

Kashmir Convener



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Jammu and Kashmir Equally Important: CM Omar Abdullah

KC NEWS NETWORK

● 'Darbar Move is symbol of J&K's unity and inclusivity'

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held an extensive interaction with members of Jammu's civil society at his official residence on Wazarat Road. This marks his first meeting with Jammu's civil society since assuming office as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

A similar interaction was held on 30th October this year with civil society representatives in Kashmir.

The interaction programme was attended and addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani. Senior officials from the civil and police administration were also present during the outreach session.

He reiterated that his government represents all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of their political affiliations.

Addressing concerns of regional bias, he stated, "This government is not just for those who voted for the National Conference; it is the government of every

The Chief Minister highlighted his deliberate decision to appoint a Deputy Chief Minister from Jammu, not out of compulsion but to underscore that



citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. Despite attempts by some to play with emotions of Jammu after the elections and harping on issue of regional divide, we have consistently prioritized inclusivity and equity."

Jammu is as integral to this government as Kashmir.

Addressing the concerns about the Darbar Move, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his government's commitment restore this biannual

administrative tradition.

"Some things cannot be weighed merely in financial terms. The Darbar Move symbolizes the unity and inclusivity of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a tradition that ensures governance remains accessible to both regions."

He dismissed financial arguments against this 150-year-old practice which has now been stopped, stating, "The role of the government is not to focus solely on profit. Our responsibility is to serve and ensure balanced development across regions. Ending the Darbar Move would only alienate the people of the two regions from one another and harm the collective unity we strive to preserve."

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives of women's organizations, non-governmental organizations, ex-servicemen, Kashmiri Pandits, traders, hoteliers, tourism players, transport associations, religious leaders, pensioners

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We need environment-friendly innovations for sustainable development: LG Sinha

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UTTAR PRADESH: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said "We need cutting edge technologies to be the leading nation in technological inventions and at the same time we need environment-friendly innovations for sustainable development. To achieve the goal of Developed Nation by 2047, we need knowledge, capability and commitment of innovators, collaborations, support for new ideas, discoveries, marketing and commercialization of innovations."

He said while addressing the young innovators participating in 'Smart India Hackathon 2024 - Hardware Edition' Grand Finale at Galgotias University, Greater Noida.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the pioneer initiative by Government of India, celebrating the spirit of

innovation and collaboration, and providing a dynamic platform for brightest minds of the country to develop and showcase their creative

develop successful innovation. Highlighting the transformation in innovation landscape of the country in the past 10 years, under the



solutions to real-world problems. "I see Smart India Hackathon as a powerful instrument to bridge the gap between educational institutions and industries," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In the next 4 days during the Hackathon, participants from across the country will work on critical problem statements to

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor said, India has emerged as one of the global leaders in new inventions, which are seen as critical to the future well-being of society and to drive the nation's economic growth.

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JKHC seeks govt response on controversial reservation policy

Hearing scheduled for December 27

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has issued a notice to the J&K government, seeking its response to a petition challenging the



region's current reservation policy. The move comes amid ongoing public debate over the fairness and rationale of the policy.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the petition, filed by Dawar Ali with the support of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Society, raises questions about the transparency

and equity of the existing framework. The plea, listed as WP(C) 2864/2024 and CM(7835/2024), was argued by Team JUS Advocates & Solicitors Front from New Delhi, led by Advocate Junaid Mohammad Junaid.

The petition demands the annulment of the current reservation policy and calls for the establishment of an independent panel to reform and rationalise the reservation system within a defined timeframe.

A bench comprising Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani directed the J&K government to submit its reply within three weeks. The court has also clubbed this case with a related petition, WP(C) 2762/2024. The next hearing has been scheduled for December 27, 2024.

Advocate Junaid said it is important to ensure constitutional fairness in the reservation system. "This petition does not aim to target any specific group but seeks to

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PM Modi Interacts with NIT Srinagar Innovators via VC

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SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with young innovators during the 7th edition of Grand Finale of the 7th edition of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024, including the SIH team at NIT Srinagar, via video conferencing mode.

According to the Associated News Bureau (ANB), for the first time, NIT Srinagar is hosting the Grand Finale, which commenced on Wednesday as one of 51 centers across the nation.

During the event, the SIH team from BMS Institute of Technology,

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"Ambiguity" over salaries of MLAs: Speaker Assembly seeks clarification

Nasir Azam

SRINAGAR: Amid ambiguity over salaries of newly elected Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has sought clarification from Jammu & Kashmir Government on the matter.

Sources within the J&K government disclosed that the Speaker has written to the administrative secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs over the matter due to confusion in the legal



provisions regarding salaries of MLAs.

"The Speaker has asked the government to clarify in light of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, whose section 31 states that LG should determine salaries of MLAs till Jammu

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Govt plans to allow satellite phones at high altitude areas: Dir Tourism

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Director Tourism, Raja Yaqoob on Wednesday said government is actively planning to permit the use of satellite phones for tourists visiting the areas like Tarsar Marsar and other remote trekking spots in the Valley.

The move comes in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Tourism to enhance communication accessibility in these

high-altitude areas, ensuring the safety of visitors, Yaqoob said.

Speaking with reporters in Srinagar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Raja Yaqoob said the "network blackouts affect many trekkers and adventure seekers in these regions. Allowing satellite phones is at an advanced stage of planning and is similar to measures already taken in

Puducherry."

The official added that Kashmir has seen a major increase in adventure tourism with treks like Tarsar Marsar and Kashmir Great Lakes, attracting growing numbers of domestic and international visitors.

Furthermore, Raja Yaqoob shared the steady influx of international visitors, sharing, "We are welcoming 200-500 international tourists daily, even

though the snowfall has been delayed this year." He also spoke about this year's first international marathon, which saw participation from 59 international visitors from 13 countries.

He also highlighted the government's investments aimed at improving trekking infrastructure and adventure sports, including the

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44 J&K residents among 75 evacuated from Syria: MEA

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SRINAGAR: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday said that the Government of India has evacuated 75 Indian nationals including 44 J&K residents from Syria, following recent developments in the country.

The evacuees included 44 'zaireen' from Jammu & Kashmir who were stranded at Saida Zainab, it said, adding that all Indian nationals have safely crossed over to Lebanon and will return by available commercial flights to India.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), it also said that the evacuation, coordinated by the embassies of India in Damascus and Beirut, was put into effect following the assessment of the security situation and requests from Indian nationals in Syria.

The MEA said that the Government of India accords the highest priority to the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad.

"Indian nationals remaining in Syria are advised to stay in touch with the Indian Embassy in Damascus at their emergency helpline number +963 993385973 (also on WhatsApp) and email ID (hoc.damascus@mea.gov.in) for updates.

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Plains Likely To Receive Season's First Snowfall

● MeT predicts cold weather for next 10 days



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: The higher reaches of Kashmir including a tourist destination, Sonamarg experienced fresh snowfall on Wednesday while as per the forecast; a few areas of plains would likely receive the season's first snowfall in the next 24 hours.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), almost four inches of snowfall accumulated at the picturesque Sonamarg area today, bringing down the mercury further across the Valley.

An independent forecaster has predicted rains and snow showers at many places of

Kashmir for the next 24 hours.

According to the forecast, light to moderate snowfall is expected at higher reaches including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodhpatri, Pahalgam, Peer Ki Gali, Sinthan top, Razdan top, Zojila pass and other upper reaches during the period.

"Light rain is expected at some plains of Kashmir with slight possibility of season's first light snowfall at a few plains 45% chances during the next 24 hours," the forecast reads.

The local Meteorological department has however predicted no significant weather activity till December 20th.

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Govt school students to receive textbooks soon: Sakina Masood Itoo

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of commencement of the new academic year, Education Minister, Sakina Itoo Wednesday said that the process of distribution of textbooks will start soon.

The minister said that the government will deliver the textbooks to the deserving students at earliest. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Itoo said, "We are in the process of distributing free textbooks to the students. We will soon begin distributing the textbooks."

She further said that some textbooks were already available in the stores at JKBOSE.

In the meantime, officials of JKBOSE said that some textbooks were already available in the stores at Jammu and Kashmir divisions respectively.

"We have ordered publishing of the books as per the requisitions received by the concerned

Chief Education Officers (CEOs)," the official said. He said, "We have received some of the titles



and soon we will start the distribution process."

Pertinently, the academics of the students in government schools has been badly hit in previous years as the

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No Possibility Of Alliance With Congress For Delhi Polls: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday once again ruled out the possibility of an alliance with the Congress for the Delhi assembly polls, amid reports that the two parties could be jointly contesting the elections.

In a post on X, Kejriwal said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be fighting the election on its own strength in Delhi.

"There is no possibility of any alliance with the Congress," the former Delhi chief minister said.

His reaction comes amid media reports that the two parties were likely to have a tie up for the 70-member Delhi Assembly polls due in February.

Earlier this month also, Kejriwal had ruled out the possibility of the alliance between the AAP and the Congress for the Delhi elections.

The recent buzz over alliance between the two Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) partners was fuelled by cancellation of the Congress'



'Nyay Chaupal' event scheduled on Wednesday in which party leader Rahul Gandhi was to participate.

The event was to be held as culmination of the "Nyay Yatra" taken out by the Delhi Congress across Delhi ahead of the assembly polls.

Also, Kejriwal on Tuesday met NCP chief Sharad Pawar amid the rising demand in the INDIA block to appoint West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as head of the political grouping currently chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. However, neither Kejriwal nor AAP

have so far commented on the discussions in the meeting.

These developments were seen as the Congress and AAP making their moves cautiously in view of the upcoming Delhi polls so that the future options remain open, sources said.

The AAP and Congress fought the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi together earlier this year but lost on all the seven seats against the BJP. However, they failed to reach a seat-sharing agreement ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls in October despite several rounds of talks.

The AAP has so far released two lists of its total 31 candidates so far. The list of remaining candidates is expected to come soon.

Out of power in Delhi since 1998, the BJP is making all-out efforts to wrest power from the AAP. In the 2015 and 2020 Delhi Assembly polls, the AAP won 67 and 62 seats and the BJP won three and eight seats respectively. The Congress drew a blank.

NIA Raids 9 Locations In Punjab, Haryana In Gangster-Terror Nexus Case

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at nine locations in Punjab and Haryana on Wednesday (December 11, 2024) as part of its ongoing investigation into the gangster-terror nexus case.

The raids are underway at eight locations in Punjab and one in Haryana since early Wednesday following a tip-off against suspects linked to the case. The raids are reportedly aimed at cracking down on individuals and networks suspected of facilitating criminal activities linked to terrorist organizations.

