

Kashmir Convener



But for Lok Sabha results, Govt would have changed Constitution: Priyanka Gandhi

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India Wants Good, Terror Free Relations With Pak: Jaishankar



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: India wants to have good relations with Pakistan that are free of terror but if it does not show it is changing its past behaviour, then there will be implications on bilateral ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in the Lok Sabha on Friday. The minister also said that trade relations

had been disrupted due to certain decisions taken by Pakistan in 2019.

"I would like to inform the honourable member that in terms of improving ties with Pakistan, like any other neighbour, we would like to have good relations with Pakistan. But, like any other neighbour, we would also like

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Dream Big! Believe in yourself: LG Sinha to Students

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed the Annual Day Function of KC International School Jammu, at General Zorawar Singh auditorium. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the management, teachers and students of the school and extended his best wishes.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor encouraged the students to Dream Big! Believe in yourself and work hard with focus and persistence to fulfil your dream.

"I have always admired the energy, innovation, and commitment of young people and I am witnessing our youth are at the forefront of change," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the youth want a fear-free, corruption free and development oriented modern society. However, some forces are still active within and trying to destabilize the country. Youth and the entire society will have



to unite and defeat such elements, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor further asked the youth to move forward with the common aim that is to reclaim India's position as Vishwa Guru and prove themselves to be the true successors of the ancestors who established great centers of education like Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramshila.

Speaking on the transformation taking

place in the educational landscape in J&K, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the teaching community to reinvent the classroom-learning and provide mentorship to students. Education means learning, not delivery of information. Only teacher-student engagement

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Intact anti-drone system declined drone activity: IG BSF Jammu

Yogesh

JAMMU: Inspector General, Border Security Force, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora on Friday said that with advanced technology, drone activity at



the International Border has declined to a larger extent.

Speaking to media persons during a presser on the occasion of

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Kashmir shivers under intense cold wave

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Amid the forecast of cold and dry weather conditions for the next four days, the night chill has intensified

across the Valley with Sonamarg recording the season's lowest temperature of minus 12.5 degree Celsius.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the cold wave has intensified across Kashmir and some parts of Jammu.

As per the details, Sonamarg has recorded a low of minus 12.5 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort has



recorded a minimum temperature of minus

9.6 degree Celsius.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the mercury plummeted and settled at minus 2.0 degree Celsius. Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, has recorded a low of minus 9.4 degree Celsius. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 1.4 degree Celsius while in

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Secy RDD Holds Review Meeting With DCs

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, presided over a meeting on Friday to discuss pivotal matters including the formulation of MGNREGA Annual Action Plan (AAP)



for 2025-26, land availability for new Panchayat Bhawans, providing of caste data to the OBC Commission, and identification of land for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs).

The meeting was attended by all District Development Commissioners of J&K, Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir

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CS Reviews Preparations for Jammu Marathon-2025

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting of the Tourism Department to take review of the Jammu Half Marathon and Ultra Marathon-2025 proposed to be held here in the month of February next year.

Besides the Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department the meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur; Director Tourism, Jammu; Traffic Police authorities and other concerned officers and officials of the Department

According to the Associated News Bureau, during this meeting the Chief Secretary took note of the preparations finalized by the Department till now. He impressed upon them to make

the registration portal live soon for creating awareness among the fitness enthusiasts besides giving ample time to the desiring runners for their registration.

He also directed for running the sustained social media campaigns by creating short videos, jingles and other creatives to popularize this event. He called for taking bytes from the popular national icons promoting this maiden marathon here in the city.

Dulloo asked for making the teaser ready by the end of this month.

He also advised creating 40-50 videos that could be run over different media platforms to create the necessary buzz about this first such event to be held here.

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Protect youth from academic overburden: CM Omar Abdullah

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today highlighted the immense pressure faced by the younger generation, particularly the unrealistic expectations of achieving academic excellence, which, he believed, steals their childhood and leaves little room for joy.

Speaking at Amar Ujala's Bhavviya Shatra Samman event held at the Convention Center in Jammu, he called for a balanced approach to life, urging students to embrace learning, engage in physical activities, and prioritize reading beyond textbooks.

