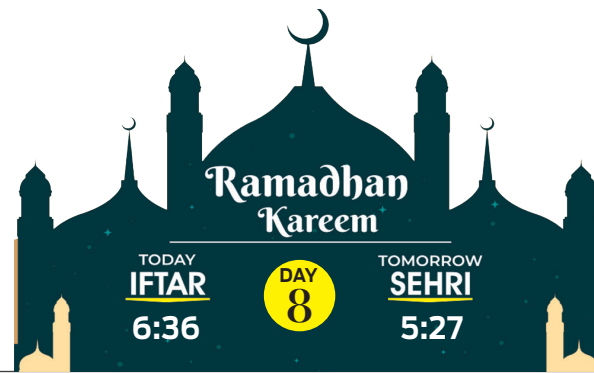


Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication



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3 Missing Civilians Found Dead In Kathua



AGENCIES

JAMMU: Bodies of three civilians, who had gone missing from J&K's Kathua district, were found by the security forces on Saturday.

Official sources said that the bodies of three civilians, who went missing from Kathua district in Jammu on Thursday, have been found in the upper reaches of Billawar.

The three civilians went missing in the Lohai Malhar area of Kathua after they left home to attend a marriage in the Billawar area.

Locals of the area said the civilians went missing at around 8.30 p.m. on Thursday when a marriage party was going from the Dehota village of Billawar to the Surag village of Lohai Malhar.

Those missing had been identified as 35-year-old Jogesh Singh from Marhoon village, 40-year-old Darshan Singh from Dehota village and 14-year-old Baroon Singh

from Dehota village of Billawar Tehsil of the district.

A BJP MLA on Friday raised in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly the issue of the three missing civilians and sought a response from the government.

As the Assembly session began for the day, BJP member Satesh Sharma raised a point of order to inform the House about the missing civilians in the Lohai Malhar area of the Billawar constituency.

"I want to inform you about the three missing civilians. We want to seek answers from the government," Sharma said. In response, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said the Question Hour had begun and suggested the question be taken up afterwards.

It may be mentioned that due to the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, alarm bells start ringing whenever a civilian goes missing. **●P-06**

J&K Has Debt Of Rs 1.25 Lakh Crore: CM Omar Abdullah

AGENCIES

JAMMU: J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Saturday in a written reply in the Legislative Assembly that the UT has a debt of Rs 1.25 lakh crores.

"The total debt of J&K stands at over Rs 1.25 lakh crore including Rs 27,900 crore in the general provident fund (GPF) for the Union Territory in the last financial year," the Chief Minister said.

Omar Abdullah is also the Finance Minister of the UT. He said in a written reply to MLA, Sajad Gani Lone that as of March 31, 2024, Jammu and Kashmir's total debt is Rs 1,25,205 crore.

"This includes Rs 69,894 crore in loans from the Reserve Bank of India, Rs 27,901 crore in GPF, Rs 14,294 crore in reserves, Rs 5,758 crore in outstanding national small



savings fund, Rs 4,032 crore in negotiated loans, Rs 2,616 crore in UDAY power loans, and Rs 710 crore in Government of India advances", the Chief

Minister said.

He said the total outstanding liability in treasuries as of February 27, 2025, under various account heads amounts to

Rs 5,429.49 crore.

According to the Economic Survey Report (ESR) 2024-25 tabled in the House on Thursday, the outstanding debt of Rs 1,25,205 crore represents 52 per cent of J&K's GSDP of Rs 2,38,677 crore.

The public debt of Rs 83,010 crore constitutes 66 per cent of the total on-budget outstanding debt in FY 2024 including internal debt of Rs 82,300 crore and Rs 710 crore in advances from the Union government.

Another major component of the on-budget outstanding debt is the provident fund, which accounts for 21 per cent of the total debt. The ESR also highlighted that over the past decade, the proportion of internal debt to total on-budget outstanding debt has risen from 55 per cent to 66 per cent, while the share of the provident fund has decreased from 27 per cent to 21 per cent. **●P-06**

Bats For Exploring Karnah's Tourism Potential

JAMMU: J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Saturday that the government is taking steps to promote tourism in the Karnah border town of Kupwara district.

Answering a question by MLA Karnal, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, Omar Abdullah, who holds the tourism department, said that the government is committed to empowering youth in border areas such

as Karnah, Keran, Machhil and Gurez by equipping them with vocational skills to promote tourism-driven economic growth.

He stated that unskilled youth from these regions would be provided training enabling them to acquire skills

in trades relevant to the tourism sector. The chief minister said that Karnah has immense tourism potential and stressed the need to explore it further.

"We believe that there is potential for tourism. We need to explore that **●P-06**

in trades relevant to the tourism sector.

The chief minister said that Karnah has immense tourism potential and stressed the need to explore it further.

"We believe that there is potential for tourism. We need to explore that **●P-06**

'Anti-National' Twitter User Charge Sheeted



GMK News Network

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir on Saturday filed a charge sheet against a social media handler for publishing and sharing anti-national, secessionist and pro-terrorist content on X, previously known as Twitter.

The charge sheet was filed by SIA before the Designated Special Court under the NIA Act in Budgam, an official spokesperson said.

Giving more details, he said, the case FIR No. 18 of 2022 at Police Station CIK/SIA Kashmir was registered following information that a Twitter handle, Lacerated Kashmir, was posting content of a secessionist and anti-India nature, promoting terrorism in JK.

Following an extensive technical investigation, the spokesperson said, SIA identified the Twitter handle as Irfan-Ul-Haq, a resident of Kawoosa Khailisa in Budgam district.

"The accused **●P-06**

...J&K **Assembly** Session

Questions Raised Over 'Free Land' To SL Cricketer



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The issue of allotment of land to a former Sri Lankan cricketer in Jammu & Kashmir echoed in the Legislative Assembly, with members questioning the government over it.

During the Question Hour, CPI(M) MLA Muhammad Yosouf Tarigami claimed that a Sri Lankan cricketer has been allotted land free of cost by the J & K government in Kathua.

Congress MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir also asked the

government how a non-Indian cricketer has been allotted land in J&K.

"This is a serious question and needs to be looked into," he said.

Responding to concerns of MLAs, minister for Agriculture Production Department Javid Ahmad Dar said that the matter needs to be looked into.

"This matter pertains to the Revenue department," he said.

The Ceylon Beverages Limited, promoted by Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan, **●P-06**

No Timeline For AFSPA Removal From J&K: Army Chief

'Act Will Remain In Force Till Army Is Convinced That Police Can Manage Security Without Military Assistance'

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Stating that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) would continue to remain in force in Jammu and Kashmir till the situation improves, Army Chief General Udaya Dvivedi on Saturday said no timeline can be fixed for its revocation.

"The act (AFSPA) will be withdrawn when the Army is convinced that the local police can manage security without military assistance," the Army Chief said.

Speaking at a conclave of a prominent national new channel in New Delhi, he said that while AFSPA could eventually be lifted, there is no specific timeframe for



its removal.

Referring to the areas like Doda, Rajouri, and Kishtwar

where terrorism had been contained to an extent that tourism initiatives, such as **●P-06**

PoK Residents Keen To Assimilate Into India: Rajnath

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) would themselves demand assimilation into India as there were little chances of Islamabad willing to return the stolen part of the Valley.

"The rate at which economic development has taken place and the way India's stature has grown on the world stage, people of PoK have started feeling that their development lies joining a country like India," Rajnath Singh told IANS in an exclusive interaction.

The people of the region will force Pakistan for its assimilation into India, said the Defence Minister, adding, "I believe the people of that region may not even need Pakistan's consent for it."

Rajnath Singh's remarks come close to External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar's statement that the return of the stolen part of Kashmir, which is under the illegal Pakistani occupation, was the final measure to resolve the Kashmir issue.

On an earlier occasion, Rajnath Singh said that the Pakistan government calls the people of PoK 'foreigners' while India considers them as its own citizens.

He said in a recent affidavit, the solicitor general of Pakistan called the people of PoK as 'foreigners'.

"We don't call them foreigners. They are our people. Let them come and join us," he said.

He said that "the PoK was part of India, is part of India and will remain its part forever".

He said that Jammu and Kashmir was **●P-06**

...International Women's Day 2025

A New Era Of Women-Led Development Has Begun In J&K: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Asserting that "Nari Shakti's impact on shaping the future of humanity is immense, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday hailed the remarkable achievements of women artists and artisans of J&K and expressed gratitude for their contribution to the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and nation-building as well.

"Nari Shakti's impact on shaping the future of humanity is immense. She has been endowed with a special gift from existence to nurture creativity and drive social change," Sinha said.

He was addressing a gathering at an event organized by Buddha Art & Painting, in collaboration with Padma Shri



Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar here to celebrate the International Women's Day.

In his address, the LG extended his heartiest greetings and felicitations to Nari Shakti on International

Women's Day. He lauded the remarkable achievements of women artists and artisans of J&K and expressed gratitude for their contribution to the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and nation-building.

"Women artists **●P-06**

...Illegal **Mining** In Shaliganaga

Rs 80L Fine Slapped On Private Firm: Govt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday informed the house that a private company was fined Rs 80 lakh for unauthorised mining in Budgam district.

The issue was highlighted in the Legislative Assembly today by MLA Khan Sahab, Safiud-Din-Bhat, bringing it to the immediate attention of the House.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary informed

the House that in a decisive move against illegal mineral extraction, the District Mineral Officer (DMO) Budgam has taken strict action against M/s NKC Projects Private Limited for unauthorized mining at Shaliganaga Nalla in Lanilab Basant Woodeer, Budgam.

The action, he said, follows the circulation of a video on social media on March 2, 2025, exposing the illegal activity.

Choudhary said that on receiving the report from the Directorate of Geology and Mining, the DMO **●P-06**

...**Man-Animal** Conflict

32 People Dead, 269 Injured In Two Yrs: Govt



AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said that 32 people died and 269 were injured in man-wildlife conflicts during the last two years.

The information was shared by Forest Minister Javed Ahmed Rana in a written reply to a question in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Sixteen people each died in man-wildlife conflicts in

2023-24 and 2024-25, Rana said in response to a question by National Conference member Mir Saifullah.

He said 124 people were injured in 2023-24 and 145 in 2024-25.

The government paid Rs 121.02 lakh as compensation in 2023-24 and Rs 155.08 lakh in 2024-25. The compensation is provided to victims and their families in accordance with government orders issued from time to time, Rana said.

1,88,422 cases settled in 1st National Lok Adalat held across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming the commitment to provide quick, affordable, and amicable resolution of disputes, the First National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 was successfully organized Saturday across Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and the dynamic mentorship of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, as well as under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee. The initiative aimed to promote amicable settlements in cases including MACT, matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery, commercial disputes, and compoundable criminal cases.

To ensure the maxi-

mum resolution of disputes, pre-Lok Adalat sittings and pre-counseling sessions were conducted well in advance, providing the parties with ample opportunity to engage in dialogue and reach a consensus for a permanent resolution. Additionally, webinars and virtual meetings were organized to sensitize stakeholders, officers of Legal Services Institutions, LADCs, Panel Lawyers, PLVs, and others involved in the promotion of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR). These sessions emphasized the significance of Lok Adalats and encouraged parties to take full advantage of the opportunity.

As per the information received from various Legal Services Institutions working in different districts of UT of J&K, out of total 1,99,853 cases taken up by 165 Benches in the day long National Lok Adalat across J&K, 1,88,422 cases were amicably settled and disposed off involving an amount of Rs. 59,04,49,391/- as compensa-

tion/settlement amount in cases like Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills, Land Acquisition, Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery etc.

This National Lok Adalat marked a significant milestone as it was the first such event after Shazia Tabassum, District & Sessions Judge, took charge as Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

Speaking to media persons on the occasion, Shazia Tabassum emphasized the crucial role of Lok Adalats in reducing case pendency and ensuring speedy justice. She highlighted that dispute resolution through Lok Adalats not only saves time and resources for litigants but also fosters a culture of amicable settlements, ensuring long-term societal harmony.

