

CJ Tashi Rabstan inaugurates New Court Building at Kupwara



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan during inauguration of newly constructed Court Building at Kupwara.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, on Thursday virtually inaugurated the newly constructed Court Building at Kupwara in the physical presence of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, the Administrative Judge for District Kupwara.

The state-of-the-art court complex is a significant milestone in strengthening judicial infrastructure in the region. The three-story building, with a total plinth area of 10,000 sq. ft., was approved on October 19, 2020, and successfully completed on November 25, 2024, at a cost of Rs 1,020 lakhs. The facility has been designed to provide a modern and efficient working environment for judicial officers, advocates, litigants, and court staff.

Shazia Tabasum, Pr. Distt. and Sessions Judge Kupwara delivered the welcome address, which was followed by the address by Ahrar Dar, President Bar Association Kupwara, thereafter Ayushi Sudan DC Kupwara also expressed her views.

While expressing his views on the occasion of inauguration of new court building at Kupwara, Justice Tashi Rabstan expressed his honor and excitement on being part

of the occasion. He described the event as a momentous day for the people of Kupwara and the larger judicial community, emphasizing that the judiciary remains a pillar of justice, ensuring the protection of individual rights.

Justice Rabstan stated that the newly inaugurated facility is more than just a physical structure; it symbolizes the judiciary's commitment to accessible and fair justice for all. He highlighted the modern court's role in expediting case proceedings, reducing delays, and strengthening the rule of law. The complex, he noted, reflects the evolving needs of the judicial system by integrating advanced infrastructure and improved facilities to enhance judicial efficiency.

He acknowledged the contributions of architects, engineers, construction workers, and the local administration in bringing the project to fruition. He also extended gratitude to Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, the government, and local authorities for their unwavering support in strengthening judicial infrastructure in Kupwara.

Justice Rabstan underscored the significance of digital transformation in the judiciary, stating that the new court building, along with technological advancements, would help eliminate

geographical barriers to justice. He expressed confidence that the facility would improve judicial efficiency and further instill trust in the system.

In conclusion, he congratulated all those involved in the project and reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to accessible, transparent, and fair for all citizens, regardless of location.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Administrative Judge for District Kupwara, also expressed his views during the inauguration of the new District Court Complex in Kupwara.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal highlighted the significance of the occasion, calling it a milestone for both the district and the judicial system. He emphasized that justice is not only built on legal principles but also on the physical infrastructure that supports its administration. The new complex, he noted, stands as a testament to the judiciary's commitment to accessibility, efficiency, and dignity in the legal process.

Justice Nargal acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan, the Principal District Judge, and the various agencies involved in the construction, including the District Administration. He credited

the Chief Justice's vision for not only advancing judicial infrastructure but also ensuring accessibility for all, regardless of social, economic, or geographical status.

Describing the new complex as more than just a building, he stated that it symbolizes the judiciary's promise of impartial, fair, and timely justice.

He underscored the importance of modern infrastructure in expediting legal proceedings and ensuring a dignified space for litigants, lawyers, and court staff. Justice Nargal pointed out that the project initially included only two court halls, but due to the intervention of the Chief Justice, it now houses four. He commended the J&K Housing Board for completing the project within the designated timeframe despite challenging weather conditions.

Speaking on the role of technology in the judiciary, he highlighted the introduction of e-courts under the National Governance Plan. He emphasized that Kupwara has embraced digital advancements such as video conferencing and digital case management to improve accessibility. However, he noted that while technology is essential, institutional reforms and efficient processes remain equally critical for justice delivery.

Looking ahead, Justice Nargal called for continuous improvements in the legal system to eliminate barriers to justice. He concluded by reaffirming the judiciary's commitment to its constitutional mandate of delivering justice with fairness, integrity, and respect for all.