The event, organized to honor meritorious students from high school and intermediate classes, saw participation from Ministers Javed Ahmad Rana and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Principal Secretary of School Education, Executive Editor of Amar Ujala Indu Shekhar Pancholi, senior officials, students

from various institutions, and their parents.

What truly matters is how we use the present moment. Learn from



"For us, our time is passing. But life is a continuous journey of learning," said Omar Abdullah, the chief guest of the event.

He emphasized that education is not confined to academic institutions but is also drawn from life's experiences, urging the youth to learn from others' mistakes and guidance. He personally handed certificates and medals to the awardees and underscored the importance of resilience.

"Nothing in life is permanent—neither bad times nor good times.

the past, prepare for the future, and live in the now," he advised.

Touching on societal pressures, Abdullah expressed concern over the extreme academic cut-offs, often exceeding 98%, which, he said, were creating unhealthy expectations.

"This unrealistic pressure steals your childhood, something you can never get back. We, the older generation, must ensure we don't prematurely take away your innocence

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Address power issues promptly, efficiently: Dy CM

● Reviews winter preparedness of KPDCL

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the government is committed towards



ensuring an adequate supply of electric power, especially in areas prone to harsh weather conditions.

He was chairing a high-level meeting held on winter preparedness convened by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation

Limited (KPDCL) on Friday.

The meeting, convened to assess the Corporation's readiness for the harsh winter season, was attended by the Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD) and senior officers of KPDCL.

"Every effort must be made to address issues promptly and efficiently," Deputy Chief Minister said and maintained that a foolproof mechanism should be devised so as to address the power issues within the shortest possible time.

The meeting reviewed the measures undertaken by KPDCL to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the Kashmir Valley during the winter months.

A detailed presentation on preparations, highlighting the proactive steps taken to address potential disruptions caused by adverse weather conditions was also presented. The meeting was told that for ensuring an Extensive Maintenance large-scale branch cutting

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Javed Rana Reviews Rehabilitation Of Waltengoo Snow Storm Victims

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today directed for an in-depth study of land-drifting in Mendhar.

He called for assessing the destruction caused by them and ways to build a resilient disaster management mechanism against the same.

The Minister passed on these directions during a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here which was attended by Principal Secretary, Home/DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Mohammad Ajaz and other senior officers.

The Minister said that the region faces recurrent landslides and land-drifting since 1990's posing a serious threat to life and property of the inhabitants. He said the events in the region call for integrated preparations for dealing with natural disasters like land drifting in Faizabad

and other risk prone areas.

"We need to rope in an expert organisation having vast expertise in the field for an in-depth study of landslides to



address all the components of landslide disaster risk reduction and management," he said. He necessitated evolving an integrated mechanism to ensure the future and dreams of those living in vulnerable areas is secured. The Minister further said that locals have to be involved in soil

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Our Youth Have Started Thinking About The Future: LG

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the youth delegation from Tamil Nadu, who are on a five-day visit to J&K for Yuva Sangam, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.

The Lieutenant Governor welcomed the Youth and learned about the experiences and multi-dimensional exposure they gained during their visit to the UT of J&K.

"Tamil Nadu and Jammu Kashmir are eternally connected since time immemorial. When I look at the two regions, I see the inspiring chapters of rich ancient Indian history, contribution of men and women who shaped the destiny of our country," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the Yuva Sangam initiative of Ministry of Education, aimed at strengthening people-to-people connect among youth across different States and Union Territories.

"I am truly grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for unlocking

the power of diversity with the spirit of oneness," the Lieutenant Governor said. He also spoke on the Youth specific and



youth-related policies and programmes launched in the last 10 years to create an enabling environment to realize their dreams. "The social consciousness of our youth is sharp and they have big dreams not just for themselves but for the development of this great nation.

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SC grants future bail to ex WB minister Partha Chatterjee in case related to cash-for-job scam



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday granted conditional future bail to former West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee in a money laundering case related to the cash-for-job scam.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said that Chatterjee shall be released on February 1, 2025 subject to the trial court framing charges before the winter vacation and examination of vulnerable witnesses by the second and third week of January 2025.