She further stated that special efforts were made to enhance participation, streamline pre-litigation settlements, and encour-

age litigants to opt for out-of-court resolutions. Under her leadership, the J&K Legal Services Authority will continue to strengthen the ADR mechanism, ensuring that justice reaches the doorstep of every individual, particularly the marginalized and underprivileged sections of society. She expressed gratitude to the Judiciary, Legal Services Institutions, District Administration, Advocates, and other stakeholders for their collective efforts in making the National Lok Adalat a success.

She also announced that the second National Lok Adalat of the year will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, and a Special Lok Adalat for Consumer Cases will be organized on April 26, 2025. Litigants who could not have their cases listed in today's Lok Adalat or were unable to settle their disputes for any reason are encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity in the upcoming Lok Adalats.

Govt to shift DH Rajouri to suitable place: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday informed the House that the District Hospital Rajouri will be shifted to some suitable place for the public convenience.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Javed Iqbal Choudhary in the Legislative Assembly.

She said that the District Hospital Rajouri is congested and sans sufficient space to cater to the increasing patient inflow. She said that it (hospital) shall be shifted to some suitable place for the public convenience.

The Minister assured that the government is committed to provide better patient care to the general public and ensure up gradation of all health infrastructure. She said that the efforts are on to ensure timely filling up of vacancies in all the health institutions.

Sharing details regarding the manpower in Government Medical College Rajouri, the Minister

said that the sanctioned strength of teaching faculty, CMOS, LMOS at GMC Rajouri is 119 and staff in position is 55 while there are 64 vacant posts. She also informed the house that sanctioned strength of non-gazetted staff is 415, of these, 293 is in position and 122 posts are vacant.

The Minister said that all vacant teaching faculty posts stand referred to J&KPSC for advertisement and selection of suitable candidates.

The Minister said that the vacant posts are regularly being filled up on academic arrangement basis in order to meet the shortfall of faculty in each discipline in terms of SO 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020.

Regarding filling up of Non-Gazetted vacancies, the Minister informed that the matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Legislators; Er. Khurshid Ahmad, Arvand Gupta, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Ajaz Jan, Ifikhar Ahmad, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Shabir Ahmad Kullay raised supplementaries.

J&K Resident Commission celebrates Int'l Women's Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: J&K Resident Commission celebrated International Women's Day with great fervor under the aegis of 'Hello J&K initiative'.

The event, themed 'Accelerate Action', highlighted the urgency of advancing gender parity and reinforcing the commitment towards women empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Resident Commissioner, Dr. Rashmi Singh, applauded the contributions and resilience of female employees in the Resident Commission office as well as the Directorate, many of whom joined the event virtually. She reiterated the government's dedication towards supporting the womenfolk in all spheres of life.

The event featured distinguished guest speakers including Dr. Manisha Priyam, Professor Education Policy at NEPA and Dr. Aditi Paswan, Assistant Professor at Delhi University.

They honored the contributions and achievements of women across national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and economic boundaries, emphasizing the importance of collective commitment towards gender equality across social, economic and professional domains. Also in attendance was Dr. Vartika Nanda, a prison reformer and faculty member at LSR, New Delhi. She shared the poignant anecdotes from her interactions with female inmates, shedding light on their struggles and resilience.

The event was made successful with the dedicated efforts of Anil Sharma ARC, Sachin Manager, 5 PR and Shruti Bhardwaj, Nodal Officer Hello J&K.

Dr. Rekha Jad, Consultant, concluded the session with a heartfelt tribute to the women who have broken barriers and shattered glass ceilings on their path to success. The event culminated with a vote of thanks delivered by Veena Sharma, Lecturer.

INT'L WOMEN'S DAY

Distt admin Srinagar organizes programme at SP College

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To commemorate the International Women's Day, celebrated on 8th of March every year, an impressive function was Saturday organized by District Administration Srinagar here in the Auditorium of SP College under the theme "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment".

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was the chief guest at the event organized jointly by the District Administration Srinagar and District Social Welfare Office.

During the function, various programmes related to women empowerment were presented, besides women achievers of Srinagar were also felicitated by the District Administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of International Women's Day and role of Administration and society to raise awareness about women empower-



ment and to promote gender equality.

He underscored the importance of birth of Girl Child and emphasized end to gender stereotypes to empower Girls and protecting their rights at society and domestic level as well. He said the day is also observed to address concerns of gender discrimination and women empowerment.

The DC stressed on building a constructive environment that values the girl child and stop gender-bias, ensuring survival and protection of the Girl child.

Dr Bilal urged all par-

ticipants to support the movement for gender equality and women's empowerment by advocating for policies, supporting women's businesses and mentoring and educating, challenging gender norms, and speaking out against violence to help the women in distress.

The DC also made a mention of various initiatives towards women emancipation ensuring their empowerment and safe public space all around. He also referred to various schemes of the Government launched for the welfare of women, especially those from

underprivileged sections of the society. He called for one and all to contribute in women empowerment for overall prosperity of the society.

Earlier, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad delivered the welcome address wherein he highlighted the importance of the International Women's Day and deliberated upon the theme 'For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality & Empowerment.'

Later, in a felicitation ceremony, women achievers of the district were felicitated for their outstanding contributions in different walks of life viz. Sports, Academics, Entrepreneurs, Art & Culture and winner of Essay Competition.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Katara; Principal S.P College, Prof Bashir Ahmad Sheikh; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, faculty members, students of the College and a large number of participants attended the event.

KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES

Dir Health, Principal SKIMS chair joint meeting to discuss health related preparations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi and Dr. Fazl Q. Parray, Principal, SKIMS Medical College Bemina, Saturday chaired a joint meeting to discuss important health-related preparations for the upcoming Khelo India Winter Games 2025, scheduled to take place at Gul-

marg from March 9th to 12th, 2025.

SKIMS Medical College Hospital which has been designated as a Main Referral Hospital for the event shall handle mandated health emergencies and referrals from the venue during the games.

The round-the-clock availability of specialists, along with the necessary human resources,

logistics, and equipment, during the duration of the games, was thoroughly discussed and deliberated. The medical arrangements were meticulously planned to ensure that all health-related needs of participants, officials, and spectators are adequately addressed.

On this occasion, it was further emphasized that the Directorate of Health

Services, Kashmir and SKIMS Medical College, Bemina will ensure effective coordination and collaboration to provide comprehensive healthcare services, not only during the event but also in the future.

This partnership aims to enhance the delivery of medical care and streamline health service operations across the region.



H&H Dept felicitates women trainees on Int'l Women's Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR- Highlighting the role of women in promotion of hand-made crafts, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, Saturday organised a function here today to coincide with the International Women's Day.

The function was organized by Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Srinagar, Mohsina Irshad and attended by Chief Designer, Amina Asad, and women trainees across various blocks of Srinagar.

During the function, 04 women artisans and entrepreneurs shared their success stories to inspire the trainees.

Later, certificates of appreciation were also distributed amongst the participants in recognition of their contribution in the craft sector.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR

MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

GIST OF E-TENDER

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS/2024-25/108
Date	07.03.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from General order Suppliers /Registered Firms for the below mentioned work

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Repairs to Departmental truck mounting crane of KPDC bearing registration No. JK01AE-8302.	200/-	6,19,156.00	12,400.00	Requisition received from SE O&M circle 2" KPDC vide No. SE-II/O&M/KPDC/3904-06 Dt. 25.04.2024.	Accorded by Chief Engineer M&HED Kashmir vide No. MHED/K/TS/83 Dt. 23.10.2024.

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below :-

01	Publish date	07 -03-2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	07 -03-2025(18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	07 -03-2025 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	13 -03-2025(18:55 hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	14-03-2025 (14 hrs)

No: MDSK/TS/6592-95
Date: 07.03.2025

DIPK-12813-24
DT: 08/03/2025

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

email: electricdivisionnmb@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION KASHMIR.

ENGINEERING COMPLEX SRINAGAR RAJBAGH.

NEAR SILK FACTORY SRINAGAR- 190008.

(SHORT TERM) NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No.235/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/11670-78 DATED:05-03-2025.

For and on behalf of The Government of J&K (U/T) e-tenders (in Double cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Construction of Library cum Reading Room ar Qaimoh. (Electric Part)	Rs. 5.18/- Lacs	Rs. 300/=	Rs. 10360/=	Linked with progress of civil work	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Capex Budget	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by District Development Commissioner Kulgam Vide order No.95-DDCK of 2024 Dated:-08-08-2024
02	Upgradation of flood lights to Khudwani Stadium	Rs. 5.18/- Lacs	Rs. 300/=	Rs. 10360/=	30 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Capex Budget	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by District Development Commissioner Kulgam Vide order No.450-DDCK of 2023 Dated:-12-12-2023

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-03-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06-03-2025from 02.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	06-03-2025 from 02.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	12-03-2025 upto 12.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-03-2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen I downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy. As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-I) after opening of financial bids.

1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

1.1. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit.

1.2. The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:

S. No.	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate.	Additional Performance security to be Deposited on quoted bid by L1
1.	Upto and including 15%	NIL
2.	Greater than 15% upto& including 20%	5%
3.	Greater than 20% upto& including 25%	10%
4.	Greater than 25% upto& including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders.

4. The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.

5. The earnest money may be forfeited if:-

a. Any bidder/ tendered with draws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

27. All other terms & conditions shall be as are as per the SBD/ Contract Agreement.

No.ERB/11670-78
DATED:-05-03-2025
DIPK-12770-24
DT: 08/03/2025

SD/= Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir
Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

Chief Secretary chairs 15th UT Level Bankers' Committee meeting

Urges banks to provide banking services in all Unbanked Rural Centers (URCs) through banking outlets

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired the 15th Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) meeting to review the performance of banks and financial institutions in dispensation of credit and other banking services for the first three quarters of the fiscal year 2024-25.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya; J&K Bank MD & CEO and Convener J&K UTLBC, Amitava Chatterjee; Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department Sanjeev Verma; Chief General Manager NABARD, Bhallamudi Sridhar; General Manager Reserve Bank of India Neeraj Kumar, J&K Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, along with other senior officials from RBI, NABARD, banks, government departments, insurance companies

and Lead District Managers.

While presenting financial achievements of banks for the first three quarters of FY 2024-25, the house was informed by General Manager UTLBC Syed Rais Magbool that banks in the UT of J&K have disbursed Rs. 51,647 crore to 13.22 lakh beneficiaries, achieving 99.63% of the Annual Credit Plan in financial terms and 79% in physical terms.

Furthermore, loans amounting to Rs.1082 crore were sanctioned to 26,637 beneficiaries under major employment generation schemes.

While expressing concern over shortfall in achievement of targets under Priority Sector especially lending under employment generation schemes, Chief Secretary exhorted upon banks and sponsoring agencies to work in tandem to achieve the targets by the end of current financial year.



Chief Secretary directed banks to ensure setting up of banking touch points in all identified Unbanked Rural Centers (URCs) by June 30 this year.

He stressed upon the banks to make accounts KYC compliant through linkage of Aadhaar Card, Pan Card and other requisite documents to mitigate the

risks and also ensure benefits under Direct Benefit Transfer aren't impeded to the eligible people.

While urging banks to improve lending under KCC scheme, Chief Secretary emphasized upon popularizing the benefits of prompt repayment in Kisan Credit

Card Accounts enabling beneficiaries to avail the benefit of interest subvention provided by the Government under this scheme.

He encouraged banks to tap the huge potential in education sector in J&K by granting education loan facility to the students seeking admission in var-

ious colleges and universities within and outside the Country.