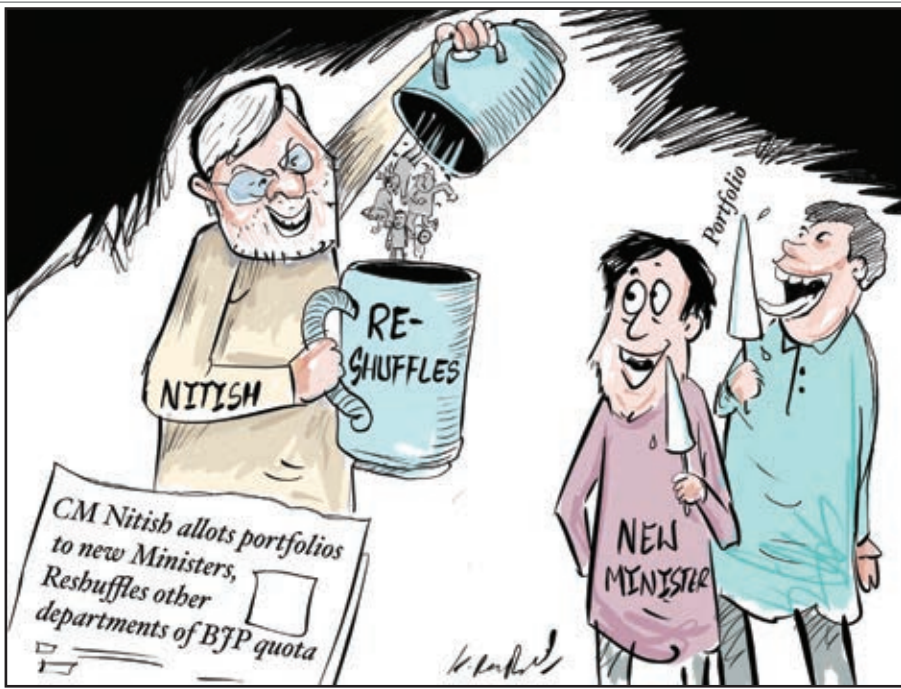
Digitization of Court Records Launched

On this occasion, the Digitization Section of the District Court Kupwara was also inaugurated. This initiative aims to convert paper-based records into electronic formats, ensuring easy accessibility of legal documents through the internet. The move is expected to improve record management, expedite judicial processes, and facilitate seamless case tracking for litigants and advocates.

The inauguration of the new court complex and the digitization project marks a significant step toward modernizing judicial services in Kupwara, reaffirming the judiciary's dedication to ensuring efficient, accessible, and technology-driven justice delivery.

The event was attended by key dignitaries, including Shazia Tabasum, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner; Khem Raj Sharma, Additional District & Sessions Judge (Designated Special Court under the N.I.A. Act) Kupwara; Umi Kulsoom, Additional District Judge, Handwara; Ghulam Jeelani, SSP; Chief Judicial Magistrate, Handwara and other Judicial Officers of the District.

The event ended with a vote of thanks by Khem Raj Sharma, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara.



Dr Darakhshan reviews Ramadhan preparedness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday chaired a meeting in Srinagar for preparedness & arrangements for the holy month of Ramadhan.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of different departments and Waqf Board officers and Imams and Ulema from different parts of the valley.

Detailed deliberations were held to put in place all the arrangements for the holy month of Ramadhan.

A coordinated road map was discussed and a plan of action was formulated. Dr Andrabi instructed the departmental representatives and Waqf officers to work in harmony so that people are facilitated properly.

SP North Srinagar Hilal Ahmad Bhat, Dy S P Barleen Kour, SIO Nigean Showkat Ahmad, Medical



Chairperson Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi chairing a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

officer Dr Ghulam Hassan, Assistant Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department Mohd Yousuf, Sanitary Officer Gh Mustafa, Traffic Police representative Mohd. Ashraf, Executive Magistrate Waqf Board Ishtiaq Mohiuddin, Executive Engineer Waqf Board & prominent Imams & Khatibs of the valley took part in the meeting.

Waqf Chairperson said that Imams and Khatibs have a very significant role

during the holy month and it is their responsibility to infuse the spirit of piety and harmony among the people during their daily sermons.

Later Dr Andrabi led the new Mat-Laying process in Dargah Annexe after the completion of renovation work there.

Dr Darakhshan said that the renovation of Waqf managed shrines will continue throughout J&K in the coming months.