This follows the agency's intensified efforts to curb the growing nexus between gangsters and terror groups operating in the region. Last month, the agency in a massive crackdown on the terror-gangster nexus case had also conducted extensive searches at premises linked with associates of the Davinder Bambiha syndicate at nine locations in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

NIA teams then conducted searches at the premises of suspects in the terror-gangster syndicate case in Palwal, Faridabad and Gurugram

districts of Haryana, Jalandhar district of Punjab, and Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh.

A host of incriminating materials, including mobiles and digital devices, banking transactions



and property-related documents, were seized during the searches. The searches were part of NIA's continuous crackdown on terror outfits engaged in criminal conspiracies to smuggle terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition, narcotics, explosives etc, into India.

RS Chairman's Partisan Behaviour Led Us To Move Notice For His Removal As VP: Oppn Parties

NEW DELHI: Several opposition parties on Wednesday said the "partisan" conduct of Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar prompted them to move a notice for his removal as vice president and alleged that

them from speaking in the House. Khage also claimed that Dhankhar himself is responsible for the disruptions in the House.

"The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct has been contrary to the dignity of the post he holds. He

held the post previously never indulged in politics and remained unbiased.

"The notice for the Rajya Sabha chairman's removal is not about personal grievances or political battles.

We are fed up with his behaviour and partiality. That is why we have given the notice for his removal," he said.

Kharge said the opposition parties have nothing against Dhankhar,

"but he left us with no option but to go ahead with the notice for his removal".

"The Rajya Sabha chairman's conduct in the House has harmed the country's dignity," he alleged.

DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said there is a blatant attack on the country's democracy in Parliament by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),

while Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Nadimul Haque said he agrees with the leader of opposition. "We are not allowed to express ourselves in the Rajya Sabha," Haque said.



politics has taken precedence over rules in the Upper House of Parliament.

Addressing a press conference at the Constitution Club here, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that Dhankhar is working as a government spokesperson and acting like a school headmaster, often sermonising experienced opposition leaders and preventing

targets opposition leaders and often praises the government," Kharge said.

"Politics has taken precedence over rules in the Rajya Sabha and the chairman has indulged in partisan behaviour," he alleged.

The Congress chief said since 1952, no resolution has been brought under Article 67 of the Constitution against the vice president as those who

Illegal Rohingya immigrant bought land in Pune, built house: Police

PUNE: A Rohingya man from Myanmar arrested earlier this year for allegedly living in India illegally

and built a house using earnings from his supari-selling business, a police official said on Wednesday.



had bought land in Pune area and built a house for himself and his family, investigation has found.

In July, Pimpri-Chinchwad Police arrested two Rohingya couples for illegal entry and stay in the country.

Probe revealed that one of them, Muzammil Khan (45), had purchased a small plot of land in a Dehu Road locality for Rs 80,000,

He and his wife had acquired Aadhaar and PAN cards besides Indian passports.

They had been living in the area since 2013, police found.

Khan told police he fled Myanmar in 2012 with his family, seeking shelter in a refugee camp in Bangladesh before crossing the border illegally and entering

West Bengal.

After arriving in Pune, he worked in a company and later got into supari trade.

The couple acquired Aadhaar and PAN cards from Bhiwandi in Maharashtra.

The land was purchased without legal documentation from a woman named Kamble and there is no record of the transaction in official land records, the police official said.

"Khan had obtained Indian passports for himself, his wife, and two children, and was planning to visit Mecca,"

the officer added.

Though he had trained as a Maulana or cleric in Myanmar, he did not seem to have put the training to use while living in Pune.

The Khan couple's arrest followed the arrest of Ismail alias Shahid Shaikh, a Rohingya who and his wife were suspected to have entered India illegally.

Both the couples were booked under the Passport Act and the Foreigners Act. A chargesheet has been filed in the case, and the accused are currently out on bail. Authorities have initiated proceedings to cancel their passports.

Maharashtra cabinet expansion likely by Dec 14; Fadnavis to meet PM in Delhi

MUMBAI: The cabinet expansion of the Devendra Fadnavis-led Maharashtra government is likely to take place by December 14, a senior BJP leader said on Wednesday.

Fadnavis left for Delhi on Wednesday, his office said, adding it was a courtesy visit, the first after becoming the chief minister, as he



would be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Talking to PTI, a BJP leader said the Shiv Sena would not get the home department and was also unlikely to be allocated the revenue portfolio.

Talks are getting delayed because three parties (Mahayuti allies BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP) are involved, the politician said.

"The cabinet expansion is likely by December 14. The allocation of home department to Shiv Sena is ruled out. The Shiv Sena may get urban development, but is unlikely to get revenue," said the leader, who did not wish to be named.

The BJP is expected to keep 21 to 22 ministerial berths, including the CM's post, the leader said, adding that four to five ministerial berths may be kept vacant.

Shiv Sena leader and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde was not travelling to the national capital, as per his office.

On December 5, Fadnavis took oath as CM along with Shinde and NCP leader Ajit Pawar as his deputies, after the Mahayuti alliance won 230 of the 288 seats in the state assembly polls.

The Maharashtra cabinet can have a maximum of 43 ministers, including the chief minister.

Sikh preacher Dhadrianwale booked for rape, murder: Punjab Police tells HC

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Police has registered a case against Sikh preacher Ranjit Singh Dhadrianwale in a 2012 case of alleged rape and murder of a woman in Patiala, the Punjab and Haryana High Court was informed.

The FIR under section 302 (murder), 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Passiana Police station in Patiala on December 7, according to an affidavit filed by Punjab Police Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav before the high court on Tuesday.

The FIR was lodged on a complaint filed by the victim's brother, a Patiala resident.

Sikh preacher Dhadrianwale, who heads Parmeshwar Dwar gurdwara, a dera in Shekhupura village in Patiala, has a large following in Punjab and among the Punjabi diaspora abroad.

Dhadrianwale, in a video message, said he would cooperate with the police investigation.

"They (the family) have moved the high court. They have a doubt and they should clear their doubt. The high court has said investigate the case after registering the FIR. It may take some time but the truth will come out. I have

full faith in the high court and the Punjab Police," the Sikh preacher said. The DGP's affidavit came after the victim's brother alleged that his sister was raped and murdered. He further alleged that no action was taken by police at the time of the incident.



The petition of the woman's brother was taken up in November and during the previous hearing, the bench presided over by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu had asked the DGP to explain as to what action has been taken against officials who handled the case in 2012.

Modi Govt Believes In Democratising Technology: Vaishnaw In Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI: The Government on Wednesday said it is "open to the idea" of bringing in a new law to regulate artificial intelligence but a "lot of consensus" is required for it.

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw also said that the Modi Government believes in "democratising technology" which was not the case during the Congress rule, remarks that triggered protests by opposition benches.

Responding to a supplementary on whether the Government plans to bring a law on regulating artificial intelligence, Vaishnaw also said that fake narratives is a major challenge faced by societies across the world today.

He said accountability has to be established in the society and the legal framework has to change for which "lots of consensus" is required because as on the one hand there is freedom of speech and creating of a real, proper news network on the other.

"There are things which need to be debated

and if the House agrees and if there is a consensus in the society, we can come up with a new law.



We are open to the idea," he said.

The minister said the Government is helping set up AI data labs in tier 2 and tier three cities.

He also informed the House that 8.6 lakh candidates have enrolled in the future skill platform. After days of disruptions, the Lok Sabha could take up the Question Hour on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present during the Question Hour.

Honored to have been invited by Prime Minister Modi to commemorate our grandfather Raj Kapoor's legacy: Kareena

NEW DELHI: A day after the members of Raj Kapoor's family met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan thanked him for inviting them to "commemorate the extraordinary life and legacy" of their grandfather ahead of the cinema icon's birth centenary.

The Kapoor family, including actors Ranbir Kapoor, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, and Neetu Kapoor, met the prime minister on Tuesday.

December 14, 2024 marks the 100th birth anniversary of Raj Kapoor, an actor, editor, a director, and a producer, known for classics such as "Aag", "Awara", "Barsaat", "Shree 420", and "Bobby".

According to Kareena's Instagram post shared on Wednesday, the PM invited the Kapoor clan to New Delhi ahead of the milestone anniversary.

"We are deeply humbled and honored to have

been invited by the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to commemorate the extraordinary life and legacy of our grandfather, the legendary Raj Kapoor.

"Thank you Shri Modi ji for such a special afternoon. Your warmth, attention, and support in celebrating this milestone meant the world to us," she captioned a series of pictures of the family with the prime minister.

The Kapoor kin, including Rima Jain, Karisma Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Saif Ali Khan, Aadar Jain, Armaan Jain and Anissa Malhotra, met Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday and invited the prime minister for the Raj Kapoor Film Festival, a source earlier told PTI.

The family members expressed hope that Modi would attend the film festival, they said.

Spanning 101 cinemas across 34 cities from



December 13 to 15, the gala — organised by PVR INOX Limited and the Film Heritage Foundation — will be one of the most extensive retrospectives ever dedicated to Raj Kapoor's filmography.

In her post, Kareena also said: "As we celebrate 100 glorious years of Dadaji's artistry, vision, and contribution to Indian cinema, we honour the timeless impact of his legacy, which continues to inspire us and generations to come."

"We are proud to showcase his iconic films and remember the impact he had on Indian cinema with the 'Raj Kapoor 100 Film Festival'. Dec 13-15, 2024 | 10 films | 40 cities | 135 cinemas. #100YearsOfRajKapoor," said the actor, who is the younger daughter of Raj Kapoor's eldest son Randhir Kapoor.

The other family members also shared the same post on their social media pages.

Wildlife Department Cracks Down on Poaching at Wular Lake

ABRAR NABI

SRINAGAR: The Department of Wildlife Protection, Wetland Division, has launched a series of raids in the Srinagar area following social media videos allegedly showing individuals involved in poaching activities at Wular Lake.



The action followed in response to social media videos showing individuals involved in illegal activities. The videos depicted individuals carrying firearms, suggesting involvement in wildlife hunting, prompting swift action from the authorities.

In a first of its kind, the department on December 10 conducted coordinated raids at multiple locations, aiming to apprehend those involved. During the raids, one accused from Habak area of Srinagar was arrested and a gun was seized from his house, while various decoys and gears used during illegal hunting were seized during the search operation at premises of other accused from Lal bazar area of Srinagar.