While advocating for encouraging people to lodge claims under social security schemes, Chief Secretary pressed for hassle-free claim lodging and settlement process in the time bound manner.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary launched J&K Bank Lal Ded Stree Shakti Loan Scheme-designed by the Bank in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission-for women folk of J&K with an aim to empower them by extending financial support that will enable them to realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

He lauded J&K Bank for the scheme and hoped the credit facility will go a long way in helping women of J&K achieve financial empowerment.

The house was also informed that J&K Bank and J&K Gramen Bank together have provided a credit of Rs 100 Crore

to women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed under DAY-NRLM in a single day on March 07, 2025 to mark International Women's Day.

On the occasion a token cheque was handed over to Mission Director JKRLM to celebrate the accomplishment.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Convener UTLBC Amitava Chatterjee highlighted role of banks in driving economic transformation in the region and reiterated Banks' commitment in strengthening priority sector lending with a focus on agriculture, education, MSMEs & rural housing, catalyzing the effective implementation of Central and UT Government sponsored schemes and prioritizing financial inclusion by expanding banking infrastructure in rural areas.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks presented by the General Manager, J&K UTLBC.

CS reviews relief, rehab measures extended to migrant categories

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Saturday held an intensive meeting with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) to assess the relief and rehabilitation measures being extended to different migrant categories of J&K besides the status of disaster management preparedness across different districts of the region.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R Departments; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, PWD; CEO, SHA; Relief Commissioner; Chief Engineers of PWD and other concerned officers and officials of the department.

Dulloo enquired about the present status of relief and rehabilitation measures being extended to different migrant categories in the UT. He said that the set timelines for each of these measures should be met without any fail.

He took note of the location wise status of 6000 transit accommodations being constructed for Kashmiri Pandit (PM Package) employees. He asked about the details of flats constructed, under-construction and those allotted and occupied by these employees.

He said that the flats completed in all respects should be allotted forthwith and the allied works like construction of boundary walls, internal roads, approach roads should also be taken up for actual utilization of these structures.



Regarding inclusion of these migrant families under NFSA, the Chief Secretary emphasised on extending allied benefits like old age and widow pensions, marriage assistance, scholarships, Ayushman Bharat Gold Cards to them to clear any doubt in their mind besides enhancing its uptake among others.

The Chief Secretary also asked for updating the 'Kashmiri Migrant Grievance' portal to make its functioning more satisfactory for its users. He called for appointment of Nodal Officer for different regions by the office of Relief Commissioner who would ensure satisfactory resolution of grievances registered by personally taking up the issues with the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

He further directed for digitization of all the migrant records to enhance the overall efficiency of these relief measures. He called for updating the website of Relief Organization through NIC to make it more user-friendly and informative simultaneously.

The meeting took note of the progress on outreach campaigns launched to cover PoJK and other West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) under the Rehabilitation Package meant for them. It also discussed the status of different infrastructural projects including establishment of 'PoJK Bhawan' at Suketar, Community Hall at Jagti and other demands of these displaced people.

Dulloo impressed upon the Department to further gear up for enhancing the capacity of the Department to deal with different disasters the UT is vulnerable to. He urged them to make the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) functional by optimal utilization of its capacity. He observed that it has added role at the time of disasters while ensuring relief to the affected population.

He emphasised upon utilising the data collected after carrying out expeditions to different mountainous lakes to prevent disasters of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). He called for training the students and other volunteers for enhancing their ability to work during relief activities.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, informed the meeting about different activities and achievements including strengthening of UT, Divisional and District level disaster management systems by deploying necessary manpower there.

No proposal for granting Tehsil status to Achbal: Sakina Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, Saturday informed the House that there is no proposal under consideration for granting Tehsil status to Achbal.

The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by MLA Abdul Majid Larmi in the Legislative Assembly here today.

The Minister apprised that the government sanctioned creation of 09 new Sub Divisions, 50 new Tehsils and 99 new Nabats and Achabal was created as a Sub Division vide Government order number Rev (S) 242 of 2014 dated 21.10.2014.

However, as per the government order number 42 Rev (S) of 2018 dated 20.02.2018, government order number Rev (S) 242 of 2014 dated 21.10.2014 was kept in abeyance till further orders, except for the Tehsils created at Villgam and Qalamabad in Kupwara district, Tehsils Singhpora and Narwari in Baramulla district, Tehsil Bhella in Doda district and Tehsil Ramsu in Ramban district.

Afterwards, government order number 42 Rev (S) of 2018 dated 20.02.2018 was eventually withdrawn ab-initio vide State Administrative Council Decision number 191/19/2019 dated 30.07.2019.

Action taken to curb illegal mineral extraction at Shaliganaga: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Saturday informed the House that in a decisive move against illegal mineral extraction, the District Mineral Officer (DMO) Budgam has taken strict action against M/s NKC Projects Private Limited for unauthorized mining at Shaliganaga Nalla in Lanilab Basant Woodeer, Budgam.

The issue was highlighted in the Legislative Assembly today by MLA Khan Sahab, Safud-Din-Bhat, bringing it to the immediate attention of the House. The action follows the circulation of a video on social media on March 2, 2025, exposing the illegal activity.

The Deputy Chief

Minister said that on receiving the report from the Directorate of Geology and Mining, the DMO Budgam swiftly deputed a team to the site to verify the claims.

Upon investigation, it was confirmed that the company had engaged men and machinery for unauthorized extraction of approximately 300 MT of Nallah Mukh without obtaining the required permits. In response, a formal notice (No. DMO/Bud/DGM/F-106/4558-67, dated March 3, 2025) was issued to the Project Manager of M/s NKC Projects Private Limited, Basecamp Gudsathoo, Budgam, directing an immediate cessation of all illegal mining activities and demanding relevant documentation, he added.

Govt allots 5 marla land for housing to 498 beneficiaries in JK: RDD Min

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Rural Development Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, Saturday said that about 498 beneficiaries have been allotted 5 marla land each for Housing under Awaas Plus category of PMAY-G, while 442 cases are under consideration of the Revenue authorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by M. Y. Tarigami in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that, similarly, eight beneficiaries have been allotted five marla land for

construction of houses under the scheme.

He informed that the families having no land of its own are being provided 05 Marla of land for construction of residential houses under PMAY. The land is being provided subject to verification by the Revenue Department.

The Minister apprised that the extended families of the landless background are likely to be considered for allotment of land subject to eligibility and guidelines of the scheme being issued from time to time. He said that the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency

in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, is under implementation in J&K and the compensation is determined as per the provisions contained in section 27 and sub section (2) of section 30 of the said Act.

He said that the compensation provided to land provider in urban areas is double than the market rate while it is four fold in rural areas.

Legislators: G. A. Mir, Shakti Raj Parihar, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Rajiv Jasrotia, Chowdhary Mohammad Akram and Mehr Raj Malik raised supplementaries.

SWACHH SHARAT JAMMU & KASHMIR

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

G20

Telephone/Fax No:01954-231400

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The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pattan

Subject: Mandatory Cleaning of Septic Tanks at Regular Intervals.

NOTIFICATION

In the interest of public health, environmental safety, and proper sanitation management, all residents, commercial establishments, and relevant stakeholders are hereby directed to ensure the periodic cleaning of septic tanks in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. **Cleaning Frequency:**

- Households: At least once every three (03) years
- Commercial establishments: At least once every two (02) years
- Community/Public toilets: At least once every one (01) year

2. **Immediate Emptying:**

- If a septic tank reaches full capacity before the specified timeline, it must be emptied immediately to maintain hygiene and prevent health hazards.

3. **Authorized Cleaning:**

- Cleaning and desludging must be carried out only by authorized agencies or service providers, following safety protocols as per government norms.

4. **Penalties for Non-Compliance:**

- Any violation of these guidelines may attract penalties as per applicable laws and municipal regulations.

All concerned individuals, households, and establishments are requested to comply with these directions to ensure a clean and healthy environment for all. For further inquiries or to avail of authorised desludging services, please contact Sanitary Inspector, Municipal Committee Pattan.

No:-MC/Ptn/2025/367-69

Dated:- 06-03-2025

DIPK-NB-3677-24

DT: 08/03/2025

Sd/-

Executive Officer

Municipal Committee

Pattan

DC Srinagar attends Real Kashmir FC's training session



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, attended a training session of Real Kashmir FC at TRC Ground, Srinagar, on Saturday.

During the event, Dr. Bilal interacted with the players and coaching staff, lauding their efforts in promoting football in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of sports in youth development

and encouraged players to bring laurels to the region through their performances.

The DC said that the Administration is focusing on developing more sports grounds to promote athletic activities. He highlighted that RKFC provides a significant platform for young players, preparing them for national tournaments.

The DC congratulated the U-15 RKFC team for qualifying for AIFF Youth League. He attended the practice sessions in RKFC's

jersey.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from football enthusiasts, sports officials, and club supporters.

Notably, Real Kashmir FC, a prominent football club from the valley, has been instrumental in promoting local talent and making a mark in national football circuits. The club's owner, Arshid Shawl, along with other officials, expressed gratitude to Dr. Bilal for his support and encouragement.

J&K completes 260 smart city projects worth Rs 6,358 crore

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has completed 260 Smart City projects at an estimated cost of Rs 6,358.31 crore, while 29 more projects worth Rs 857.58 crore are currently under execution, as per the official document for the year 2025.

The document, states that the Smart City Mission has introduced 200 e-buses (10 each in Jammu and Srinagar) with real-time tracking and digital ticketing solutions to enhance urban mobility.

"An additional 200 e-buses have been approved under the PM E-Bus Sewa initiative," it states.

According to the document, the Smart City Mission is revamping urban infrastructure in Srinagar and Jammu, focusing on developing green spaces, installing LED street lights, constructing health centres and auditoriums, and improving public transport to create modern, efficient, and eco-friendly urban centres—(KNO)

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

10-KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR KASHMIR, 190010

(ACADEMIC SECTION)

Subject:

Engagement of Dr. Adham Riaz, Senior Resident on Academic Arrangement Basis, in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

Reference:

i. This office Advertisement No. 01 of 2025 Dated. 01-01-2025.
ii. Character and antecedent verification report received from CID, J&K vide Form No. 122816 Dated. 03 -03-2025.

OFFICE ORDER NO: 193-RA OF 2025.

DATED: 07-03-2025.

Pursuant to the Selection list issued vide Notification No. 01-RA of 2025 Dated. 04.02.2025 and on the basis of Satisfactory verification report of Character & antecedents by Criminal investigation Department (CID), J&K, Dr. Adham Riaz, MD, not in-service candidate, is provisionally engaged as Senior Resident in the Discipline of Radiation oncology, Government Medical College, Srinagar on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27.11.2020 and Government Order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 20.06.2024 initially for a period of one year, which is extendable upto (03), years, on the basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned HOD.

The appointment of the above doctor is further subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. The selected candidate is supposed to submit his joining report alongwith an affidavit(s) in the office of the undersigned duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate to the effect that:-

a. he is not in-service candidate, the information if found wrong the selectee shall be punished under Rules which includes confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.

b. he will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of his tenure engagement. In the event he proceeds on strike, his tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.

c. he shall remain disciplined during the whole tenure; any kind of misconduct shall make him liable for termination without any prior notice.

d. he is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending or registered in any criminal department or police station against him.

e. he shall not claim any experience certificate in case he leaves Senior Residency before completion at least of six months.

f. he will not indulge in any private practice. In case he is found doing private practice his appointment shall be liable for termination without any notice.

2. The above doctor shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on the prescribed format (Form A) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement same can be downloaded from the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar.

3. The appointee is required to join within (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

4. The senior Resident appointed on an Academic Arrangement basis shall be paid as per S.O. 36a of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.

5. The Senior Resident appointed on Academic Arrangement basis shall be entitled leaves as per the Government Order No. 451-JK (HME) Of 2024 Dated. 08.07.2024.

