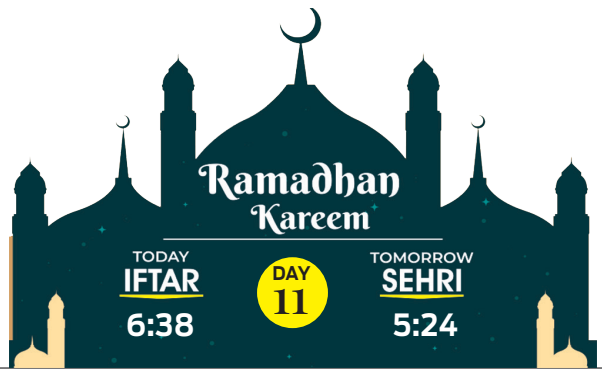


Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



Srinagar • Wednesday 12, March 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 60 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Mirwaiz Led AAC, JKIM Banned For 5 Yrs



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Central Government has banned the Awami Action Committee (AAC), led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for five years. It has also banned the Jammu and Kashmir Ittehadul Muslimeen (JKIM), headed by Masroor Abbas Ansari for five years.

In two separate notifications, the Home Ministry cited the organisations' involvement in activities that threaten the sovereignty, integrity, and security of India.

According to the notification, AAC members have

been supporting terrorist activities, propagating anti-India narratives, and mobilizing funds for secessionist movements in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government has also accused the group of inciting violence, promoting disaffection against the Indian state, and encouraging armed resistance.

The ministry listed multiple criminal cases against AAC and its leaders, including charges of sedition, unlawful assembly, and incitement of violence. Cases have been registered at various police stations in Srinagar, including Nowhatta, Safakadal, and Kothi Bagh, against Umar • P-06

Mirwaiz Condemns Move

SRINAGAR: Awami Action Committee chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

on Tuesday condemned the Centre's decision to ban the group and the Jammu and Kashmir Ittehadul Muslimeen, saying the voice of truth may be • P-06

...Budget Session 2025

CM Omar Vows To Build A Financially Self-Sufficient J&K

Announces Panel To Devise Framework For Regularization Of Daily Wagers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Pledging to restore the dignity of people of Jammu and Kashmir and to make the Union Territory self-sufficient over the next five years, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday announced to constitute a committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to devise a roadmap for the regularization of daily-rated wagers.

Replying to the discussion on Budget 2025, Omar said, "Through this House, I am announcing the formation of a committee under the Chief Secretary, with the Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Commissioner Secretary GAD, Planning Secretary, and Law



Secretary. Within six months, we will finalize a framework, determine the exact number of daily wagers, and legally and financially assess how they can be regularized. Then, the

policy will be discussed here in the next budget." Speaking about the plight of daily wagers, the CM emphasized that this is not merely a financial issue but a humani-

tarian and social concern.

Referring to the use of force against protesting daily wagers in Srinagar and Jammu, he remarked, "What happened to them yesterday, I do not want to repeat. But I must ask—why did the situation reach this stage?"

He recalled that during his previous tenure as Chief Minister, his government had initiated a framework for regularizing daily wagers. However, he noted that the 2014 elections and the devastating floods had disrupted these plans.

Taking a dig at the opposition, he questioned their inaction, stating, "What did you (the opposition) do? I reviewed past budget speeches from your tenure and found no • P-06

Budget A 'Parroted Narrative' Of BJP: Sajad Lone

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference

(PC) President and Handwara MLA, Sajad Lone, launched a sharp critique of the recently presented state Budget, calling it a "politically motivated exercise" that lacks financial viability, a statement by the PC said on Tuesday.

Speaking in the Assembly,



Lone asserted that Budget formulation is a strategic and

complex process typically overseen by experienced officers, but this Budget raises significant concerns regarding its economic soundness.

Commenting on its political underpinnings, the J&K People's Conference President said, "When I • P-06

IGP Orders Monitoring Of Anti-National Activities

Calls Upon Officers To Intensify Area Domination Exercises, Night Patrolling In Vulnerable Areas



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Stressing the importance of closely monitoring anti-national activities and reinforcing territorial control across all districts, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi on Tuesday called upon his officers to intensify area domination exercises and night patrolling in vulnerable areas to fortify the security grid.

The IGP passed these directions while chairing a security review meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir. The meet-

ing was attended by all range DIGs, District SSPs, SO to IGP Kashmir, JDP ZPHQ, SP PC Srinagar, and other senior officers, a police spokesperson said.

Birdi, he said, emphasized the improvement of policing at the Police Station and Sub-Divisional levels, particularly in record building and investigations. He called for high-quality investigations and stressed the importance of consistent follow-up at the trial level.

"IGP Kashmir stressed the importance of closely monitoring anti-national activities and reinforcing • P-06

Uproar In House Over LoP's Remarks On July 13 Martyrs

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed protests from Treasury Benches as well as Kashmir-based opposition after BJP MLA Sunil Sharma again called martyrs of July 13, 1931 as 'traitors'.

During discussion on the budget, NC MLA Showkat Hussain Ganie slammed BJP for what they have done in Jammu & Kashmir for the past few years and mentioned 1947.

As Showkat was speaking, BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma asked him to talk about 1931.

"They are our heroes," Altaf Kaloo of NC responded.

Countering him, BJP MLA Sunil Sharma said that they are traitors and will remain traitors, triggering strong protests from NC and Kashmir-based opposition parties.



Amid protests over remarks of Sharma, CPI (M) leader Muhammad Yosouf Tarigami urged the Speaker to take note of his words. "Derogatory remarks were used against Martyrs of 1931. 1931 Martyrs were called traitors. Maintain decorum of the

House. You are the actual traitors," Tarigami said, pointing to BJP legislators.

MLA Langate Khursheed Sheikh demanded expunging of remarks made by the BJP leader. Later, the speaker expunged the remarks made by Sharma. (KNO)

MLAs To Get Rs 3 Crore Funds Annually

Post Creations Excluded, Rs 20 Lakh Set Aside For Supporting Tribal, BPL Communities



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to allocate Rs 3 crore annually for each Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme.

This decision will enable MLAs to recommend and oversee the implementation of key development projects in their constituencies.

The funds will be used to support infrastructure development, public welfare projects, and essential services, with a clear focus on ensur-

ing the timely completion of all approved works.

The Finance Department has issued a detailed circular outlining the guidelines for the implementation of the CDF scheme. Under these guidelines, each MLA can propose development works worth up to 3 crore (300 lakh) annually to the District Development Commissioner (DDC) for execution in their constituency.

Additionally, nominated MLAs have the flexibility to recommend projects in any part of the Union Territory.

The allocated funds are specifically designed • P-06

India Has Made Rapid Strides In Healthcare: LG

Inaugurates Shri Birendra Rai Hospital In Bihar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Stating that India has made rapid strides in healthcare in the past 10 years, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that our innovations in technologies and treatment are rated amongst the best and our healthcare professionals

have demonstrated excellence and they are competing with leading health institutions of developed countries.

Sinha made these remarks after inaugurating Shri Birendra Rai Hospital at Areraj, Motihari, Bihar. The LG congratulated and extended his felicitations to the family members • P-06

Attends 'Holi Milan Samaroh' In Jehanabad

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday attended the 'Holi Milan Samaroh' at Sendhwa, Jehanabad in Bihar.

Holi in Jehanabad is celebrated with gaiety and enthusiasm. The LG extended his greetings and best wishes for a brighter future for all.

In his address, Sinha spoke on the rich spiritual, educational and cultural heritage of Magadha.

"Magadha region is the life element of our • P-06

MP Rashid Moves Delhi HC For Custody Parole

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid, facing charges under the anti-terror law UAPA, on Tuesday moved the Delhi High Court for custody parole to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Rajneesh Kumar Gupta would on March 12 hear Rashid's appeal against the trial court order, which refused him the relief on March 10.

Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of visit.

The Baramulla MP, who defeated Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is facing trial in a terror funding case with the allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

Before the trial court, he

sought the custody parole on the grounds that being a parliamentarian, he needed to attend the session to fulfil his public duty.

As an interim relief, the high court on February 10 allowed him a two-day custody parole to attend the Parliament session on February 11 and 13.

Additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh, however, dismissed his plea and posted the order on Rashid's regular bail plea on March 19.

Rashid has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror-funding case.

His name cropped up during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who was arrested by the NIA for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir Valley.

The NIA filed a • P-06

Famed Centaur Hotel Set For Auction

Govt Pushes Asset Monetization; Tattoo

Ground, Pahalgam Club Next In Queue



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has initiated the process for the auction of Centaur Hotel in Srinagar, with an expected annual revenue of Rs 44 crore, which is 60 percent higher than the reserve price.

According to the official documents, the planned auction is a part of the government's broader strategy to monetize public assets for better efficiency, improved services, and higher revenue

generation.

The documents reveal that the historic Centaur Hotel, located along the banks of Dal Lake, is among the prime properties identified for redevelopment under this initiative.

It further mentions that other key properties, including Tattoo Ground in Srinagar and Pahalgam Club, are being considered for similar monetization and redevelopment models.

"The auction comes at a time when J&K continues to face financial • P-06

KIWG Day 03

Army, Himachal display marvelous performance, dominate opponents

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG: With couple of inches of snow during the night, technical actions over the peaks of Kangdoori to prevent avalanches and dense fog tested the patience of athletes on Tuesday who were eager to display action while sports lovers & spectators were ready to witness thrill of KIWs.

The 3rd Day of Winter Games cleared the smoke for medal tally to decide which states or organization will gather maximum medals.

Top contenders from previous day were Army, Ladakh & Maharashtra but the five events scheduled for the day had left competition open to all in national games event at Gulmarg.

With gradual opening of games, the needle of medal tally began to incline towards Army as their team dominated Men's Ski Relay Event and raced to Gold while Uttarakhand team scaled Silver, Himachal Pradesh team walked for Bronze medal in the competition.

The Slalom Snowboard event for Women held at Kangdoori saw thrilling contest among the participants. Himachal Pradesh was crowned with Gold & Silver but missed hat-



trick of medals as bronze went to Maharashtra. The podium crowned Preeti Thakur as Golden Girl, Prakarti Thakur as Silver Girl both Himachal girls, while Urmila Pable of Maharashtra took pride in bronze.

Excited with the Gold, Preeti Thakur said that she enjoyed the competition & KIWG 2025. She appreciated the facilities and the support extended by the officials & staff.

The Nordic Ski Sprint Women was again dominated by Kusum Rana of ITBP who won second Gold today while three-time Gold Medalist of KWIG Bhavanj Thekkada from Karnataka did a late come

back in this competition to obtain Silver. The Bronze was claimed by non other than Selma Soreng from ITBP, who slid a step down comparing to her yesterday's performance.

For the Men's event of 15km Nordic Sprint there were no surprises when Army is in competition. Army proved iron will & grit bundling all three coveted medals as Sunny, Stanzin & Thupstan won Gold, Silver & Bronze respectively. What is actually surprising take of event was that Army decimated all competitors and got top twelve positions in the event and the streak was only broken by ITBP.

In Alpine Slalom women, Himachal Pradesh players swept medals with Anchal Thakur, Tanuja Thakur & Promila Thakur winning Gold, Silver & Bronze medals.

Deputy Director General, Sports Authority of India, Vineet Kumar while speaking regarding KIWG said the games had been tremendous success as Sports Authority of India and J&K Sports Council have done marvelous job to conduct games efficiently & smoothly despite the weather conditions like fog which reduces visibility.

He lauded the coordination of officials, technical staff, participants and other stakeholders for befitting facilities.

CJ Inaugurates Legal Aid Clinic at GMC Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards integrating legal aid services within the healthcare system and ensuring access to justice for all, a Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre was inaugurated Tuesday at Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar by Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, in presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

On their arrival, the Chief Justice and Justice Atul Sreedharan, accompanied by M. K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, were warmly received by Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA Srinagar); Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal & Dean, GMC Srinagar; Jahangir Ahmad Bakhshi, Joint Registrar (Judicial/Protocol) Srinagar; Sajad-ur-Rehman, Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Superintendent GMC Srinagar; Mohd Ashrif Hakak, Administrator, GMC Srinagar; Medical Superintendent and Senior faculty members of GMC Srinagar; other Heads of Departments, and senior



police officers.

Following the inaugural ceremony, a video conferencing session was held between the Superintendent of Central Jail Srinagar, the Medical Officer of the jail, and inmates from the Prison Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre. The Chief Justice and Justice Sreedharan interacted with jail authorities and inmates to assess their legal and medical concerns, aiming to bridge the gap between incarcerated individuals and specialized healthcare professionals for timely and effective medical interventions.

During the visit, Dr.

Bashir Ahmad Sanaee, HOD Neurology; Dr. Naveed Nazir, HOD Pulmonology; and Dr. Showket Ahmad Zargar, HOD Gastroenterology, along with other senior medical professionals, interacted with the jail inmates through the Prison Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre, addressing their medical concerns and offering expert guidance on their healthcare needs. The involvement of these specialists ensured a comprehensive assessment of health-related challenges faced by incarcerated individuals and their access to necessary treatment.