Deputy Conservator Wetlands, Altaf Hussain, stated that an investigation into the matter has commenced, and summons have been issued to other suspects for further inquiry.

“The department is committed to taking strict action against poaching and ensuring the protection of wildlife,” Hussain said, emphasizing a policy of zero tolerance toward illegal activities in protected areas.

The raids are being seen as a significant step in combating poaching activities and preserving the ecological balance of the region’s wetlands, (KNS).

At B’Pora Kissan Mela, Farmers encouraged to adopt modern techniques, market linkages for better livelihoods

BANDIPORA: The Department of Agriculture, Bandipora, on Wednesday organized a Mega Kissan Mela at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora aimed at fostering agricultural growth and empowering local farmers.

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad Qadri highlighted the significant progress made in the agriculture and allied sectors, underscoring the vital role of agriculture in employment generation and the local economy.

He emphasized that agriculture is the key to employment and stressed the importance of controlled farming for sustainable growth.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the benefits of adopting modern agricultural technologies and establishing market linkages for agricultural products to boost production and improve farmers' livelihoods.

In his address, M.A. Qadri encouraged farmers to take full advantage of the various government schemes, including the PM Kisan scheme, which aims to empower farmers financially.

He also highlighted the significance of social security schemes provided by the government to ensure the welfare of farmers.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner M.A.Qadri, along with ADC Zaffar Husson Shawl inspected the various stalls set up by the Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, and other allied departments.

These stalls showcased the latest farming technologies, agricultural practices, and products related to different sectors of agriculture to provide an opportunity for farmers to directly interact with experts and learn about the advancements in agriculture and allied fields

On the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora Javid Ahmad Samoon provided an overview of the achievements of the agriculture department and highlighted the impact of various schemes aimed at uplifting the agricultural sector.

District officers from Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora shared their valuable insights, progress, and experiences in their respective fields, highlighting the collaborative efforts in boosting the agricultural sector.

On the occasion, farm machinery at subsidized rates were also handed over to farmers under various government schemes to enhance agricultural productivity by making modern farming equipments more accessible to farmers.

The event also featured success stories from progressive farmers, who shared their innovative approaches and strategies for success in agriculture, offering inspiration to others present during the programme.

Among others, the event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Zaffar Husson Shawl, CPO Mohammad Maqbool Lone, and officers from agriculture and allied departments, along with a large gathering of farmers and agricultural enthusiasts.



CEO Bandipora Directs Schools to Adhere Strictly to JKBOSE Curriculum

BANDIPORA: The Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora on Wednesday warned the private schools for forcing parents to purchase books other than approved and published by JKBOSE.

In a circular issued on Wednesday, CEO instructed all government and private schools affiliated with the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) in the district to strictly implement the curriculum and textbooks prescribed by JKBOSE from the upcoming academic session 2025-26.

CEO Bandipora instructed the Schools not to compel parents or students to purchase books or materials other than those approved and published by JKBOSE. “Any non-compliance with these directives will invite strict disciplinary actions, which may include penalties or other statutory measures”.

The directive, issued in compliance with a notification by JKBOSE under the JKBOSE Act 1975 and subsequent amendments under the Reorganization Act 2019, aims to ensure uniformity in the education system and prevent the imposition of unauthorized study material.

The circular also advises parents to report instances where schools enforce the use of unauthorized textbooks to the concerned Zonal Education Offices. School heads have been cautioned to adhere rigorously to the guidelines, with a stern warning that deviations will be dealt with seriously under the rules.

Officials said this step is expected to bring clarity and uniformity to the curriculum followed across schools, benefiting both students and parents in the district.

Forest Fire Ravages Bandipora for Four Days, Hundreds of Trees Lost

SUHAIL RATHER

BANDIPORA: A massive forest fire has been raging in multiple forest belts across North Kashmir's Bandipora district for the past four days, causing extensive damage to the district's green gold.



Despite efforts by locals and forest officials, the flames remain out of control and continue to spread to nearby forest compartments.

Locals reported that the fire is visible from major roads in the area and has already consumed hundreds of trees. “Villagers and Forest Protection Force officers have been working tirelessly to douse the flames, but the situation remains grim,” a local resident said.

Authorities have attributed the fire to the prolonged dry spell, which has allowed the flames to spread rapidly across compartments. “Efforts are underway to control the forest fire using the latest techniques, but the dry weather and remote location of the villages are making the task challenging,” an official said.

Earlier this month, forest fires were reported in Doban, Aloosa, Konan, and Ajas forests, prompting emergency deployment of personnel and machinery to control the flames. However, locals allege that the response from the forest department has been inadequate, with fires continuing to cause substantial damage to the region's ecosystem.

“This is not the first time we are witnessing such devastation. Forest fires have become a recurring problem, yet the authorities fail to take proactive measures to prevent them,” said a local from Ajas.

Notably, a massive blaze in Ajas forests last week caused significant damage to thousands of trees and remains uncontrolled. Similarly, fires in Aloosa, Doban, and Konan earlier this month wreaked havoc, lasting for days and destroying vast stretches of forest cover.

The locals criticized the forest department for its perceived failure to take tangible steps to address the fires. They expressed frustration over the lack of preparedness and the apparent inability to extinguish the flames promptly, despite the escalating frequency of such incidents.

Repeated attempts to reach the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bandipora for a comment were unsuccessful.

HAWS Commemorates 75 Years of Preparing 'Mountain Warriors' for India's Defense

SRINAGAR: The High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) marked its Platinum Jubilee on Wednesday celebrating 75 years of excellence in training soldiers for operations in the challenging terrains of mountains, snowbound areas, and glaciated regions of India.

Established in 1948 as the Army Ski Training School, HAWS has grown into a premier institution, training members of the Indian Army, Central Paramilitary Forces, Special Missions, and personnel from friendly foreign nations.

An official spokesperson said the grand event commemorated the school's legacy of contributions to national defense, mountaineering, and adventure sports. During the celebration, the institution reflected on its historical role in significant military operations such as Operation Meghdoot (1984) and Operation Vijay (1999).

The event paid tribute to the “Mountain Warriors” whose courage, training, and determination have been instrumental in protecting India's interests. Defence Spokesperson in Srinagar said Over the years, HAWS has earned recognition not only for its military training but also for its achievements in adventure sports and climbing.

“With numerous gallantry awards, commendation plaques, and podium finishes, the school has become a symbol of excellence, often referred to as the “White Devils” for its ability to thrive in the most extreme conditions”.

The Platinum Jubilee celebration was an opportunity to honor the heroes who shaped its legacy, while also renewing the school's commitment to high-altitude warfare training. As it continues to serve as a cornerstone of India's defense preparedness, HAWS is acknowledged as a global leader in specialized mountain warfare training.

The event concluded with a sense of pride, camaraderie, and a commitment to carrying forward the spirit of the “Mountain Warriors” for future generations, following in the footsteps of its distinguished predecessors.



Novo Nordisk India and SKIMS Partner to Advance Clinical Trials in Jammu & Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Novo Nordisk India Pvt. Ltd. and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on advancing clinical trials in India. This partnership represents a significant stride towards enhancing healthcare research and patient outcomes in the region, combining Novo Nordisk's expertise in innovative therapeutics with SKIMS' state-of-the-art medical infrastructure.

The MoU, valid for three years, aims to address unmet medical needs through groundbreaking clinical trials in cardiology, obesity, nephrology, and rare diseases. Novo Nordisk will contribute by building research capacity at SKIMS, providing resources, training, and project-related equipment. SKIMS will expedite the approval process for trials, facilitate patient participation, and ensure patient safety and convenience.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikrant Shrotriya, Managing Director and Corporate Vice President, Novo Nordisk India, stated, “This partnership underscores our commitment to redefining clinical research in India. Together with SKIMS, we aspire to bridge gaps in access to advanced medicines and deliver transformative healthcare solutions for underserved communities.”

Dr. Mohammed Ashraf Ganie, Director, SKIMS, highlighted the collaboration's significance, saying, “By working with Novo Nordisk, SKIMS aims to elevate clinical research standards in the region and bring world-class healthcare closer to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.”

The initiative, the first of its kind in the region, reflects a shared vision to drive innovation in clinical research and improve healthcare accessibility. By combining global expertise with local insights, the partnership sets a benchmark for clinical trials and opens new avenues for transformative healthcare interventions in India.



Tourism Researcher, Promoter Shabnam Bashir felicitated for promoting sustainable tourism in JK

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of International Mountain Day, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri felicitated Shabnam Bashir Gujjar Chechi, a prominent tourism researcher and promoter, for her exceptional work in promoting sustainable tourism and eco-tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The felicitation took place during the International Mountain Day celebrations in Srinagar, which focused on the theme “Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future - Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth.”

This theme highlights the innovative solutions that mountain communities have developed over centuries to adapt to challenging environments, combat climate change, reduce poverty, and preserve biodiversity and ecosystems recognized for her significant contributions to the sustainable development of tourism, particularly through initiatives that focus on preserving the ecological balance of the region while promoting tourism. “Her efforts aim to empower local communities and raise awareness about sustainable practices in the tourism sector”.

Shabnam Bashir Gujjar Chechi, from Quilmuqam in Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, is a tourism researcher, social activist, and author. From past several years, she has worked tirelessly to promote sustainable tourism and preserve her community's culture. Shabnam wrote Unexplored Kashmir, which highlights Bandipora's hidden beauty, and organized events like the Winter Tourism Tribal Festival and winter carnival at Athwato.

She focuses on empowering women and youth through initiatives like tribal girls' trekking groups and the Drug-Free Bandipora campaign. In 2024, she helped set up more than 50 homestays in Bandipora, providing local jobs and encouraging eco-tourism. “Through her efforts, Shabnam aims to make Bandipora a well-known tourist destination,” officials said.

The International Mountain Day celebration was graced by key dignitaries, including the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the Director of Tourism, DC Baramulla, Fazul Haseeb, and the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation.

Officials said the 2024 theme for International Mountain Day underscored the importance of innovation, adaptation, and youth empowerment as essential strategies for safeguarding mountain ecosystems and communities. It also emphasized the need to develop resilient, sustainable solutions for the future.

He said the event aimed to inspire individuals, especially the youth, to take proactive steps in preserving the natural beauty of mountain regions and contributing to the development of sustainable solutions.



Kashmir’s Talent Will Shine Like Kohinoor, Says Jubin Nautiyal

Srinagar: Renowned Indian playback singer Jubin Nautiyal, during his visit to the picturesque Gulmarg, praised Kashmir's unparalleled beauty and vibrant atmosphere. He expressed optimism about the region's artistic potential, saying, “Kashmir's talent is going to flourish like a Kohinoor.”