The top court said upon his release Chatterjee shall not hold any public office but can continue as MLA.

The bench said that a suspect cannot be detained indefinitely and, therefore, it has to balance the rights of the accused and the victims.

On December 4, the top court had reserved its verdict on his bail plea and told him that, "On the

face of it you are a corrupt person. Crores of rupees were recovered from your premises."

The top court in October issued a notice to the ED on the appeal filed by Chatterjee against an April 30 Calcutta High Court order denying him a bail on the grounds that a prima facie case was established against him under the PMLA.

Chatterjee was arrested in connection with the alleged irregularities in recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in West Bengal government-sponsored and aided primary schools.

The politician and his alleged close aide Arpita Mukherjee were arrested by the ED in connection with its probe into the money trail in the alleged illegal recruitments. The ED claimed to have recovered Rs 49.80 crore in cash, apart from jewellery, gold bars from flats owned by Mukherjee, besides documents of properties and a company in joint holdings.

Union Minister Sanjay Kumar, KTR Slam Cong Govt Over Allu Arjun’s Arrest

HYDERABAD: Opposition BJP and the BRS on Friday lashed out at the ruling Congress in Telangana over the arrest of top Telugu star Allu Arjun, according to him is a "disgraceful act of mismanagement and disrespect".

"A star of his stature, who brought global recognition to Indian cinema, deserved better treatment," the Union Minister of State for Home said.

Describing the tragic death of a woman at Sandhya theatre, where All Arjun's Pushpa 2 was released recently, as deeply unfortunate, the minister said the incident only underscores the Congress government's failure to manage the massive crowd.

The real failure lies in the Congress government's 'inability' to ensure proper arrangements

for such a high-profile event, he further charged.

"This negligence and mishandling are unacceptable. Icon Star (Allu Arjun) and his fans deserve dignity, not chaos," Sanjay said.

Rama Rao criticised Allu Arjun's arrest, calling it "unwarranted and inappropriate" to treat the actor like a "common criminal".

Taking a dig at the Congress government, Rao said the arrest was the "pinnacle of insecurity of the rulers."

"I totally sympathise with the victims of the stampede but who failed really? Treating Allu Arjun garu as a common criminal is uncalled for, especially for something he isn't directly responsible," Rao said on social media platform 'X'.

Rao emphasised the need for "respect" and "dignified conduct" while condemning the government's alleged high-handed behaviour.

Meanwhile, senior actor N Balakrishna termed Allu Arjun's arrest as 'unjust' and promised to always stand by him.



questioning the treatment meted out to the Pushpa star.

BJP leader and Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the actor deserved a better treatment, while BRS Working President KT Rama Rao slammed the government for treating the star like a "common criminal."

Kumar, in a post on 'X' alleged the National Award-winning actor was "lifted straight from his bedroom" without even being given time to change, which



Indian cinema, deserved better treatment," the Union Minister of State for Home said.

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The real failure lies in the Congress government's 'inability' to ensure proper arrangements

Bomb Threat In 6 Delhi Schools Triggers Panic, Second Incident This Week

NEW DELHI: Six schools in Delhi received bomb threats early on Friday, leading to panic and chaos as parents rushed to pick their children up from the schools.

This latest wave of threats follows a similar incident on December 9, when at least 44 schools received bomb threats by email. Police had later declared those threats to be hoaxes.

A Delhi Fire Services official said the first call regarding the threats came in at 4:21 am, with subsequent calls received throughout the morning.

The fire department, police and bomb detection teams, along with dog squads, have reached the schools and are conducting checks, he said.

Many parents arriving to drop off their children were seen taking them back from the school gates, while those whose children were already on campus returned to pick them up.

The school authorities, meanwhile,



shifted to online classes for the day.

Rajiv Solanki, chairman of Venkateshwar Global School in Rohini, said, "When we received the email, the first thing we did was inform the police. However, by that time, the students had already started arriving. We immediately dispersed them, informed their parents, and shifted today's classes online from 11 am." "The school had previously

received a similar threat, which not only created a sense of fear among parents and students but also disrupted their studies," he added.