During the visit, the dignitaries engaged in meaningful discussions with faculty members, legal aid counsels, and medical professionals on the critical role of legal aid in upholding the rights of underprivileged individuals, particularly those in custody. Justice Atul Sreedharan emphasized that the integration of legal aid services with healthcare institutions would facilitate seamless medical assistance for jail inmates while safeguarding their fundamental rights to health and justice.

While interacting with stakeholders, Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan underscored that the establishment of such a Legal Aid Clinic at GMC Srinagar represents a landmark initiative in ensuring access to justice, particularly for those unable to seek legal recourse due to incarceration.

Chief Justice further stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between jail authorities, medical institutions, and legal aid functionaries to provide holistic legal and medical support to inmates.

The event concluded with a firm commitment to ensuring that legal aid remains an integral part of healthcare services, reinforcing the collective resolve to serve the marginalized sections of society.

16.89 cr flood protection works for Ningli Nallah under execution: JS Minister

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, Tuesday informed the House that flood protection works worth Rs. 16.89 crore, approved under NABARD for Ningli Nallah, are currently under execution.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Irshad Rasool Kar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that a DPR for an amount of Rs. 44.85 crore has been prepared and shall be part of the shelf of projects to be taken up under NABARD funding for modernization of Zaingeer Canal. Besides, one work has been completed under FMP Phase II and one work is under execution under UT Capex.

He said that the survey for framing of DPR for the Khursi Nallah D/s National Highway (Sopore constituency) has been completed and DPR will be framed accordingly.

He informed that WSS Zaingeer, WSS Shiva (proposed) and WSS Saidpora (proposed) are partly dependent on Zana-geer canal as the source, WSSs Mazbugh, Checkpora Nowpora, Nowpora Kalan, Bohripura Sheeraz Colony, Bohripura Hamdanabad and Sidiq Colony and Model Town, Wadoora and Nathipora are dependent on Pohru Nallah as the source while WSSs Takiybal Wagub (under execution) and Sharkwara Rural are dependent on Ningli Nallah as the source.

He said that the DPRs are based on a detailed survey that included assessment of quantum and quality of the source. He said that in these schemes, provision of rapid sand filtration plants has been kept to meet the BIS 10500 quality parameters. Besides, surface water has been taken as a source that has sufficient discharge capacity thus ensuring sustainability.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of works under JJM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: In order to take stock of progress achieved under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday chaired a meeting of concerned officers of the Jal Shakti Department at mini-secretariat, here.

During the meeting, DC reviewed both the physical and financial progress of the works being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

The S.E Hydraulic Circle Anantnag gave a detailed brief of all the works under execution under Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

It was informed that under the JJM, the district has a total of 143 schemes encompassing 219 works, with 149 works already completed till date.

Emphasizing the importance of JJM as a flagship program aimed at covering all households, officers were instructed to work in coordination to ensure the

smooth execution of JJM works in their respective areas by the DC.

The chair was apprised of various issues regarding testing and commissioning of Rapid Sand Filtration Plants of different water supply schemes.

It was given out that water supply schemes including Boh-Dragdan, Parigam, Ahmadabad and Shalipora Tarigam are to be made functional before the end of this financial year.

The DC instructed the concerned to ensure timely completion and target achievement under Jal Jeevan Mission.

He emphasized on the functional audit of all completed schemes, besides sought service facilitation among the different agencies completing the schemes.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Altaf Ahmad; SE PHE Mechanical Anantnag, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti Kulgam, Qazigund, Ground Water Div, Mechanical, KPDC, Quality Control & Procurement, CEO, AEEs and other officers.

Chairperson DDC Kulgam vows support for specially-abled children

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parry Tuesday presided over the Environment Building programme on Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

The event was organized by the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Kulgam in collaboration with the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kulgam at the DIET building, here.

The programme saw the participation of several officials, including the Principal of DIET Kulgam, Principal of HSS Malwan, and other dignitaries from DIET Kulgam.

Discussions focused on the challenges faced by differently-abled individuals and the need for stronger educational support.

Speaking at the event, Chairperson DDC raised

various concerns regarding the education and well-being of differently-abled children.

He emphasized the government's role in ensuring their welfare and urged parents to support and encourage their children rather than discriminating on ability.

Highlighting the crucial role of teachers, he stressed the importance of inclusive education in shaping the future of such children. He assured that, as Chairperson of the DDC, he remains committed to taking all necessary steps for their betterment, pledging to leave no stone unturned in advocating for their rights and opportunities.

The event concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to work towards a more inclusive and supportive educational environment for differently-abled children in Kulgam.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on Heritage Conservation projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the District Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee for the revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of architectural and heritage sites was Tuesday held here under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in his Office Chamber here on Tuesday.

At the outset, the DC was apprised about the progress of ongoing conservation projects undertaken for preservation, revival, restoration and maintenance of Ram Mandir, Mangleshwar Temple, Aali Masjid, Vicharnag Temple, Zeathyar temple, Ziyarat Nagashband Sahib, Narayan Mutt temple and Baba Ghulam-U-Din Shrine.

On the occasion, the DC

laid emphasis on collaborative efforts by all line departments in restoration practices to conserve architecture of the sites on heritage pattern. He also directed them to expedite efforts closely to ensure the effective implementation of heritage preservation projects.

During the meeting, the DC also discussed the new conservation projects identified for current fiscal. He asked them to prepare DPRs at the earliest ensuring all revival, restoration works are carried out while preserving the rich art, culture and heritage of Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Narinder Kumar; Deputy Director Archives, Executive Engineers of I&FC, R&B and other concerned.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE

E-NIT No. 33/JS-PHE/SPR OF 03/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-quotation (in single - Cover) on item rate basis are invited for below mentioned job / work, from registered Tour and Travel (with Union Territory of J&K Govt.) Drivers cum Vehicle Owners/agencies for the complete Financial year of 2025-26 (w.e.f. 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026)

S. No	Particulars / Name of work	Qty	Unit	Amount of CDR (in Rs)	e-quotation/ Tender fee
01	Engagement / Hiring of Commercial Vehicle (Mahindra Scorpio/Bolero or Equivalent) of 2023 make/model with J&K Registration only for Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle District Bla/ Bpr H.Q Sopore along with the driver (must available for 24x7) for the year 2025-26.	1.00	Day & Night (24 hours)	2000.00	Rs. 200/=

The e-quotation consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](#)

01	Date of publishing of e - quotation	10.03.2025
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10.03.2025
03	Bid Submission Start Date	10.03.2025
04	Bid submission End Date	01.04.2025(04:00 p.m)
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	02.04.2025 at 13:00 pm in the Office of Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle District Baramulla/Bandipora H.Q Sopore

The tour and travel shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: [www.jktenders.gov.in](#)

Bids/e-quotation(s) must be accompanied/ uploaded with Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR (mentioned above), Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the e-Quotation No., S.No. of work etc as per the e-Quotation) as cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Division Sopore (as specified in the table (I), besides below mentioned documents. Bids/e-quotation(s) will be opened in the Office of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle District Baramulla/ Bandipora H.Q Sopore. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

1. e- quotation must be accompanied/ uploaded with:

TABLE I		
01	Earnest Money in shape of CDR / FDR for an amount of Rs.1000/- pledged in favour of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle District Baramulla/ Bandipora H.Q Sopore.	Original
02	Treasury Receipt (T.R) deposited to MH: 0215 as cost of tender document for an amount of Rs.200/- pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Sopore.	Original
03	Printed letter head of the Regd. Agency / e-quotation etc. duly authenticated with seal and signature	Scanned Copy
04	Experience certificate not less than 06 years (Experience certificate in this regard should be issued by a Govt. Department by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer).	Original
04	GST Clearance/ Pan card along with Self Attested What's App Number and email ID of the agency/ driver	Scanned Copy
05	HMV/ LMV License of the driver	Scanned Copy
06	Similar nature of work not less than 01 years (Allotment shall only be accepted and must be uploaded)	Scanned copy

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The 1st Lowest bidder has to produce CDR / FDR for an amount of Rs.2000/- (Earnest Money) in original within one day after the generation of comparative chart and the same shall be released after successful completion of job.

2. Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in Single cover.

3. Rates are to be quoted per day basis for the categories of vehicle (excluded fuel).

4. Rates are to be quoted by the bidder included all taxes

5. The bidder must upload scanned copy of experience certificate (not less than 06years) Registration/ LMV/ HMV License/ Pan Card/ Similar nature of work not less than 01 years

6. The bidder must submit consumption certificate from the competent authority for such type of vehicle.

7. The bidder shall be given hire charges rates as per approved by the Government.

8. The Bidder shall be responsible for fulfilling all the rules, regulations in case of vehicle so provided viz: -valid Pollution Control Certificate, valid Insurance, valid registration and other relevant documents as per the Jammu & Kashmir Motor Vehicles Act. & other standing government guidelines. Any violation or deficiency in this regard at any point of time even during validity of contract will lead to termination of contract. The Bidder shall also ensure that the vehicle/ driver should not be changed frequently. Any such change(s) should be informed to the authority well in advance.

9. The successful bidder shall submit invoice in triplicate in the office of SE Hyd. Sopore by log-book verified by the concerned officer/ official.

10. The ENIT for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of ENIT.

11. The ENIT shall be uploaded in electronic format on the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](#)

12. The Earnest Money Deposit shall be forfeited if: -

13. a. Any Tenderer withdraws his E-NIT/ tender during the period of E-NIT validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the E-NIT

14. The tenderer shall have to execute the agreement within 07-days after fixation of contract.

15. The vehicle must be in a fit & fine condition and having valid manufacturing/ Regn. not before the year 2014. The vehicle having manufacturing date before the said year shall not be accepted in any case.

Instruction to Tenderer(s) regarding e-Tendering process: -

16. Tenderers are advised to download Tender submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from Tenderers manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](#) in acquint e-quotation submission process.

17. To participate in tendering process Tenderers, have to get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology act. 2000 Tenderers can get digital certificate from approved vendor.

18. The Tenderer have to upload their E-NIT online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial Tender will be accepted in physical form.

19. Tenderers must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like, similar experience certificate (mentioned above), CDR, Treasury challan/ receipt, PAN Card, GST Clearance etc in respect of each work as mentioned in the Terms & Conditions Para 1 above.

20. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

21. The date of start of the work shall be reckoned with in one day from the date of issuance of L.O.I./ Contract allotment as the case may be.

22. Time extension: Suitable time extension shall be granted in case of increase in scope of Work and in the event of delay beyond control of contractor to be determined by the department.

23. Advance Payments: - No mobilization advance/ equipment advance shall be paid.

24. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any e-quotation or all e-quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

25. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not full fill the requirements as laid down in e-quotation.

26. The E-NIT will be opened in the Office of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle District Baramulla/ Bandipora H.Q Sopore 02.04.2025 at 13:00 pm. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue or on any other date as deemed feasible by the competent authority.

27. All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD form 25 (Double agreement form) / Master NIT.

No: -JSD/PHE/ 10344-66

Dated:- 10-03-2025

DIPK-12864-24

DT: 11/03/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer JS-PHE, Division Sopore

CMYK

2022-27 TRANSMISSION PLAN

50MVA GIS Grid sub-station proposed for Pahalgam: CM Omar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that a 50MVA, 220/33kV GIS Grid Sub-Station at Batkote (Pahalgam) has been proposed under the perspective transmission plan for Jammu and Kashmir for the period 2022-27.

While responding to a starred question by MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Power Department, stated that the projects under the transmission plan, including the Batkote Grid Station, are being implement-



ed in a phased manner, depending on load growth and technical feasibility.

“As per the current guidelines issued under the Ministry of Power/Tariff

Policy, projects exceeding the threshold limits set by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) can be executed through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) mode. Based on JERC regulations, which fix ₹100 crore as the threshold limit, the most suitable mode for the project is being examined, and a decision will be taken in due course, considering the prevailing price levels,” the Chief Minister stated.

Regarding land acquisition, the Chief Minister informed the House that the identification of land for the proposed Grid Substation is currently underway.

Sajad Lone vs NC in Assembly over Handwara MC



AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed a verbal duel between Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone and National Conference (NC) members over establishment of Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara.

During question hour, NC MLAs Mir Saifullah, Qaiser Jamsheed Lone, and Javed Mirchal stood up and demanded that GMC Handwara be set up somewhere between Handwara and Kupwara.

Sajad Lone also stood up, pointing out that his primary concern was to ensure that the allocated funds do not lapse.

“My only concern is that funding of this project should not get expired,” he said, adding that the college is on the brink of getting de-recognised and losing funds.

Lone said that he has been abused by his politi-

cal adversaries for getting the medical college sanctioned.

He also accused the Minister of contradicting her previous statements. “My reply remains unchanged,” Minister Sakina Itoo responded to Lone's remark.

As NC MLAs countered Lone, he accused them of snatching engineering college from Kupwara during their rule in 2014.

Lone was referring to the engineering college that was initially planned for Kupwara in 2014 during the NC-led government but was later shifted to Safapora-Sonawari at the request of the J&K government.