Speaking to reporters in Gulmarg, Nautiyal, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), described the love and warmth of Kashmiris as unmatched. While acknowledging Kashmir as an iconic tourist destination, he expressed confidence that its charm and appeal would continue to grow in the years to come.

Accompanied by his family, Nautiyal shared his joy at experiencing live snowfall, calling it a magical and fortunate moment. “I consider myself lucky to witness snowfall in Gulmarg. Although I've been to Kashmir before, this visit is purely for leisure with my family,” he said, adding that his earlier trips were mostly for professional commitments.

Nautiyal lauded the artistic talent emerging from the Valley, emphasizing its bright future. “Kashmir's talent is destined to flourish. Even in Mumbai, we frequently hear about the exceptional creativity from this region. In today's digital age, talent cannot remain hidden—it shines and thrives,” he remarked. “Everything from Kashmir is like a diamond, a Kohinoor.”

E-Mobility Roadmap

The launch of the “e-Mobility R&D Roadmap for India” is a pivotal moment in the country's journey towards sustainable and self-reliant transportation. With a clear focus on reducing import dependency and fostering domestic innovation, the roadmap sets a clear pathway to achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) in the automotive sector.

India's ambitious goals of achieving a 45% reduction in emission intensity by 2030 and energy independence by 2047 are aligned with its commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2070. Electric vehicles (EVs) will play a crucial role in this vision, and the R&D roadmap addresses the critical areas necessary to support this transition. By categorizing research projects into Energy Storage Cells, EV Aggregates, Materials and Recycling, Charging and Refueling, the roadmap provides a structured approach to tackle the challenges and leverage opportunities within the e-mobility sector.

The current heavy reliance on imports within the e-mobility value chain is a significant hurdle. The establishment of the CGeM and its role in devising technical roadmaps illustrates a strategic approach to accelerating the transition from fossil fuel-based transportation to electric mobility. This shift is not just an environmental imperative but also a significant economic opportunity for India to assert its leadership in the global automotive market. By leveraging existing infrastructure and resources, India can feasibly implement these projects within the set timelines, ensuring that the country is well-prepared to adopt and innovate new technologies as they emerge. Experts time and again highlight the crucial role of the automobile sector in India's GDP and its fast growth trajectory. Aligning this progress with the Net-Zero vision necessitates a culture of R&D and innovation-driven growth. The e-Mobility R&D Roadmap is not just a strategic document but a visionary blueprint that calls for collective action from all stakeholders to transform India into a hub of sustainable and advanced automotive technologies. The Roadmap for India is a landmark initiative that promises to reshape the future of transportation in the country. As India embarks on this transformative journey, the collaborative efforts of government, industry, and academia will be key to realizing the ambitious goals set forth in this visionary plan.

Anti-India Conspiracies in Bangladesh: Rising Violence and Threats Along the Border



Priyanka Saurabh

There is a growing wave of concern at the global level against the ongoing violence against Hindus in Bangladesh. This issue has been raised even in the British Parliament. Now in America too, preparations are being made to hold a big demonstration against it near the White House, the President's House. Despite this, the interim government of Mohammad Yunus in Bangladesh is not ready to give up its anti-India agenda under pressure from fundamentalists to China-Pakistan. Now the Yunus government has taken another step, which is going to give a big shock to India. The Yunus government has canceled an agreement related to mobile internet connectivity made with India during the tenure of Sheikh Hasina. Through this agreement, India was trying to increase the speed and coverage of the Internet in its Northeast states, but now this hope has been shattered. Amidst the attacks on ISKCON temples in Bangladesh, such reports are also coming out that the Pakistani intelligence agency ISI is engaged in preparing terrorists against India from among the Rohingya refugees present in Bangladesh.

Ethnic cleansing of Hindus is going on in Bangladesh. After 53 years, Pakistan is sending arms to Bangladesh. Meetings are also taking place between Khalida Zia and Pakistani officials. The same thing is happening in Bangladesh as first Babur did and then happened with Hindus in Kashmir. Actually, Pakistan is targeting India using Bangladesh. That too from three sides. The first victim of Pakistan is Bangladeshi Hindus, who are being tortured so much that every definition falls short. The second part is helping the Bangladeshi army, through which Pakistan wants to open another front against India, and the third is a boycott of Indian goods...so that India gets hurt economically. Bangladesh has called back its top diplomats in Kolkata (West Bengal) and Tripura (Agartala) for 'consultation.' At the same time, the photo of Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has also been removed from the currency notes.

Mobile internet connectivity is not very good in many states of India's North-East region. For this reason, India had signed an agreement with Bangladesh during the government of Sheikh Hasina. Under this agreement, Bangladesh was to be used as a regional digital hub, in which 'bandwidth transit' facility was to be provided for data transmission in the North East states by establishing internet circuits on the Bangladeshi border. Bharti Airtel was to do this work in collaboration with Bangladeshi companies Summit Communications and Fiber at Home. This proposal was presented by these companies before the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, which got in-principle approval.

The Yunus government has now withdrawn the in-principle approval of this agreement. While issuing the order to cancel it, it has argued that Bangladesh will not get any economic benefit from this. However, this decision is not only anti-India. In fact, Mohammad Farid Khan, chairman of Summit Communications, a company associated with Airtel to create this transit link, also has ties with Sheikh Hasina's Awami League. He is the younger brother of Awami League MP Fariq Khan. This is also believed to be the reason behind the decision of the Yunus government.

In Bangladesh, a mob of extremists has once again targeted the ISKCON temple. Radharaman Das, Vice President of ISKCON Kolkata, said that a mob of extremists has attacked the ISKCON temple in Namhatta, Dhaka.

He said that after attacking the Namhatta temple on Friday-Saturday night, extremist Muslims sprinkled oil on all the idols and set them on fire. The entire temple has been burnt. This temple is located in Dhaur village

Rohingya refugees into terrorists in Bangladesh. These Rohingya terrorists are being prepared to attack India. 53 years ago, lakhs of Bangladeshis sacrificed their lives for freedom from the cruel rule of Pakistan. But those



under the Turag police station of the Dhaka district. Attacks on people belonging to the Vaishnav sect are increasing. ISKCON is constantly informing the interim government of Bangladesh about these incidents, but the police administration is not stopping them.

Concern has also been raised in the US against the violence against Hindus in Bangladesh. Indian Americans have announced they will hold peaceful demonstrations against it near the White House in Washington and in Chicago in the next two days. This protest march will be organized by the Hindu Action Organization near the White House on Monday under the name 'Genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh,' while on Sunday it will be held in Chicago under the name 'Stop Genocide: Save the Lives of Hindus in Bangladesh.' Prominent Indian leaders of America will be present in these.

The Muhammad Yunus government, trapped under the pressure of fundamentalists on the soil of Bangladesh, has now given Pakistan the freedom to do as it pleases. Due to this, the Pakistani intelligence agency has become active there. According to a report, Pakistan is turning

sacrifices have now been buried in the grave...and the Bangladeshi fundamentalists have started considering Pakistan as their leader.

Bangladeshis are shouting Pakistan's name. But if they had read a little history, they would have seen Afghanistan, where Pakistan interfered. They created the Taliban and destroyed Afghanistan. If Bangladesh still does not understand this conspiracy...then perhaps Bangladesh will be called another Afghanistan.

There has been an anti-India wave in Bangladesh since the coup of Sheikh Hasina's government in July. Violence against Hindus is also at its peak. A total of 20 to 22 terror camps have been set up to carry out terrorist activities in India. All these camps are in those areas from where Bangladeshis and Rohingyas have been infiltrating into India. These terrorists are being trained to use weapons near the Indian border.

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A Silent Torment: Saif’s Struggle in a Love That Never Was

By SYED MAJID GILANI

From the beginning, Haya's indifference was apparent. She never offered Saif the love and warmth he yearned for. While she was not openly cruel, her emotional distance was unmistakable. She kept him at arm's length, never truly connecting with him or showing affection. Her coldness created a subtle yet undeniable barrier, signalling the need to withdraw. Still, Saif stayed, driven by love and hope. His heart refused to accept the painful truth: Haya had already made up her mind.

Haya's indifferent and emotionless demeanour had always subtly suggested that she had secretly craved a detachment from Saif right from the start. Despite her deliberate attempts to provoke him, she failed to push Saif into seeking a divorce. Her subtle tactics, designed to manipulate him, ultimately proved ineffective. Meanwhile, she secretly and silently plotted against him, orchestrating nefarious games in the shadows. Yet, even this failed to achieve her desired outcome.

Saif loved Haya deeply, convinced that love could overcome any obstacle. With patience and understanding, he endured her coldness, hoping she would one day see him for who he truly was and reciprocate his love. However, as the years went by, the weight of her indifference became increasingly unbearable. Her emotional detachment transformed into a subtle yet devastating form of cruelty that Saif could no longer disregard. Despite this, he persisted in believing that his love would ultimately prevail, softening her heart over time.

Despite Haya's behaviour, Saif continued to pour his heart into the relationship. He poured his heart and soul into it, dedicating his time, energy, and love to a partnership that was already disintegrating. Every effort he made, every small gesture of kindness, was met with indifference or rejection. Saif always clung to the hope that if he held on a little longer, if he loved her enough, their marriage could be salvaged. However, deep down, he knew the truth: their relationship was beyond repair. Haya had made her decision long ago, and had already begun to emotionally and physi-

cally distance herself, leaving Saif to navigate a marriage that had become a mere facade.

Haya's coldness was more than just a lack of affection—it

was a deliberate and consistent emotional estrangement that persisted throughout their marriage. Saif was kept at an emotional distance, and the bedroom he had lov-

ingly redesigned for her, with the hope of creating a warm and inviting sanctuary, became a poignant reminder of his profound isolation. He had poured his soul into creating a sanctuary, but she had transformed it into a cold, empty room where he was never truly welcomed.

Haya's indifferent and emotionless demeanour had always subtly suggested that she had secretly craved a detachment from Saif right from the start. Despite her deliberate attempts to provoke him, she failed to push Saif into seeking a divorce. Her subtle tactics, designed to manipulate him, ultimately proved ineffective. Meanwhile, she secretly and silently plotted against him, orchestrating nefarious games in the shadows. Yet, even this failed to achieve her desired outcome.

Haya's emotional neglect served as a constant reminder that no matter how much Saif gave, he would never receive anything in return. Her indifference had become a self-perpetuating cycle, leaving Saif feeling drained and unfulfilled.

