenges demand collaborative solutions and shared visions, the personal camaraderie between Modi and Trump, coupled with the strategic foresight of both leaders, stands as a beacon of what can be achieved when nations unite for a common purpose. The renewed partnership, with its blend of defence, economic, technological, and cultural dimensions, is poised to deliver a legacy of enduring peace, stability, and prosperity—a testament to the power of visionary leadership and the timeless value of friendship across borders.

(Rahul Pawa is an international criminal lawyer and director of research at New Delhi based think tank Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies)

Disconnected In A Connected World

Are We Controlling Technology, Or Is It Quietly, Steadily, Controlling Us?

IFRAH MUSHTAQ

What happens when the world steals our hearts at our fingertips? When our ideas are muffled by the steady stream of notifications? We live in an age where screens promise connection but often deliver isolation—a silent theft of presence, a quiet erosion of our mental peace. Mental health, once rooted in shared stories and sunlit fields, now teeters on the fragile edges of digital dependency.

Children, who once found magic in the rustling of leaves, now chase fleeting dopamine hits from glowing rectangles. Adolescents, who once sought comfort in a friend's laughter, scroll endlessly, hoping to fill an unnamed void. And adults? They sit beside loved ones, yet oceans apart—united by proximity, separated by screens.

But at what cost? Anxiety spikes with every unread message. Sleep, once a haven, is sabotaged by midnight scrolling. The mind, overstimulated, forgets the art of stillness. It's a cruel irony—connected to the world, disconnected from oneself.

We know the latest trends but forget the scent of rain on warm earth. We



send digital hearts yet overlook the beating ones beside us. Technology, meant to simplify life, often compli-

cates the very essence of our existence: being present.

The boundaries, however, are not

impossible to draw. Technology, when tamed, can be a bridge rather than a barrier. Imagine a dinner table where

conversations flow like a river, unfiltered and unrecorded. A classroom where curiosity, not content, drives learning. A park where children chase butterflies, not notifications.

Balance is the missing compass—not rejection, but mindful use. Set digital curfews. Redefine "connection" as eye contact, not Wi-Fi strength. Introduce young minds to life's orchestra beyond screens—where the warmth of a real sunrise still outshines the brightest pixels.

For in the end, what matters more: the endless scroll of hollow content or the irreplaceable touch of a life lived fully, presently, deeply? One day, when the screens dim and the apps fade, it won't be the perfectly curated posts we remember. It will be the imperfect, beautiful moments of life lived offline—a child's laughter, a friend's hug, a shared sunset that needed no filter to take our breath away.

So, pause. Put the phone down. Step into the world with unfiltered eyes—feel the crispness of the breeze, listen to the whispers of the earth, and let your heart sync with life's unedited rhythm.

The author can be mailed at ifrahm.literaryworks@gmail.com

Amla Can Be Highly Beneficial For Your Health

Amla also known as Indian gooseberry, is incredibly healthy and has been used in traditional medicine for centuries due to its high nutritional value. Rich in vitamin C, antioxidants, and anti-inflammatory compounds, amla helps strengthen immunity, supports skin and hair health, and promotes heart health by reducing cholesterol levels. It is also known for aiding digestion, managing blood sugar levels, and boosting

liver function. Adding amla to your diet regularly can improve overall health, but its strong, tangy flavour can make it challenging to incorporate. Fortunately, there are several delicious and creative ways to add amla to your daily meals. Read on to find out.

Here are 10 tips to help you incorporate amla into your diet

1. Amla juice

Start your day with a small glass of fresh amla juice. It provides a vitamin C boost, supports digestion, and aids

in detoxification. You can mix it with honey or dilute it with water if the flavour is too strong.

2. Amla powder in smoothies

Add a teaspoon of amla powder to your morning smoothie for a nutritious kick. The powder blends well with fruits like mango or pineapple, masking the sourness and enhancing the overall nutritional profile of your drink.

3. Amla chutney

Make amla chutney with fresh herbs like mint and cilan-

tro, along with green chilies and spices. It serves as a tasty side dish, adding both flavour and health benefits to your meals.

4. Amla pickle

Try making amla pickle by soaking amla in spices and a small amount of oil. It can be stored for weeks and used as a tangy condiment that pairs well with rice, curries, and flatbreads.

5. Amla candies

For a sweet treat, dried amla candies, often coated with natural sweeteners, offer an enjoy-

able way to snack on this nutritious fruit. These can be found in health stores or made at home by dehydrating amla and lightly dusting it with jaggery.

6. Amla in salads

Add finely chopped or grated amla to salads for a unique, tangy twist. It goes well with ingredients like carrots, cucumbers, and pomegranate seeds, creating a fresh and nutrient-packed dish.

7. Amla tea

Amla tea, made by steeping fresh or dried amla pieces in hot water, provides a refreshing

beverage packed with antioxidants. Add a bit of honey and ginger for additional flavour and health benefits.

8. Amla in yogurt or raita

Mix grated amla into yogurt or raita along with some spices for a cooling side dish that complements spicy meals. This combination helps boost digestion and adds probiotics for gut health.

9. Amla infused water

Add a few slices of fresh amla to your water bottle and sip throughout the day. The water absorbs the nutrients from the

amla, providing a refreshing, vitamin-enriched drink.

10. Amla powder in soups and curries

Incorporate a teaspoon of amla powder into soups, stews, or curries. The powder dissolves easily, and its slightly sour flavour enhances the taste while enriching the dish with nutrients.

Incorporating amla into your diet through these varied methods allows you to enjoy its health benefits without overwhelming your palate, making it a versatile addition to your meals.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CBI Books IAS Officer,

Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday booked the then Managing Director of Cooperative Housing Corporation and others for illegal allotment of the state land in Jammu.

It is alleged that the housing board in Bjalta Jammu purchased 392 Kanals of land at scattered places and later, the management of the board in connivance with board officers and officials of Revenue Department illegally occupied about 584 Kanal land which includes state land.