Amid escalating exchange, the Minister said that she would order an inquiry into why land near a river was chosen, resulting in a financial loss of Rs 40 crore.

Lone added that he also expressed reservation over the site when it was identified by the administration—(KNO)

Centaur hotel set for auction, expected to fetch Rs 44 crore annually



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has initiated the process for the auction of Centaur Hotel in Srinagar, with an expected annual revenue of Rs 44 crore, which is 60 percent higher than the reserve price.

According to the official documents the planned auction is a part of the government's broader strategy to monetize public assets for better efficiency, improved services, and higher revenue generation.

The documents reveal that the historic Centaur Hotel, located along the banks of Dal Lake, is among the prime properties identified for redevelopment under this initiative.

It further mentions that other key properties, including Tattoo Ground in Srinagar and Pahalgam Club, are being considered for similar monetization and redevelopment models.

“The auction comes at a time when J&K continues to face financial challenges, with the Economic Survey 2025 highlighting the region's heavy reliance on Central Government support, which contributes 70 percent of its revenue receipts,” the document reads, as per KNO.

Meanwhile, it also states that the government is preparing for the auction of the Lithium mine block in Salal, Reasi, covering 317 hectares, which is expected to generate Rs 100 crore annually—(KNO)

Govt focusing on niche crop, exotic vegetable cultivation: Agri Min

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Javed Ahmad Dar, Tuesday informed the House that the Government is focusing to enhance area expansion under Niche Crops (Hill Garlic) and promotion of traditional and exotic vegetables across the Udhampur district under CAPEX Budget and HADP 2024-25.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Balwant Singh Mankotia in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that the Blocks of Sewna and Latti have been prioritized under the CSS scheme “National Mission on Natural Farming” during the FY 2025-26, while promotion of hill garlic, maize, medicinal aromatic plants and pulses and vegetables under project JKICP in Chenani and Latti blocks is under due consideration for the 2025-26 fiscal.

The Minister added that area expansion by plantation of High Density Plants of Apple, Walnut, pear and Kiwi have been planned in due course of time in these areas to enhance farmers income. Besides, irrigation infrastructure such as Check Dams, Water Storage Tanks, Water Harvesting Tanks and Potable Geotags is being planned under HADP and CSS during 2025-26.



He informed that the rejuvenation of old senile orchards are being planned to be converted into high-density orchards of Elite Cultivars in due course of time.

The Minister said that about 20031 beneficiaries have been covered under different Agricultural schemes across the Chenani Constituency of Udhampur district. He said that all agriculture schemes including Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Capex and HADP projects are being implemented by the Agriculture Department across the district.

He informed that 1150 beneficiaries have been covered and benefitted under different projects of HADP in 2024-25 and 366 beneficiaries have been covered under PDMC, PKVY, SMAM, RKVY, NFSM in 2024-25 in Chenani constituency.

The Minister further informed that 18515 farmers have been covered under PMKISAN and majority of them are linked with KCC for further financial inclu-

sivity and economic empowerment in Chenani. He said that the Horticulture department is implementing various schemes for handholding and support of farmers under UT Capex, HADP and CSSs, MIDH and PMFME schemes. He said that 57 beneficiaries have been covered under HADP and 165 under MIDH, PDMC, NMEO-TBOS and UT Capex during 2024-25.

The Minister informed the House that the Agriculture department is planning for Lavender cultivation in the foothills and wastelands of Latti Block on experimental basis and the plantation of Lavender has been undertaken in Farmer Producer Cluster (FPC) covering 08 Ha area in the panchayats of Block Latti under HADP during 2024-25 benefitting 44 farmers.

The Minister said that 05 blocks of Chenani Constituency among other blocks of Udhampur district and other districts of J&K are dependent on rainwater. However, the irrigation facility is being provided by the Command Area Devel-

opment on the potential created by the Irrigation department by constructing field channels in plum concrete in the farmer's field for conveyance of water up to the tail end. He informed that the total Irrigation potential created in these 5 blocks of Chenani Constituency is 1360.00 Ha (approx.) and Irrigation potential utilized is 714.09 Ha by Constructing Field Channels up to the farmer's field by Command Area Development.

In order to provide irrigation facilities in these 05 blocks and other blocks of Udhampur district, the Horticulture Department has provided Deep Borewell, Dugwell, Gravity feed drip irrigation, Geo membrane tanks and Water Harvesting Tank for harvesting rainwater to various beneficiaries at subsidized rates (50% subsidy) under HADP, UT Capex, MIDH and PDMC.

The Minister added that the Government is providing subsidies on water-lifting devices and micro-irrigation infrastructure (sprinkler/drip irrigation) under PDMC and HADP.

Legislators: Sham Lal Sharma, Surjit Singh Slathia, Prof Garu Ram Bhagat and R S Pathania raised supplementaries calling for undertaking measures to tackle monkey menace in their respective areas.

Each MLA to get Rs 3 crore as Constituency Dev Fund

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to allocate Rs 3 crore annually for each Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme.

This decision, will enable MLAs to recommend and oversee the implementation of key development projects in their constituencies.

The funds will be used to support infrastructure development, public welfare projects, and essential services, with a clear focus on ensuring the timely completion of all approved works.

The Finance Department has issued a detailed circular outlining the guidelines for the implementation of the CDF scheme. Under these guidelines, each MLA can propose development works worth up to ₹3 crore (₹300 lakh) annually to the District Development Commissioner (DDC) for execution in their constituency.

Additionally, nominated MLAs have the flexibility to recommend projects in any part of the Union Territory.

The allocated funds are specifically designed for capital expenditure and cannot be used for revenue-related expenses, creation of posts, or payment of salaries. This ensures that the funds are spent on tangible developmental works.

Projects under the CDF must be completed within one year. In areas with lim-



ited working seasons, such as high-altitude regions, the DDC, with the MLA's approval, may extend the timeline, allowing work to be completed within two working seasons, but not exceeding two years.

The scheme encourages MLAs to recommend projects with costs not exceeding ₹10 lakh per work, although higher-value projects may be considered for certain infrastructure investments, provided they are completed within the specified time.

A wide range of development activities will be supported, including the construction and upgradation of government buildings such as schools, hostels, libraries, and sanitation facilities, as well as the provision of computers for educational institutions. The fund will also support the construction of roads, irrigation facilities, power infrastructure, and housing upgrades for the underprivileged.

The government aims to make a significant impact on the local infrastruc-

ture by allowing projects such as: Construction and upgradation of roads, including approach roads and link roads, with funding upto Rs 15 lakh. Projects for water table recharging, irrigation, and drainage, with support up to Rs 20 lakh.

Strengthening power infrastructure with a budget of up to Rs 50 lakh.

Assistance for housing upgrades for tribal and BPL populations, with funding of up to Rs 20 lakh for each project.

This initiative also focuses on improving rural areas by allowing the creation of kachha roads where local needs dictate.

To ensure proper utilization of funds, the scheme, as per KNO, includes provisions for strict oversight. Payments for completed works will be made only after the necessary verification and the successful completion of a Defect Liability Period (DLP), if applicable.

The scheme, according to KNO, also emphasizes the importance of effi-

ciency, requiring that at least 80% of the allocated funds be utilized within the financial year.

In cases where the prescribed threshold is not met, funds will be withheld until the target is achieved, and future allocations will be contingent upon meeting these goals.

Certain projects will not be eligible for funding under the CDF, including office or residential buildings for government departments, memorials, creation of posts, or any kind of revenue expenditure. The funds will not be used for works related to places of worship either.

By giving MLAs the autonomy to choose projects and ensuring proper monitoring, the CDF scheme aims to foster a more localized and responsive approach to development. This initiative represents a significant step forward in empowering elected representatives to directly contribute to the growth and well-being of their constituencies—(KNO)

BPH Unit being developed at CHC Sumbal: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a question raised by Hilal Akbar Lone on criteria for upgradation of Community Health Centre (CHC) Sumbal to Sub-District Hospital level, Tuesday informed the House that CHC Sumbal is not feasible for its upgradation to Sub District Hospital as per IPHS 2022 norms.

She apprised that as per IPHS 2022 guidelines, the districts with a population of less than 5 lakh and a functional District Hospital (DH) do not qualify for a Sub District Hospital (SDH). She also informed that SDH Davar, Gurez, has been sanctioned in the district for being a snowbound area.

The Minister also informed the House that around 14 healthcare facilities are catering to the primary healthcare services. He said that CHC Sumbal is well equipped in terms of manpower, machinery, equipment,

infrastructure, dialysis unit, medical and emergency equipment serving as a critical healthcare hub in Bandipora district.

health institutions by way of strengthening the manpower, infrastructure and services in the existing healthcare institutions,



She further informed that the Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) is also being developed at CHC Sumbal under PM-ABHIM which will be an important linkage for the latest healthcare facilities.

The Minister also informed that the department is focusing on consolidation of existing

rather than upgradation. Health Minister announces inquiry on identifying flood prone site for construction of GMC Handwara

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today announced in the Legislative Assembly that the government would conduct a detailed

inquiry into the selection of flood prone site for construction of Government Medical College (GMC), Handwara, which caused significant losses to government exchequer.

The Minister said this while replying to supplementary questions asked by legislators Sajad Gani Lone, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, Kaiser Jamsheed Lone, Mir Saifullah and Sheikh Khurshed regarding establishment of GMC Handwara.

While raising the supplementary question on the matter, Legislator Sajad Gani Lone said that the then administration selected the site and did not consult the local representatives for site selection, calling for immediate inquiry on the matter.

The Minister assured the House and legislators that their concerns would be addressed promptly. He also assured them that the local representatives will be consulted for selection of new site for establishment of this prestigious public health institution.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

FRESH NIT 119 (2nd Call of NIT 106) OF R&B/Anantnag/2024-25 /E-TENDERING/ 12884-93 DATED 10-03-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Anantnag invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the Divers Association /State Motor Garage/NGOs/Agencies/Consultancy Agent/Public Private Partnership firms/ Individuals, under (Single cover system) for allotment of Contract for Hiring of vehicle 01No for a period of 01 Calendar Year which can be extended depending on the performance of successful Bidder.

S. No	Name of item	Max Estimated Ceiling Amount (Monthly Basis) In Rs	Cost of tender Documents (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs)	Class of Contractor/Bidder
1.	Hiring of 01 light Vehicle (Toyota Innova Crysta) 2020 or above Model for official Purpose of Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Department Circle Anantnag H.Q Khanabal (with Driver). However, fuel shall be provided by the department, as per approved Government norms.	Rs 46000/- (Forty Six Thousand Only)	Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only)	Rs 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only)	Registered Tour and Travel Operators/ Registered Sumo/Taxi Stand Owners./ Travel Agents/ Consultancy Agent/Public Private Partnership firms/Individuals

The Bidding documents 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 departmental website www.jktenders.gov. in as per below schedule.

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-03-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 10-03-2025 (03:00PM) To 31-03-2025 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 10-03-2025 (03:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 31-03-2025 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	01-04-2025 (11:30AM)

No: 12884-93
Dated: - 10-03-2025

DIPK-12877-24
DT: 11/03/2025

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Anantnag

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Beyond Exhibitions, Artisans Need Real Support

With the arrival of spring, Kashmir once again prepares to welcome a fresh wave of tourists, bringing renewed hope for its economy. The past two years have witnessed an unprecedented influx of visitors, providing a much-needed boost to the region's struggling financial landscape. The tourism sector has become a beacon of revival, injecting capital into various industries and offering employment to thousands. However, despite this positive shift, a crucial segment of Kashmir's economy remains neglected—the artisans and manufacturers of its world-renowned handicrafts. For centuries, Kashmiri artisans have upheld a legacy of exquisite craftsmanship, producing Pashmina shawls, papier-mâché artifacts, intricate woodwork, and fine carpets. These handicrafts are not just a source of livelihood but also a reflection of Kashmir's rich cultural heritage. Yet, despite their significance, artisans continue to face immense economic challenges. Rising costs of raw materials, declining market reach, and a lack of sustainable financial support threaten their survival. While the government has periodically organized exhibitions to promote Kashmiri handicrafts, these efforts, though commendable, fall short of addressing the deeper crisis. Artisans need more than just a platform to showcase their work—they require tangible support in the form of subsidies, easy access to loans, infrastructure development, and direct market linkages. A robust policy that integrates artisans into the mainstream economy, rather than keeping them on the periphery as struggling traditionalists, is the need of the hour. Revitalizing Kashmir's handicraft industry demands a multi-pronged approach. Establishing cooperative societies, enhancing digital marketing avenues, and providing training in modern design trends could open new doors for artisans. Additionally, a comprehensive branding strategy under the 'Make in India' initiative could help these products gain global recognition, ensuring artisans receive fair compensation for their craftsmanship. If Kashmir's economic revival is to be holistic and sustainable, the government must look beyond seasonal tourism revenues and address the plight of its artisans. A well-structured intervention, blending financial assistance with market expansion, can transform this heritage industry into a thriving economic pillar. As the valley blossoms with the promise of spring, it is time to sow the seeds of long-term prosperity for those who have woven Kashmir's identity into their art for generations.