As time passed, Saif was forced to confront the painful reality. His love, once a bond between them, had become a weight that was slowly crushing him. No matter how much affection he showed, it could not fill the chasm Haya had created in their relationship. The sacrifices he made only seemed to drive them further apart, and his hope, love,

and tolerance, which had kept the marriage intact for so long, were slowly losing their potency. The relationship was disintegrating, piece by piece. Haya's indifference, which Saif had endured for so long, had drained him emotionally, and the truth he had long refused to accept became impossible to ignore: he had been clinging to a relationship that had long since lost its meaning

The invisible wounds and bruises of Saif's sufferings deepened with each passing day, his heart heavy with the weight of his unrequited love. His love for Haya had transformed into a silent torment, a constant ache that consumed him from within. Yet, in the quiet moments of his pain, a subtle shift occurred. Saif began to realize that remaining in a relationship where his love was unreciprocated was no longer a testament to his loyalty, but a path that would inevitably lead to his own emotional devastation. The marriage, which he had sustained through sheer determination and willpower, had lost its essence.

For the first time, Saif grasped the realization that healing could only commence when he relinquished his attachment. This insight did not arrive easily, nor did it occur suddenly. Memories of rare happier moments and dreams of growing old together still lingered, haunting him like a ghost. Haya had already charted her course.

Saif couldn't help but think that if she had simply communicated her desire for separation openly and honestly, without subjecting him to years of silent torment and emotional anguish, she might have spared herself, not to mention preserving Saif's pure-hearted innocence.

Although the past, with its accumulated pain, would forever be etched in Saif's story, yet he would rise above it, embarking on a journey of healing, though uncertain, whether the wounds and bruises would ever fully heal, or if he would carry them with him forever.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Writer and serves as a GST Inspector for the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

Establishment of Vanaspati Van in South Kashmir A New Era for Medicinal Plant Conservation

ANANTNAG: In an initiative aimed at promoting biodiversity and preserving the rich heritage of medicinal plants, the J&K Forest Department is set to establish a 'Vanaspati Van' (Medicinal Plant Park) in South Kashmir.

The DFO Planning and Publicity Division stated that the establishment of the Vanaspati Van in South Kashmir will not only enhance the conservation of our native medicinal species but also serve as an educational hub for the community.

He further said, "By nurturing these invaluable plants, we are ensuring that



future generations can benefit from their medicinal properties while fostering a

deeper appreciation for our natural heritage." During the inspection of ongoing works in the Ahlan Gadole and Pathribal areas under the jurisdiction of the Planning and Publicity Division, the concerned Range Officer and Foresters were directed to expedite the pace of works and ensure the maintenance of proper Nursery and Plantation Journals to uphold transparency and accuracy in record-keeping.

The DFO emphasized the importance of timely execution and quality maintenance of all activities to achieve the desired outcomes under the planned objectives of the division.

...Darbar Move Why did Jammu stay silent on abolition of this key tradition Minister Javaid

Ishtiyaq Kar

Jammu: Minister for Tribal Affairs Javaid Rana Wednesday assured that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to fully restoring the Darbar Move, a centuries-old practice that symbolizes Jammu and Kashmir's unique administrative tradition.

Speaking to the media in Jammu as per news gathering agency KINS, Rana confirmed that the Darbar Move was partially restored this year, with a complete return planned for next year.

"In the first cabinet meeting, Omar Abdullah made it clear that this year we will see a partial restoration of the Darbar Move, and by next year, it will be fully reinstated," said Rana.

"The Darbar Move is an important part of our culture and history, and it's time to bring it back." Rana also raised concerns about the public's lack of response to the abolition of the Darbar Move, which was halted following the

revocation of Article 370 in 2019. "Why do the people of Jammu remain silent about those who abolished the Darbar Move? This is a crucial



issue for Jammu, and people should have spoken out," he questioned.

Rana's remarks came after a meeting between Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and civil society members in which various regional concerns, including the Darbar Move, were discussed.

Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari assumes charge of Joint Director Information Kashmir



SRINAGAR: Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari assumed the charge of Joint Director Information Kashmir on Wednesday.

Director Information & PR, Ahsan ul Haq Chishti; Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain and other senior officers extended warm welcome to the incoming Joint Director Information and congratulated him on assuming the charge of the department.

After assuming the charge, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari held an introductory meeting of the officers and officials of different units of the department, and also took first hand appraisal of the functioning of the department.

On the occasion, the JD emphasised the importance of teamwork and urged the staff to work collectively to enhance the department's outreach and efficiency in delivering its objectives.

Qazi Irfan assumes charge as RTO Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Qazi Irfan, on Wednesday took over the charge as Regional Transport Officer (RTO) of Kashmir, following recent transfers by the Government.

After assuming charge, the incumbent RTO chaired an introductory meeting with employees, reviewing the overall functioning of the office.

Irfan emphasized the importance of teamwork and cooperation in delivering Public services, urging officers to collaborate and maintain high coordination levels to boost work efficiency.

Transport Minister condoles demise of JKRTC employee

JAMMU: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma, has condoled the demise of JKRTC employee, Raghunandan Singh Slathia, who passed away today due to cardiac arrest.

The Minister fondly recalled Raghunandan Singh Slathia's dedication and significant contribution towards the department. He expressed solidarity with the family and assured full support to the grieved family over the untimely demise of Raghunandan Singh Slathia. He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. Raghunandan Singh Slathia was in the personal section of Transport Minister, Satish Sharma.

Haj pilgrims asked to submit consent for availing Training at Haj House Bemina

SRINAGAR: The J&K Haj Committee today informed all selected pilgrims of Hajj-2025 (Hijri-1446) who hail from districts other than Srinagar and intend to obtain Orientation/ Training regarding Manasik-e-Hajj/ Logistics and necessary vaccination at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar instead of their respective districts to furnish their consent in this regard through Google Form via link <https://forms.gle/d5fYNA392rKt26rDA>.

The consent must be furnished by or before 15-01-2025.



SANKALP: JKEDI launches Entrepreneurship Development Program at ITI Kangan

GANDERBAL: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Wednesday launched six days Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) under the SANKALP initiative at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Kangan.

The EDP is designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge required to establish and manage successful business ventures.

The inaugural ceremony was graced online by the Director JKEDI, Rajinder Kumar Sharma, who underscored the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in driving local economic growth and creating self-employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the participants, Director JKEDI encouraged them to actively participate in the training sessions and utilize the resources and mentorship available through the program.

He reiterated JKEDI's unwavering commitment to supporting budding entrepreneurs in their journey toward self-reliance and economic empowerment.

The event witnessed the presence of the District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Ganderbal, Principal ITI and faculty members from both institutions.

During the occasion, Principal ITI expressed

gratitude for the collaboration with JKEDI, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between technical education



and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The EDP, launched under the SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) initiative, aims to provide participants with comprehensive training in business development, financial management, and market strategies. It seeks to nurture entrepreneurial talent and encourage innovation, particularly among rural youth.

This inauguration marks the commencement of a week-long program featuring interactive sessions, practical exercises, and expert talks, all tailored to help participants transform their entrepreneurial aspirations into reality.

DC Kishtwar holds interaction with senior citizens to address key issues

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan convened a meeting with senior citizens of the district to deliberate on pressing concerns and developmental needs.

The meeting, held at the DC Office, witnessed active participation of senior citizens led by Roshan Lal Parihar.

During the interaction, the senior citizens raised various issues of public importance and sought immediate redressal. The delegation urged the administration to ensure priority employment for local youth in the power projects operational in the district.

Concerns were raised about unauthorised parking within the township, which contributes to



frequent traffic congestion. The senior citizens stressed the need for stringent implementation of parking regulations to streamline vehicular movement.

The need for a dedicated skill development institute to enhance the employability and vocational

skills of local youth was emphasised. The group highlighted the importance of



regular medical check-ups for drivers to ensure road safety.

The delegation pointed out instances of unauthorised fare hikes by transport operators, urging the administration to enforce fair pricing.

DC Kulgam presides over grievance redressal camp at far-off Waltangoo Kund

KULGAM, DECEMBER 11: To take firsthand appraisal of public issues and grievances at their door steps, the District Administration Kulgam today organized public outreach programmes as part of weekly Block Divas in three blocks of the district viz. Waltangoo Kund, Kulgam and D.K.Marg.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan took appraisal of issues of people in grievances redressal camp held in far-off Waltangoo Kund area.

The grievance redressal programme witnessed participation of people from Waltengoo, Kanchloo, Nigeenpora,

Razloo, Waripora and other areas who put forth various developmental and welfare



demands before the chair. The DC gave patient hearing

to all the demands put forth by the people and issued on spot directions for redressal of several



issues. Officers and heads of

departments responded to the queries and grievances of the people pertaining to their departments.

Later, the DC also visited Ziyarat Shareef Hazrat Syed Noor Shah Wali Bagdadi RA at Kund. The programme was also attended by DDC Member Kund, Gulzar Ahmad; ACR, ACD, A-SP National Highway, CEO, BDO, Tehsildar and other officers.

The concerned Officers of District Administration also convened public outreach programmes at Kulgam and D.K.Marg blocks, listening patiently for early redressal of their genuine grievances.

Farmers from Kupwara embark on 07-Day Exposure Visit

KUPWARA: The Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Kupwara, today flagged-off 38 farmers for a seven-day exposure visit to Jammu, Ludhiana and Kurukshetra under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme.

The farmers, specializing in apiculture and mushroom cultivation, embarked on the visit in presence of District Agriculture Officer (Extension) and District Agriculture Officer Inputs, officials, trainers and participants.

This initiative aims to equip farmers with advanced skills and knowledge by exposing them to cutting-edge practices and technologies in apiculture and mushroom production.

The visit includes stops at model farms, research centers, and processing units, where farmers will learn about hive management, bee breeding, honey extraction, disease control, compost preparation, spawn production and modern mushroom cultivation techniques.

The program will also provide opportunities for interaction with experts, fostering knowledge exchange and networking to enhance agricultural practices in Kupwara.

Parveez Ahmad Raina assumes charge as Addl. Comm., State Taxes

SRINAGAR: Parveez Ahmad Raina, today formally assumed charge as the Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Kashmir Division.

On his return to the department, the Additional Commissioner was warmly welcomed by Waseem Raja, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Central, Shabnam Rashid, Deputy Commissioner IT & Analytics, as well as other senior officials, including State Taxes Officers, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, and staff from the department.