Rain, Snow Break

Celsius and Pahalgam 1.2 degrees Celsius. Jammu city recorded 11.9 degrees Celsius minimum temperature, Katra town 9 degrees Celsius, Batote 3.7 degrees Celsius, Banihal 2.4 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 4.4 degrees Celsius.

Usually, all the perennial water reservoirs of Jammu and Kashmir up in the mountains get replenished by heavy snowfall during the winter months. This replenishment of perennial water reservoirs sustains rivers, streams, springs, lakes and other water bodies in Jammu and Kashmir during the hot summer months.

Less or no snowfall during the winter spells disaster leading to water shortages in the summer months.

Srinagar- Jammu

of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to slippery road conditions between Banihal and Ramsoo following heavy snowfall.

Commuters have been advised to avoid traveling on the highway until the weather improves and the road is cleared for movement, officials said.

Authorities have urged travelers to check the latest road status on the traffic police's official Twitter handle, Facebook page, and Traffic Control Units (TCUs) before planning their journey.

Rainfall Deficit

The data states that 2019 was the only year with 60 per cent rainfall above normal in between December and February. In 2018, a total deficit of rainfall between December to February was 30 per cent, reads the data.

However, in the preceding year 2019, Kashmir recorded above 60 per cent precipitation from the normal scale. The rainfall of above 300 mm was recorded during the period.

On the contrary, the region started witnessing a decline trend in precipitation till the year 2025. In the year 2020 and 2021, the Kashmir region recorded precipitation of below ten per cent.

Likewise, in the year 2022, the precipitation of 10 percent was recorded.

As per the data the deficit rainfall during the period has been witnessed persistently. In the year 2023, there was a deficit of ten percent rainfall in the months between December to February.

In the year 2024, Kashmir recorded a deficit rainfall of 40 per cent.

However, the highest deficit precipitation has been recorded in the ongoing year as the region has witnessed a deficit rainfall of 70 percent. This year has witnessed the lowest precipitation in the last eight years since 2018. From December 2024 to February 2025, a rainfall of 50 mm was recorded, the official data revealed.

A local news agency KNO reported that in the first 50-days of the year 2025 Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a rainfall deficit of 83 percent thus posing a risk of severe water scarcity in the coming months.

From January 1, 2025 to February 19, 2025, J&K has recorded a rainfall of just 29.8 mm against the normal precipitation of 175.8 mm. i.e. only the 17% precipitation.

Soldier Injured In

hospital for treatment.

Earlier on February 11, two Army personnel, including a captain rank officer, were killed and another was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED), believed to have been planted by terrorists, exploded near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Govt Orders

, who was DSP CID SB Poonch, will now

serve as DSP HQ Kulgam. Rayes Ahmed Mir has been posted as DSP CID SB Baramulla, following his tenure as DSP SOG Lolab. Similarly, Owaise Rashid, earlier SDPO Bijbehara, has been transferred to DSP HQ Ganderbal.

Among other key transfers, Abdul Raqeeb Malik has been shifted from SDPO Achabal to DSP SOG Rafiabab, and Abdul Majid Magray, who was serving as DSP DAR Handwara, will now take over as DSP PCR Kashmir. Meanwhile, Sajad Ahmad Malik, earlier DSP SOG Sangam, has been reassigned as DSP HQ Budgam, and Imtiaz Ahmed has been posted as DSP Security Jammu after his stint as DSP DAR Ramban.

Tahir Amin Sheikh, who was SDPO Chenani, will now serve as DSP DAR Jammu, while Jaswant Singh has been appointed as DSP SOG Anantnag after serving as SDPO Nowshera. In another significant move, Albeena Malik has been posted as DSP CICE Jammu, having previously served as SDPO Railways Jammu.

Further transfers include Sajad Ahmad, who moves from DSP DAR Kishtwar to DSP Traffic Ramban, and Arun Jamwal, who will now serve as SDPO Vijaypur after his tenure at DSP IR-20th Bn. Updesh Kumar has been shifted to SDPO Arnas from DSP SOG Gursai, Poonch, while Kuldeep Kumar takes over as DSP DAR Ramban from DSP Chanderkote, Ramban.

Additionally, Ishfaq Alam has been appointed DSP Traffic Srinagar, and Sahil Mahajan will now be SDPO Nowshera after serving as DSP SOG Jammu. In other key postings, Javid Ahmad Lone has been transferred to DSP SOG Lolab from DSP DAR Shopian, and Vishal Manhas moves to DSP SOG Dassa Kastigar.

The reshuffle also involves several officers being assigned new responsibilities in traffic, security, and CID wings. The administration has emphasized that these transfers aim to streamline law enforcement and enhance operational efficiency.

Moreover, three IPS officers from the 2021 batch have been instructed to report to SP Operations, Srinagar, for further duties. Their salary will be drawn from the office of SSP Srinagar until their substantive postings are determined by the government. (KNT)

Congress Denies

and Home Minister Amit Shah, nothing has happened so far. Despite the massive mandate in the Jammu division, the BJP leaders are silent. They should tell the people why they are not pressing for restoration of statehood," he said.

Karra also pointed out that despite the formation of the popular NC-led government in October last year, many bureaucrats continue to function in an authoritarian manner, similar to the approach during the Lieutenant Governor's administration.

He further claimed that democracy had not been truly restored in J&K, despite official assertions to the contrary. "On one hand, BJP is claiming that the situation has improved in J&K, but on the other hand, there is a mindset that portrays that democracy has not been restored," he said.

The Congress leader also called for the immediate redressal of pressing issues such as inadequate electricity and water supply, tourism promotion, employment generation, and the regularization of daily-wage workers and Special Police Officers (SPOs).

Defending his son's attendance at an official meeting chaired by Health and Education Minister Sakina Itoo in Srinagar, Karra explained, "I was away in Jammu and accordingly nominated my son as constituency in-charge. This has been the precedent and it is not happening for the first time."

Amid these developments, reports suggest a growing distance between former Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani and his supporters from party activities led by Tariq Hameed Karra.