Good Morning

Kashmir

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B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Beyond Punishment: Schools Must Nurture, Not Hurt

IRSHAD AHMAD WANI

Teachers, with the noble intention of shaping students into disciplined and responsible individuals, often find themselves resorting to punishment when faced with indiscipline or academic struggles. Many educators, both in government and private schools, argue that strict measures are sometimes necessary to maintain order and ensure effective learning. While this belief is deeply rooted in traditional disciplinary methods, the negative consequences of corporal punishment are often overlooked. This article delves into the concept of corporal punishment, its harmful effects, and alternative strategies for positive discipline. **What is Corporal Punishment?** The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child defines corporal punishment as any act involving physical force intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light. This includes hitting, smacking, slapping, or spanking children with hands or objects like belts and sticks. **Legal Provisions against Corporal Punishment** The law in India takes a firm stance against corporal punishment. Section 17 of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 strictly prohibits both physical punishment and mental harassment, making them punishable offenses. It mandates disciplinary action against violators under applicable service rules. Similarly, Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015 criminalizes cruelty to children by individuals responsible for their care. Offenders can face imprisonment of up to three years or a fine of 1 lakh, with penalties extending to ten years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 5 lakh in cases of grievous injury or death. Acknowledging the devastating impact of corporal punishment, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) issued a circular on July 27, 2023, enforcing a strict ban on corporal punishment and all forms of child abuse in educational institutions across the Kashmir Division. **Forms of Corporal Punishment and Their Impact** Corporal punishment manifests in various forms, often disguised as disciplinary actions. Physical punishment includes any act that inflicts pain, discomfort, or injury—such as beating with sticks, forcing students into painful postures, or subjecting them to humiliating and physically straining tasks. On the other hand, mental harassment is more subtle but equally damaging. It includes sarcastic remarks, name-calling, public humiliation, intimidation, and ridicule, all of which deeply affect a child's emotional and academic well-being. The consequences of corporal punishment extend beyond temporary pain. It violates fundamental human



rights, undermining a child's dignity and protection from violence. It leads to psychological distress, causing anxiety, low self-esteem, and emotional trauma, sometimes pushing children towards suicidal thoughts. Those subjected to corporal punishment often develop aggressive tendencies, believing violence to be an acceptable means of conflict resolution. A fear-driven learning environment hampers creativity and self-confidence, disrupting healthy socio-emotional development. In severe cases, corporal punishment can cause permanent physical damage, including bruises, fractures, organ injuries, and sensory impairments. Despite legal bans and their ramifications, cases of corporal punishment continue to emerge, with some being reported while many go unnoticed. Teachers must recognize the severe consequences of such actions and strive to adopt alternative disciplinary measures. Discipline is essential in schools, but it should never come at the cost of a child's physical or emotional well-being. **Alternative Discipline Strategies** Teachers frequently encounter students who are slow learners, disrupt classroom discipline, or exhibit undesirable behavior. Addressing such students requires patience, empathy, and effective classroom management skills. Many educators, feeling the pressure to maintain order, perceive the ban on corporal punishment as a limitation on their authority. However, it is imperative to understand that discipline can be maintained through positive reinforcement and student engagement, rather than fear and punishment. One effective method is reinforcement-based discipline. Positive reinforcement—such as praise, rewards, and privileges—encourages desirable behavior. Recognizing students' achievements, awarding certificates, allowing extra playtime, and assigning leadership roles instill a sense of responsibility and motivation. Negative reinforcement, which involves removing an unpleasant factor when students exhibit good behavior, is another strategy. For example, teachers may reduce homework for students who complete their classwork efficiently or relax certain classroom restrictions for those who demonstrate discipline. Another crucial strategy is engaging teaching methods. Every student learns differently, and a one-size-fits-all approach often leads to frustration and behavioral issues. Individualized instruction, peer learning, and interactive, hands-on teaching approaches help maintain students' interest, reducing the need for punitive measures. Effective communication is key to fostering a respectful classroom environment. Building rapport with students and listening to their concerns makes them feel valued and understood, thereby minimizing disruptive behavior. Instead of being quick to punish, teachers should adopt an approach of dialogue and encouragement. Assigning responsibilities to students who exhibit behavioral issues can be an effective corrective measure. Giving them constructive tasks such as classroom organization or mentoring younger students helps channel their energy productively while instilling a sense of accountability. Most importantly, teachers must model positive behavior. Children learn by observing adults, and a teacher who demonstrates patience, respect, and self-discipline naturally encourages students to follow suit. **Conclusion** Discipline is a cornerstone of an effective learning environment, but it should foster growth rather than fear. While corporal punishment may have been traditionally used to correct behavior, modern educational research and legal frameworks emphasize its counterproductive and harmful nature. Schools should be places where students feel safe, valued, and motivated to learn, not institutions where fear dictates behavior. The adoption of positive discipline strategies offers a more effective and ethical alternative. Encouraging students through reinforcement, engagement, and communication can promote self-discipline, responsibility, and mutual respect. A nurturing approach not only strengthens teacher-student relationships but also cultivates a generation that values empathy, cooperation, and personal development. Ultimately, the goal of education is not merely to enforce discipline but to instill lifelong values that shape responsible and emotionally strong individuals. The shift from punishment to guidance will ensure that schools become spaces of learning, respect, and holistic growth, paving the way for a progressive and enlightened society. (The author is a teacher and an educator)

Tackling The Fatty Liver Disease Epidemic

IQBAL RASHID DAR

The liver is a large organ in the abdomen that performs many important bodily functions, including blood filtering. It is also considered a gland because it makes chemicals the body needs. The theme for International Fatty Liver Day, an awareness initiative observed annually in June resonates more urgently today than ever before. Liver diseases were predominantly associated with excessive alcohol use and this remains an important cause of advanced chronic liver disease. However, in recent years, we are seeing the emergence of a silently growing threat to liver health — Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. As our understanding of this condition has evolved, we now know that fatty liver is closely Linked to metabolic health, cardiac health, and a risk for developing cancers. This disorder has now been appropriately reclassified and is known as 'Metabolic Dysfunction-associated steatite Liver disease' (MASLD). It has also resulted in a paradigm shift in how we approach liver health. The key is to screen, test and treat. The trends in fatty liver disease Prevalence are alarming. MASH (Metabolic dysfunction-associated (Steatohepatitis)), a progressive form that causes liver Inflammation and scarring is expected to become the

most common cause of chronic liver disease and the leading indication for live transplantation. The global prevalence of MASLD is estimated at 25-30%. In 2022, a Meta-analysis revealed that in India, among adults, the pooled Prevalence of fatty liver was 38.6%, while among obese children, it was around 36%. There is a close link between Fatty liver disease and metabolic syndrome, including obesity, Diabetes, high blood pressure, and Abnormal cholesterol levels. Individuals with these conditions have high MASLD prevalence Rates: 55.5%- 59.7% for diabetes, 64.6%-95% for obesity, and 73% for severe metabolic syndrome. Consuming excessive Carbohydrates, especially refined Carbs and sugars, worsen these Conditions by causing metabolic Problems. When the body has too much glucose, it increases insulin Production to help cells absorb the glucose. However, constantly eating too many carbs causes persistently high insulin levels, leading to insulin resistance, where cells become less responsive to insulin. Insulin resistance disrupts normal metabolism and promotes the conversion of excess glucose into fatty acids, which are then stored in the liver. The liver cells fill up with fat, leading to fatty liver. Over time, this continuous damage affects the liver's ability to function properly, progressing from simple fatty liver to more severe conditions like such as steatohepatitis and



cirrhosis, which are hallmarks of MASLD and may require a liver transplant. Despite this growing burden of Fatty liver disease, it often goes undetected as there is usually no warning or symptom in the early stages. Diagnosis is usually made at an advanced stage, often when significant liver damage has already occurred. The key to early diagnosis is a simple comprehensive health screening that includes a thorough history, physical examination, blood tests and an ultrasound of the abdomen. Physical examination will include height, weight, body Mass index (BMI), abdominal girth, and waist-to-hip ratio to assess visceral fat, which is an important marker of metabolic Health. Blood tests to cover cardio-metabolic risk factors include a blood count, sugar profile, blood lipid profile, liver function tests and kidney tests. In a cohort of 50,000 people screened in different hospitals of country amongst the 33% that had fatty liver, as

observed using an Ultrasound of the abdomen, only One in 3 had elevated liver Enzymes in their blood test. An Ultrasound of the abdomen is an important test to screen for Liver Disease and an important first step to diagnose fatty liver. It is often missed or not included in many health checks, largely because of the limited availability of Radiologists as well as stringent regulatory approvals. Advanced liver tests will include Liver fibrosis assessment to look for liver scarring, most accurately done by using newer technologies such as vibration-controlled transient elastography. This is a simple non-invasive tool and it measures liver stiffness to assess early stages of liver fibrosis. It can also be used to regularly monitor the progression and responses to treatment. Together, these tools — Ultrasound, comprehensive metabolic screening, and Elastography — form an integrated approach to effectively detect

and manage liver diseases at an early stage. Personalization is the key the selection of screening tests and the frequency with which they are performed should be personalized. This decision should be based on factors including an Individual's risk factors such as family history, lifestyle, and pre-existing health conditions. Clinicians should not make generic assumptions given the patient's age or physical markers alone as we are increasingly witnessing that non-communicable diseases break traditional stereotypes and impact very diverse people, including children. Moreover, multiple factors affect Liver health, necessitating integrated strategies that combine dietary modifications, regular physical activity and effective weight management to mitigate Liver disease risks. The liver is a 'silent organ' that typically, does not exhibit noticeable signs of damage until it reaches an advanced stage. It is important that we are aware of the impact our lifestyle choices make in the long run. We need to take active control of our health, be aware of what we consume and go for frequent screenings because the groundwork for a happy life begins with good health. Thank Allah (glory be to Him) that you're in good Health. (The author is pursuing MSc Organic chemistry at the University of Kashmir)

Why Society Must Battle The Shame Of Period Stain



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Menstruation remains a taboo subject in many cultures, primarily due to long-held cultural beliefs, insufficient open communication, and gender inequality. This results in feelings of shame, secrecy, and limited access to essential resources and education about menstrual health. In India, menstruation is often associated with significant cultural taboos, which can lead to exclusion, misinformation, and adverse health effects. Although progressive policies are being introduced, combining these with cultural sensitivities is important for successful implementation.

Women often face restrictions in places like temples, kitchens, and social gatherings, which promote discrimination. The Supreme Court's Sabarimala verdict in 2018 lifted the ban on women's entry into the temple, but it faced considerable opposition rooted in cultural beliefs. The lack of open discussion about menstruation promotes myths and neglect in health matters. Only 58% of young girls in rural India know about menstruation before experiencing their first menstruation. Women also struggle with inadequate access to toilets, hygiene products, and proper disposal methods.

While the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2014 has made progress in sanitation, menstrual waste disposal remains a significant issue. The high cost of hygiene products forces



many to resort to unsafe alternatives. The Rajasthan Free Sanitary Pad Scheme launched in 2022 aims to provide free pads to tackle menstrual poverty. However, menstrual health is not prioritized in political agendas, which hinders comprehensive reforms. The Menstrual Hygiene Policy (Draft 2022) is yet to be fully implemented nationwide.

Incorporating menstrual awareness into state curriculums can help normalize conversations on the topic. The Menstrual Hygiene Management Guidelines advocate menstrual education from the primary school level. We can promote greater acceptance by training Anganwadi workers, teachers, and community leaders. The Menstrual Health Alliance India (2020) collaborates with grassroots organizations to raise awareness. Public figures

and the media can play a key role in combating stigma through positive messaging. The "Chuppi Todo" campaign (2021, UNICEF India) effectively used digital platforms to spread awareness. To enhance menstrual health infrastructure, it is essential to ensure (water, sanitation, and hygiene) facilities in schools and workplaces, including more gender-friendly toilets with disposal options.

Government subsidies and GST exemptions on menstrual products can significantly improve access. The removal of 12% GST on sanitary pads in 2018 made them more affordable. Promoting biodegradable pads and menstrual cups addresses both environmental and cultural concerns. The Sakhi Sanitary Napkin Initiative (Odisha, 2021) supports local production of biodegradable pads.

Menstrual health should be recognized under the right to health (Article 21) and incorporated into labor laws. The Menstrual Benefits Bill (2018, private member bill) proposed paid menstrual leave but did not receive government support. Companies should pay menstrual leave and ensure workplace hygiene support. Zomato set a precedent in the private sector by introducing menstrual leave in 2020. Implementing extended producer responsibility norms for sanitary product manufacturers can help reduce waste. Develop community-based initiatives that involve local leaders, elders, and religious figures to change the conversation about menstruation. Use culturally appropriate messaging in educational settings and the media to make discussions about menstrual health more common. Involve men and boys

in awareness efforts to create a more inclusive dialogue. Promote menstrual health policies by eliminating taxes on sanitary products and ensuring they are readily available in schools, workplaces, and rural communities.