No: RA-MC/SecI/SR/RO/

Dated: 07- 03-2025

DIPK-12801-24

DT 08/03/2025

Principal/Dean

Govt. Medical College

Srinagar

●●●●●

CMYK

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Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

The Ramadan Price Surge: A Tradition Of Exploitation?

As the holy month of Ramadan commences, it brings with it not just spiritual reflection and communal harmony but also an unfortunate and recurring pattern—rampant price hikes by local traders. Instead of fostering goodwill, many shopkeepers, particularly butchers, seize the opportunity to inflate prices, taking undue advantage of increased demand. The unchecked greed of a few casts a shadow over the spirit of Ramadan, leaving consumers burdened and frustrated. Despite repeated assurances from authorities, price control remains elusive. Butchers, in particular, act with impunity, dictating rates at will, knowing well that enforcement agencies lack the will or ability to rein them in. This hegemonic attitude not only fuels public resentment but also pushes many towards online shopping, further hurting traditional markets. Ironically, the same traders who exploit buyers during Ramadan later lament a decline in local business and consumer trust. The cycle is predictable yet preventable. Authorities must step up with stricter price monitoring, ensuring fair trade practices. More importantly, traders must realize that ethical business practices foster long-term trust and sustainability. Ramadan is a time for generosity, not opportunistic profiteering. If local traders wish to retain their customers, they must align their practices with the true essence of the holy month—honesty, compassion, and fairness.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

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DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In an era of rapid information dissemination, the uncomfortable truths that challenge our beliefs or threaten societal stability are often erased or ignored rather than confronted. This tendency to side-step reality can be seen in politics, history, social issues, and even personal interactions. The consequences of this avoidance range from distorted public discourse to a failure to address pressing global concerns.

Historical Revisionism: Erasing Truth for Comfort

One of the most prominent examples of erasing uncomfortable truths is historical revisionism. Many governments and institutions have attempted to rewrite history to present a more favorable narrative. For instance, Japan's treatment of World War II atrocities, particularly regarding the issue of "comfort women," has been a topic of global debate. Some textbooks downplay or omit Japan's wartime aggression, preventing younger generations from confronting the full scope of their nation's past.

Similarly, in the United States, discussions about systemic racism have led to efforts in some states to restrict or modify how slavery and racial discrimination are taught in schools. The discomfort associated with acknowledging racial injustices has led to legislative actions that limit educational exposure to these realities.

In India, history is often rewritten to align with dominant political narratives. The Mughal era, a significant part of Indian history, has been selectively omitted or vilified in some school curriculums to promote a nationalist perspective. Similarly, controversial events like the 2002 Gujarat riots and the Emergency period under Indira Gandhi are either downplayed or framed in ways that align with political ideologies. This selective historical representation prevents citizens from learning critical lessons from the past and fosters a distorted national identity.

Political Censorship: Silencing Dissent

Governments worldwide have employed censorship to erase inconvenient truths that challenge their authority. In China, the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989 remains a taboo subject, heavily censored from textbooks and online discussions. By erasing this event from public discourse, the government prevents a collective reckoning with its past actions.

In Russia, the narrative around the



ongoing conflict with Ukraine is carefully controlled. Independent media that present alternative perspectives are suppressed, ensuring that only the official version of events reaches the majority of citizens. This control of information creates an environment where people are shielded from uncomfortable truths that might provoke resistance or demand accountability.

In India, political censorship has also been prevalent. Books, films, and journalistic reports that criticize the ruling government or question historical narratives have been banned or faced legal scrutiny. Investigative reports on communal violence, corruption, and human rights abuses often meet suppression, limiting public awareness of significant issues. The crackdown on journalists and activists further discourages confronting reality, leading to a more controlled and sanitized discourse.

Social Media and the Echo Chamber Effect

Beyond government actions, social media has played a significant role in erasing inconvenient truths. Algorithms on platforms like Facebook and Twitter often create echo chambers, reinforcing users' pre-existing beliefs while filtering out opposing viewpoints. This selective exposure fosters an environment where individuals can avoid confronting difficult realities.

For example, climate change denial thrives in digital spaces where misinformation spreads unchecked. Despite overwhelming scientific evidence, many people consume only content that downplays or outright denies climate change, avoiding the stark truth about environmental degradation.

In India, the social media landscape has become a battleground for misinformation. Political parties and interest

groups use digital platforms to spread propaganda while suppressing dissenting opinions through troll armies and coordinated reporting. Issues such as economic disparity, caste-based discrimination, and religious intolerance are often overshadowed by orchestrated narratives designed to distract from pressing concerns.

Corporate Whitewashing and Public Relations Spin

Corporations also engage in erasing uncomfortable truths by controlling narratives around their unethical practices. Major oil companies have historically downplayed their role in climate change, funding misinformation campaigns to cast doubt on environmental science. Similarly, fast-fashion brands often obscure the exploitative labor conditions in which their products are made, highlighting their sustainability initiatives while ignoring systemic abuses.

In India, major corporations have engaged in similar practices. Industrial disasters like the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, caused by Union Carbide, remain a dark stain in corporate accountability. Over the years, efforts to provide justice to the victims have been slow, with narratives focusing more on economic progress than on long-term consequences. Similarly, environmental violations by large industries are often downplayed to maintain a pro-business image.

Personal Avoidance: The Psychological Side

On an individual level, people often erase uncomfortable truths in personal relationships and decision-making. Whether it's ignoring red flags in a toxic relationship, avoiding discussions about financial troubles, or refusing to acknowledge personal biases, this

behavior stems from a psychological tendency known as "cognitive dissonance." When confronted with information that challenges our self-image or beliefs, many prefer to dismiss or rationalize it rather than face discomfort.

The Cost of Avoidance

The refusal to confront difficult truths has serious implications. Societies that fail to reckon with historical injustices risk repeating them. Governments that suppress dissent create unstable environments where unrest festers. Individuals who avoid personal truths may struggle with unresolved conflicts that impact their well-being.

India, like many other nations, stands at a crossroads where confronting difficult truths is imperative for sustainable progress. The reluctance to address caste inequalities, religious intolerance, economic disparities, and political censorship limits the country's potential for genuine democratic growth. Acknowledging historical and contemporary injustices is the first step toward a more just and equitable society.

Confronting the truth is often uncomfortable, but it is necessary for progress. Whether in history, politics, social issues, or personal lives, acknowledging and addressing reality is the only way to foster genuine change. Erasing truths may provide temporary relief, but in the long run, it prevents growth, justice, and accountability. A nation that continually erases its uncomfortable truths is doomed to repeat its mistakes, whereas one that faces them head-on paves the way for a more enlightened and resilient future.

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Empowering Women Through Education

MUKHTAR AHMAD QURESHI

Growing up in the tender care of my mother, Amina Begum, I personally witnessed the tremendous strength and stamina of women. My mother was illiterate but her understanding and wisdom were the pillars of my education and ideology. Her inspiration instilled within me a deep sense of the power of education, especially for women. Today, I firmly believe that education is no longer merely a means of knowledge acquisition but a feasible tool of equality and women empowerment.

The Transformative Power of Education

Education enables women beyond the classroom. It inspires them to make independent decisions, enables them to provide for themselves and is bold enough to go against convention. If a woman is educated, she is not just a ray of hope for her family but also for society. As they say, When you educate a woman, you educate a generation.

I often recall the way my mother's wisdom, without her education, dominated our household. She managed money, made key choices, and kept our family intact through trying times. This taught me how much better she might have been if she were educated. She would have had more chances, more choices,

and perhaps an even greater voice in the world. Why Education is the Key to Equality.

1. Economic Self Sufficiency: Education provides women with

training and qualification to find jobs. This economic self sufficiency helps them support their families, pay into the economy and become economically independent. My mother's economic know how, which she had acquired through sheer experience alone, was impressive. But imagine how much more she could have achieved with formal training.

2. Health and Well being: Educated women are more likely to make healthy, well informed decisions for themselves and their children. They stand better chances of understanding healthcare, diet and hygiene, thus healthier children and communities. Personally, in my role as a teacher, I have seen how educated mothers take full interest in the education and healthcare of their children and play a fantastic positive role towards their upbringing and development.

3. Leadership and Participation: Educated women are better placed to participate in family and societal decision making. They can speak up, express dissent in the face of injustice, and reject change. My mother, though with minimal formal education, always stood firm on matters of principle. Her voice was commanding within our home, but I believe that education could have positioned her even more strongly outside our home.

4. Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: The best way to break the cycle of poverty is through education. Educated mothers are likely to invest more in their children's education, and this multiplier effect can bear fruit for generations to come. That is what I have learnt as a son but also as a teacher. I see the difference in those families



where the mothers are educated compared to where they are not.

Issues Faced by Women in Pursuing Education

Despite the indisputable benefits, most girls and women still face major obstacles to education. They are cultural values, early marriage, economic hardship, and insecurity. There are still communities that consider education for a girl as an alternative where the allocation of resources is directed towards sons and not daughters. This not only hinders the progress of girls but also stifles the potential of communities.

In my line of work, I have had girls who could not pursue further education because of pressures from society. Some were withdrawn from school to assist around the house, while others were forbidden from attending school. It is disheartening to realize that talented young minds are being eclipsed by circumstances that they cannot control.

The Role of Men in Empowering Women

Empowering women through education is not only a women's issue. Men must be involved in

advocacy and support as well. As a son, husband, father, and teacher, I see the vital role men can be in gender equality. We have to be allies, breaking stereotypes and creating spaces that are conducive so women and girls may rise.

I see that all the activities have boys and girls playing equal parts, with regard for each other. I mention women achievers to them, and I tell them how education can be an opening for a brighter future independent of gender.

Success Stories, A Glimpse of Hope

I have witnessed education change lives through the experiences of my students. There was a girl from a village in the rural area whose parents were not so keen on her going to school at first. They let her continue after persistent counselling. She is now in college, becoming a teacher herself. Her experience is not only her achievement but a triumph for her family and community.

It puts me in mind of how different my mother's life would have been if she had undergone formal education. She would have, with her own wisdom and intellect,

been in a position to make an even greater impact through education. A Call to Action, How We Can Make a Difference:

All of us are committed to empowering women through educating them. We as parents must take care that we provide education for our sons as well as our daughters. As teachers, we have a commitment to provide a secure and motivational learning place. As members of society, we should champion policies that endorse girls' education and barriers elimination.

For the rest of us who have been fortunate enough to benefit from education, assisting others in the process is our civic duty. If in the manner of mentoring, scholarship, or simply the praise, the cause is served. Towards a Better Tomorrow.

Education is not merely a ticket to a job but a road to empowerment. In empowering women through education, we are creating a world where equality is not a dream but reality. My mother, Amina Begum, may not have attended school, but her courage and knowledge endure. Through my work, I hope to pay her tribute by inspiring the next generation of women and girls to live independent, assertive, and meaningful lives.

On this Women's International Day, let us take a pledge to break the shackles of disparity through education. Let us liberate every girl child and provide every woman with her voice. For when women thrive, we all thrive.

(Author hails From Boniyar Baramulla. He can be reached at Mukhtar.qur@gmail.com)

Parkinson’s Disease: Causes, Symptoms, And Treatments



DR. ADITYA GUPTA

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects body movement. It has a gradual progression and usually starts with no symptoms or barely noticeable ones in either hand. Usually, a tremor in the hands may be enough to justify the prevalence of Parkinson's but it can also be accompanied by stiffness or slowing down or reactive movements.

During the early stages face may show little or no expression, or arms may not swing when you walk, speech may become soft or slurred and the symptoms gets worsen as the disease progresses. In such situations it is important to consult an experienced neurologist immediately.

How to identify the symptoms?

Depending upon person the signs and symptoms may vary. Early signs may be mild and may go unnoticed. Symptoms often begin on one side of the body and usually remain worse on that side, even after symptoms begin to affect both sides.