IGP Jammu assesses security apparatus at Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti chairing a meeting at Kishtwar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, concluded a comprehensive two-day visit to the Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban (DKR) range, focusing on a thorough security and crime review. The two day visit aimed to assess and enhance the security apparatus in the region.

The IGP Jammu, accompanied by the Inspector General (IG) CRPF, Jammu sector, R Gopala Krishna Rao, IPS, and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) DKR Range, Shridhar Patil, conducted detailed reviews of the present security scenario and held crime review meetings at the District Police Offices (DPOs) in both Doda and

Kishtwar. The IGP CRPF Jammu Sector also participated in the security review meetings, highlighting the collaborative approach towards maintaining peace and security.

During the meetings, the Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of Doda, Sandeep Mehta, and Kishtwar, Javaid Iqbal, made detailed presentations on the prevailing security scenario, including counter-insurgency operations, law and order maintenance, and the latest crime data. The briefings provided a comprehensive overview of the challenges and strategies to address them.

Addl. SP Police component, SDPOs, SHOs, and ICPPs from both districts were present during the

respective review meetings. The visit's focus was to assess the preparedness of the security grid to ensure its effectiveness in maintaining peace and stability; analyze crime data, statistics, trends, and strategies to improve crime prevention and detection; enhance inter-agency coordination by facilitating better coordination and synergy among security forces; and strengthen local policing.

IGP Jammu emphasized the need for continued coordination and cooperation between all agencies to ensure the safety and security of the region, while also highlighting the importance of effective crime prevention strategies and prompt responses to incidents of criminal activity.

European Union delegation led by Ekaterina meets Dr Jitendra, discusses StartUp collaborations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A high-level European Union delegation, led by Ekaterina Zaharieva, currently on India visit, on Thursday called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh and discussed primarily the StartUp and innovation collaborations.

The meeting between Ekaterina, who is the European Union Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation and the Indian Minister marks a significant milestone in India-EU cooperation in the field of science and technology.

The Science and Technology Minister emphasized the long-standing partnership between India and the European Union, which dates back to the signing of the India-EU Science and Technology Agreement in 2001, renewed in 2015 and 2020, and set to be renewed once again for the period 2025-2030.

During the discussions, Dr. Jitendra highlighted several key areas where India and the EU can collaborate further to drive innovation and sustainable development. These areas



European Union delegation Head, Ekaterina Zaharieva calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Thursday.

include: Water Resource Management, Clean Energy & Smart Grids, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data & Robotics, Healthcare (including Vaccine Development and Pandemic Preparedness), Climate Change & Polar Research.

The Minister stressed that collaboration in these areas would harness the strengths of both India and Europe, with an emphasis on increasing synergy and sharing knowledge and resources.

Dr. Singh underscored India's commitment to advancing joint research initiatives with the EU, particularly dur-

ing the period from 2020 to 2024. He referred to ongoing projects such as: Department of Science and Technology (DST): Projects on Water, Energy, AI, Data, and Robotics; Department of Biotechnology (DBT): Collaborative work on Water Resources and Vaccine Development, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES): Joint research on Climate Change and Polar Research.

Dr. Singh, further emphasized the importance of international collaboration in addressing oceanic and climatic challenges. Key areas of research include Ocean warm-

ing, deoxygenation, and acidification, Polar climate studies, Ocean forecasting.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed the need for global cooperation to address these threats and ensure the health of the planet's ecosystems.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted India's commitment to tackling climate change through clean energy collaboration, particularly in offshore wind and solar projects. This, he said, would help meet the ambitious climate targets set by both India and the EU.

The S&T Minister pointed out that India's National AI Mission, backed by substantial funding, will be a key area for collaboration between India and the EU. He emphasized the potential for both regions to lead in AI safety and security, ensuring the development of AI in a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive manner.

In the health sector, Dr. Singh identified several key areas where India and the EU can collaborate: Infectious and Non-Infectious Diseases, Novel Therapeutics, Biologicals, and Early Diagnostics, Drug Repurposing, AI in Healthcare, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), One

Health Approach.