In his inaugural address, Raina expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and reaffirmed his dedication to ensuring efficient tax

administration and compliance. He emphasized his commitment to streamlining



processes, addressing the concerns of employees, and fostering a collaborative and productive work environment within the department.

The officers and staff pledged their support to the Additional Commissioner in fulfilling the department's objectives and ensuring the highest standards of public service.

Two-days Capacity Building Program concludes at Lal Mandi Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Two days capacity building programme on 'Enhancing Productivity of Rainfed Niches through Precision Oriented Research and Deployment' under HADP's project 'Rainfed Area Development' concluded today at Lal Mandi Srinagar.

The programme was organised by Dryland Agriculture Research Station SKUAST-K Rangreth and was attended by the Officers/officials of the Agriculture department. Addressing the valedictory session of the programme, Joint Director Agriculture Kashmir highlighted

the importance of organising such programmes.

He asked the participants



to ensure that the latest technologies in the field of rainfed areas development reaches the farmer's field.

He also underlined the significance of awareness among the farmers regarding

rainfed farming. He said the main idea behind organising such programs is that the latest



trends and technologies in the concerned fields reach farmers and they adopt it with open minds on their fields.

Several speakers presented their lectures during the training programme.

Mission Vatsalya Gbl conducts Awareness program at KGBV Gutlibagh

GANDERBAL: To raise awareness about the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, and child rights, the Mission Vatsalya, Ganderbal today organized an awareness program at KGBV School Gutlibagh.

The session witnessed the participation of various stakeholders, including the Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Ganderbal, officials from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and representatives from Child Helpline (1098) Ganderbal, local residents besides students of the institution.

The awareness program focused on educating the participants about the provisions and objectives of the Juvenile Justice Act, which emphasizes care, protection, and rehabilitation for children in need, as well as the POCSO Act,

which addresses the protection of children from sexual offences.



Additionally, the program highlighted the fundamental rights of children and the resources available for their safety and welfare. Speaking on the occasion, officials from the District Child Protection Unit emphasized the collective responsibility of the community in safeguarding children and creating a safe and supportive environment for their growth and development.

NIGHT SHIFTS CAN RAISE RISK OF EARLY MENOPAUSE



An early menopause could also come from the stress of working late at night, as stress hormones are believed to disrupt sex hormones like oestrogen. Women who work in night shifts, even occasionally, are at an increased risk of early menopause, which can heighten the possibility of developing cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis and memory problems, finds a new study. The study showed women who had

done continued night shifts for 20 months or more in the preceding two years had a 9% increased risk of early menopause, the Daily Mail reported. If they had done rotating night shifts for more than 20 years, the risk rose to 73%. "For women who went through menopause before the age of 45, shift work seemed to be particularly important. This could be due to disruption of their circadian rhythms,

stress or fatigue, although more research is needed," lead author David Stock, from the University of Dalhousie in Canada, was quoted as saying. An early menopause could also come from the stress of working late at night, as stress hormones are believed to disrupt sex hormones like oestrogen. This could also increase the chance that a woman stops ovulating, according to the study published in the journal

Human Reproduction. Previous evidence suggests working in 'high-strain' jobs and those with 'difficult schedules' is linked to earlier menopause.

For the study, the team studied more than 80,000 nurses who worked at least in the night shifts in a month for over 22 years in addition to day and evening shifts.

Banana plant extract may help you relish melt-proof ice cream

NEW YORK: Love to savour your ice cream in its solid state for longer and hate to see it melt? Scientists have found a solution to this problem in a banana plant extract that they say could be key to a creamier and longer lasting ice cream.

The findings showed that adding tiny cellulose fibres extracted from banana plant waste to ice cream could slow melting, increase shelf life and potentially replace fats used to make the tasty treat.

"Our findings suggest that cellulose nanofibres extracted from banana waste could help improve ice cream in several ways," Robin Zuluaga Gallego, from the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Colombia.

"In particular, the fibres could lead to the development of a thicker and more palatable dessert, which would take longer to melt. As a result, this would allow for a more relaxing and enjoyable experience with the food, especially in warm weather," Gallego added.

For the study, presented at the 255th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans, the team extracted cellulose nanofibrils (CNFs), which are thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair, from ground-up banana stems or rachis. Then they mixed the CNFs into ice cream at varying concentrations, ranging from zero up to three-tenths of a gram per 100 grams of the dessert.

They found that ice creams mixed with CNFs tended to melt much more slowly than traditional ice creams. They also determined that CNFs could increase shelf life of ice cream, or at least decrease its sensitivity to temperature changes that occur when moved to and from the freezer.

In addition, CNFs increased the viscosity of low-fat ice cream, which improved the creaminess and texture of the product.

This suggests that CNFs could help stabilise the fat structure in ice creams. As a result, CNFs could potentially replace some of the fats -- and perhaps reduce calories -- in these desserts, the researchers noted.

Moving forward, the researchers plan to explore how different types of fat, such as coconut oil and milk fat, affect the behaviour of CNFs in other frozen treats.

Sugary drinks linked to increased cancer risk: Study



Higher consumption of sugary drinks may be associated with an increased risk of cancer, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

The findings add to a growing body of evidence indicating that limiting sugary drink consumption, together with taxation and marketing restrictions, might contribute to a reduction in cancer cases. The consumption of sugary drinks has increased worldwide during the last few decades and is convincingly associated with the risk of obesity, which in turn is recognised as a strong risk factor for many cancers, said researchers, including those from the University of Paris 13 in France.

However, research on sugary drinks and the risk of cancer is still limited. Researchers set out to assess the associations between the consumption of sugary drinks (sugar sweetened beverages

and 100 per cent fruit juices), artificially sweetened (diet) beverages, and risk of overall cancer, as well as breast, prostate, and bowel (colorectal) cancers. The findings are based on 101,257 healthy French adults (21 per cent men; 79 per cent women) with an average age of 42 years. Participants completed at least two 24-hour online validated dietary questionnaires, designed to measure usual intake of 3,300 different food and beverage items and were followed up for a maximum of nine years. Daily consumption of sugary drinks and artificially sweetened (diet) beverages were calculated and first cases of cancer reported by participants were validated by medical records and linked with health insurance national databases.

Average daily consumption of sugary drinks was greater in men than in women. During follow-up 2,193 first cases of

cancer were diagnosed and validated (693 breast cancers, 291 prostate cancers, and 166 colorectal cancers). Average age at cancer diagnosis was 59 years. The results show that a 100 millilitre per day increase in the consumption of sugary drinks was associated with an 18 per cent increased risk of overall cancer and a 22 per cent increased risk of breast cancer. When the group of sugary drinks was split into fruit juices and other sugary drinks, the consumption of both beverage types was associated with a higher risk of overall cancer. No association was found for prostate and colorectal cancers, but numbers of cases were more limited for these cancer locations, researchers said. The consumption of artificially sweetened (diet) beverages was not associated with a risk of cancer, but the researchers warn that caution is needed in interpreting this finding owing to a relatively low consumption level in this sample. Possible explanations for these results include the effect of the sugar contained in sugary drinks on visceral fat (stored around vital organs such as the liver and pancreas), blood sugar levels, and inflammatory markers, all of which are linked to increased cancer risk. Other chemical compounds, such as additives in some sodas might also play a role, they said. This is an observational study, so can't establish cause, and the researchers said they cannot rule out some misclassification of beverages or guarantee detection of every new cancer case. The study sample was large and they were able to adjust for a wide range of potentially influential factors. The results were also largely unchanged after further testing, suggesting that the findings withstand scrutiny.

Eating walnuts daily lowers heart disease risk



Eating a handful of walnuts daily may lower the risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD), says a study.

The study, published in Journal of the American Heart Association, examined the effects of replacing some of the saturated fats in participants' diets with walnuts.

It found that when participants ate whole walnuts daily in combination with lower overall amounts of saturated fat, they had lower central blood pressure. For the study, the researchers recruited 45 participants with overweight or obesity between the 30-65 age group. Before the study began, participants were placed on a "run-in" diet for two weeks.

"When participants ate whole walnuts, they saw greater benefits than when they consumed a diet with a similar fatty acid profile as walnuts without eating the nut itself," said Penny Kris-Etherton, Professor of Nutrition at the University of

Pennsylvania.

The research was one of the first to try to uncover which parts of the walnuts help support heart health".

During the study, participants were randomly assigned to one of three study diets, all of which included less saturated fat than the "run-in" diet.

All three diets substituted walnuts or vegetable oils for five percent of the saturated fat content of the "run-in" diet and all participants followed each diet for six weeks, with a break between diet periods.

The researchers found that while all treatment diets had a positive effect on cardiovascular outcomes, the diet with whole walnuts provided the greatest benefits, including lower central diastolic blood pressure (normal diastolic blood pressure is 80).

"Instead of reaching for fatty red meat or full-fat dairy products for a snack, consider having some skim milk and walnuts," said Kris-Etherton.

Slower walking can lead to Dementia- Study

ENGLAND: Some researchers state, older adults with slower walking speeds seem to have a greater risk of dementia than those with faster walking speeds.

On that note, a study says nearly 47 million people around the world are suffering from dementia.

It is a kind of chronic or persistent disorder of the mental processes caused by brain disease or injury and marked by memory disorders, personality changes, and impaired reasoning. The most prevalent cause of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, but other forms exist, too. No cure for dementia has been reported yet but it is also important to know about the factors

that lead to developing it. A link has also been found between the changes in walking speed, changes in the ability to think and make decisions, and dementia.

In their study, the researchers of United Kingdom (UK) used information collected from 2002 to 2015. The study included adults aged 60 and older. They assessed participant's walking speed, and whether or not the participants developed dementia after the tests. Then, they compared the people who had developed dementia with those who had not. Researchers discovered that those with a slower walking speed had a greater risk of developing dementia. And people who

experienced a faster decline in walking speed over a two-year period were also at higher risk for dementia. People who had a poorer ability to think and make decisions and those whose cognitive abilities declined more quickly were also more likely to be diagnosed with dementia. It was concluded that older adults with slower walking speeds, and those who experienced a greater decline in their walking speed over time, were at increased risk for Dementia. But, the researchers noted, changes in walking speed and changes in an older adult's ability to think and make decisions do not necessarily work together to affect the risk of developing dementia.



Continued From P1...

Jammu and Kashmir

, senior folk singers, Sikh representatives, RTI activists, and leaders from various political parties.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over Jammu's limited share of the burgeoning tourism industry and laid out plans to diversify the region's economy.

"Over one crore pilgrims visit Mata Vaishno Devi annually, but we have yet to tap into even 15% of this potential to promote tourism in Jammu. If we can redirect a fraction of these pilgrims, Jammu's economy can transform," he noted.