Implement workplace policies that accommodate persons who menstruate, such as providing menstrual leave and access to clean toilets. Incorporate menstrual education into school programs in a manner that respects cultural values. Expand government efforts, such as the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, to provide free or subsidized sanitary pads, especially in rural areas. Advocate for the use of sustainable and cost-effective menstrual products, such as reusable cloth pads and menstrual cups, while considering environmental and financial aspects. Use Bollywood, social media influencers and television shows to dispel harmful menstrual myths. Films such as PadMan have sparked important discussions—more initiatives like this are needed. Encourage local storytelling and traditional narratives to weave positive menstrual messages into cultural contexts. Provide training to health professionals to provide culturally sensitive advice on menstrual health. Support research on menstrual disorders and their effects on women's health, ensuring that healthcare policies address these issues.

Menstrual health must be recognized as a fundamental human right and a public health concern, not a stigma. A comprehensive strategy that combines education, infrastructure improvements, and legal reforms can promote dignity and equality, making menstruation a recognized and supported aspect of women's health.

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Budget 2025

A Ray of Hope or Another Year of Despair for Youth?



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON

"A land flourishes when its youth thrive, but when dreams turn into disillusionment, the future stands on shaky ground."

As the echoes of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's maiden budget for Jammu and Kashmir resonate across the region, the people find themselves at a familiar crossroads—one filled with hope yet shadowed by skepticism. The 1.12 lakh crore budget for 2025-26 has been presented as a vision for progress, offering free electricity to Antyodaya families, free transport for women, increased pensions, and incentives for tourism and industries. These measures, though commendable, barely scratch the surface of the deeper crisis plaguing the region—the desperation of its educated youth.

Jammu and Kashmir is home to thousands of highly qualified yet jobless youth, many of whom have dedicated years to education with the hope of securing dignified employment. The harsh reality, however, remains unchanged. Unemployment is not just a statistic; it is a psychological crisis. It breeds frustration, depression, substance abuse, and, in some cases, rebellion against the very system that was supposed to uplift them. While the budget promises economic development, it largely remains silent on the most pressing demand of the youth—employment.



One of the most glaring contradictions in this scenario is the existence of thousands of vacant posts in government departments while the number of unemployed graduates continues to rise. From education to healthcare, administrative services to public infrastructure, critical departments are suffering from severe staff shortages, yet young aspirants wait endlessly for recruitment processes that either remain stalled or move at a snail's pace. Many schools and colleges across J&K function without adequate teaching staff, forcing students to suffer due to a lack of qualified educators. At the same time, thousands of qualified candidates who have cleared eligibility tests such as NET, SET, and Ph.D. remain unemployed. What is stopping the government from filling these vacancies?

A glaring example of this crisis is the plight of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) graduates. Since 2008, not a single government job has been announced for BDS doctors. While

the government proudly established dental colleges, the graduates of these institutions have been left to struggle in a system that has offered them no space. Many have now crossed the age limit for government jobs, yet there has been no initiative to address their concerns. This is not just limited to dentistry—many other fields face the same neglect. In several departments, while a few posts are advertised, they resemble the classic case of "ek anaar, soh bimaar"—one opportunity for hundreds of desperate candidates.

Similarly, healthcare institutions lack doctors, paramedical staff, and support personnel, despite an army of medical graduates waiting for placements. The same is true for engineering, agriculture, and administrative services. The government's reluctance to expedite job recruitment is widening the trust deficit between the youth and the administration. What is the purpose of a budget if it does not acknowledge and address the grievances of the

very generation that will shape the future?

While Mission YUVA claims to generate 4.25 lakh jobs through entrepreneurship over five years, the youth of J&K need more than just ambitious figures on paper. They require immediate employment opportunities, transparent recruitment processes, and an end to delays and bureaucratic red tape. There is a growing sentiment among young people that they are being pushed towards private sector alternatives without being given a fair shot at government jobs, which remain one of the few stable employment avenues in the region.

The frustration of unemployed youth is no longer just a personal struggle; it is a ticking time bomb for society. Depression, anxiety, and suicidal tendencies are on the rise among educated youth who see no future despite their qualifications. The psychological burden of repeated failures in securing jobs is pushing many to the brink. J&K

is already grappling with a severe drug addiction problem. Many young people, unable to cope with the pressure and disillusionment, turn to substance abuse as an escape from reality. When a society continuously fails its youth, frustration often takes the form of rebellion. The lack of opportunities has driven many young minds toward antisocial activities, further destabilizing the region. Many young professionals, despite their deep-rooted love for their homeland, are forced to seek opportunities outside J&K. This leads to an exodus of talent, weakening the state's intellectual and economic future.

A state cannot thrive on freebies and subsidies alone; it must empower its citizens through employment, economic security, and self-reliance. The youth do not seek charity—they seek opportunity, dignity, and recognition of their hard work. Without substantial government job recruitment, the very foundation of this budget remains weak. The government must take immediate steps to expedite recruitment processes, ensure transparency in hiring, and strengthen mental health support for students and job seekers.

CM Omar Abdullah's budget, though presented with optimism, must translate into tangible results. The educated youth of J&K cannot be kept waiting any longer. Their aspirations must not be sacrificed at the altar of political rhetoric. A budget is not just about numbers; it is about restoring faith, delivering justice, and ensuring that no young mind feels abandoned. If this administration truly seeks to bring change, let it begin with jobs, dignity, and hope—not just promises.

History will not remember the allocations of this budget, but it will remember whether it truly uplifted the youth or let them drown in despair. The choice is in the hands of the policymakers, but the consequences will be borne by the people. May wisdom prevail.

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Mirwaiz Led AAC,

Farooq and other AAC members for delivering speeches against the Indian government, promoting election boycotts, and instigating protests.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also filed a chargesheet against AAC spokesperson Aftab Ahmad Shah and others for their alleged involvement in anti-national activities. The government believes that if not curbed, AAC will continue to support militancy, disrupt public order, and fuel separatist movements in Jammu and Kashmir.

Invoking Section 3 of the UAPA, the government has imposed a five-year ban on AAC, effective immediately. The notification stated that the ban is necessary to prevent the group from further engaging in activities detrimental to India's national security.

This move follows a broader crackdown on organisations accused of fostering separatism and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, the government said that members of JKIM have been actively supporting terrorist activities, engaging in anti-India propaganda, and mobilizing funds to promote separatist and secessionist agendas in Jammu and Kashmir. The government also accused the group of inciting public unrest, advocating violence, and working against the constitutional framework of the country.

The MHA stated that if JKIM's activities are not curbed, it would continue promoting anti-national sentiments, disputing Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India, and disrupting public order. Citing these concerns, the government has banned the organization for five years, effective immediately, under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Mirwaiz Condemns

suppressed through force but will not be silenced.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said the Centre banning the two groups is another blow to the political and social landscape of Kashmir and called on the Jammu and Kashmir government to intervene to stop such actions.

Farooq's Awami Action Committee (AAC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM), led by Shia leader Masroor Abbas Ansari, were banned by the Centre for five years on Tuesday for their alleged anti-national activities, supporting terrorism and fuelling secessionist activities.

Farooq is the chairman of the separatist amalgam All Parties Hurriyat Conference and head cleric of Srinagar's Jamia Masjid, Kashmir's grandest and most influential mosque, where he delivers sermons.

"Strongly condemn the ban on Awami Action Committee and declaring it an 'Unlawful Association'," Farooq said in a post on X.

He said the move seems part of the "continuation of the policy of intimidation and disempowerment that is being followed viz-a-viz J&K since August 2019".

"Formed by shaheed e Millat at the peak of holy relic (Moi muqadas) agitation in 1964, it (AAC) has unwaveringly stood by the people of J&K advocating their aspirations and rights through completely non violent and democratic methods and calling for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict through dialogue and deliberation, for which it's members suffered jails and incarceration and even martyrdom.

"The voice of truth may be suppressed through force but will not be silenced," he said.

PDP chief Mehbooba said suppressing dissent will only deepen tensions.

"MHA's banning of Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee (AAC) headed by Mirwaiz Ummer Farooq and Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM) headed by Mohammad Abbas Ansari is another blow to Kashmir's social and political landscape.

"Suppressing dissent will only deepen tensions rather than resolve them," she said in a post on X.

She said the Jammu and Kashmir government should intervene to stop such actions.

"Democracy is about more than elections - it's about protecting citizens' fundamental rights.

"While silencing Kashmir's voices may serve BJP's political agenda, it undermines the very Constitution that safeguards these rights. The central government must reassess its approach and move away from heavy-handed tactics," the former chief minister said.

CM Omar Vows

mention of daily wagers except in the fourth budget speech, where you vaguely spoke about 'sustainable livelihood'." He further pointed out that even after the issuance of SRO-520, only 577 daily wagers were regularized.

Challenges in Regularization

The CM highlighted that, over the past decade, opposition which were in power then failed to address the issue, despite having both state and central authority. He accused them of prioritizing the 7th Pay Commission over the regularization of daily wagers, making the situation more complicated.

"Then came the J&K Reorganization Act, which effectively shut the door on their regularization. Now, we must reopen this issue. But in these years, their numbers have changed, making it difficult to determine an accurate count," he said. The government must start from scratch to resolve their concerns, he said.

Budget 2025: A Realistic Approach, Not Pessimistic

Addressing criticism that his budget speech was pessimistic, Omar clarified that it was, in fact, realistic. "Some members termed the beginning of my budget speech as pessimistic. I believe it was not pessimistic; it was realistic.

"I told the truth—I said my whole body has wounds. Pessimism would have been if I had said, 'The body has so many wounds, death would be inevitable.'"

Instead, he explained, "I said, 'The body has so many wounds, and I don't even have enough balm for them.' This is not pessimism; this is our reality."

He stressed the financial constraints facing the Union Territory, adding, "Do I have enough money to take all the power projects into my hands and start working on them? No. Can I

provide free electricity to all the people? No. In today's age, we don't even have the budget to ensure 24-hour electricity for Jammu and Kashmir. We are forced to buy electricity. We have worked on increasing social benefits for the poor. But is this truly enough to meet their needs? No."

Fiscal Responsibility And Future Growth
Quoting an English saying, "Cut your coat according to your cloth," the CM explained the necessity of managing within available resources. "My words were not pessimistic; they were realistic. I presented the truth. We don't have enough money, but we have prioritized welfare measures that will have a meaningful impact on the people."

He acknowledged that the budget would not yield instant results but assured that long-term growth had been set in motion. "This budget serves as our foundation. Over the next five years, we will build a strong and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir."

Opposition's Response And Criticism
Responding to the opposition, particularly BJP members, the CM remarked that instead of focusing on the budget, their speeches were centered around Article 370, Maharaja Ji, and July 13.

"Initially, I thought his speech had substance, but in reality, there was nothing related to the budget," he said, referring to a BJP legislator's remarks.

A 'Love Letter' to the People of J&K
Addressing the interpretation of his budget speech, Omar reiterated, "My budget speech is a love letter—to the BJP, to the PC, to the PDP, to the AIP, to Congress, to the CPI(M), to independent MLAs, and, above all, to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Why do we write love letters? To express love. And do we not love those who are in need? Through this budget, we have tried to extend that love by addressing their challenges and aspirations."

"I am not ashamed to call it a love letter. In fact, for the next five years, we will continue writing such love letters—letters of commitment, of progress and of transformation for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Acknowledging Central Government Support

Responding to criticism about acknowledging financial support from the Centre, the CM stated, "The central government has extended financial support to us. Should I be ashamed to admit it? No, I will not. The reality is that we are not yet self-sufficient. We are not financially independent. That is our challenge. And that is precisely what we must work toward." He stressed that Jammu and Kashmir had always relied on central funds, but the goal was to achieve financial self-reliance in the long run. "This is not a new struggle. Our past budgets reflect the same reality. But we aspire for more. We aim for a future where Jammu and Kashmir stands on its own feet." To achieve this, the government has focused on developing new tourism destinations, industrial estates, and encouraging start-ups and entrepreneurship.

On Centrally Sponsored Schemes
Dispelling the misconception that Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are fully funded by the Government of India, the CM explained that the UT also contributes significantly. He cited the PM Golden Card, which covers only BPL families under central funding, while the remaining 18 lakh families are supported by the UT. Similarly, under the National Social Assistance Program, 1.43 lakh BPL families receive pensions from central funds, but 8 lakh additional pensioners are covered by the UT's own resources. "These are not mere figures; they represent our responsibility toward our people."

Omar emphasized that after years of struggle, the budget of Jammu and Kashmir was finally being discussed within J&K itself, instead of just being passed in Parliament. "This is an achievement in itself. Some may argue that we still do not have a government of our own. But let me remind them—this budget is for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and it is being debated where it truly belongs."

'Restoring People's Dignity And Empowerment'

He concluded by reaffirming his government's commitment to restoring dignity, empowerment, and self-reliance for the people. "Some may see these initiatives as mere drops in the ocean, but history has shown that even the mightiest oceans are formed by countless drops.