He stressed that the partnership between India and Europe could extend to these critical health challenges, which have global implications.

From the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Marc Lemaître, Director-General; Nienke Buisman, Head of Unit, Innovation, Prosperity, and International Cooperation; and from the Cabinet of the Commissioner, Sophie Alexandrova, Deputy Head of Cabinet, along with Mr. Ivan Dimov, Member of Cabinet; Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, First Counsellor & Head of the Research & Innovation Section; Dr. Vivek Dham, Policy Officer, Research & Innovation Section, EU Delegation to India, were part of the delegation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded the discussions by reiterating India's deep commitment to strengthening its partnership with the European Union in science and technology. He expressed confidence that the shared vision for collaboration in key sectors will create a pathway to solving global challenges and advancing mutual interests.

SDBCT inaugurates Sunny Oberoi Clinical Lab and Diagnostic Center

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The Sarbat Da Bhala Charitable Trust (SDBCT) of Dr. S. P. S. Oberoi inaugurated the Sunny Oberoi Clinical Lab and Diagnostic Center at Gurdwara Tapo Asthan Sant Baba Sunder Singh, Akhnoor, managed by the District Gurudwara Parbhanda Committee Jammu.

The ceremony was graced by the MLA of the Akhnoor constituency, Mohan Lal Bhagat. He appreciated the initiative of the Sarbat Da Bhala Trust and the role of Ranvir Singh, Joint Secretary DGPC Jammu, in opening such facilities for the people of Akhnoor and its adjoining areas at discounted rates.

Dr. Daljeet Singh Gill highlighted the trust's efforts in running medical schemes to provide clinical tests at afford-



MLA Akhnoor constituency, Mohan Lal Bhagat inaugurating the centre.

able rates across different parts of the country. He further stated that approximately 125 Sunny Oberoi Clinical Laboratories are already operational, and the trust aims to open many more such laboratories.

Dr. Gill assured the gathering that the trust would add more facilities in this center,

such as digital X-ray, ultrasound, physiotherapy, and dental centers, to ensure comprehensive health services are available under one roof.

Ranjit Singh Tohra, President DGPC Jammu, also appreciated the role of Dr. S. P. S. Oberoi in dedicating such centers across the country and making tests available

at very low rates.

Balvinder Singh, Vice President DGPC Jammu, while appreciating the efforts of Ranvir Singh in bringing this health center to the people of his area, urged Dr. D. S. Gill to open more centers in collaboration with DGPC Jammu in Jammu City and the border areas of Jammu.

Gurmit Singh, member DGPC Jammu, and Ajit Singh, Chairman Sikh Coordination Committee, also appreciated the trust's efforts in providing such facilities at cheaper rates.

Other prominent personalities present at the occasion included Surjit Singh, Chairman Arjun Singh, K.P. Singh, Shakti Singh, Kuldeep Kour, Dr. Gafoor; members of Kabir Sabha, Rajput Sabha, Sant Ravi Dass Sabha Akhnoor; and former Panchs and Sarpanchs.

Dy CM launches work on Chewdara Beerwah Bridge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BEERWAH: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chaudhary, on Thursday launched work on Chewdara Beerwah bridge being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 14.15 crore.

The project, being executed under NABARD, will cater to a large chunk of commuters and general public as well, augmenting the connectivity in the area to great extent.

MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar; MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani; MLA Khanshab, Saifuddin Bhat; DC Budgam; Chief Engineer R&B; concerned district officers and eminent citizens of Beerwah attended the event. While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed to holistic and sustained development of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that a new era of progress and



Deputy CM Surinder Chaudhary launching bridge work at Beerwah.

prosperity has been ushered in the region with tremendous development in every nook and corner of the UT.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the executing agencies to address the challenges impeding the project's advancement. "Work should be completed within the stipulated time so that cost escalation does not take place and the vital project is dedicated to the people in

time", the Deputy Chief Minister maintained and directed for a synergistic approach to remove bottlenecks, if any.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with several deputations at Town hall and reiterated the Government's commitment towards speedy development besides prompt public service delivery and redressal of grievances.