Omar Stresses On

Development Center (SIIEDC), University of Jammu. The event was attended by Vice-Chancellor of Jammu University Professor Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellors of SMVD University, BGSBS University, and Cluster University of Jammu, along with senior faculty members, Principals of various colleges and students.

Addressing the pressing issue of climate change, the CM highlighted the alarming precipitation deficit in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Until this morning, when the rains finally came, we were facing an 80-85% precipitation deficit this winter, signaling a major water crisis. Our agricultural patterns rely on the assumption of sufficient water availability. But with current

water levels, cultivating paddy, which is water-intensive, would be nearly impossible," he said.

Speaking on the 'Design Your Degree' (DYD) program under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), the CM stated that the initiative empowers students to shape their education according to their interests, enhancing their skills and aligning them with evolving job market demands.

"As Jammu and Kashmir's private sector expands—particularly in industry and tourism—and as the region integrates further into the national economy, more job opportunities will emerge. With Jammu University gaining national recognition, students equipped with relevant skills will have a competitive advantage," he added.

Reflecting on the pressure students face to secure high percentages, the CM remarked, "It's astonishing how much pressure we put on our children. When you see the cut-off percentages for top colleges like those in Delhi University—some even at 100%—it raises the question: what is beyond 100%?"

He emphasized that the Design Your Degree program marks a transformative shift in education by allowing students to study subjects that genuinely interest them.

"This is a significant change from the traditional model, where students were told what to study. Now, they have the freedom to design their degree, enhancing both their academic experience and career prospects," he said.

Discussing future prospects in fields like artificial intelligence (AI), agriculture and tourism, the CM highlighted AI's growing impact on education and industry.

"Artificial Intelligence is reshaping how we approach learning and work. While it presents challenges, like the ease of using tools like ChatGPT for academic tasks, it also offers immense opportunities for innovation and growth," he observed.

Omar acknowledged the role of faculty members from Delhi University, pioneers of the Design Your Degree initiative, in guiding the program's implementation.

"This shift requires a change in mindset for both students and teachers. Traditionally, teachers were told what to teach. Now, students are asked, 'What do you want to learn?' and teachers must adapt their approach accordingly. The expertise of these eminent professors is invaluable as we navigate this transition," he added.

The CM expressed his commitment to supporting Jammu University in its academic endeavors, both in his individual capacity and as the Pro-Chancellor of the university.

"I assure you that as long as I am here, I will do whatever I can to help Jammu University grow and thrive," Omar saad.

Ends Pre-Budget

the District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the district.

The representatives presented their demands and issues, with the CM assuring them that their suggestions and inputs would be duly considered in the budget formulation.

In his comments, Omar stated that the series of consultations with public representatives from all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir had concluded, providing valuable insights into the ground-level issues faced by the people.

"These interactions help us understand the priorities of the people. Since you are directly connected with the public, your inputs and suggestions are crucial for policy-making," the CM told the elected representatives. Similarly, representatives from Doda district also discussed their development priorities and concerns with the Chief Minister.

Among key issues raised about twin districts, staff shortages in educational institutions and healthcare centers, drinking water supply, road connectivity & widening, construction of tunnels, and improving mobile connectivity in remote areas were put forth.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kishtwar and Doda, in their presentation, provided constituency-wise breakdown of demands prioritized by the MLAs.

The DDC chairpersons and MLAs expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for involving them in the budget formulation process, noting that it was the first time such consultations had taken place.

They urged that this participatory approach should continue as a regular feature.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Sec-

retary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Director General Budget M.S. Malik, Director General Expenditure Division-I Sajad Hussain Ganai and other concerned officials.

J&K Gears Up For

these directives.

Reports indicate that 82 out of 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have submitted nearly 800 questions and 80 private members' bills. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had instructed each MLA to submit 20 questions—10 in the starred and 10 in the unstarred categories—along with three private member's bills.

However, certain restrictions have been imposed on asking questions during the session. Written questions related to All India Services, including IAS, police, law and order, and security matters, will not be permitted unless the Speaker allows them under special circumstances. Additionally, debates on issues concerning All India Services will also be excluded.

The last budget session of the J&K Legislative Assembly was held in January-February 2018. The session holds particular significance as it is going to be the first budget session since the collapse of the Mehbooba Mufti-led government in June 2018, following the BJP's withdrawal from its alliance with the PDP. Subsequently, President's and Governor's rule were imposed, leading to the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories—J&K and Ladakh—in August 2019—(KNO)

5 Arrested For

me to salute, while others forced me to sing and dance. When I refused, they assaulted me. Juniors have to put up with these kinds of difficulties. However, I have not lodged a formal complaint with the police," Hameem stated.

However, the college administration, including the Dean, Principal, and Medical Superintendent Dr. Jilani A. Awati, denied any incident of ragging.

"There was a quarrel during the cricket match, but we have conducted a preliminary investigation, and action will be taken against those found guilty. Our institution has been running for 40 years, and we do not tolerate such incidents. Hameem has not suffered any injuries, and we have spoken to his parents. The police are conducting their investigation. Our disciplinary committee is monitoring the situation, and we will take the necessary action. All students are treated equally on campus," Awati stated.

The investigation is ongoing, and further details are awaited.

'JK Relies 85% On

KNO reported that in the past one month, the hydel power generation from the power plants across Jammu and Kashmir has further reduced by five percent owing to the less snowfall and low water levels.

Overall, the hydro power generation from the local plants in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced by 84.17 percent.

In the month of January, the Power Development Department (PDD) was generating nearly 250 Megawatts of power from the local hydel projects that amounts to 20 percent of the total generation capacity. However, in the ongoing month, the power generation has further reduced by five percent.

"However, the power generation has further decreased with the officials saying that the department was able to generate only 190 MWs of power in the ongoing month," the official said.

Besides, the authorities have said that Jammu and Kashmir may face 29 percent of 'forced load shedding' of annual power in the year 2034-35.