He announced plans to establish a craft & culture fair modeled on the Surajkund Mela, to showcase the region's rich heritage and boost tourism. The initiative will involve collaboration between industries, farmers, cultural representatives, and tourism stakeholders, he stated.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah highlighted several key issues raised during the interaction and outlined his government's commitment to addressing them.

He said that Smart City projects are nearing completion and there is no scope for this government to do any course correction but we shall take new initiatives for Jammu and Srinagar, which aim to modernize the city's infrastructure and enhance its livability.

The government, he said, will resolve the shortage of Punjabi teachers in schools catering to Sikh children and address some of their genuine concerns.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community, the Chief Minister stated, "While their return depends on restoring a sense of security among the community, we are committed to improving their living conditions and addressing their grievances."The Chief Minister emphasized the need for regular dialogue with civil society to maintain a pulse on ground realities. Unlike in the past, when such meetings were convened only during crises, he committed to holding biannual interactions—twice each in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our goal is to maintain a continuous dialogue with you. By our next meeting, we will present an action-taken report outlining the progress on issues discussed today," he assured.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah thanked the participants for accepting his invitation, emphasizing the significance of such meetings for the government authorities to receive valuable feedback from outside four walls of their offices.

"Whether you benefit from these meetings or not, my colleagues and I certainly do. These interactions provide us with an opportunity to hear your thoughts on our work and governance directly," he said.

In his closing remarks, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed gratitude to the participants for their valuable insights and suggestions.

"Your feedback and ground realities help us improve our governance. I hope that when we meet again, you will continue to provide your constructive input to guide us in serving Jammu and Kashmir better," he said.

On the occasion, the civil society members hailed the initiative and termed it as a step towards transparent and inclusive governance, and said the much needed interaction has set the tone for fostering stronger ties between the government and the people it serves.

We need environment

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to translate their ideas into socially useful and commercially viable applications and ensure that fruits of new inventions reach all sections.

"Your courage, dedication, talent and zeal to explore the unknown will give new impetus to the journey of Developed India," the Lieutenant Governor told the Youth.

He said new innovations are touching the lives of common man in ways that we cannot even fully imagine today. Our focus should also be on innovations that would benefit society at large like water and energy conservation, waste management, precision agriculture and e-governance, he added. He also asked the young innovators to explore diverse areas in Agriculture sector pertaining to soil health, pest infestation, climate change, real time data etc.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that inclusive development and economic growth should be the main aim behind every innovation.

"Innovation should lead us to social change and drive India's economic growth. Augmented Reality (AR) in Industry 4.0 technology should contribute to design, product development, maintenance and quality control in different sectors and help our manufacturers and find solutions to their operational problems and production downtime," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further highlighted that better system integration and smart factories will be the most dynamic aspect of Industry 4.0 involving physical equipment and digital tools and also it will be the best example of collaboration between human and technology.

"For Industry 4.0 Factories and to mitigate the social challenges of food, water, environment and energy, we need intelligent and integrated devices. All the core components of Industry 4.0 technologies, Internet of Things, Big Data, Augmented Reality, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Robotics, additive manufacturing and Simulation will profoundly impact traditional area of space, atomic energy and defence technologies," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored the need to strengthen the partnership between academia, industry and policymakers to provide solutions to the challenges of society and the nation. He further asked the mentors and faculty members to encourage students to focus on "Problem First" and promote entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Universities' campuses.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the role of educational institutions in establishing India as a Knowledge economy and stressed on implementation of National Education Policy 2020 in letter and spirit.The Chancellor of the Galgotias University, on the request of Lieutenant Governor, announced 50 percent scholarship for the students from J&K.Ashok Bajpai, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Suneel Galgotia, Chancellor, Galgotias University; Dr. K. Mallikharjuna Babu, Vice Chancellor, faculty members, students of the University, prominent citizens and young innovators from various regions were present.

JKHC seeks

uphold the rule of law and constitutional principles. A balanced and fair reservation policy is critical for justice and equity," he said.

The Jammu & Kashmir Civil Society, which has backed the petition, reiterated its demand for a transparent reservation policy. "The current system does not reflect the complexities and diversity of our society. We are advocating for a rationalised framework that is equitable and inclusive," said Imtiyaz Chesti, Chairman of the Civil Society group

PM Modi

Bangalore, led by Syeeda Aiemen D Saleem, shared their project ideas with PM Modi. The Prime Minister also interacted with Mohammad Ali Mohammad Ali, a participant from Yemen and praised the culture, diversity of India.

Over 1,300 student teams participated in this nationwide event. Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, virtually inaugurated SIH 2024, highlighting the transformative power of

education in fostering innovation and building an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanojiya was the Chief Guest on the occasion and stressed the institute's commitment to excellence.

He underscored the importance of SIH in bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world problem-solving.

"The institute is dedicated to nurturing a culture of innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, and preparing students for a technology-driven future," Prof. Kanojiya said.

Chairman of Core Committee for SIH 2024, Prof. G.A. Harmain said that it is the first time NIT Srinagar is hosting the Grand Finale of SIH Software Edition.

He welcomed 25 exceptional teams from 21 states, emphasizing their potential to shape India's future through technology and creativity.

Pratap Sanap, Nodal Head 1 for SIH, provided an insightful overview of the hackathon, highlighting its role in fostering innovation and collaboration.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Atikur Rahman, Registrar of NIT Srinagar. He praised the organizing team, led by Director Prof. Kanojiya, for their efforts in making the event a success.

"As one of the 51 nodal centers, NIT Srinagar has emerged as a hub for innovation, hosting 25 teams to develop real-world solutions. The institute is known for its academic excellence and state-of-the-art facilities," Prof. Rahman said.

The inaugural ceremony at NIT Srinagar featured a traditional Lamp Lighting and Isbandh Ceremony, symbolizing knowledge and purity, and followed by welcome by Dr. Janani L., Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering.

Earlier the event began with a welcome address by Dr. Abhay Jere, Vice Chairman of AICTE and Chief Innovation Officer at the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell. Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, emphasized the council's vision for promoting educational excellence. This year's edition of SIH has seen a remarkable 240% increase in internal hackathons, growing from 900 in 2023 to over 2,247 in 2024, making it the largest edition to date. More than 86,000 teams participated at the institute level, with around 49,000 advancing to the national-level rounds.

The hackathon addressed 250 problem statements submitted by 54 ministries, departments, state governments, PSUs, and industries. These challenges spanned 17 sectors of national importance, including healthcare, sustainability, smart technologies, education, disaster management, and agriculture.

"Ambiguity" over

& Kashmir Assembly enacts law over the matter. However, the law regarding salaries of MLAs in erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir was protected under the Reorganisation Act," they said.

Under section 31 of J&K Reorganisation Act, LG should determine salaries of MLAs until J&K Assembly would enact a law on the matter.

"Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be entitled to receive such salaries and allowances as may from time to time be determined by the Legislative Assembly by law and, until provision in that behalf is so made, such salaries and allowances as the Lieutenant Governor may, by order determine," reads the Act.

Interestingly, the law governing salaries of MLAs in the erstwhile State of J&K was kept intact through the same Reorganisation Act-2019.

The "Salaries and Allowances of Members of Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature XIX of 1960" was among 166 state laws which were made applicable to J&K UT through Reorganisation Act.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said that he has written to the government over the matter.

"I am hopeful that they will soon get their salaries," he said.

In the erstwhile state, each MLA was entitled to salary and allowances of Rs 1.60 lakh per month after it was doubled during the PDP-BJP rule in 2016.

Govt plans to

acquisition of advanced trekking tools, skiing equipment, and snow grooming machines. "After 30 years, any such machine like snow groomer will arrive in Kashmir," he said

44 J&K

The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely," it said

Plains Likely

In its advisory, the MeT has predicted cold & dry weather over many stations during the next 10 days and appealed the tourists, travelers and transporters to follow administration and traffic advisory. In the meantime, the minimum temperature improved across Kashmir following the season's lowest temperature at many places on the previous night. Against previous night's minus 5.4 degree Celsius, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded a low of minus 3.3 degree Celsius. Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded the night temperature of minus 6.0 degree Celsius while in Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 1.8 degree Celsius. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, has recorded a low of minus 4.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir and Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.5 degree Celsius and 2.0 degree Celsius respectively.

Govt school

students enrolled in these institutions usually receive free textbooks very late even after commencement of new academic sessions. In 2023, the department couldn't deliver free textbooks despite the passage of around two months since the new academic session started in schools. The delay in distribution of the textbooks in schools had previously left the students at the receiving end as the department has failed to distribute the textbooks in schools on time.

NOTICE

Inadvertently my name and parentage of my Driving license bearing No JK15- 2012 0004366 have been mentioned as Abid Husain Sheikh S/O Ab. Jabar Sheikh while my actual name and parentage is Abid Hussain Shiekh S/O Ab Jabar Shiekh. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of ARTO Bandipora within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Abid Hussain Shiekh
S/O Ab Jabar Shiekh
R/O Dawar Gurez

Winter Vacation In Colleges Likely From Dec-27

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: Amid bone chilling winters, the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department has proposed to announce 50-days winter vacations from December-27 for colleges of Kashmir division.

Besides, the department has also proposed 10-days winter vacations for colleges of Jammu division.

Director Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Ajaz Bashir informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the higher education department has sent a proposal of vacations to the government and was waiting for the final decision.

"As per the academic planner, we have sent a proposal to the government wherein we have anticipated that the 50-days winter vacations shall be announced for the colleges of Kashmir region from December-27 to February-14," he said.



The Director Colleges further said that it has also asked deans of the universities not to conduct any sort of exams during the vacation period.

In the meantime, the department of higher education in a Uniform Academic Calendar for all academic activities across Jammu and Kashmir said it has been observed that examinations are sometimes scheduled during the vacation period.

"This practice not only disrupts the planned break for students and faculty but also leads to logistical challenges for the colleges," it reads.

It further states that the extreme climatic conditions

during peak winter/summer months, when the winter zone experiences severe cold waves and dense fog and the summer zone experiences scorching heat waves thus making it difficult for students and faculty to commute and to carry out any academic activity during the period.

"Considering the challenges, deans of universities are requested to ensure that no examinations are scheduled during vacation periods. This will help maintain the integrity of the academic calendar, ensuring that students and faculty can enjoy their well-deserved breaks without disruption. Additionally, it will mitigate the difficulties posed

by severe climatic conditions, ensuring a smoother, more comfortable academic experience for all involved," it reads.