Parkinson's signs and symptoms may include tremors, slowed movements throughout the body, rigid muscles, impaired posture and balance, loss of automatic movements changes in speech and writing among many others.

What causes PD?

In Parkinson's disease, certain nerve cells (neurons) in the brain gradually break down or die. Many of the symptoms are due to a loss of neurons that produce a chemical messenger in your brain called dopamine. When dopamine levels decrease, it causes abnormal brain activity, leading to signs of Parkinson's disease.



The cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown, but several factors appear to play a role, including:

- Genetic** – family members with history of this disease are more prone to it.
- Environmental triggers** - Exposure to certain toxins or environmental factors may increase the risk of later Parkinson's disease, but the risk is relatively small.

Many changes occur in the brains of people with Parkinson's disease, although it's not clear why these changes occur. These changes include:

- The presence of Lewy bodies-** Clumps of specific substances within brain cells are microscopic markers of Parkinson's disease. These are called Lewy bodies, and researchers believe these Lewy

bodies hold an important clue to the cause of Parkinson's disease.

- Alpha-synuclein is found within Lewy bodies-** Although many substances are found within Lewy bodies, natural and widespread protein called alpha-synuclein (A-synuclein). It's found in all Lewy bodies in a clumped form that cells can't break down.

Parkinson's is treatable

In deep brain stimulation (DBS), surgeons implant electrodes into a specific part of your brain. The electrodes are connected to a generator implanted in your chest near your collarbone that sends electrical pulses to your brain and may reduce your Parkinson's disease symptoms.

Deep brain stimulation is most often offered to people with advanced Parkinson's disease who have unstable

medication responses. DBS can stabilize medication fluctuations, reduce or halt involuntary movements (dyskinesias), reduce tremor, reduce rigidity, and improve slowing of movement.

DBS is effective in controlling erratic and fluctuating responses to medication for controlling dyskinesias that don't improve with medication adjustments.

However, DBS isn't helpful for problems that don't respond to medication therapy apart from tremor. A tremor may be controlled by DBS even if the tremor isn't very responsive to medication.

Why DBS is preferred over medications?

Medications are provided for temporary effect to subside the symptoms of PD. When a person is able to enjoy the effect of the medicine, it is known as on-phase and when it subsides its known as off-phase. Over a period of

time the effect of the medicines on the body tends to stop and hence the frequency of medicine intake increases. If a patient is prescribed to take the medicine thrice a day, then due to the loss of effect, they might need it more than 8 times a day. This affects their quality of life as they tend to get on and off that many times.

What DBS does is that it provides a constant effect to the patient for 24 hours. It avoids dyskinesia that is it prevents the halting of involuntary movements. Moreover DBS doesn't allow tremor fluctuations as in case of medicines. Medicines tend to end the effect unpredictably, and patients planning for their work or to go out for shopping may be at a risk of attack as the effect may subside any time which can impact their quality of life.

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Daughters Of Bharat: A Deprived Section Of The Society

ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

Increasing Gender-based problems affect girls in every aspect of social and cultural environment. To grow into active, efficient and confident women, girls must be raised in an environment that provides them with respect, dignity and fair opportunities.

But in Bharat, the deprivation and suffering caused by poverty for most girls is further aggravated by customs and beliefs. These beliefs often define the role of women and make them inferior to men.

The status of women in the society can be easily judged from the status of girls. It is a well-known fact that thousands of girls grow up in very difficult circumstances. Education is considered unnecessary for them; they remain unhealthy due to malnutrition and a large number of them die premature deaths.

They have to do hard labour and are married at an early age. They live in a very discriminatory environment at the physical, mental and sexual levels. Education is the only panacea through which girls and women can initiate the process of social change. Education has the power to play such a mediating role that can eliminate gender discrimination and awaken sociality among girls and boys.

Childhood development is important

Keeping in mind the distortions caused due to gender discrimination in childhood, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) declared the year 1990 as the "Year of the Girl Child" and 1991-2000 as the "Decade of the Girl Child". The Government of India has also developed a national plan to improve the current status of girls and adolescent women. The most important development period for any person is childhood.

The pace at which physical, mental, personal and social development occurs in childhood is not possible in the later years of life. The rapid development and flexibility of childhood also makes this period largely vulner-



able. This neglected situation can also be affected by prejudice and neglect. As a result, the girl trapped in the cycle of deprivation throughout her life continues to sink and is unable to become a part of the mainstream of society.

On the other hand, this feeling of tenderness provides a wonderful opportunity to eradicate deficiency from its roots. If the health, educational and social needs of girls are taken care of, the foundation of an educated progressive woman can be laid. UNICEF declared during the "Inter Regional Consultation on Girl Child" held in 1994 that the life-cycle perspective is the most progressive policy for women's development.

More than 1,20,00,000 girls are born every year in Bharat. About 25 per cent of these girls die before their fifteenth birthday and one third of them die in the first year of infancy. Age-specific mortality rates show that at every age level up to the age of 35, more women die than men. Girls are more likely to die than boys in Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Region, religion, caste and poverty affect mortality rates. The more vulnerable the position of women, the higher will be the deaths at birth. A girl born in

Uttar Pradesh can expect to live up to 54 years, while a girl born in Kerala is likely to live up to 74 years.

In most countries, the sex ratio is in favour of women, but in Bharat the sex ratio has been declining decade after decade. Except Kerala, the sex ratio remains pathetic in other states. In the 2001 census, the sex ratio (per thousand males) among the total population was 933, among the Scheduled Castes it was 922, and in the Scheduled Tribes it was 972. According to the 2011 census, the sex ratio in the total population is 940.

One of the main reasons for the skewed sex ratio is the large number of deaths at a very young age due to malnutrition. Levinson's study of malnourished children in Punjab in 1974 also revealed that there is gender-based bias in nutrition and health care. Stunted growth due to nutrition and under-nutrition result in the body structure not developing fully in adulthood. In both cases, there is a possibility of having low birth weight babies. Malnourished girls grow up to become malnourished women and this cycle of malnutrition continues from generation to generation. Girls are breastfed for a shorter period of time than boys. Also, due to low purchasing power, girls are fed a low-calorie diet as well as fewer supplements and solid food.

According to a study, the number

of malnourished girls is 2 to 3 times that of boys. In category 2 and 3 of Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai metropolises, malnutrition was higher among girls than boys. When there is a severe shortage of food grains, it has a more negative impact on the situation of girls.

According to the "All India Market Survey" conducted in 21 states and union territories in 1990, there is no gender difference in terms of diseases, but inequalities are clearly visible in their duration and care.

Girls are also discriminated against within family across demographic group. Fewer girls are found in state health centre in most of the states of the country and less money is spent on their health. Across all classes of families, girls are treated by less qualified doctors than boys. This difference is more prominent in Odisha, Haryana and Punjab. According to the Khanna study, the first son and the first daughter have equal chances of survival. Mothers in the age group of 15 to 29 have a 70 percent chance of their second or third daughter dying before the age of 5.

Girl literacy is an indicator of social development

Girl literacy is an important indicator of social development. Female literacy has many beneficial effects

on development. Universalization of primary education requires reducing the gap in participation between boys and girls. Although social prejudice against women will not be eliminated through the educational system alone, positive steps can be taken to raise their status through education. School is the only institution where girls acquire qualities like self-esteem, self-confidence, decision-making ability and skills.

However, after independence, there has been a gradual increase in enrolment of girls in schools. In 1950-51, this number was 54 lakh and 5 lakh respectively at primary and upper primary level, which increased to 516.17371 Lakh and 303.93187 Lakh respectively in 2023-24. The percentage of girls in total enrolment at the primary level (class 1 to 5) increased from 28.1 percent in 1950-51 to 47.86 percent in 2023-24, while at the upper primary level (class 6 to 8) it increased from 16.1 percent in 1950-51 to 48.15 percent in 2023-24.

Gender Parity Index in terms of enrolment increased to 1.03 at primary level and 1.02 at upper primary level in 2023-24. In 1951, 91.14 percent of the female population aged seven years and above was illiterate, which decreased to 45.84 percent in 2001 and 34.54 percent in 2011, of which about two-thirds live in rural areas.

The transition rate from class V (primary level) to class VI (upper primary level) is 89.2 percent among girls and 88.4 percent among boys. However, inequalities still persist. There is a considerable difference between the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) of boys and girls. The GER ratio is different in every state. In 2023-24, the average dropout rate at the primary level was 1.7 percent for girls and 2.1 percent for boys, while the retention rate was 85.4 percent with minimal gender difference. Rural girls have to leave studies earlier than urban girls.

(The author is an Engineer and Educationist based at Patna)

Here's Why You're At A Higher Risk Of Stroke In Winter

A stroke occurs when blood flow to a part of the brain is disrupted, either by a blocked artery (ischemic stroke) or a ruptured blood vessel (hemorrhagic stroke). This interruption deprives brain cells of oxygen and nutrients, causing them to die within minutes. Winter is associated with a higher risk of stroke due to physiological and environmental factors such as cold temperatures, increased blood pressure, and lifestyle changes during the season. Understanding these risks and taking preventive measures can reduce the likelihood of strokes in colder months. Read on as we discuss common causes of stroke in winter and how to prevent it.

Reasons why we are at a higher risk of stroke in winter & how to prevent it

1. Cold-induced blood pressure spikes

Cold weather causes blood vessels to constrict, increasing blood pressure and the strain on the heart, which raises the risk of stroke. Keep warm by dressing in layers and heating your home adequately. Regularly monitor blood pressure and follow medical advice for managing hypertension.

2. Increased blood viscosity

Exposure to cold temperatures can thicken the blood, making it more likely to clot and cause an ischemic stroke. Stay hydrated, as dehydration thickens the blood. Maintain a healthy diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids to improve blood flow.

3. Reduced physical activity



People tend to exercise less during winter, leading to weight gain, higher cholesterol levels, and poor cardiovascular health. Engage in indoor exercises like yoga, strength training, or brisk walking in a

controlled environment.

4. Higher rates of respiratory infections

Winter illnesses like the flu increase systemic inflammation, which can destabilise plaques in blood vessels and

trigger strokes. Get vaccinated for flu and other respiratory infections. Practice good hygiene and wear masks in crowded places.

5. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD)

Depression and stress levels often rise in winter, leading to poor lifestyle habits and increased stroke risk. Seek mental health support, stay physically active, and expose yourself to natural sunlight or

light therapy.

6. Thicker blood clotting tendency

Cold conditions may increase levels of clotting factors in the blood, raising the likelihood of ischemic strokes.

Avoid prolonged exposure to the cold and maintain medications for blood thinning if prescribed by a doctor.

7. Increased salt consumption

Comfort foods high in sodium are common in winter, which can elevate blood pressure. Limit salt intake and opt for heart-healthy, low-sodium meals rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

8. Lower vitamin D levels

Reduced sunlight exposure in winter leads to lower vitamin D levels, which may impair vascular health. Include vitamin D-rich foods in your diet, such as fatty fish and fortified foods, or consider supplements after consulting a healthcare provider.

9. Worsening of chronic conditions

Conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease often worsen in winter, increasing stroke risk. Manage chronic conditions effectively with medications, regular check-ups, and a balanced diet.

10. Increased indoor air pollution

Using fireplaces, heaters, and poorly ventilated spaces in winter can elevate exposure to indoor pollutants, which may contribute to stroke risk. Ensure proper ventilation in your home and use clean heating methods like electric heaters or central heating systems.

By understanding and addressing these winter-specific risks, individuals can better protect themselves and reduce their likelihood of experiencing a stroke during colder months.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

3 Missing Civilians

In the past, many youths who apparently were not connected with terrorism went missing and were later found to have joined the ranks of the terrorists or were found killed by terrorists.

It is for this reason that the first thing the police and the security forces have to rule out in missing person cases is whether or not there is a terror angle to such disappearances.