The schools targeted in Friday's threats are Bhatnagar International School in Paschim Vihar, Cambridge School in Srinivaspuri, DPS Amar Colony in East of Kailash, South Delhi Public School in Defence Colony, Delhi

Police Public School in Safdarjung, and Venkateshwar Global School.

A police source said the emails were received at 12:54 am, with the sender mentioning "parent-teachers' meeting" and "sports day" activities in the schools.

The sender also mentioned that the "schools will face bomb blasts" on Friday and Saturday, the source said.

Madhavi Goswami, principal of Cambridge School, said she discovered the email during a routine check and alerted the police around 5:50 am. "They responded promptly, assuring us of a thorough investigation. We informed parents about the situation and shifted all classes online for the day."

Karmveer, a guard at South Delhi Public School, said he received a message at 7:20 am, following which they started to ask the parents coming to school with their children to return. "Only a few students were already on campus, and they were also sent back home," he said.

Parliamentary Panel Recommends Increasing Assistance Under PMAY-G

NEW DELHI: With the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin being extended till March 2029 with an aim to construct two crore additional homes, a Parliamentary standing committee has recommended the assistance provided under the scheme be suitably hiked.



The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, headed by Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, pointed out that the assistance under the scheme had remained stagnant at Rs 1.2 lakh for a considerable period of time, often leading to cases in which the houses remained incomplete.

In a report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, the panel said the "Housing for All" vision might not achieve its target until the beneficiaries were provided "proper hand-holding" in terms of financial assistance of right value and at the right juncture.

The report also highlighted that more than two lakh landless beneficiaries were still waiting to get land or assistance from state governments to construct homes, which might also cause delay in hitting the target.

The panel said the per-unit assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) for plain areas was Rs 1.2 lakh and Rs 1.3 lakh for hilly areas and it had remained static for a considerable period of time.

"With rising inflation having a detrimental effect on the cost factor associated with the raw material, transportation cost, labour cost etc, constructing a new house of the requisite area under PMAY-G for poor and needy beneficiaries with such assistance amount seems to be an arduous task," the report said.

"Moreover, there are instances wherein houses remain incomplete for want of finance and thereby keeping the target lagging," it added.

The committee noted that against an initial target of 2.95 crore houses to be constructed by March next year, 2.66 crore were constructed as on October 22 and 29 lakh were yet to be completed.

A target of constructing an additional two crore houses in the next five financial years – 2024 to 2029 – has been approved by the government, the report said.

"The committee finds it utmost necessary that a review of per-unit assistance be done on priority basis, particularly when the scheme has been extended to March 2029," the panel said and recommended revision of the per-unit assistance through a suitable hike.

The committee also recommended that the Department of Rural Development urge the agencies involved to explore all means to complete construction of the houses within the target fixed by the government.

The panel expressed concern over landless beneficiaries getting assistance for land to build their house and, citing Union rural development ministry data, said that of 5,73,311 (5.73 lakh) landless beneficiaries identified under PMAY-G, 59 per cent or 3,60,837 (3.60 lakh) had been provided land for the construction of houses.

"The issue of landlessness is affecting the progress of PMAY-G and may also cause delay in the completion of the target," the report said and recommended that the department frame a policy within a specified period.

On the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) – a 100 per cent centrally-funded centrally-sponsored scheme under which pensions are given to the elderly, widows, disabled persons and bereaved families on the death of the primary breadwinner belonging to BPL households – the panel said the pensions ranged from Rs 200 to Rs 500 per month, which was a cause of concern for a long period of time.

"The committee noted this amount as abysmally low when the cost of living has increased during the last couple of years," the panel said.

But for Lok Sabha results, Govt would have changed Constitution: Priyanka Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday said had it not been for the Lok Sabha election results, in which the BJP scrapped through to victory, the government would have started work on changing the Constitution.

Participating in a debate on the Constitution in the Lok Sabha, she said the Constitution was a



protective shield of justice, unity and freedom of expression but the government made every effort to break it during the past 10 years.