Besides, it has further projected that in the coming ten years, the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of power demand is likely to increase by more than four percent in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Need To Keep Mother

every individual must take personal responsibility for preserving all languages spoken across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, including Urdu—(KNO)

India poised to stay world's fastest growing economy in 2025-26: RBI bulletin

MUMBAI : High frequency indicators point towards a sequential pick-up in momentum of India's economic activity during the second half of 2024-25, which is likely to sustain moving forward, according to the latest RBI monthly bulletin.

tors show that the economy is on a path of recovery during H2:2024-25 from the loss of momentum witnessed in H1.

Industrial activity has recorded an improvement over the previous quarter, as reflected in the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



in January.

Pick-up in tractor sales growth, and fuel consumption, and sustained growth in air passenger traffic also point to a recovery in overall momentum, according to the bulletin.

It also highlights that rural demand continues to hold up, buoyed by increasing farm incomes.

In rural areas, sales of Fast-Moving Consumer Good (FMCG) companies grew by 9.9 per cent in Q3:2024-25, much higher than 5.7 per cent in Q2. Urban demand also exhibited a recovery with 5 per cent growth in Q3, being nearly double of 2.6 per cent in the previous quarter.

The enterprise surveys conducted by the Reserve Bank corroborate this assessment. Listed non-government non-financial companies recorded acceleration in sales growth during Q3 as per early results.

On a sequential basis, operating profit margins

declined on account of selling pressures from Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) as sentiments remained weak.

The Indian rupee has depreciated in line with other emerging economies, weighed down by the strength of the US dollar.

Strong macroeconomic fundamentals, along with improvements in various measures of external sector vulnerability, have helped India tide over the ongoing wave of global uncertainty, the RBI bulletin points out.

The RBI bulletin also highlights that the US trade policy uncertainty has spiked to levels last seen during the 2019 episode of US-China trade war and restrictive trade policies and fragmentation could lead to a long-term shift in global trade patterns rather than a short-term disruption, and upward pressures on consumer and business costs.

The global economy continues to grow at a steady but moderate pace, with divergent outlook across countries amid rapidly evolving political and technological landscapes.

Financial markets remain on edge on the slowing pace of disinflation and the potential impact of tariffs.

Emerging Market Economies are witnessing selling pressures from FPIs and currency depreciation engendered by a strong US dollar, the bulletin added.

have also turned out to be higher in line with improved sales growth, according to the report.

It further states that investment intentions of the private sector remained stable, with the total cost of projects sanctioned by banks/financial institutions (FIs) at close to ₹1 lakh crore in Q3:2024-25.

External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) for Capex purposes also recorded an uptick during Q3.

Uncertainty surrounding global trade and geopolitical landscape have had a bearing on domestic equity markets. The benchmark and broader markets

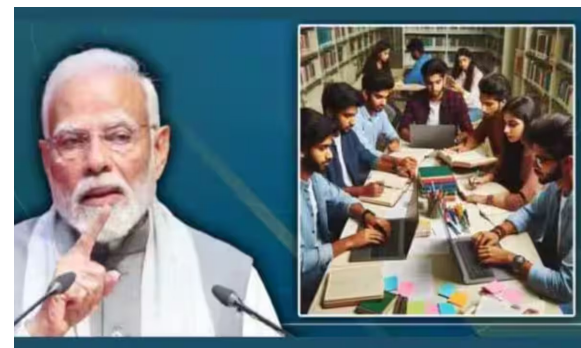
PM Internship Scheme Round 2 with over one lakh opportunities open for applications

NEW DELHI : The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) is once again open for applications with the launch of Round 2 of the pilot phase, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) said on Thursday.

After more than six lakh applications in Round 1, Round 2 offers more than one lakh internship opportunities in top companies across more than 730 districts in the country.

The scheme targets individuals aged 21 to 24 who are currently not enrolled in any full-time academic programme or employment, offering them a unique chance to kick-start their careers.

Each intern will be supported with monthly financial assistance of Rs 5,000, supplemented by one-time financial assistance of Rs 6,000.



More than 300 top companies across sectors including Oil, Gas and Energy; Banking and Financial Services, Travel and Hospitality, Automotive, Metals & Mining Manufacturing & Industrial, Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) and many more have offered internship opportunities to Indian youth for gaining real-world experience, network with professionals and enhance their employability.

According to the Ministry, eligible youth can explore and select internships based on their preferred district, state, sector and area, and filter internships within a customizable radius from their specified current address.

In round 2, each applicant can apply to up to three internships until the application deadline.

For round 2, more than 70 IEC events are being conducted across India in

districts with a maximum number of internship opportunities in colleges, universities, ITIs, Rozgar melas, etc., based on the kind of qualifications required for these internships.

Furthermore, national-level digital campaigns are underway through multiple platforms as well as influencers based on the concentration of opportunities and relevance to youth.

The PM Internship Scheme is designed to harness the potential of India's youth population by providing them with 12-month paid internships in top companies in India.

Each internship will be a combination of relevant training and professional experience (at least six months) to ensure that candidates learn and can also apply their skills in real-world settings.

Delhi ministers Parvesh, Kapil Mishra, Sirsa vow to implement PM Modi's vision

NEW DELHI : Delhi Cabinet ministers Parvesh Verma, Kapil Mishra and Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Thursday exuded confidence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's government delivering on all promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

Verma told IANS that the first Cabinet meeting under new CM Gupta will take key decisions.

Speaking soon after the oath taking ceremony at Ramlila Maidan, Verma said, "We thank the people of Delhi for supporting us." Asked about cleaning of the Yamuna river, he said, "All work will be done, including the cleaning of the river which is the party's commitment."

Earlier, he described it as a historic day as the BJP was forming a government in Delhi after 27 years.

"People have trusted the party and they believe that under PM Modi's leadership we will be able to develop Delhi as a modern Capital," he said, thanking party workers and voters for giving an overwhelming mandate to the BJP.

Verma's new Cabinet colleague Kapil Mishra told IANS, "The Cabinet will implement all works as per the vision of PM Modi."

He also said that the new government will take strict action against the issue of corruption which was raised by the BJP prominently.

Another Delhi Minister, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, told IANS, "The Cabinet will do its best to implement PM Modi's vision in Delhi."