Earlier in February, three civilians had also gone missing from the Kulgam district of the Kashmir Division. These three civilians were also on their way to attend a marriage when they went missing.

According to family members, the trio -- Reyaz Ahmad and Showkat Ahmad of Chandian Pajan and Mukhtar Ahmad of Pratap Pora Lammer -- went missing on the evening of February 13 after leaving their homes to attend a wedding at their maternal uncle's house in Ashmuji Bhan, Kulgam.

Despite contacting all relatives and friends, the families have been unable to trace their whereabouts. "We have filed a missing report at the Qazigund Police Station," they stated, urging anyone with information to reach the families.

J&K Has Debt

The debt as a percentage of GSDP has increased from 47 per cent in FY2014 to 51 per cent in FY2024. J&K has been literally dependent on central aid despite its huge potential in horticulture, tourism, hospitality industry, hydro power and handicrafts.

Due to the inability of the J&K government to construct hydro-electric power projects on various rivers in the UT due to paucity of funds, all major power projects in the UT were constructed by the NHPC. Except for getting royalty by way of electric power, J&K is not able to use the UT's huge hydro-power potential of 10,000 megawatts.

Bats For Exploring

potential. Recently, festivals were organized in Karnah, the Border Festival and Yoga Festival. The purpose is to let people outside Jammu and Kashmir know about Karnah's tourism potential and its culture. Because of such initiatives, we have started to see a gradual increase in tourism. For this reason, local people should benefit from tourism," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told the Legislative Assembly.

The Chief Minister said that the tourism department has started registration of paying guest houses and homestays in the area.

"For now, in Karnah, we have registered six homestays and five in Teetwal. Now, I request the MLA to help us with this. There is no point in bringing tourists if there is no place to host them," he said, adding: "We do not want to build massive hotels there. If big hotels are built, local people will not benefit from

them. At present, we need to focus more on homestays. For this, MLAs should help us and involve local people in this. In response to another supplementary question from member Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, the Chief Minister informed the House that the government would identify unskilled youth in border areas like Karnah, Keran, Machhil, and Gurez so that they can be trained in ITIs and the Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar, to develop skills and trades relevant to tourism."

"In my Budget speech yesterday, I stated that our focus is on skills and entrepreneurship so that youth are equipped with skills and provided hand-holding to build their future in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

MLA Saifullah Mir suggested the establishment of a Tourism Development Authority to boost local tourism in these destinations.

Earlier, replying to the starred question, the Chief Minister stated that Karnah region is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage and strategic location near the Line of Control (LoC), he said.

He further said that Teetwal, Karanoo in Nawagabra, and Budnambal villages possess natural beauty and tourism potential.

"These areas offer breathtaking landscapes, and lush meadows and have cultural significance, making them attractive destinations for tourism. These areas have the potential for nature tourism, adventure tourism, and cross-border heritage tourism," he said.

He added that the Department of Tourism has taken several initiatives to bring these villages onto the tourist map.

"In order to promote pilgrim tourism in Karnah Constituency, the J&K Tourism Department has projected the construction of 'Yatri Niwas' at Sharda Temple at Teetwal, Kupwara, along with a cafeteria," he said.

Omar Abdullah said that the Construction of Yatri Niwas at Sharda Temple at Teetwal, Kupwara, along with a cafeteria is currently in progress, with the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) underway. The project cost is estimated at Ra 150 Lakh.

He informed the House that the Border Tourism Festival was organized by the Tourism Department in border areas to promote tourism.

"The festival was held at Teetwal in September 2022 and featured cultural and musical events, an ATV rally from Kupwara to Teetwal, nature photography sessions, trekking, camping, and horse riding," the CM said.

He added that the Yoga Festival was organized by the Tourism Department in collaboration with other departments in the Teetwal area of the Karnah constituency on June 21, 2024, to promote tourism in the area.

'Anti-National'

had created multiple Twitter accounts under pseudonyms to evade law enforcement agencies. The investigation con-

firmed that Twitter handles such as Lacerated Kashmir, The Resistance Kashmir, Maimed Kashmir, and Wounded Kashmir were being operated by the accused to propagate secessionist ideology, promote terrorism, and undermine the lawful administrative regime. Additionally, he had shown disrespect to the Indian National Flag through his Twitter posts," he said.

On March 7, the spokesperson said, SIA Kashmir filed a comprehensive charge sheet against the accused under Section 153-A of the IPC, Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and Section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act for judicial determination.

PoK Residents Keen

witnessing a new paradigm of growth under the NDA government and with businesses and growth projects flourishing in the region, it is attracting the attention of not just Pakistan but the whole world.

"Recently, Pakistan flags were taken down in some areas of PoK, this shows the simmering anger in the region," he said.

No Timeline For

bed-and-breakfast accommodations, were being planned, the Army Chief said, "The Mughal Road was also being considered for significant use. However the recent security concerns have led to the induction of 15,000 additional troops in these areas." He said that the final decision on AFSPA would be collectively taken by the local government, along with the Union Home and Defence Ministries.

Asked about discussions between Jammu and Kashmir's leadership, the armed forces, and the Home Ministry regarding the phased removal of AFSPA, General Dwivedi said, "There must first be a transition period where the local police take greater responsibility."

He cited the example of Manipur, where AFSPA was withdrawn from Imphal, but military intervention remained possible if needed. "In Jammu, AFSPA is still in effect while police continue to conduct operations. Before the act is repealed, there must be enough evidence that the police can handle the situation and that the Army is no longer required," he said, adding, "Only with such proof would the Army support the removal of AFSPA."—(KNO)

Questions Raised Over

has been allotted 206 kanals of land at Kathua against a premium of Rs eight lakh per kanal.

It had to set-up an aluminum cans and beverages filling plant involving investment of Rs 1642 crore. It was expected to generate jobs for 500 people.

A local news agency KNO quoted

sources in the J&K government as saying that Ceylon Beverages Limited has now applied for surrendering the land.

Rs 80L Fine Slapped

Budgam swiftly deputed a team to the site to verify the claims.

Upon investigation, he said, it was confirmed that the company had engaged men and machinery for unauthorized extraction of approximately 300 MT of Nallah Mukh without obtaining the required permits.

"In response, a formal notice (No. DMO/Bud/DGM/F-106/4558-67, dated March 3, 2025) was issued to the Project Manager of M/s NKC Projects Private Limited, Basecamp Gudsathoo, Budgam, directing an immediate cessation of all illegal mining activities and demanding relevant documentation," Choudhary added.

A New Era Of Women

and artisans are architects of sustainable development. To be an outstanding creator, one needs to be full of love, kindness and compassion and this is what makes woman artists unique," he said

"Greater participation of Women artists and artisans in the contemporary Art and Craft arena has enriched this sector and strengthened the fabric of our cultural ethos. Many artisans in J&K and the country have achieved new milestones and others are crafting their way to a brighter tomorrow," he added.

The LG reiterated his commitment to socio-economic empowerment of women and providing them a conducive environment to realise their true potential.

He said, under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women empowerment has now become a mass movement.

"A new era of Women-Led Development has begun in the UT of J&K. Today, our Nari Shakti are scripting their own success stories and have become the active partner in the development journey of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

Sinha called upon the artists, artisans, NGOs, teachers, entrepreneurs and various stakeholders to work collectively for women empowerment and to ensure that the benefits of government schemes dedicated to Nari Shakti percolate to the grassroots.

On the occasion, the LG felicitated the women achievers and students. He also visited the stalls put up by the women artists and artisans.

Organizations and individuals were also felicitated for their contribution to the empowerment of women.

Ms Priya Sethi, former Minister of State; Sanjogita Dogra, Founder, Buddha Art & Painting; senior officers from Police and Civil Administration; heads of various educational institutions, women achievers, artists, artisans, teachers and students were present.

PM Modi lauds 'Nari Shakti' on International Women's Day; to hand over his social media accounts to women achievers

IAN S

NEW DELHI : On the occasion of International Women's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his greetings to 'Nari Shakti' and started a unique initiative where his social media platforms would be taken over by women, making significant contributions in various fields.

Taking to X, PM Modi posted, "We bow to our Nari Shakti on Women's Day! Our Government has always worked for empowering women, reflecting in our schemes and programmes."

"Today, as promised, my social media properties will be taken over by women who are making a mark in diverse fields!" he further added.

In a shared video message, the Prime Minister emphasised that in India's traditions, the highest regard has always been given to women's respect and dignity.

He highlighted that nations and communities that provide women with greater opportunities for growth will progress at an



unprecedented pace.

"In India, today there is a period of women-led development," he stated, adding that government policies and laws are now being designed with a special focus on benefiting women.

He also asserted that the country's 'Nari Shakti' is the strongest pillar of India's vision for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

The social media initiative was first announced by PM Modi last month during his 'Mann Ki Baat' address, where he revealed his plan to hand over his social media accounts to inspiring women across the country.

The initiative aims to provide them with a plat-

form to share their stories, achievements, and experiences, encouraging more women to step forward and contribute to nation-building. He also called upon women from all walks of life to participate in this special initiative.

PM Modi further acknowledged that International Women's Day is a momentous occasion to celebrate India's 'Nari Shakti' and recognise their invaluable role in shaping the nation's past, present, and future.

"Respect for daughters has always been a top priority in our culture. Women's power has played an essential role in the Independence movement and in

drafting our Constitution," he remarked.

In addition to this digital initiative, the Prime Minister is also in Gujarat's Navsari to mark International Women's Day with 'Lakshpati Didis'.

He will attend the 'Lakshpati Didi Sammelan' at Vansi-Borsi, where he will distribute over Rs 450 crore in financial aid to more than 2.5 lakh women from over 25,000 Self-Help Groups across the state.

During the event, PM Modi will interact with ten selected Lakshpati Didis and honour five of them with certificates, further reinforcing the government's commitment to empowering women economically.

People in TN getting medicines at cheaper rates under PM Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana

IAN S

SIVAGANGA (TAMIL NADU) : The Narendra Modi-led Central government is making quality medicines available to the common man at affordable prices through Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.

Generic medicines are being made available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras at a discount of 50 to 90 per cent compared to branded medicines available at private medical stores.

PM Modi's Jan Aushadhi Yojana has helped the poor and middle class families a lot.

Jan Aushadhi Kendras are operating successfully in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu. Villagers are benefiting from these centres by purchasing medicines at low prices.

On an average, these medical stores are visited by 200 to 500 people every day.

In addition, the Jan Aushadhi Kendra staff also provide medicines through home delivery to differently-abled persons and the elderly when contacted over the phone.

Sushma from Kalayarkoil town in Sivaganga district said that since the launch of Jan Ausha-



dhi Kendras, she has been buying medicines for her father from these centres.

Expressing her gratitude to Prime Minister Modi, she said that the medicines available at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras are much cheaper than those in private pharmacies.

Madin from Indira Nagar village in Sivaganga district said that the quality of medicines at these centres is very good.

She also praised the welfare initiatives of the Central government.

Sangeswari said that medicines are available at Jan Aushadhi stores at half the price.

A famous chef from

Kannur said that wherever he goes in Tamil Nadu, he buys medicines only from Jan Aushadhi Kendras because they are affordable and of good quality.

Shiva from Rose Nagar said that Jan Aushadhi stores offer high quality medicines at affordable prices.

Rani, the owner of a Jan Aushadhi Kendra, said that 200 to 500 people come to the store every day to buy medicines.

She added that patients who cannot come to the store can order medicines online, which are delivered to their homes.

She also confirmed that these medicines are much cheaper than those avail-

able at private medical stores.

The scheme "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)" was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, in November 2008. The branded (Generic) medicines are sold at significantly higher prices than their un-branded generic equivalents, though are identical in therapeutic value. Given the widespread poverty across the country, making available reasonably priced quality generic medicines in the market would benefit everyone.