"This government is working to weaken the reservation policy through lateral entry and privatisation. Had the Lok Sabha election results not come as they have, the government would have started the work on changing the Constitution," Gandhi said. "The truth is that they are chanting 'Constitution' because they realised that the people of this country will keep the Constitution alive," said the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad.

She said the people were demanding a caste-based census and even the ruling party was talking about it because of the election results.

PM should tell Parliament what steps India is taking to protect Hindus in Bangladesh: Uddhav

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav

Thackeray on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should inform Parliament what steps the Indian government is taking to protect Hindus in Bangladesh.

Addressing a news conference in Mumbai, Thackeray slammed the BJP, saying its Hindutva is only for votes.

He said temples are being vandalised in Bangladesh, where minority Hindus have faced violent attacks in the last few months.



Former Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina is safe in India, but what about Hindus in the neighbouring country? Thackeray asked.

"PM Modi should inform Parliament about steps India is taking to protect Hindus in Bangladesh," Thackeray said.

Parliament is currently having its winter session.

If the PM stopped the Russia-Ukraine war, he should also stop atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, he maintained.

Vice President, PM, Parliamentarians Pay Floral Tributes To Parliament Attack Martyrs

New Delhi, Dec 13: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, several Union ministers and MPs on Friday paid floral tributes to those who laid down their lives in the 2001 terror attack on Parliament 23 years ago.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Home Minister Amit Shah, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also paid tributes at an event organised outside the old Parliament building – Samvidhan Sadan. CISF personnel offered salute or 'salami' at the venue after a which a moment of silence was observed to mark the anniversary.

Till last year, the CRPF used to offer 'salami shastra' (present arms).

The attack was carried out by five armed terrorists but personnel from Parliament Security Service, CRPF and Delhi Police foiled the attack as no terrorist was able to enter the building.

Oppn Submits Notice In RS For Allahabad HC Judge’s Impeachment Over ‘Controversial Remarks’: Sources

NEW DELHI: Members of several opposition parties on Friday moved a notice in the Rajya Sabha for the impeachment of Allahabad High Court Judge Shekhar Kumar Yadav over his alleged controversial remarks at a recent VHP event, sources said.

The notice for moving the impeachment motion was signed by 55 opposition MPs, including Kapil Sibal, Vivek Tankha, Digvijaya Singh, John Brittas, Manoj Kumar Jha and Saket Gokhale.

These MPs met the Rajya Sabha secretary general and handed over the notice for impeachment a few minutes before the start of the day's proceedings, the sources said.

Some of the other prominent MPs who have signed the notice are P Chidambaram, Randeep Surjewala, Pramod Tiwari, Jai Ram Ramesh, Mukul Wasnik, Naseer Hussain, Raghav Chadha, Fauzia Khan, Sanjay Singh, AA Rahim, V Sivadasan and Renuka Chowdhury.

The notice for the motion was moved under the Judges' (Inquiry) Act, 1968, and Article 218 of the Constitution, seeking initiation of proceedings for impeachment of

Justice Yadav.

The notice mentioned that the speech/lecture delivered by Justice Yadav during an event organised by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) prima facie showed that he "engaged in hate speech and incitement to communal disharmony in violation



of the Constitution of India".

The notice also mentioned that the judge prima facie showed that he targeted minorities and displayed bias and prejudice against them.

It went on to state that Justice Yadav entered into public debate or expressed his views in public

on political matters relating to a uniform civil code, in violation of the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, 1997.

The notice mentioned that the public remarks of the judge were inflammatory and prejudiced and directly targeted minority communities.

It also stated that Justice Yadav in his lecture asserted that "the country would function according to the wishes of the majority in India".

"Justice Yadav's actions contravene the directive principles enshrined under Article 51A(e) of the

Constitution Debate | Rajnath Slams Cong, Says It Tried To Destroy Constitution’s Basic Principles

NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh on Friday said the Congress could never tolerate independence and autonomy of institutions and always tried to destroy the basic principles of the Constitution.