With these small but meaningful steps, InshaAllah, in five years, we will restore the dignity of our people and build a financially self-sufficient Jammu and Kashmir." "This is our vision. This is our commitment. This is our love letter to our people."

Earlier, MLAs Qayser Jamsheed Lone, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Javed Iqbal Choudhary, Shagun Parihar, Abdul Majeed Larmi, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Sajad Lone, Zafar Ali Khatana, Baldev Raj Sharma, Saif Ud Din Bhat spoke on the budgetary provisions on Tuesday and also put forth their views and suggestions.

Budget A 'Parroted

evaluate this Budget within a political framework, I see that it echoes the 'Naya Kashmir' narrative and discourse championed by Prime Minister Modi and the BJP, which has been aggressively pushed post-August 5, 2019."

He pointed to contradictions in the government's approach, remarking, "These are the same schemes and policies that were once criticised but are now being hailed as transformative. The very Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) for which we were vilified has suddenly become praiseworthy. Everything the ruling party has dismissed over the past five years is now being glorified. Both NC and BJP are competing in their praise of Modi Ji, leaving us confused about which endorsement is more enthusiastic."

To underscore the failure of past promises, Lone presented the National Conference's (NC) manifesto in the Assembly, reading aloud its commitments, including 200 free electricity units, job creation and social welfare benefits, all of which remain unfulfilled.

He asserted, "If I were to present this manifesto as evidence, as one does in a court, it would be clear that there is no mention of free electricity units being restricted to Antyodaya Anna Yojana beneficiaries. The promise was

unconditional."

Backing his arguments with financial analysis, Lone outlined the staggering cost required to fulfill these commitments.

"The ruling party's promises alone require Rs 3,000 crore for one lakh jobs, Rs 2,200 crore for the regularisation of daily wagers, Rs 760 crore for providing 12 gas cylinders per household, and Rs 1,000 crore for implementing the Employment Guarantee Act."

Adding additional expenditures, he noted, "The total would rise to Rs 12,000 crore per year, amounting to Rs 60,000 crore over the next five years."

He also emphasised, "On top of this, the state Budget includes a one-time settlement of electricity bills, interest subvention on farmers' loans, establishment of preservation parks, plantation of medicinal trees, and the creation of six 'dream destinations'. This pushes the projected cost to nearly Rs 65,000 crore over five years. My question is simple -- what is the financing plan? Where is this money coming from? I challenge you to explain the economic science behind it."

Lone questioned the state Budget's capital expenditure figures, highlighting discrepancies.

"For 2025-26, the capital expenditure outlay is Rs 32,000 crore, while for 2024-25, it was Rs 36,000 crore, later revised to Rs 32,000 crore."

He noted that the numbers indicate stagnation or decline.

"If the revised estimate is lower than the initial one, the rule of thumb is that the government lacks the absorption capacity for higher spending. If expenditure is shrinking at the macro level, how can it increase at the micro and sectoral levels? The numbers simply do not add up."

Turning to revenue generation, Lone raised alarm over the dramatic increase in asset monetisation.

"The Budget shows asset monetisation rising from one per cent in 2024-25 to seven per cent now. What assets are being monetised? This House has a right to know, as seven per cent of the Budget is a massive sum."

He also criticised the one per cent tax hike, saying, "This amounts to an additional burden of Rs 1,000 crore, which will be extracted from the pockets of ordinary citizens. The impact will be most severe on the lowest 30 percent of the population."

4 Killed In Tempo

rage, over-loading, stunt and reckless driving cases by cancelling driving licences and registration of such vehicles used by such irresponsible drivers.

The Traffic department has also seized hundreds of motorcycles, scooties, cars and jeeps involved in stunt driving and other offences.

As a positive gesture, crash helmets are also distributed symbolically by the Traffic Department officials to those wearing inadequate headgear while driving motorcycles and other two-wheelers.

Filling stations throughout Jammu and Kashmir have strict instructions not to sell fuel to those two-wheeler drivers who come to filing stations without wearing crash helmets.

It is mandatory for both the driver and the pillion rider to wear crash helmets.

Regional transport officers of the Jammu division and the Kashmir Valley have publicised and cautioned parents with statutes of the rule book wherein parents of minors found driving a vehicle can be fined and also imprisoned for risking the lives of their children and others on the road.

IGP Orders Monitoring

territorial control across all districts. He urged officers to intensify area domination exercises and night patrolling in vulnerable areas to fortify the security grid," the spokesperson said.

He further added that the IGP also highlighted the importance of building better public relations and prioritizing people-sensitive policing. In the meeting, he said, addressing public grievances was identified as a top priority, alongside operational duties and crime-related responsibilities.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, the meeting began with updates from the district officers on recent security trends, highlighting the importance of maintaining stability and readiness across the Kashmir Zone.

He said the officers gave presentations outlining the evolving security landscape. The key discussions focused on the need for forward-thinking tactics, seamless intelligence coordination, and active public cooperation to ensure peace and security.

"In conclusion, IGP Kashmir commended the officers for their dedication and reiterated the collective responsibility to safeguard the region. He directed all attendees to submit follow-up action reports within a specified time-frame to ensure the effective implementation of the strategies discussed," the spokesperson added.

MLAs To Get Rs 3

for capital expenditure and cannot be used for revenue-related expenses, creation of posts, or payment of salaries. This ensures that the funds are spent on tangible developmental works.

Projects under the CDF must be completed within one year. In areas with limited working seasons, such as high-altitude regions, the DDC, with the MLA's approval, may extend the timeline, allowing work to be completed within two working seasons, but not exceeding two years.

The scheme encourages MLAs to recommend projects with costs not exceeding 10 lakh per work, although higher-value projects may be considered for certain infrastructure investments, provided they are completed within the specified time.

A wide range of development activities will be supported, including the construction and upgradation of government buildings such as schools, hostels, libraries, and sanitation facilities, as well as the provision of computers for educational institutions. The fund will also support the construction of roads, irrigation facilities, power infrastructure, and housing upgrades for the underprivileged.

The government aims to make a significant impact on the local infrastructure by allowing projects such as: Construction and upgradation of roads, including approach roads and link roads, with funding upto Rs 15 lakh. Projects for water table recharging, irrigation, and drainage, with support up to Rs 20 lakh.

Strengthening power infrastructure with a budget of up to Rs 50 lakh.

Assistance for housing upgrades for tribal and BPL populations, with funding of up to Rs 20 lakh for each project.

This initiative also focuses on improving rural areas by allowing the creation of kachha roads where local needs dictate.

To ensure proper utilization of funds, the scheme, includes provisions for strict oversight. Payments for completed works will be made only after the necessary verification and the successful completion of a Defect Liability Period (DLP), if applicable.

The scheme, also emphasizes the importance of efficiency, requiring that at least 80% of the allocated funds be utilized within the financial year.

In cases where the prescribed threshold is not met, funds will be withheld until the target is achieved, and future allocations will be contingent upon meeting these goals.

Certain projects will not be eligible for funding under the CDF, including office or residential buildings for government departments, memorials, creation of posts, or any kind of revenue expenditure. The funds will not be used for works related to places of worship either.

By giving MLAs the autonomy to choose projects and ensuring proper monitoring, the CDF scheme aims to foster a more localized and responsive approach to development. This initiative represents a significant step forward in empowering elected representatives to directly contribute to the growth and well-being of their constituencies—(KNO)

Famed Centaur

challenges, with the Economic Survey 2025 highlighting the region's heavy reliance on Central Government support, which contributes 70 percent of its revenue receipts," the document reads, as per a local news agency KNO.

Meanwhile, it also states that the government is preparing for the auction of the Lithium mine block in Salal, Reasi, covering 317 hectares, which is expected to generate Rs 100 crore annually.

MP Rashid Moves

chargesheet against several persons, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, in the case.

Malik was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

India Has Made

of Late Shri Birendra Rai and everyone associated with the hospital which will offer services in specialties, using latest cutting-edge healthcare technology.

"Shri Birendra Rai Ji's family has steered this esteemed institution for public service and care. I convey my good wishes to Shri Rajeev Kumar, Dr Sanjeev Kumar and his family for the dedicated service that they are doing," Sinha said.

Addressing the gathering, he spoke on the rapid strides made by India in healthcare, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the past 10 years.

"Our innovations in technologies and treatment are rated amongst the best and our healthcare professionals have demonstrated excellence and they are competing with leading health institutions of developed countries," the LG said.

"The high standard of our care practices, along with equitable, integrated and people-centered, comparative cost advantages and efficient services have made India a favourite destination for medical treatment," he added.

In view of the emerging challenges in the health sector, Sinha emphasised on paying special attention to developing specialised human resources, and extending quality and affordable medical care to all through a close collaboration between the public and private sectors.

"We should now focus on expanding the coverage of health services and giving access to affordable medical facilities to the people in far flung areas while ensuring quality service across a vast spectrum of healthcare," he added

Attends 'Holi

ancient culture. It has a prominent place in the history of modern India due to its ancient tradition and cultural values and the invincible strength of this land adorned with the richness of philosophy, language and literature is guiding us," he said.

"From this holy land, the principles of industry, trade, commerce and urban development emerged and reached beyond the shores of India through scholars who came to Bodh Gaya from all over Asia," he added.

The LG called upon the people from all sections of the society to work together to revive the glory of ancient Magadha region.

"According to Vedic literature, there was 'Magadha' in the south-west, 'Anga' in the east and 'Videha' in the north. The first description is found in the 14th verse, 53rd Sutra of the third Ashtak of the Rigveda and it has been called by the name Keekat," he said.

"Many historians have also tried to highlight the fact that the integration of Vedic culture and Vratya culture first took place in Magadha. Along with this, the tradition of Rajrishis started from Magadha and the first was Rajrishi Vishwamitra," he added.

The LG also highlighted the dedicated efforts made under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the inclusive development of Magadha region and the state of Bihar.

Yoga and Technology: Key pillars of CISF's transformation under PM Modi

IAN S

NEW DELHI : On the occasion of CISF Raising Day, a video related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi was shared on Modi Story, a popular social media handle on X, in which former DG of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Sheel Vardhan Singh highlights the progress of CISF under the guidance of PM Modi.

The video explained how CISF has been transformed into a strong and capable force for the 21st century due to the ideas and suggestions of Prime Minister Modi.

Sheel Vardhan Singh said that CISF is a multi-dimensional force, which includes important tasks like aviation security, Metro security, VIP security



ty and fire security. He particularly mentioned the fire wing, which works for fire safety in industrial areas. Under the guidance of PM Modi, CISF launched the 'District Fire Prevention Scheme', under which fire incidents were assessed in 100 districts and the staff there were trained.

In addition, guidance was given to add layers of security in multi-modal connectivity under PM Gati Shakti Yojana, which further strengthened the security system of CISF. He said that now using the GIS system, CISF can track the status and security details of the project online.

Sheel Vardhan Singh said that drone training has also been started in CISF, and so far 21 batches have been trained as drone operators. Apart from this, Yoga has also been included for mental health in CISF under the leadership of PM Modi, which has reduced the suicide rate of employees by 40 per cent.

Overall, under the guidance of PM Modi, CISF has not only strengthened its security system but has also made improvements in the field of technology and mental health, which is an example for Indian security forces.

CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10 to mark the founding of the Central Industrial Security Force in 1969.

PM MITRA Park scheme: Way paved for Rs 18,500 crore investment in textiles sector

IAN S

NEW DELHI : The government has signed or received investments to the tune of Rs 18,500 crore as part of the proposals that have been received under the PM MITRA Park scheme which aims to boost production, employment and exports in the textiles sector, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

With a view to develop integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility for entire value-chain of the textile industry, the Centre has approved setting up of seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/Brownfield sites with scheme outlay of Rs 4,445 crore for the period 2021-22 to 2027-28.

The government finalised seven sites -- Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navsari), Karna-



taka (Kalaburagi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Maharashtra (Amravati) -- for setting up PM MITRA Parks.

Once completed, it is expected that each PM MITRA Park will attract about Rs 10,000 crore investment and generate about 3 lakh (both direct and indirect) employment opportunities, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh said in a written reply in the Parliament.

Other initiatives being implemented to promote growth and development of the textile sector include the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), Integrated Processing Development Scheme (IPDS), Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), SAMARTH -- Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector ATUFS, Silk Samagra-2, National Handloom Development Program (NHDP)

and National Handicraft Development Program (NHDP), the minister said. Besides, the government is administering the National Handloom Development Programme and Raw Material Supply Scheme to promote the handloom sector and for welfare and benefit of handloom workers across the country.

Under the schemes, financial assistance is provided to eligible handloom agencies/workers for raw materials, procurement of upgraded looms & accessories, solar lighting units, construction of work sheds, product diversification & design innovation, technical and common infrastructure, marketing of handloom products in domestic and overseas markets, concessional loans under weavers' MUDRA scheme and various social security benefits, the minister added.

Gujarat: Modasa municipality takes major steps towards cleanliness with wall art, paver blocks

IAN S

ARAVALLI : In an inspiring move under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission, Gujarat's Modasa Municipality in Aravalli district is leading the charge in promoting cleanliness through creative initiatives. The municipality has taken proactive steps to transform the city's polluted areas by installing paver blocks and creating vibrant wall paintings at identified garbage points.