BJP's Uttam Nagar legislator Pawan Sharma told IANS that the new government will promptly turn its focus on fulfilling the guarantees given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We will move ahead with implementation of projects to make Viksit Delhi," he said.

Former Delhi BJP President Adesh Gupta told IANS that under the chief ministership of Rekha Gupta, the party is going to make the national Capital a 'Viksit Delhi', including cleaning of the Yamuna.

"We will take the city towards the path of development according to the vision of PM Modi," he said.

He said the misgovernance of the Delhi government over the past 10-11 years will be put to an end.

"The team under CM Gupta will do its best to bring about a change in the city," he said.

Adani Portfolio clocks highest ever TTM EBITDA of Rs 86,789 crore, core infra biz surges

AHMEDABAD : Led by its core infrastructure business, the Adani Portfolio has delivered the highest-ever trailing-twelve-month (TTM) EBITDA of Rs 86,789 crore, the Adani Group said on Thursday.

The core infrastructure businesses (utility, transport, and incubating infra businesses under Adani Enterprises Ltd) accounted for 84 per cent of total EBITDA.

On a trailing-twelve-month (TTM) basis, portfolio EBITDA grew by 10.1 per cent (year-on-year) to an all-time high of Rs 86,789 crore while EBITDA for Q3 FY25 increased by 17.2 per cent to Rs 22,823 crore, according to the Adani Group, India's largest infrastructure player.

Adani Portfolio companies are now on a high capex path, with a strong base of increasing cash flow generation and project execution outlay of respective portfolio companies.

"This will position the respective portfolio companies as the global leaders in their respective sectors," said the company.

The fund flow from operations or cash after tax was at Rs 58,908 crore, the asset base stood at Rs 5.53 lakh crore and net debt to EBITDA was at 2.46 times

(as of September 30, 2024).

Sufficient liquidity is maintained across portfolio companies to cover debt servicing requirements for at least the next 12 months, said the Group.

According to the company, the highly stable 'Core Infrastructure' portfolio continues to power cash flow generation, with an 84 per cent contribution to the total portfolio EBITDA.

This 'Core Infrastructure' platform comprises AEL's incubating Infrastructure businesses, Utility (Adani Green Energy, Adani Power, Adani Energy Solutions, and Adani Total Gas), and Transport (Adani Ports and SEZ) businesses.

The credit profile has now achieved a significant milestone, with 75 per cent of the Run-rate EBITDA now generated from assets with domestic ratings of 'AA-' and above, according to the company.

Adani Enterprises' Incubating Infra businesses (ANIL, airports, and roads) are on a high growth trajectory and continue to lead the growth with EBITDA growth of 45.6 per cent YoY in Q3 FY25 and 33.3 percent in TTM.

"As on 30 September 2024, Adani Portfolio had a cash balance of Rs 53,024 crore, representing 20.5 per cent of Gross Debt," it said.

Four new expressways, AI city, scooty for girls in UP govt's Rs 8.08 lakh crore budget

LUCKNOW : Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna on Thursday presented a budget of Rs 8,08,736.6 crore for the financial year 2025-26, focusing on infrastructure, technology, education, and social welfare.

Presenting the budget in the Assembly, the Finance Minister emphasised rapid infrastructure development and employment generation. He announced that 22 per cent of the budget has been earmarked for developmental initiatives, 13 per cent for education, 11 per cent for agriculture and allied services, and 6 per cent for healthcare.

Khanna highlighted improvements in law and order and power supply, stating that digital platforms like Nivesh Saarthi, Nivesh Mitra, and the Online Incentive Benefit Management System have enhanced transparency in the investment process, boosting investor confidence.

As per the budget announcements, four new expressways will be developed, and 58 municipalities will be transformed into smart cities.

The UP government plans to establish an Artificial Intelligence City to position the state as a centre for technological innovation. A Technology Research Translation Park focused on cybersecurity and a Center of Excellence for AI will also be set up.

A Science City, Science Park, and Planetarium will be developed, along with the renovation of existing institutions. Meritorious girl students will receive scooties based on eligibility. Rs 24 crore has been allocated for providing laptops and smartphones to revenue personnel for online work.

Other announcements include two free LPG cylinders under the Ujjwala Yojana, Rs 1,050 crore for the Farmer Welfare Fund to assist farmers in case of accidental death/disability, Rs 550 crore for the Chief Minister's Mass Marriage Scheme to support marriages of daughters across all categories, Rs 2,980 crore for pensions under the Destitute Women Pension Scheme, Rs 700 crore for the Kanya Sumangala Scheme, and Rs 1,424 crore for the Disabled Maintenance Grant Scheme.

A Solar City will be developed in Ayodhya. Khanna said that the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj is a historic event, occurring once every 144 years, and extensive preparations were underway to make it a grand success.

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RG Kar tragedy: Special court directs CBI to submit fresh progress report on probe

KOLKATA : A special court in Kolkata, which had recently convicted and sentenced civic volunteer Sanjay Roy in the R.G. Kar junior woman doctor rape and murder case, on Thursday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to file a fresh progress report on its investigation in the matter on February 24.

Since the special court has already pronounced the sentence for the convict in the main crime of rape and murder, legal circles feel that the fresh progress report will be related to the angle of tampering with the evidence in the case.

It is learnt that the special court had directed the CBI to submit a fresh progress report following a complaint filed by the counsel of the victim's family accusing the central agency of not updating the court on the progress of investigation in the matter periodically.

Acting on the complaint, the special court directed the central agency to file a fresh progress report on the matter on February 24.

After the body of the lady junior doctor, who became a victim of ghastly rape and murder, was recovered from the seminar hall of R.G. Kar in the morning of August 9 last year, the initial investigation was carried out by the Kolkata Police. However, there had been several allegations of severe tampering with and altering of evidence during that period of investigation by the city police. Later, the CBI took charge of the investigation following an order of the Calcutta High Court.

Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Haryana and Rajasthan counterparts Nayab Singh Saini and Bhajan Lal Sharma, Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj and former Union Minister Harsh Vardhan were among those who congratulated the CM-designate.