About the heating arrangements for students and staff of the colleges of Kashmir region, an official said, "We have already notified that there shall be proper heating arrangements for them."

Pertinently, the School Education Department earlier this week announced winter vacations in phased manner from December-10 and December-16 respectively in the Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division.

Principal Secretary School Education Department Suresh Kumar Gupta in a order had said that for students upto 5th standard,

the vacations shall begin from December-10 to February-28 and in case of students from 6th standard to 12th standard, the vacation shall begin from December-16 to February-28-2025.

J&K: Over 263 lives lost to disastrous weather events in 5 years

'Floods, heavy rains claim 147 lives'

SRINAGAR: A total of 263 deaths have been reported due to disastrous weather events in Jammu and Kashmir over the five years from 2019-2023, as per official data.

According to the data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in 2023, there were 54 fatalities: 9 due to snowfall, 5 due to lightning, and 40 from floods and heavy rains.

In 2022, 57 deaths were recorded: 3 due to snowfall, 4 from gales, 7 from lightning, and 43 caused by floods and

heavy rains. In 2021, 32 lives were lost: 4 due to snowfall, 2 from cold waves, 4 from lightning, 1 from a hailstorm, and 21 from floods and heavy rains.

The government said that the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in coordination with research centers, has implemented measures to improve monitoring and early warning systems for extreme weather events.

"It provides weather information to stakeholders, including government

bodies, and issues forecasts, warnings, and color-coded alerts to aid disaster management," it said.

"IMD has developed tools like the online "Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas of India" and mobile apps such as "Mausam," "Meghdoot," and "Damini" for weather forecasts, agromet advisories, and lightning alerts," it said. "These efforts are supported by preparedness meetings and collaborations to minimize the impact of extreme weather. Climate change

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20130007764, my name and parantege has been Wrongly mentioned as Mohamad Sultan Hajam S/O Ghulam Mohamad Hajam, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Mohd Sultan Hajam S/O Gh Mohd Hajam. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohd Sultan Hajam.
S/O Gh Mohd Hajam.
R/O Khayar Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Birth certificate of my Daughter issued by Municipal council Bandipora her Father's name has been Wrongly mentioned as Manzoor Ahmad Khan, while as her actual and correct Father's name is Manzoor Ahmad, Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Municipal council Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Manzoor Ahmad.
F/ O Toyyiba Manzoor.
R/O Lawaypora Bandipora .

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216010000840, which is Registered in the name of my Father Ab Majied Tantray S/O Mohmad Subhan Tantray, Now i want to change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Tanveer Ahmad Tantray S/O Ab Majied Tantray, in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Tanveer Ahmad Tantray.
S/O Ab Majied Tantray.
R/O Ajar Near R/Station. District Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No 0061040800022088, My name and parantege has been Wrongly mentioned as Mohammad Rafiq Bani S/O Nek Alam Bani, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhar card is Mohd Rafeeq Bania S/O Nake Alam Bania. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohd Rafeeq Bania.
S/O Nake Alam Bania.
R/O Chettibandi Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No :0061040100005348, my name, parentage and Residence has been Wrongly mentioned as Ab Rashid Khan S/O Syed Rasool R/O Arin Dardpora Bandipora, while as my Actual and correct name, Parantege and Residence is Syed Ab Rashied khan S/O Said Rasool Khan R/O Gobipothra Erin Bandipora, in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Syed Ab Rashied khan.
S/O Said Rasool khan.
R/O Gobipothra Erin Bandipora.

NOTICE

Inadvertently my name and parentage of my Driving license bearing No JK15- 2020 0001428 have been mentioned as Imtiyaz Alam Sheikh S/O Abdul Jabar Sheikh while my actual name and parentage is Imtiyaz Alam Shiekh S/O Ab Jabar Shiekh. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of ARTO Bandipora within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Imtiyaz Alam Shiekh
S/O Ab Jabar Shiekh
R/O Dawar Gurez

Sports Minister, Advisor to CM flag off J&K Senior Football team for Santosh Trophy

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma and Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today flagged off Jammu and Kashmir senior Men's Football team for participation in the final round of prestigious Santosh Trophy.

The event, held at Mini Stadium, Parade Jammu, was also attended by Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, Director General, Youth Services and Sports, Tara Singh and Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, along with other senior officials.

The final round of the Santosh Trophy is scheduled to be held in Telangana, where the J&K team will compete against top teams from across the country. To mark the occasion, a friendly match between the J&K Police Team and the J&K Santosh Trophy Team was played in front of the dignitaries.

As part of the ceremony, the Sports Minister and Advisor to CM distributed sports kits among the athletes from various Khelo India centres in J&K. Satish Sharma congratulated the team for their exceptional performance in the preliminary round held in Punjab, which secured their qualification for the finals. He praised the J&K Sports Council for organizing a high-quality coaching camp and providing the necessary technical and infrastructural support to the players.

Nasir Aslam Sogami lauded the athletes for their dedication and wished them success in the upcoming matches. Highlighting the global appeal of football, he expressed pride in the achievements of players and assured full government support in transforming the J&K into a hub for sports excellence.



The coaching camp for the final round was held at Mini Stadium, Parade Jammu, under the guidance of formal international footballer and renowned coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo, along with chief football coach, Satpal Singh Kala. The J&K Sports Council ensured that players received residential facilities, infrastructure and other necessary resources under the directions of the Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

The players, fueled with determination, expressed optimism about their performance and aimed to achieve better results as they have prepared to compete against the nation's best football teams.

Satish Sharma congratulated the team for their exceptional performance in the preliminary round held in Punjab, which secured their qualification for the finals. He praised the J&K Sports Council for organizing a high-quality coaching camp and providing the necessary technical and infrastructural support to the players.



Not taking a break after Olympics left me emotionally drained: Tanisha Crasto

Tanisha Crasto described her turbulent Olympic debut in Paris as a period of heartbreak, admitting she made the "mistake" of not taking a break afterward, but said reuniting with Ashwini Ponnappa with a renewed approach led to their triumph at the Guwahati Masters.

Tanisha and her seasoned partner Ashwini, who endured three lopsided losses on the trot to make a group stage exit in Paris, bounced back to put up a dominant performance and defend their Guwahati Masters Super 100 title on Sunday.

"It's been a tough transition after the Olympics for everyone, including me and Didi (Ashwini). I made the mistake of not taking a break, and it left me emotionally drained. But Didi took a huge break, and when we reunited, we focused on enjoying the game," the 21-year-old told PTI Videos.

"We decided not to think about results, just to go out there and enjoy ourselves. And when we did that, the results followed."

The Paris Olympics was a challenging chapter for Tanisha and all other Indian shuttlers as India returned without a medal for the first time in 12 years.

"It hurts because you're there, representing your country, and when things don't go your way, it's tough to process... I didn't take a break after the Olympics, thinking it would help me snap out of it. But as a person, I was a mess, dealing with insane emotions", she said.

For her 35-year-old partner Ashwini, the Olympics marked an emotional turning point as well, as she announced that the 2024 Olympics was her last ever.

"We cried together during an interview, and even the interviewer was moved to tears," Tanisha recalled.

"It was a mix of emotions, but it strengthened our bond", she added.

Tanisha also had a runners-up finish along side her mixed doubles partner Dhruv Kapila going down to Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampra in a tough three-game battle at the Syed Modi International Super 300 event in Lucknow earlier this month.

All-round Linde, Miller give South Africa 1-0 lead

South Africa 183 for 9 (Miller 82, Linde 48, Shaheen 3-22, Abrar 3-37) beat Pakistan 172 for 8 (Rizwan 74, Ayub 31, Linde 4-21) by 11 runs

Having not played for South Africa for three years, George Linde made up for lost time on one electric Kingsmead evening with a stunning all-round performance. A 24-ball 48 with the bat and 4-21 with the ball battered a valiant Pakistan, who went down by 11 runs. The umpire even thought he had a hat-trick in the penultimate over before a review denied him that glory but not his undisputed Player-of-the-Match award. Mohammad Rizwan, who faced the first ball, was there



in the final over as his team went down fighting, a late attack from the captain not quite enough to undo the damage of a sluggish first half of an innings where he managed just 36 in his first 44 deliveries, even if he did finish with 74 off 62.

South Africa came into the first T20I in Durban with a decidedly second-string side, but it doesn't matter when David Miller is in the form he found today. A majestic 40-ball 82 ran through the first innings like a dagger for Pakistan, who believed they had made early progress when Shaheen Shah Afridi and Abrar Ahmed removed Rassie van der Dussen, Reeza Hendricks and Matthew Breetzke early. But Miller ensured the runs kept flowing, and Pakistan's spinners couldn't have the impact they hoped for on a true, flat Durban pitch Heinrich Klaasen had little hesitation in opting to bat first on.

Saim Ayub gave Pakistan a flying start despite the loss of Babar Azam for a duck early on, but South Africa reined them in through the middle overs. Rizwan struggled to get going and Pakistan's inexperienced middle order couldn't keep the asking rate in check from the other end. It allowed South Africa to get tidy overs in through the middle while picking up regular wickets, and all of a sudden Pakistan were running out of batters and overs.

An errant 17th over from the otherwise impressive 18-year-old Kwena Maphaka allowed Pakistan 24 runs, and they suddenly found themselves back in the game. Rizwan was flying by then, smashing two sixes off Maphaka and three fours off Otneil Baartman, and Pakistan had suddenly dragged themselves back in, needing 19 off the final over. But Maphaka, who returned for the 20th over, had Rizwan top-edging a slower ball, and the game was over as a contest. Pakistan had paid for their generosity with the ball at the death, and tardiness with the bat early on. South Africa were clinical enough to take full advantage.

The Killer Miller Show

David Miller has made a reputation for being a middle- and late-overs bludgeoner. But after Shaheen and Abrar struck early, Miller came in at No. 4 in an inexperienced side. And for the next hour or so, he demonstrated how his timing and technique were every bit equal to his power. Taking advantage of beginning his innings in the powerplay, he whipped Shaheen off the pads to get going, before punching him through the covers for another boundary.

The quality of his timing was on full display against Sufiyan Muqeem just after the powerplay. The left-arm wristspinner tried to stay out of his arc by bowling wide of off and spinning it away, but Miller's extension of the arms and strength at the end of his range lay waste to that tactic. He creamed him over the extra-cover boundary, where the fielder could only watch it sail over his head. Muqeem tried it once more two balls later, only to have the same treatment meted out to him with - if it was possible - even less effort.

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