As part of this mission, 13 pollution hotspots across the city have been targeted, with the goal of both beautifying and raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness. Beautiful murals now grace the main roads and areas with heavy pollution, acting as a visual reminder of the necessity for a cleaner environment.

These artistic efforts aim to instil a sense of responsibility among residents while highlighting the role they can play in maintaining a tidy and hygienic city.

Local resident Nilesbbhai

Joshi spoke to IANS about the success of the campaign, saying: "Prime Minister Modi's vision has always been about a clean and healthy nation. Here in Gujarat, the state government has embraced this mission, and in Modasa, we've seen significant improvements. The municipality's efforts to paint walls and address dirt have been widely praised. However, there are still areas that require attention. It's important for everyone involved to keep working towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of cleanliness."

Neeraj Sheth, Chief of Modasa Municipality, shared insights into the project's development.

"We've identified high-garbage points like the GBP area and worked to improve them. In these locations, we're not just painting walls, but also adding sitting areas, planting trees, and laying down paver blocks. This is just the beginning—we plan to continue this initiative and develop more areas as needed," Sheth added.

Jharkhand's notorious gangster Aman Sahu killed in police encounter

IAN S

RANCHI : Notorious gangster Aman Sahu, accused of over 150 crimes across multiple states, including Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, was killed in a police encounter on Tuesday morning in Chainpur, Palamu district, officials said.

Sahu had been lodged in Raipur jail for the past few months. Jharkhand Police took him on remand for questioning in connection with recent criminal incidents.

While being transported from Raipur to Ranchi on Monday night, his gang allegedly ambushed the police convoy near Andhari Dhoda in the Chainpur police station area, using a bomb. During the attack, the police vehicle lost control.

According to the police, Sahu took advantage of the chaos, snatched a weapon from a police jawan, and attempted to escape while opening fire. In retaliation,

the police shot him dead. A police jawan was also injured in the exchange of fire.

Palamu Superintendent of Police (SP) Reeshma Rameshan confirmed Aman Sahu's death, adding that an ambulance was dispatched to the scene.

A resident of Matve village in Ranchi's Burmu police station area, Sahu was linked to the notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Previously imprisoned in Jharkhand's Saraikela jail, he was transferred to Raipur on a production warrant issued by Chhattisgarh Police on October 14, 2024.

Sahu was convicted in two cases -- sentenced to six years in a criminal case in Ramgarh and three years in another case in Latehar. His gang recently claimed responsibility for a firing incident targeting coal transporter Bipin Mishra in Ranchi, with his key aide Mayank Singh posting about it on social media.

One Nation, One Election will greatly benefit India: JPC chairman PP Chaudhary

IAN S

NEW DELHI : P.P. Chaudhary, the chairman of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) on Tuesday explained how the 'poll model' would enable elected representatives to focus on governance for their entire five-year term, benefitting the nation immensely.

A meeting of the JPC on ONOE was held last week, where all the members displayed a 'positive attitude'. The Constitution Amendment Bill on ONOE, currently under review by the JPC, seeks to synchronise Lok Sabha and state assembly elections, streamlining the electoral process.

The JPC, chaired by BJP's P.P. Chaudhary, comprises 39 members, including 27 from the Lok Sabha and 12 from the Rajya Sabha.

In a special interaction with IANS, Chaudhary spoke about the sweeping changes that the bill could bring in the Indian political landscape and also hoped that the Opposition will not oppose the bill, just for the sake of opposing it.

"Today's meeting is not about strategy formation. It will be more of a presentation and interaction session. Former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi will also be present, and there will be an interaction with him. Former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Rajendra Menon, will also

be there, and we will have discussions with him as well," he said.

Addressing concerns about logistical challenges, Chaudhary pointed out that from 1952 to 1967, elections were conducted simultaneously across the country despite the absence of modern resources such as EVMs, VVPATs, and advanced

difficult task to gather all the election resources at once," he further mentioned.

Highlighting the potential benefits of ONOE, Chaudhary claimed that the synchronisation of elections would result in considerable savings, both direct and indirect which will "greatly benefit" India.

"Once synchronisation happens, the direct benefit



technology.

"At that time, we didn't even have the resources we have today. There were no EVMs, no VVPAT, and no advanced systems or technology. Even then, elections were conducted together across the country. Now, we have progressed a lot, and today, India is the third-largest economy in the world. So, we can say that it is not impossible for us," he said.

"Our official witnesses from the Election Commission, and IT ministries, we will call them and those related to technology, and they will tell us how it can be done simultaneously. In today's time, in this technological age, it is not a dif-

and indirect benefit, if we look at the direct and indirect benefits, are immense, a lot. The direct benefit is that thousands of crores of rupees are spent; that will be saved. Indirect profit of around 1.6 per cent in the GDP will happen," he explained.

Responding to the Congress party's consistent opposition to the proposal, Chaudhary stated, "I believe that if someone is opposing just for the sake of opposition, then it is not right. But if someone really feels that something is not right, we will also correct that thing. But after it is corrected, if there is only opposition, then we do not have any remedy for that.

Row over Kharge's 'Thokenge' remarks in RS, JP Nadda demands apology

IAN S

NEW DELHI : The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday witnessed fresh fireworks between the Treasury and Opposition benches, apparently over Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's "objectionable and unconstitutional" comments, which the BJP claimed were hurled at the Chair.

As Kharge mentioned 'thokenge' (thrashing) in his remarks, apparently intended as a counter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's claims, the House erupted in protest, with members from both sides engaging in a verbal spat.

Taking a strong objection to the "unparliamentary language", Leader of the House J. P. Nadda demanded that Kharge either apologise or his comments be expunged from the House proceedings.

Kharge made these remarks while Congress lawmaker Digvijaya Singh was about to reply to the discussion on the work of the Education Ministry. He also questioned the "absence" of the Education Minister from the House.

The furor over the unparliamentary remarks saw the Leader of the Opposition Kharge and the Leader of the House engaging in a direct face-off.

Leader of the House Nadda said that LoP has insulted the Chair of the House by hurling such comments at it.

"Casting aspersions on the chair by a seasoned lawmaker like Kharge is

highly condemnable. He must apologise for using unpardonable language against the chair. He must take back his words or it should be expunged from House's proceedings," Nadda, the Union Health Minister, said in a terse tone.

As the pandemonium prevailed, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh intervened and appealed to members to maintain calm.

Kharge, finding himself on the backfoot over the bloopers, said that he apologises to the House Deputy Chairman, however, maintained that his comments were not intended at him.

"If I have hurt your feelings, I am sorry. But, this was not aimed at you. If any minister makes an uncultured, uncivilised statement against a certain part of the country, he must be called out," Kharge remarked.

Following this, Leader of the House Nadda welcomed Kharge's apology, however, insisted that the latter take back his comments.

"It's good that Kharge withdrew his remarks. His gesture deserves praise. However, his comments against the government can't be accepted," Nadda added.

Kharge's remarks seem to have given the BJP a fresh handle to train its guns at the Congress. The combative BJP is likely to up the ante over the Congress chief's remarks in days to come.

UP: Over 60 mosques in Shahjahanpur covered with tarpaulin, for 'Joota maar' Holi

IAN S

SHAHJAHANPUR : In a bid to maintain peace and ensure the safety of religious places during the upcoming Holi celebrations, the district administration of Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has taken a unique precautionary step with over 60 mosques in the region been covered with tarpaulin sheets ahead of the famous 'Joota Maar Holi,' a colourful and chaotic event known for its exuberant processions and exuberant revelry.

The decision comes after extensive discussions with religious leaders and local authorities, aimed at preventing the mosques from being smeared with colours or, in some cases, shoes during the festivities.

Shahjahanpur is home to one of the most distinctive Holi traditions, where people engage in a playful 'Joota Maar Holi' during a procession that spans approximately 10 kilometres. The festivities attract thousands of participants, often leading to uncontrolled chaos, making the precautionary measures necessary.

To prevent damage to the mosques and ensure the smooth flow of the celebrations, the district administration, with the support of local religious leaders, decided to cover mosques and other religious structures with tarpaulin.

This is intended to keep them protected from the shoe hitting, colour splashes and potential dis-

ruptions associated with the event. Authorities have also planned for additional security measures, including surveillance and monitoring by police personnel in military uniforms, as well as the use of drones to keep a watchful eye on religious places during the celebrations.

While the Muslim community in Shahjahanpur has expressed their support for these protective measures, they have emphasised that the covering of mosques is in everyone's best interest. By ensuring that no colour falls on their religious places, the atmosphere will remain undisturbed, allowing everyone to enjoy the festivities peacefully.

The initiative has been broadly accepted, and religious leaders have voiced their approval after attending peace committee meetings with local officials.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh S. reassured the public, stating, "We have covered the mosques and are deploying special security around all religious structures. We are monitoring them with both videography and drone surveillance to ensure safety. The peace committee has given its approval, and the cooperation from the minority community is commendable."

The district administration is hopeful that the celebrations will proceed without incident, maintaining the Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb—the spirit of communal harmony—for which the city is known.

Union Agriculture Minister takes swipe at Rajiv Gandhi govt over pilferage of Central funds

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Taking a swipe at the Rajiv Gandhi government for its failure to check the pilferage of Central welfare funds, Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday highlighted the gains from the Narendra Modi government's direct benefit transfer (DBT), especially, under the PM-KISAN scheme.

He also denied any prejudice

against Tamil Nadu farmers in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme and offered to launch a special drive for the state, claiming that about 14,000 farmers were still out of the net as the state government needed to conduct inquiry and update applications on the portal.

Replying to a question by M.S. Tharaniventhan of DMK in Lok Sabha, Chouhan said

gone are the days when a helpless Prime Minister had admitted that only 15 paise out of each rupee released by the Centre were reaching beneficiaries of welfare schemes on the ground.

"Today, central funds land in the accounts of beneficiaries with a single click of a button without even a single paise being stolen midway," Chouhan said referring to the Narendra Modi government's DBT.

He said earlier there were

complaints that some ineligible farmers were benefiting from the scheme so we introduced the three-pronged strategy of land seeding, Aadhar seeding and e-KYC.

The Minister also highlighted that on the sixth anniversary of the PM-KISAN scheme PM Modi released the 19th instalment of the scheme on February 24 from Bhagalpur, Bihar, wherein Rs 22,000 crore were transferred to the bank

accounts of 9.8 crore farmers, including 2.41 crore women farmers.

Under the PM-KISAN scheme, a direct payment of Rs 6,000 per year is transferred in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 each, every four months into the bank account of a registered beneficiary farmer.

Hailing Tamil farmers and the state's language and culture, Chouhan said the Central government is committed to

extending the benefits of the scheme to all beneficiaries in the southern state.

"Even if some farmers could not be enrolled due to delays in e-KYC we would give the benefit from back date. This is Modi ki Guarantee, guarantee for fulfilment of guarantee," said the Minister.

Denying any delay on the part of the Central government side in delivering the benefits of the PM-KISAN scheme, Chou-

han said the Centre is working with state governments where beneficiaries have not yet received the benefits.

"We have urged state governments to update applications on the portal," he said, pointing out that in the case of Tamil Nadu.

"We can even launch a special campaign to enrol Tamil Nadu farmers," said Chouhan, hinting at the lack of interest shown earlier by state ministers.

Lieutenant Governor felicitates recipients of 'Bihar Kesari Samman' Award at Patna

Our rich inheritance of values of harmony is solid foundation of inclusive development: LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended 'Bihar Kesari Samman' Samaroh at Patna and felicitated eminent personalities with the prestigious award for their distinguished services.

The award is given in the honor of Dr. Shri Krishna Singh, the great freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Bihar.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to Dr. Shri Krishna Singh and recalled his significant contribution to the development of Bihar and the nation building.

"Shri Krishna Singh was the creator of modern Bihar. By initiating agricultural reforms, river development projects in the first five-year plan and subsequently building the monuments of modern Bihar like Barauni Refinery, Heavy Engineering Corporation, Barauni Fertilizer Plant, Barauni Thermal Power Station, Damodar Valley Corporation, Patratu Power Station, Scooter Factory, Garhara Locomotive Shed, First Railway and Road Bridge of Independent India Rajendra Setu, Netarhat School, Engineering Colleges in Muzaffarpur, Jamshedpur, Sindri, Gaya,



Motihari etc., he made Bihar the powerhouse of the country's progress.

Shri Krishna Singh was fondly called Shri Babu. His name is recorded in golden letters in the tradition of great personalities who were born in Bihar and dedicated themselves to nation-building. He laid the foundation for industries and infrastructure.

Shri Babu had independent consciousness right from his teenage years and I believe that it was this spirit which helped him become an embodiment of

good governance. During his tenure Bihar became one of the fastest developing states," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted public welfare and empowerment of poor and underprivileged sections of the society by him.