"...The party has given a very big responsibility. To fulfil this responsibility, a lot of strength and collective effort is needed. Today is a time to enjoy and work will begin from tomorrow," her husband Manish Gupta told IANS after the announcement.

'Giant-killer' Parvesh Verma, son of former Chief Minister Sahib Singh Verma and the victor over AAP convenor and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi seat, was tipped as the Deputy Chief Minister though there was no formal announcement yet.

Veteran BJP leader Vijender Gupta, who was the Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing Assembly, may be chosen as the new Speaker.

Rekha Gupta meets Delhi L-G, stakes claim to form new govt

NEW DELHI : Leader of BJP Legislative Party in Delhi Assembly Rekha Gupta on Wednesday met Lt Governor V.K. Saxena at the Raj Niwas here and staked her claim to form the new government.

The meeting with L-G Saxena came just hours after the top BJP leadership picked her name for the chief ministerial position in line with the recent trend of the party picking 'dark horses' to lead the government, as seen in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

A post on X by the official handle of L-G read: "Leader of the BJP Legislative Party in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Smt Rekha Gupta called on Hon'ble LG, Shri V. K. Saxena at Raj Niwas and staked her claim to form the new Government of NCT of Delhi. Hon'ble LG accepted the claim and invited her to form the new government."

Earlier, on Wednesday,

ending the almost two-week-long suspense over the next Delhi Chief Minister, first-time MLA Rekha Gupta was on Wednesday chosen as the leader of the BJP legislature party, paving the way for her to take over the top post in the grand ceremony slated on Thursday.

Gupta, 50, the MLA from Shalimar Bagh, was chosen at a meeting of the BJP legislature party at the state party office at Pant Marg this evening, under the supervision of two central observers - former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and BJP national Secretary Om Prakash Dhankhar.

As the meeting began to elect the BJP legislature party leader, there was intense speculation about a woman legislator taking over the mantle. And it was proved right with the election of Gupta, who will be the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi after Sushma Swaraj (BJP), Sheila Dikshit (Congress), and Atishi (AAP).

"Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Rekha Gupta ji on being elected the leader of the Delhi BJP Legislative Party. We have full faith that the state will progress under your leadership," the BJP Delhi unit said in a post in Hindi on its X handle.

Gupta, who is an advocate by profession, thanked the top BJP leadership for reposing confidence in her. "I thank the top leadership from my heart for its belief in me for entrusting me with the post of Chief Minister. This faith and support have evoked a new energy and motivation in me. I pledge to strive with total honesty, commitment and dedication for the welfare of the residents of Delhi. I am fully committed to the significant responsibility of taking Delhi to a new pinnacle," Gupta said in a post on X in Hindi.

Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirjala Sentharaman, and Dharmendra Pradhan, outgoing Delhi CM Atishi, and Uttar Pradesh Chief

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 10 TN fishermen

CHENNAI : The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested ten fishermen, hailing from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, for allegedly trespassing into its territorial waters.

Three mechanized fishing boats were also seized during the late-night operation on Wednesday.

Tamil Nadu coastal police officials confirmed that the fishermen were apprehended for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

Following the arrests, the families of the detained fishermen, along with local fishing communities, have urged both the Central and State governments to take immediate action to secure their release.

Fishermen's association leaders have announced plans for large-scale protests in Rameswaram and other coastal areas on Thursday, condemning the continued arrests.

Just ten days ago, on February 9, Sri Lankan authorities arrested 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and seized their mechanized fishing boat.

The fishermen, who had set out to sea from Rameswaram, were taken to Jaffna for questioning. A similar incident

occurred on February 3, when ten fishermen from Rameswaram were arrested for allegedly crossing the IMBL.

The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested several Tamil Nadu fishermen in recent weeks.

over the escalating detentions. "The Sri Lankan Navy is arresting our fishermen regularly. They have even fired at our men, injuring two of them. This has to stop," he said.

He also highlighted the dangers of fishing in the Palk Bay, where fishermen risk losing their boats, equipment, and means of livelihood.

Fishermen's leaders have urged the Indian government to take swift diplomatic action to secure the release of detained fishermen and recover impounded boats.

They have also called for a permanent resolution through a bilateral agreement with Sri Lanka.

Fishermen's associations across Tamil Nadu have sent letters to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, requesting urgent intervention to prevent further arrests and protect coastal communities.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had earlier written to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, urging diplomatic efforts to secure the release of detained fishermen.

In his letter, Stalin emphasized the severe economic impact of repeated arrests and boat seizures.

"The recurring arrests and confiscations have severely affected the livelihoods of our fishermen. Swift diplomatic intervention is essential to safeguard their rights," he stated.

According to reports, since June 16, 2024, the Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 425 Tamil Nadu fishermen and seized 58 fishing boats.

These frequent arrests have triggered widespread protests, with fishermen accusing the Union and State governments of failing to provide a lasting solution.

Former Union Minister and Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) President Anbumani Ramadoss has called on the Indian government to take strong measures against Sri Lanka's actions.

He stressed the urgent need to resolve maritime boundary disputes to ensure the safety and security of Tamil Nadu fishermen.



On January 26, 34 fishermen from Rameswaram and Thangachimadam were arrested, and three fishing boats were seized while another 13 fishermen from Rameswaram were detained a week before and their mechanized boat was confiscated.

Fishermen's associations have strongly condemned these repeated arrests, calling them a major threat to their livelihood.

Antony John, a fishermen's association leader from Rameswaram, expressed deep concern

over the escalating detentions. "The Sri Lankan Navy is arresting our fishermen regularly. They have even fired at our men, injuring two of them. This has to stop," he said.

He also highlighted the dangers of fishing in the Palk Bay, where fishermen risk losing their boats, equipment, and means of livelihood.

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Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Cath Lab, new block in MMABM Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag

GMC Anantnag becomes first among newly established GMCs to get its dedicated Cath Lab

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated Catheterization Laboratory (Cath-Lab) and newly constructed Block-A of Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beigh Memorial (MMABM) Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag, here today.