Initiating a debate in the Lok Sabha as the House took up a two-day "Discussion on the Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India", the defence minister said the contribution of several leaders in the making of the Constitution was deliberately ignored and hit out at the Congress, asserting that "a particular party" always tried to "hijack and appropriate" the framing of the Constitution.

"On many occasions, the Congress has disrespected the Constitution and its spirit. It could not tolerate the independence and autonomy of institutions. It always tried to destroy the basic principles of the Constitution," he alleged.

"Talk of protection of the Constitution does not seem appropriate coming from it. These days, I see many opposition leaders keep the Constitution in their pockets. Actually, this is what they have learnt from childhood, they have seen their families keep the Constitution in their pockets for generations," he said.

But the BJP always bows before the Constitution and has never played with the independence and autonomy of institutions, Singh asserted.

He pointed out that the Constitution talked about religious freedom and it had been specified that

the state would not have a religion but be secular.

"This was stated by those who were dubbed communal by people of the Congress," he said.

The Constitution is an expression of the general will of the people, Singh said.

"Our Constitution touches upon social, economic, political, cultural life and shows the way for nation building. It is a roadmap for giving India its place in the world stage... It is the outcome of a series of historical events," he said.



DC Bandipora Discusses Land Compensation, Tree-Cutting Clearances Discussed for Ring Road Phase II

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, chaired a meeting on Friday at the Mini Secretariat



Bandipora to discuss various issues related to the Semi Ring Road Phase II project.

The meeting focused on critical concerns, including soil extraction at Chewa, land compensation, and procedural clearances for tree cutting.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized that the matter of land compensation has been taken up with higher authorities, and directed the concerned to maintain coordination with local stakeholders to prevent unnecessary delays.

He also instructed officers to initiate the acquisition process for kahcharai land and provide technical support to the executing agency as required.

The meeting also discussed the necessity of obtaining proper permissions for cutting walnut and chinara trees, adhering to established procedures with geo-tagged photographs and accurate coordinates. The DC assured that a joint survey and verification process would be conducted after completing all formalities.

The meeting also reviewed the process of soil extraction at the industrial estate Chewa, with specific dumping spots already identified.

Qadri highlighted the administration's commitment to monitoring the progress of the Ring Road project and directed all officers to expedite their respective tasks to ensure timely completion. He reiterated the administration's full support in resolving challenges related to the project.

The meeting was attended by ADC Zaffar Husson Shawl, ACR, SDM Sumbal, District Mineral Officer, GM SIDCO, Ex-En I&FC Sumbal, Representatives of NHAI, PIU Srinagar, Tehsildar Sumbal, and other concerned officers.

GMS Onagam Distributes Free Stationary Among Students

BANDIPORA: Government Middle School (GMS) Onagam, in collaboration with Bhat Stationery Bandipora, distributed stationery items worth 65,000 among 150 students during a simple Annual Day function held at the school.

The event was presided over by the Cluster Head and Principal of Nadim Memorial Higher Secondary School, along with the Zonal Education Officer of Quilmuqam.

During the distribution, 45 students from the middle department received 10 notebooks and 2 ball pens each, while 102 students from the primary department were gifted 6 notebooks and 10 pencils each. This initiative aimed to support parents struggling to provide basic educational materials for their children due to financial constraints.

Ab Rashid Lone, Cluster Head, in his presidential address highlighted the importance of education by stating, "The book and pen are the most precious gifts for a student." He praised the Headmaster and staff for their continued efforts in providing valuable resources to students. Lone also acknowledged the school's unique initiatives, emphasizing that GMS Onagam stands out in the district for its focus on student welfare and well-being and quality education.

Zonal Educational Officer Quilmuqam Mohammad Hussain expressed his satisfaction with the event, where stationary items were distributed to all students. Commending the Head of Institution (HOI) and the team for their exceptional contributions to quality education, he also addressed the challenges faced by the school, which operates from a rented building with minimal facilities. He assured



attendees of his commitment to securing a new building for the school, which has shown great promise in student enrolment and development.

Prominent social activist and former District Representative of JKYP Bandipora, M.Y. Bhat, emphasized the importance of integrating quality skill-based and spiritual education into the curriculum. His speech underscored the need to equip students with both practical skills and moral values for a brighter future.