"Shri Babu was a true statesman who worked hard to eliminate discrimination in the society and looked at Bihar in its entirety and created its new existence through good governance. He was the harbinger of good gov-

ernance. He worked hard for social equality and social unity and made it the most powerful state of the country.

Be it the abolition of the Zamindari system, making the poor and marginalised farmers self-reliant or the overall welfare of workers, Shri Babu was dedicated to the welfare of the people and liberated a large population from exploitation after independence," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the enlightened citizens and

every section of the society, especially the youth to unite for the cause of public good and give new direction to India's development journey.

"I want people to keep our civilisational values alive. History bears testimony to the fact that Unity always ensured progress and overall development.

We need to understand that those who pursue a divisive agenda want to divide us to stall the journey of Viksit Bharat. We must stand up as One and dedicate ourselves for growth and prosperity of the nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further emphasised that Rural India should be the focus for sustainable and equitable path of growth.

He said, "To accelerate socio-economic growth, we should focus on forging public-private partnerships. Our rich inheritance of values of harmony is a solid foundation of inclusive development.

Today, we have to start thinking about the future of tomorrow that we want to build. Societal attitude needs to be changed towards the contribution in this journey. Holistic Development is a collective responsibility of the society".

Govt making efforts to ensure safe, adequate water supply in rural areas

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Tuesday it is actively working to ensure a safe and adequate water supply in rural areas.

Responding to a question from MLA Gh Mohiuddin Mir, the Minister for Jal Shakti Department, said that during prolonged dry spells, several areas in Rajpora constituency—including Bellow, Barpora, Murran and Zadoora—experience water shortages. To address this, water tankers are deployed as an interim measure.

"Efforts are ongoing to ensure safe and adequate drinking water supply to all rural households, including those in Rajpora constituency, through the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other UT-funded schemes. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide every rural household with a tap water connection supplying water at 55 litres per capita per day, meeting the quality standards set by BIS 10500," the minister said.

He said while most villages already have piped water supply through Public Stand Posts (PSPs) installed under earlier programmes, many of the schemes currently under execution are retrofitting projects to augment existing infrastructure to align with JJM objectives.

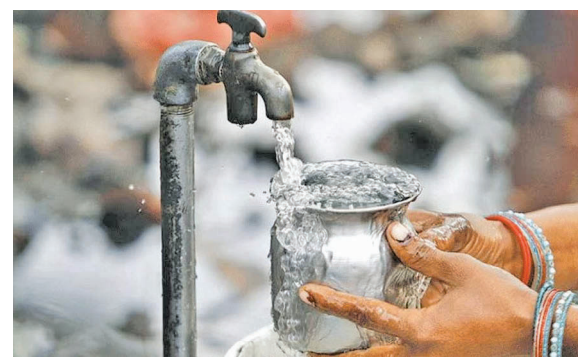
"There are 44 schemes under execution with an estimated cost of Rs 7835.78

lakh, taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission and UT CAPEX. Out of these, 18 projects have been completed, while work on 26 schemes is in various stages of progress. As of now, Rs 3611.23 lakh has been utilized for these projects," the minister added.

Addressing another question, the R&B Minister acknowledged public demands for footbridges over Romshi Nullah near Karimabad and Rambi-Ara

cause significant inconvenience to the residents of Karimabad and Litter, as they primarily serve agricultural connectivity rather than being essential public infrastructure.

"The footbridge over Romshi Nallah near Karimabad mainly provides access to agricultural fields. There are two existing bridges in the area: Chewa Kalan Bridge, located 1 km upstream, and Gudoora Bridge on NH-44,



Nullah near Astan Shareef Litter.

The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for these footbridges have been prepared as follows:

Astan Shareef Litter: Construction of a 1 x 40-metre span footbridge over Nallah Rambhi Ara Rakhi Litter, with an estimated cost of Rs 409.30 lakh.

Karimabad: Construction of a 3 x 40-metre span, 2-metre-wide footbridge over Romshi Nallah, estimated at Rs 586.20 lakh.

However, the minister said the absence of these footbridges does not

1.15 km downstream. The demand for an additional bridge has been recently noted," he informed.

Similarly, the footbridge over Nallah Rambhi Ara Rakhi Litter is intended to connect agricultural lands, paddy fields, and orchards, providing a shorter route for locals. However, Zahidbagh Bridge, located 400 metres downstream, already ensures connectivity.

"Both projects will be considered for construction based on the availability of funds and priority assessments," the minister added—(KNO)

JKCDF welcomes Govt move to form committee for daily wagers

REHAN QAYOOM WANI

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Casual and Daily Wagers Forum (JKCDF), Tuesday welcomed the government's announcement to form a committee for formulating a roadmap for addressing issues of daily-wagers.

President of the JKCDF, Sajad Ahmad Parray said that they were expecting a favourable decision in the budget instead of formation of a committee to chalk out the roadmap. "However, we welcome the constitution of a panel as we know the government has limited powers in the Union Territory. We want this committee to complete all the process and compile the report at the shortest possible time as every data is already available with the authorities."

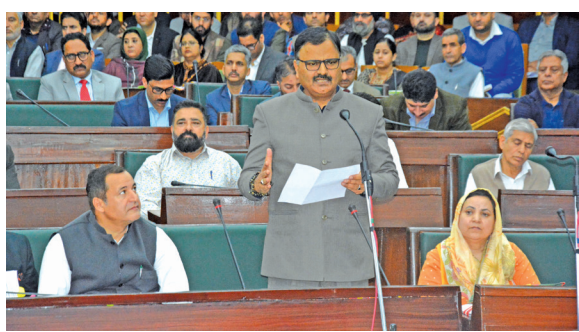
Parray said that the gov-

ernment should take the employees on board before making any decision as they want to ensure that the daily wagers, casual labourers, land donors, seasonal employees and other employees don't face any problems.

He said that the government should immediately implement the Minimum Wages Act in Jammu and Kashmir and chalk out a road map for the regularization of employees.

Pertinently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today announced the constitution of a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to work out a roadmap for addressing issues of daily-wagers. "The committee comprising officials from different departments will find out the number of daily-wagers as well as to what legally and financially could be done for them."—(KNO)

2 WSSs worth Rs 106 cr under execution in Tosamaidan areas: Javed Rana



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, Tuesday said that two Water Supply Schemes, taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission at an estimated cost of Rs. 1060.89 lakh, are presently under execution for providing potable water supply to Habbar, Lassipora and Tosmaidaan areas.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Saif-ud-din Bhat. The Minister said that an amount of Rs. 7.80 crore has been expended so far, which included Rs. 7.27 crore incurred on procurement of pipes for utilization in these schemes.

The Minister further

informed that Khanpora village falls under the WSS Iskenderpora Lolipora, being executed under NABARD at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.78 crore against which an amount of Rs. 3.80 crore has been expended till date, including Rs. 3.44 crore incurred on procurement of pipes.

The Minister further informed that there are five filtration plants taken up under JJM in Khanshab Constituency, which are at different stages of completion. He said that the completion of all these schemes and the filtration plants will depend on the availability of funds under CSS and corresponding UT components.

Div Com felicitates women leaders, achievers as Jammu University hosts Shakti Parv to mark Int'l Women's Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today attended 'Shakti Parv' organised by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies University of Jammu, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) to commemorate International Women's Day

On the occasion, women leaders and achievers from different walks of life were felicitated, honouring their strength, resilience and achievements across different fields.

The event also brought together distinguished speakers, scholars, and students to engage in thought-provoking discussions and storytelling sessions, emphasizing the pivotal role of women in the society.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar was the chief guest, while Devyani Rana was the special guest.

In his address, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the challenges women face due to societal biases at different stages of life.

He emphasized the urgent need to break



these deeply ingrained stereotypes and urged the audience to ensure that women's empowerment is not just acknowledged for a single day but is reflected throughout the year in societal attitudes and actions.

Many women speakers also voiced their views. Devyani Rana shared her journey of breaking stereotypes in the media industry and spoke about the representation of women in the media industry. She also emphasized the need for diverse voices in storytelling, which is an important part of journalism.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies Prof. Garima Gupta highlighted the significance of the event, stating, "Shakti Parv is a tribute to the indomi-

table spirit of women who continue to inspire change and challenge societal norms and also the men who play a pivotal role in women empowerment. It is only the synergy of both that can create a truly empowered society as a whole."

Regional Director IGNCA Shruti Awasthi said, "Women have always been the driving force behind societal progress, and Shakti Parv is a tribute to their unwavering strength, creativity, and leadership. Through cultural narratives and academic discussions, we aim to highlight their invaluable contributions and inspire future generations."

Women security guards, auto drivers, and women shopkeepers were felicitated, acknowledging

their hard work, perseverance, and significant role in society.

Chairperson, MIER Group of Institutions Renu Gupta said that there is a need to accelerate efforts toward achieving gender equality. Renowned singer Aasha Kesar shared her personal journey, reflecting on the challenges and social restrictions faced by women in earlier times.

Nirmal Vikram spoke of women's empowerment as a gradual transition rather than a sudden revolution. Similarly, Fozia Akhtar stressed upon the role of Islam in empowering women, addressing common misconceptions about the religion's stance on women's rights.

Rolie Khanna, Bureau Chief Amar Ujala Jammu, discussed the evolving role of women in journalism, the challenges they face, and strategies to overcome gender bias in the workplace.

Others present on the occasion included, Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai, Prof. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Singh Bali, Dr. Ramiywan Bharadwaj and Kumerjit Chajgotra, faculty and students of Jammu University.

Work on Satwari to Last Morh Gandhi Nagar Flyover takes off

Traffic Police issue diversion plan to facilitate hassle free construction

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Traffic police have issued an advisory for commuters mentioning diversion of traffic movement in view of construction of flyover from Satwari Chowk to last Morh Gandhi Nagar, which started from today (March 11, 2025)

"As intimidated by Project Director NHAI, PIU- Jammu, the construction work of flyover from Satwari Chowk to last Morh Gandhi Nagar will be undertaken by

the concerned executing agency from March 11, 2025. In this regard, the tube coming from Satwari Chowk towards Last Morh Gandhi Nagar shall remain restricted for the movement of General Traffic during the said construction work. Hence for ensuring hassle free movement of traffic, the traffic diversions have been placed on ground," an official hand-out stated.

As per diversion plan, all interstate vehicles coming from Samba/ Kathua via Kunjwani, Gangyal bound

for Jammu City shall be diverted from Satwari Chowk towards MH Hospital Road – Beli Charana – 4th Tawi Bridge – Asia Crossing / Canal Head and further towards their destination.

Similarly, all kinds of vehicles coming from R.S Pura, Miran Sahib and adjoining areas bound for Jammu City shall be diverted from Satwari Chowk towards MH Hospital Road – Beli Charana – 4th Tawi Bridge – Asia Crossing/ Canal Head and further towards

their destination.

The traffic plying on the road stretch from Bikram Chowk upto Satwari Chowk shall remain through for one way traffic movement however the traffic plying will be diverted from last Morh Gandhi Nagar in the Right Tube towards Satwari Chowk.

The traffic coming from 4th Tawi Bridge bound for Satwari side shall not ply via Beli Charana rather shall be diverted to Ware House - Asia Crossing – Last Morh Gandhi Nagar and towards Satwari Chowk.

Centre gives its nod to Vibrant Villages Programme

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that the Centre has given its approval to the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) on February 15, 2023.

In a written reply Rai stated: "The scheme aims for the comprehensive development of select villages located along the northern border."

The initiative, reply said, will cover 46 blocks across 19 districts in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttara-

khand, and the Union Territory of Ladakh."

"A total of 662 border villages have been prioritized for development under this program. The government has allocated Rs. 150 crore for the Financial Year 2023-24 and Rs 209 crore for 2024-25," the reply stated.

"The States and Union Territories involved will be the primary implementing agencies responsible for the effective utilization of these funds. This program is a key step towards improving infrastructure and living conditions in these strategic border areas," the reply added—(KNO)

Forest Deptt launches sale of conifer plants



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: J&K Forest Department launched sale of conifer plants for the general public, here Tuesday to enhance the tree cover outside forests which include Towns, Urban and Peri-Urban areas of Kashmir Valley.

The sale was inaugurated by Conservator Forests, Srinagar Circle, Tawheed Ahmad Deva at Sheikhbagh Forest Complex, Srinagar. The event was attended by forest officials and officers including Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar Dr. Sheikh Mehraj and DFO Planning and Publicity Division.

Speaking on the occasion, Conservator Forests, Srinagar Circle highlighted the need for intensive plantation and empha-

sised planting indigenous species of conifers including Deodar, Kail and Fir. He underscored the role of the public for helping the Forest Department to increase the green cover especially outside forests.

It was informed that the sale centres have been established for the convenience of the general public and plants will be made available for sale in the valley during the season at a subsidized rate of Rs.13.50 per sapling.

The sale centres have been set up at PC Depot, Sheikh Bagh Forest Complex in Srinagar and at all District and Divisional headquarters besides, mobile vans will also be deployed for the sale of conifer plants within the Srinagar City. The sapling will be available at these centres up to March 31.