MLAs of district Anantnag including Abdul Majeed Bhat; Peerzada Mohammad Syed; Reyaz Ahmad Khan; Altaf Ahmad Wani and Zafar Ali Khatana besides Principal GMC Anantnag, Professor Dr Rukhsana Najeeb; Director Coordination New Medical Colleges; Director Family Welfare, MCH and Immunisation; CMO Anantnag; Medical Superintendent MMABM Associated Hospital; Heads of various departments of GMC Anantnag; officers from health and medical education and other concerned departments were



also present on the occasion. While dedicating the Cath-Lab and Block A of GMC Anantnag to the public, the Minister remarked that this significant development marks a new era in the healthcare services across South Kashmir, as GMC Anantnag becomes first among newly established Medical Colleges to get its dedicated Cath-Lab. "With inauguration of Cath-Lab, people of South Kashmir will get the best possible medical care

services close to their doorsteps, especially in terms of cardiac care", she stated. The Minister highlighted that Omar Abdullah led government is committed to provide world class healthcare facilities to the public near their doorsteps. "Present Government is determined to establish world class medical infrastructure in J&K besides removing certain shortcomings in the health sector", Sakeena maintained.

The Minister added that healthcare must be the first priority for all, adding that doctors and other healthcare workers must uphold the trust of people. She acknowledged that there is shortage of manpower, assuring that these shortcomings will be addressed soon. The Minister also appreciated the administration and staff of GMC Anantnag and its associated hospital for providing best healthcare services to

people of South Kashmir. On the occasion, Principal and Dean of GMC Anantnag, Dr. Rukhsana Najeeb, highlighted the work done and achievements of GMC Anantnag. She expressed gratitude to the Health Minister for providing remarkable support to GMC Anantnag for upgradation of manpower and infrastructure. She also congratulated the people of South Kashmir for getting the best medical care close to their doorsteps. Pertinently, with the inauguration of Cath-Lab, people of South Kashmir as well as Pir Panjal region will have a sigh of relief as they will get the best cardiac healthcare services in their vicinity. Later, the Minister also felicitated Dr. Syed Maqbool, Dr. Shamim Iqbal and Dr. Showkat Hussain Shah, Cardiologists of GMC Anantnag for their excellent work and commitment in cardiac care.

Boulevard Road Erosion 'Smart City failure', says MLA Tanvir Sadiq



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: The Smart City project is still in its early stages, yet such infrastructural failures are already occurring, and this should not be happening, said National Conference (JKNC) Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, on Thursday while reacting to the Boulevard Road erosion that occurred this morning. Sadiq termed this erosion a "Smart City Failure," questioning whether proper groundwork had

been done before the project's implementation. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to Boulevard, MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq said the erosion was a failure of planning and execution, raising concerns over whether proper groundwork had been done before the project's implementation. Expressing concern over the issue, he said the Smart City project is still in its early stages, yet such infrastructural failures are already occurring. "This should not be happening,"

he added, stating that he would take up the matter with the Chief Minister's office and senior officials for immediate action. Sadiq also questioned whether proper soil testing had been conducted before the project's execution. "It is not just about beautification; the base needs to be solidified," he said adding Boulevard Road is a major tourist attraction and a vital pathway for locals, and any negligence in the project will be identified and addressed—(KNO)

DLSA Sgr Conducts Review, Monitoring Meeting for Panel Lawyers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, convened a review and monitoring meeting of panel lawyers.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak. Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of DLSA Srinagar/ Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar and was attended by Rashid Ahmed Lone, Retd. District & Sessions Judge Srinagar and Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/ Secretary DLSA Srinagar, along with panel lawyers of DLSA Srinagar.



effective legal assistance for beneficiaries. Jaffer Hussain Beg emphasized the importance of diligent case management, urging panel lawyers to remain committed to upholding the principles of justice and accessibility. During the meeting, the progress of several ongoing cases was thoroughly examined and reviewed. The participants engaged in a detailed dialogue on improving case outcomes and enhancing coordination

between panel lawyers and the DLSA. Nusrat Ali Hakak highlighted the need for continued efforts to provide equitable and prompt legal aid to marginalized sections of society, reiterating DLSA's mission to make justice accessible to all. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from the panel lawyers to strengthen the legal aid framework in Srinagar and enhance service delivery for those in need.

Satish Sharma reviews development projects, flagship schemes in Udhampur

Meets public delegations at Dak Bungalow, emphasizes coordination among stakeholders

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: To assess the progress on various developmental projects and flagship schemes being implemented across different sectors in Udhampur, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, chaired a high level review meeting here today.

Among others the meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Udhampur, Lal Chand; MLA Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia; MLA Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj; MLA Udhampur East, Rambir Singh Pathania; Vice Chairperson DDC, Juhli Manhas Pathania; Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai; SSP Udhampur, Amod Ashok Nagpure along with divisional and district heads of various departments. The Minister, while reviewing all the sectors, directed the officers to ensure 100 percent coverage of eligible beneficiaries under all the government schemes. He emphasized the need for intensifying



public awareness initiatives so that people can fully avail the benefits of these schemes. He directed the officers to increase public awareness about the flagship schemes and programmes in the district. He directed the concerned officers for mobilisation of resources and manpower for effective implementation of all the welfare and development schemes. The Minister asked the Chief Education Officer to identify the school dropouts and provide a list at the earliest. He instructed the Health Department to streamline patient referral cases for better healthcare delivery. While Chief Agriculture Officer was direct-

ed to conduct awareness camps on HADP and other farmer centric schemes. Regarding PMAY, the Minister asked the concerned officials to simplify the process of survey and don't ask for ration card as mandatory document so that maximum people in actual need can get benefit of the scheme. The Minister directed the PMGSY, PWD and RDD authorities to expedite road construction projects and achieve set targets within the stipulated timelines. He exhorted upon the officers to work in close coordination to ensure effective grievance redress and enhanced public service delivery. He also empha-