Assam's 'Elephant Girl' Parbati Barua shatters gender stereotypes in wildlife conservation

IAN S

GUWAHATI : Known as "Elephant Girl" (Hasti Kanya) in Assam, 67-year-old Parbati Barua is India's first woman mahout (elephant keeper). She was conferred the Padma Shri last year for her pioneering work in wildlife conservation and for breaking gender barriers in a field traditionally dominated by men.

Born into the Gauripur royal family in the Goalpara district of Assam, Barua and her father Prakritish Barua caught their first elephant together when Barua was 14 years old in the Kachugaon woods of Kokrajhar district.

The last of the Rajas of Gauripur was Prakritish Barua. Parbati Baruah spent a lot of time in the forests with her father and had a deep awareness of and fascination with elephants when she was a young child.

Prakritish Barua had forty elephants in his royal stables and was a quirky hunter with a mystical awareness of elephants.

With a vast entourage that included cooks, attendants, and a private teacher for his kids, Barua would take his family on long excursions into the woodlands. His family comprised of his four wives and nine children.

According to Parbati herself, she somewhat developed her interest in elephants during these excursions. Barua spent forty years reducing human-elephant conflicts and fighting against gender stereotypes in this profession.

Human-elephant confrontations have a long history in Assam, and Baruah was instrumental in developing government regulations to keep them under control. She developed into a master at taming wild elephants.

Her expertise on the behaviour of elephants made her well-known not just in Assam but also in nearby states like West Bengal and Odisha.

Barua also assisted the forest authorities in driving troublemakers back into the forests from agricultural fields. Queen of the Elephants is the title of a book written about her by British travel writer and naturalist Mark Roland Shand, published in 1996.

Later, the BBC produced a documentary that was widely praised.

Following at least 40 years of continuous service as a mahout, Parbati committed her life to animal conservation, and she is presently a part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Asian Elephant Specialist Group (IUCN).

Manipur: Joint ops by Army, other forces lead to recovery of 114 arms, explosives

IAN S

IMPHAL : The security forces after the expiry of the 15-day deadline to surrender looted and illegally-held arms and ammunition, further stepped up their search operations in 10 of the 16 Manipur districts and recovered 114 weapons, IEDs, grenades, various ammunition and other war-like stores, officials said here on Saturday.

A Defence spokesman said that in a series of joint operations during the past 24 hours, Army, Assam Rifles, various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Manipur Police recovered 114 weapons, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), grenades, various ammunition and other war-like stores.

The joint operations were conducted in the hill and valley districts -- Bishnupur, Senapati, Thoubal, Jiribam, Chandel, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Imphal East, Imphal West and Kakching.

The security forces also destroyed several bunkers in Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal districts.

In Nepali Basti of Bishnupur district, an operation by the Indian Army and Manipur Police resulted in recovery of seven weapons consisting of two Carbines, two Pistols, two Rifles and one improvised mortar, ammunition and other war-like stores.

Similarly, in Chandel district, a search operation resulted in recovery of 55 weapons comprising



nine 12-bore Single Barrel Rifles, twelve Muzzle Loaded Rifles, one 12mm Single Bore Shotgun, one Single Barrel rifle, 32 Improvised Mortars of various calibres, four IEDs, grenades, ammunition and other war-like stores.

In Senapati district, on receipt of information about the presence of arms and ammunition, the Assam Rifles, in coordination with Manipur Police launched a joint operation in general area Taphou Kuki and recovered four weapons comprising two bolt-action single-barrel guns, one double-barrel gun and one 12 Bore Single Barrel Rifle.

As many as 15 weapons were recovered by Assam Rifles and Manipur Police from Gothol areas in

Churachandpur district.

In the mixed populated Jiribam district, a joint operation of Assam Rifles and Manipur police in Ankhasu village resulted in recovery of nine improvised mortars (Pompi).

In Imphal East district, in the areas of Pourabi, Sawombung and Kalika, Indian Army and Manipur Police launched operations and recovered six weapons.

Manipur Police also arrested two cadres of the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) militant outfit and recovered some arms and ammunition from them.

The Defence spokesman said that the joint operations to recover the remaining looted arms and ammunition would continue in both valley and hilly districts.

Police officials said that responding to Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla's appeal till March 6 around 1,023 arms and a huge cache of ammunition have been surrendered by various organisations and individuals in five valley districts, five hill districts and mixed populated Jiribam districts since the Governor made the appeal for the first time on February 20.

According to various reports during the ethnic riots between Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities since May 3, 2023, more than 6,000 different types of sophisticated arms and lakhs of pieces of different types of ammunition were looted from the police stations and outposts by the mobs and militants of both communities.

Tourist from Israel, homestay owner gang raped in K'taka; man from Odisha killed after being pushed into canal by rapists

IAN S

KOPPAL (KARNATAKA) : A horrific incident of three persons committing gang rape on two women, a tourist from Israel, and a female local homestay owner and killing a male Indian tourist who was with them, came to light on Saturday in Karnataka.

The incident was reported from the Gangavathi Rural police station located close to the UNESCO heritage site Hampi.

The accused pushed three other tourists who were with the two women into a nearby canal before targeting the females.

The rape victims are recovering at the hospital while the body of the tourist from Odisha was found in the Tungabhadra Left Canal near Sanapura village near Gangavathi town on Saturday.

The deceased tourist has been identified as 40-year-old Beebas.

The authorities had launched a search operation for him after the incident came to light.

The other two victims, who were also pushed into the water, had managed to come back to the bank of the canal and saved their lives.

The incident had taken place on Thursday night when the homestay owner had taken the female tourists from Israel, America, a male tourist from Odisha and another person to the banks of Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal near Sanapura

village near Gangavathi town for stargazing.

When the tourists were stargazing on the banks of the Tungabhadra canal, the accused who came to the spot on a bike, approached them on the pretext of asking for petrol and started demanding money from them.

After being refused money, they attacked the group with stones, pushed the others into the canal, and raped the women.

The 29-year-old homestay owner, one of the victims of the sexual assault, has filed a complaint with the police regarding the incident.

The accused have disappeared after committing the crime.

The police claim that they have identified the accused persons and two special teams have launched a hunt for them.

The police stated that medical tests have confirmed sexual assault on the victims.

Police sources state that the incident had taken place at 3 am in the morning and it has not come to the notice of the locals.

More details are yet to emerge regarding the incident. The police are also investigating whether the victims were high as they could not take on three persons even as they were five of them. Since the victims are in shock, the police are presently focussing on nabbing the rapists.

India that embraces all its daughters is an India poised to lead the world: Gautam Adani

IAN S

AHMEDABAD : It is time to accelerate action -- rightfully chosen as the theme for the 2025 International Women's Day -- not because it's the right corporate strategy or a popular social cause, but because wives, daughters and granddaughters deserve a future limited only by the expanse of their dreams, Gautam Adani, the Chairperson of the Adani Group, said on Saturday.

Emphasising that an India that truly embraces all its daughters is an India poised to lead the world, the billionaire industrialist remembered all the women -- from Banaskantha to Boardrooms -- who has shaped his world.

"My understanding of gender equity wasn't forged in boardrooms or policy debates; it was nurtured at home, surrounded by remarkable women whose strength and wisdom have profoundly influenced my perspective," Gautam Adani wrote in a heartfelt LinkedIn post on the occasion of International Women's Day.

"Now, blessed with three beautiful granddaughters, this promise burns brighter and more urgent than ever. International Women's Day is not merely a date on the calendar; it's a poignant reminder of the strides we've made and the journey that still lies ahead," said the Adani Group Chairperson.

Growing up in the desert terrains of Banaskantha, "I

observed my mother transform scarcity into sustenance and hardship into harmony. She was the silent force that held our large joint family together, embodying relentless effort, unshakable love, courage, and resilience. In her, I witnessed, and came to appreciate the essence of quiet leadership, selflessness, and graceful perseverance," Gautam Adani stressed.

Later in life, "my wife Priti became the driving force behind our foundation's initiatives, touching millions of lives across India."

"Seeing her engage with village women across the remote villages of our country, discussing transformative issues for their families' futures, learning



from the sanghins of the Adani Foundation who teach pregnant

mothers how to take care of themselves and the child they are to deliver, have all helped me grasp the true essence of empowerment," he mentioned in the post.

According to him, it is inspiring to meet young girls in Mundra who, through the Group's education initiatives, now dream of becoming engineers, or to witness the determination of women entrepreneurs in Godda (in Jharkhand) who have transitioned from daily wage labourers to successful business owners.

Several years ago, during a visit to one of the port projects, Gautam Adani noticed the absence of women in operational and leadership roles.

It was not due to a lack

of capability but rather the absence of pathways for them into these traditionally male-dominated fields.

"This realisation sparked a personal commitment to change. I began posing different questions in our meetings: 'Are our policies genuinely family-friendly?' 'Who are we mentoring for future leadership?' These were not just metrics; each number represented a life, a dream, a future leader whose perspective would enrich our endeavours," said the Group head.

Today, as "I walk through our offices and see senior women leading our technology teams, as I visit our renewable energy sites and witness women engineers solving complex challeng-

es, and as I attend foundation events where rural women are building thriving businesses, I am filled with immense pride", Gautam Adani noted.

To date, the Adani Foundation has positively impacted several million girls and women, reaffirming its dedication to fostering lasting social change.

"Moreover, our 'Lakshpati Didis' initiative celebrates over 1,000 women who have achieved financial independence through enhanced entrepreneurial skills. By supporting women in becoming self-reliant, we contribute to creating a gender-inclusive society where women's contributions are valued and recognised," said Gautam Adani.

Ist National Lok Adalat held across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In pursuance to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) calendar, and under the directions of Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority, the 1st National Lok Adalat was held today across all the districts of Kashmir division by the respective District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).

The Lok Adalat was held under the directions of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron in Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), and Atul Sreedharan Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority.

Lok Adalat is an alternative dispute redressal mechanism where disputes and cases pending in courts of law or at the pre-litigation stage are settled or compromised amicably to reduce the load on the regular court system.

The matters placed before the benches included cases of Civil, Criminal Compoundable, Cheque bounce, Bank matters, MACT, Land Compensation, Matrimonial, Electricity, and Pre-litigation matters referred by DLSA Budgam, which included electricity related issues/matters, bank recovery matters, PHE matters, Social Welfare Scheme matters, Labour cases, Revenue, Matrimonial disputes, land disputes, BSNL cases, municipality cases and other Government scheme related matters.

At Srinagar, District Judiciary Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar,

organized the 1st National Lok Adalat for the year 2025 at the District Court Complex Mominabad Srinagar and in the Court of Additional Special Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Pantha chowk Srinagar.

The National Lok Adalat was held under the guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary of J&K Legal Services Authority, and under the overall supervision of Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman of DLSA Srinagar, along with Sajad Ur Rehman, Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

The 1st National Lok Adalat of the year was inaugurated by Chairman District Legal Services Authority Srinagar Tasleem Arief in the presence of judicial officers and staff at the District Court Complex Srinagar.

During the Lok Adalat, Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary of J&K Legal Services Authority, along with Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman, Secretary DLSA Srinagar observed the proceedings of the benches at District Court Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 13 benches were constituted. Overall 85600 cases were taken up for settlement out of which 83297 cases were amicably settled and Rs.60798358 was awarded as settlement amount.

At Baramulla, the first National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Principal District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla Jawad Ahmad, who is also Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA),



Baramulla.

The event was attended by Additional District and Sessions Judge, Special Judge NDPS Cases, Secretary, DLSA Baramulla, President Bar Baramulla and other judicial officers.

To ensure smooth proceedings, nine benches were constituted across the district that took up a total of 2,454 cases for settlement out of which 2,260 cases were settled, with a total amount of Rs 6.19 crore realized.