sized on promoting rural sports and developing sports infrastructure at the grassroots level. The Minister highlighted the importance of organic farming and encouraged its adoption in the district for enhanced yield. During the meeting, the local MLAs highlighted several concerns and demands seeking a speedy resolution of the same. Their issues inter alia included expansion of Chenani bus stand, construction of multi-storey parking at Patnitop, shortage and rationalisation of teaching staff in educational institutions, land transfer for KV School, Forest clearance for various projects, operationalisation of JKRTC Bus Yard in Udhampur, promotion of sports infrastructure and rural sports activities, installation of hand pumps and early completion of JJM works, mitigation of traffic congestion, staff shortage in health institutions, acute shortage of drinking water, establishment of an ITI in Ramnagar, development

of Seoz Dhar as a tourist destination, conversion of Basantgarh Hospital into a CHC, resolution of issues related to 'Hanging Schools and dismantling of Pavilion at Sports Stadium Udhampur. Earlier, DC Udhampur gave a sector-wise detailed PowerPoint Presentation on various ongoing projects and schemes, highlighting the progress of major initiatives. These included Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road NH-244, Government Medical College & Associated Hospital, Udhampur, Devika project, integrated development of tourist facilitation centre at Mantalal. The DC briefed the chair about the key sectors such as PHE, PWD, PDD, Health, PMGSY, FCS&CA, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Social Welfare, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, RDD, ICDS, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Jal Jeevan Mission, MGNREGA, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, PMAY-G, HADP and financial updates on the District Capex Budget 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Devise comprehensive action plan for rehabilitating degraded forests: Chief Secretary

Reviews implementation of conservation measures for protection of lakes, wetlands

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department to assess its functioning besides reviewing the progress on ongoing conservation measures for protection of lakes and wetlands in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to frame a comprehensive action plan based on scientific principles for rehabilitation of degraded forest areas within a stipulated time frame. To enhance the efficiency of forest land management, the Chief Secretary instructed the officials to expedite the survey and demarcation of forest lands by installing boundary pillars and digitizing the records. This step aims to effectively curb encroachments and safeguard forest resources, he maintained. Focusing on afforestation efforts, Dulloo asked the department to accelerate the plantation drives to meet the ambitious target of planting 1.5 crore saplings by the end of the upcoming plantation season. He stressed that achieving this goal without any delay was impera-



ative for environmental sustainability. He emphasized the need for ensuring maximum survival of planted saplings by adopting protective measures, including fencing of reforested areas. Highlighting the ecological importance of wetlands, the Chief Secretary underscored their crucial role in the ecosystem and called for rigorous conservation efforts. He directed the officials to ensure proper demarcation and protection of wetlands, along with improving water quality and other relevant parameters to enhance their sustainability. Regarding Wular Lake conservation, the Chief Secretary instructed both the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Commissioner Secretary, Forests to person-

ally visit the site. They were asked to review the status of the ongoing conservation works and devise a mechanism to accelerate their execution. He observed that Wular Lake, being Asia's largest freshwater lake, necessitates urgent and effective conservation measures and has a scope of attracting a large number of tourists. Regarding the conservation of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for increased manpower and furthering efforts to achieve tangible results. He pointed out that the scale of work required exceeds the current workforce, necessitating moving of additional resources on the ground for meeting the objectives set for its mitigation. Additionally, the Chief Secre-

tary stressed the early approval and implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in coordination with other departments. He instructed for formation of an inter-departmental coordination panel responsible for ensuring smooth execution of the plan by aligning available funds with the envisioned schemes. Commissioner Secretary, FE&E, Sheetal Nanda, presented an overview of the functioning of the department. She informed that besides protection and conservation of forests, the department carries out rehabilitation of degraded forests, urban area afforestation, maintenance of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries besides looking after the wetlands, pollution control and biodiversity conservation in J&K. She also apprised of some

of the major achievements of the department registered during the past year and the plans for years ahead regarding development of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), plantation of around 1.5 crore saplings, demarcation of forest land besides other works. In his presentation, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Suresh Kumar Gupta, highlighted that the UT has a forest area of around 20,194 sq km (47.8% of Geographical area) with a tree cover of 151.8 million trees as per Draft ToF Report, 2023. Regarding the UT level BAP, he informed the meeting that it establishes a general framework as per the guidelines of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), on current and future policies regarding conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The department wise budget requirements have been worked out for eleven themes comprising 38 strategies involving a list of 161 activities. The overall budget by dovetailing of resources across different schemes implemented by various departments comes to Rs 187.8 crore per year upto 2030, he revealed.

Reviews expansion plan for Jambu Zoo

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo conducted a comprehensive review meeting to assess the expansion plan for Jambu Zoo. The meeting focused on the revised layout plan, which includes the construction of new animal enclosures, a walk-through aviary, infrastructure developments, and additional visitor facilities to enhance the zoo's appeal. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the current footfall at the zoo and engaged in detailed deliberations on strategies to increase visitor numbers. He emphasized the need to position Jambu Zoo as a prime destination, particularly during the summer months, to attract a larger audience. Chief Wildlife Warden Sarvesh Rai provided a detailed presentation outlining the existing facilities designed for visitor convenience and the ambitious expansion plans for the coming years. At present, the zoo features 17 enclosures housing a diverse range of wild animals, including tigers, lions, leopards, Himalayan black bears, blackbucks, snake chambers, and crocodiles. The Chief Secretary was

informed that 13 new animal enclosures are under construction during 2024-25, with plans to introduce prominent species such as the hippopotamus, ostrich, Indian gaur, hyena, wolf, and fishing cat. Additionally, a walk-through aviary is in progress, which will house an array of beautiful native and exotic bird species. Future expansion will also see the addition of a botanical garden and a butterfly/multi-sensory garden. About the infrastructure augmentation in the zoo it was added that the development plan includes the creation of nature trails and elevated walkways, log huts and tree houses, themed resting areas, and a toy train for children, enhancing the overall visitor experience. Regarding the future expansion plan it was revealed that the Department is looking ahead with an expansion blueprint that includes the construction of 18 additional animal enclosures. These will house prominent species such as the brown bear, snow leopard, zebra, giraffe, rhinoceros, markhor, and red panda.