At Budgam, the 1st National Lok Adalat was organized in District Court Complex Budgam and Taluka Courts of the district under the direction and supervision of O.P Bhagat, Chairman of DLSA (Pr. Dis-

trict & Sessions Judge) Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam.

The 1st National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 was inaugurated by O.P Bhagat Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman District Legal Services Authority Budgam) at district court complex Budgam in presence of other judicial officers posted at district headquarters Budgam.

Each Court had identified cases for the said National Lok Adalat before hand and same were placed before 08 different benches constituted for their settlement.

A total of 2852 cases were taken up, out of which 1371

cases were amicably settled. Besides, an amount of Rs 1,34,71,022 was given as compensation/recovered in total.

At Ganderbal, the 1st National Lok Adalat was organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

The National Lok Adalat was successfully inaugurated by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several distinguished judges, including Rafia Hassan, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal; Tabasum, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ganderbal; Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal; Mahoor, Munsiff, Ganderbal, and Monis Wahid, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Ganderbal. Other notable attendees included LADCs, Panel Lawyers, Bar Members, and litigants etc.

A total of 03 benches were constituted, that took up a total number of 597 cases, out of which 567 cases were disposed-off/ amicably settled, resulting in a settlement amount of Rs 13,17,716.

At Pulwama, 1st National Lok-Adalat was organized in District Court & other subordinate courts of District Pulwama under the Chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr.District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq Secretary

DLSA Pulwama.

The Lok adalat at District headquarters Pulwama was inaugurated by PDJ Pulwama which was also attended by Judicial Officers of District Pulwama.

A total number of 503 cases were taken up by 05 benches in the district out of which 346 cases were settled in the said Lok adalat.

An amount of Rs, 4,59,68,236 was awarded as settlement amount in all cases including award of Rs. 28,55,000 in 05 MACT Cases.

At Shopian, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today organized the 1st National Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex, Shopian.

For the smooth conduct of the Lok Adalat, four benches were constituted by DLSA Shopian.

During the Lok Adalat, a total of 362 cases were taken up. Out of these, 120 cases were successfully settled through mutual understanding, with a total settlement amount of Rs.36,74,854.

At Kulgam, 1st National Lok Adalat was held today in District Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan (Principal District and Sessions Judge /Chairman District Legal Services Authority Kulgam).

The National Lok Adalat was formally inaugurated by Chairman DLSA in presence of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kulgam/Sub Judge/Secretary District Legal Services Authority Kulgam, Munsiff/JMIC Kulgam, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Kulgam and Bar members of Kulgam.

06 benches were constituted, 04 at Head quarter and 01 each at D.H.Pora and Qazigund each headed by one Judicial Officer.

In the said Lok Adalat a total number of 1174 cases were taken up. Out of which 405 cases were amicably settled. An amount of Rs.59,38,620 was awarded in different cases.

At Bandipora, the 1st National Lok Adalat was held under the supervision and guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority, (Pr. District & Session Judge) Bandipora Khalil Ahmad Choudhary.

A total 05 benches were constituted for the Lok Adalat that took up a total number of 291 cases out of which 78 Cases were settled as disposed.

A total sum of Rs.25,21,015 was awarded to the aggrieved parties by settlement during the Lok Adalat.

At Kupwara, the District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara, organized 1st National Lok Adalat, across District Kupwara today.

The said Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Chairman DLSA Kupwara (Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara) Manjeet Singh Manhas and guidance of Moneer Ahmad Secretary, DLSA Kupwara.

18 Benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat that took up a total number 1289 of cases, of which 939 numbers of cases were disposed as settled on spot by intervention of the benches and by participation of the lawyers and litigants.

A total sum of Rs. 2,63,32,368 was awarded to the aggrieved parties by settlement during the said National Lok Adalat.

DSEK Dr. G.N. Itoo Leads Massive Plantation Drive Under The Theme "One Admission, One Tree"



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a remarkable step towards environmental conservation, NLCO launch of the Green Khimber Initiative at Bilaliya Educational Institute, Khimber Hazratbal Srinagar. The event featured a large-scale plantation drive, with Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director of School Education (JKAS), as the Chief Guest.

Speaking at the event, Dr. G.N Itoo emphasized the significance of instilling eco-consciousness in young minds. "Environmental responsibility must start from an early age. Initiatives like 'One Admission, One Tree' will help nurture a generation that values sustainability,"

he stated.

The "One Admission, One Tree" initiative, announced by Dr. Itoo, aims to integrate environmental responsibility into the education system by ensuring every new student plants a tree upon admission. The first two days of the new academic session at Bilaliya Educational Institute were dedicated to environmental well-being, reinforcing sustainability as a core educational value.

NLCO Chairman Haji Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo said "We deeply appreciate the J&K Forest Department for their collaboration and generous contribution of saplings. The active participation of schoolchildren and stake-

holders made this initiative even more impactful."

The presence of distinguished guests, including Dr. Mushtaq Margooob, Farooq Kuthoo, Peerzada Faiyaz Ahmed, Shamim Shah, Dr.Touseef Bhat, Abdul Rashid, Er. Shahin-awaz, and others, along with the enthusiastic participation of students, added immense significance to the event. We are also grateful to organizations like TAFI, TAAK, and Kashmir Concern for their unwavering support.

Through this initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to a greener, more sustainable Kashmir. Together, we will continue working towards a better and healthier environment for future generations.

Forensic Science Laboratory hosts 2-day workshop on Crime Scene Management to address New Criminal Laws

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Jammu on Saturday concluded a comprehensive two-day workshop focusing on Crime Scene Management in light of India's newly enacted criminal laws.

The program brought together officials from District Mobile Forensic Units and forensic experts to explore the practical implications of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). The event commenced with an inaugural address by the Chief Guest, Gurmukh Singh, Director FSL, J&K. He highlighted recent advancements in forensic technology and their increasing role in criminal investigations amidst legislative changes. Singh emphasized the importance

of modernizing forensic capabilities to align with the updated legal framework. Shiv Pal Singh, Accounts Officer, JKFSL, also graced the event as special guest.

Dr. Kumar Sourabh, Deputy Director of FSL (Jammu), delivered an engaging opening session, stressing the significance of scientific crime scene management and the expanding responsibilities of forensic laboratories under the new laws. He reiterated JKFSL's dedication to enhancing investigative expertise through specialized training initiatives and continuous professional development.

The coordinator of the workshop, Ankush Kumar, Deputy Director, Narcotics/Chemical Division of FSL, Jammu, outlined the core objective of the program, viz. to improve investigative skills and ensure that District Mobile Forensic Units of Jammu and Kashmir are fully equipped with all skill set required to

tackle emerging challenges in crime investigation.

The workshop comprehensively covered multiple critical areas to enhance participants' understanding of crime scene management. Rakesh Hangloo, Forensic Expert provided an overview of different types of crime scenes and their importance in investigations whereas Rohit Koul, Forensic Expert discussed the principles of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) and the crucial role of forensic teams in the investigative process.

As forensic science evolves alongside technological and legal advancements, this workshop represents a pivotal effort to keep J&K's forensic teams at the forefront of modern investigative practices. Participants gained valuable insights into forensic science's central role in the criminal justice system, along with enhanced crime scene investigation techniques.

International Women's Day celebrated with enthusiasm, gaiety across Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Variety cultural shows and felicitation events marked the celebration of the International Women's Day across Jammu Division.

AT POONCH: The Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the District Administration, celebrated International Women's Day at the Auditorium Hall of SKC Government Degree College. The event was marked by great enthusiasm and passion among attendees.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal was the Chief Guest. Other attendees included the PO ICDS, CEO, CMO, CDPO Haveli, Women Army Officers, ASP and female achievers from different fields. The District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Sakhi One Stop Centre, and Superintendent Parishah/Palaash were also present.

The celebration featured the recitation of the National Anthem, along with a vibrant cultural program that included dance performances, skits, and other activities by local artists and students. Additionally, thought-provoking speeches were delivered by students from different educational institutions. Deputy Commissioner Kundal inspected the stalls set up by different departments, including a Free Medical Camp, social welfare schemes, handicrafts, handlooms, and the Forest Department.

In his address, the DC emphasized the crucial role of women in nation-building and discussed their rights.

Later, he honored women achievers in various fields, distributed kits among women, and awarded prizes to students and artists who participated in the celebrations.

AT KISHTWAR: The District Administration, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Municipal Council and the Cooperative Department celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm and fervor here today. Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan was the Chief Guest and the celebration featured a series of activities that high-



lighted the achievements, contributions, and entrepreneurship of women in the region.

Stalls were set up by different departments, including DHEW Mission Shakti Kishtwar and other private women entrepreneurs, showcasing Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), women entrepreneurs, and their innovative ventures.

The event marked a milestone as it was the first of its kind where the grievances of women were listened to, with on-the-spot redressal by the Deputy Commissioner.

Women Entrepreneurs and SHGs shared their success stories, providing inspiration for others to follow suit. Notably, private SHGs also participated, showcasing their entrepreneurial journey.

The event also recognized the efforts of women officers, entrepreneurs, and three women-led cooperatives registered under the Self-Reliant Act of 1999 by the Cooperative Department, who were felicitated on the occasion, among others.

AT RAJOURI: The District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, celebrated International Women's Day with a series of events. The main event was held at Dak Bungalow where Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma was the chief guest.

As part of the celebrations, women achievers were felicitated for their remarkable contribution to society. A special legal awareness session was conducted by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to educate women about their rights and entitlements.

"For All Women and Girls: Equality, Rights, Empowerment". Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik was the chief guest.

The DC along with other dignitaries felicitated the women achievers in various categories. The distribution of laptops to top-performing girls from schools and colleges stood as a testament to the district's commitment to supporting women's education. Additionally, sports kits were provided to girls excelling in sports, while menstrual hygiene kits were distributed among school girls, emphasizing the importance of health and wellness. Women from various backgrounds, students, officers, and members of self-help groups, shared their inspiring journeys, shedding light on the challenges they have overcome and their relentless pursuit of excellence. A cultural performance by the girls from GDC Reasi added a vibrant touch to the event.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of International Women's Day. SSP Anita Sharma also highlighted the importance of women in society.

AT SAMBA: The District Administration Samba, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services & Sports and Social Welfare Department, hosted a vibrant celebration of International Women's Day featuring an inspiring volleyball tournament at the prestigious Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium.

District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma was the Chief Guest while SDM Ghagwal, Sunaina was the Guest of Honour.

The event showcased the athletic prowess of women from the Youth Services & Sports Department field staff, highlighting the district's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment through sports.

Meanwhile, International Women's Day was celebrated at Supwal Panchayat in Samba district, highlighting the achievements and contributions of women in the Block.

District Magistrate Rajesh Sharma- the Chief

Guest said "Empowering women is key to building a stronger and more progressive society. Their contributions at all levels are invaluable and must be recognized and supported."

Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Kusum Chib, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of women's empowerment and their vital role in society.

AT DODA: District Doda celebrated International Women's Day 2025 with great enthusiasm, celebrating the significance of women's empowerment, education, and gender equality.

The event, held here in the Community Hall, witnessed the presence of DDC Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal, DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and Director Social Welfare Department Jammu Rupesh Kumar along with other senior officials.

The program focused on promoting the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (BBBP) campaign and encouraging equal opportunities for girls. A specially designed photo frame with the theme #EmpowerWomen and #AccelerateAction was displayed, symbolizing the district's commitment to gender equality.

The event featured cultural performances, including a Nukkad Natak and skit highlighting various social issues faced by women. These performances were presented by the girls of Parishah and AIER Public School under the supervision of Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, District Social Welfare Office Doda.

A key highlight of the celebration was the distribution of benefits to women and young girls. Laptops and bicycles were provided under the BBBP initiative, while motorized tricycles were provided under the Rehabilitation Scheme. Certificates of excellence were awarded to Self-Help Group (SHG) women in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

Meanwhile, the Educational institutions also organised scintillating events to celebrate International Women's Day