HOI, Javaid Jawad thanked the guests, staff members and Bhat Stationary Bandipora for their support to make this event a success.

Headmaster of GMS Onagam, Javaid

Jawad, shared his observations during his tenure, stating, "We identified a significant number of students unable to afford proper stationery, which negatively impacts their education." He also informed that last year, stationery items worth 50,000 were distributed to students on various occasions.

Javaid Jawad further highlighted that the school, with the help of generous philanthropists, provided school shoes to several deserving students in the previous academic session. This continued effort reflects the institution's commitment to supporting underprivileged students and ensuring their uninterrupted education.

Aarifeen Students Dominate 20th District Chess Championship with Seven Gold Wins

Sopore: Aarifeen School of Excellence showcased outstanding talent at the 20th District Chess Championship, held at MET School, Sopore, securing seven gold medals across various categories.



The event, organized by the District Baramulla Chess Association (DBCA) to promote chess among young players, saw participation from schools across the district, making the competition fierce and challenging.

Among the standout performers was Mir Zain Rafiq, a Grade 3 student, who achieved an impressive feat by winning all four of his matches. His consistent performance demonstrated a high level of skill and strategic thinking, earning him accolades from fellow participants and event organizers.

Dr. Hanan Khalid Khan, Principal of Aarifeen School of Excellence, expressed immense pride in the students' achievements. "Winning seven gold medals at the 20th District Chess Championship is a testament to the dedication, skill, and strategic mind sets of our students. Special recognition goes to Mir Zain Rafiq for his flawless performance. This accomplishment reflects our commitment to holistic education, where academics and extracurricular activities go hand in hand," he said.

He added, "We aim to continue supporting our students in honing their talents, providing them with opportunities to excel not only in academics but also in sports and other pursuits that contribute to their overall development."

The championship concluded with a medal distribution ceremony, where Aarifeen School's victories were widely celebrated. This success has not only brought pride to the school but has also inspired other young players to pursue excellence in chess. The students aim to build on this success in upcoming regional and state-level competitions.

Police Uncovers Job Fraud Syndicate in Kupwara

KUPWARA: Police in Kupwara have launched an investigation into a major job fraud case following a complaint by a local resident.

The complaint, filed by Mohd Maqbool Dar, accuses Zahoor Ahmad Ganaie, a resident of Dogerpora Kalaroos, and others of defrauding unemployed individuals by falsely promising them government jobs in the Health Department in exchange for money and original educational certificates.

"According to the complainant, he paid Rs. 15,000 and submitted his wife's original educational certificates to Zahoor Ahmad, who assured them of securing a government job. Zahoor Ahmad allegedly lured the complainant and his wife to the District Hospital Kupwara, claiming they would receive the job engagement order there. However, upon reaching the hospital, they discovered that several other individuals had also been misled into giving money and certificates," a statement issued by police, a copy of which lies with the news JKNS reads.

It reads as, instead of securing the promised jobs, Zahoor Ahmad later claimed that the money was handed to three other individuals, two from Kupwara and Srinagar and an unnamed woman.

Similarly, it reads an FIR (No. 284/2024) has been registered at PS Kupwara under relevant legal provisions. Preliminary investigations suggest that the accused are part of a well-organized syndicate targeting unemployed youth by misappropriating money and retaining their official documents.

Police seize band sawmill for processing illicit timber, Owner arrested

BANDIPORA: Police in North Kashmir's Bandipora district seized a band sawmill and arrested its owner for processing illicit forest timber.

The police said that acting on specific information, a police team raided the sawmill located in Watapora village of Bandipora, in coordination with forest officials.

During the raid, authorities confiscated 197 wooden sleepers of Deodar and Kail, measuring approximately 134 cubic feet.

A police official confirmed the operation, stating that the mill was found processing timber illegally sourced from nearby forests.

"We have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Forest Act at Police Station Bandipora," the official said. [KNT]

Indian Army Conducts Medical Camp in Shikari, Reasi

REASI, RAJOURI: The Indian Army organized a medical camp in the remote village of Shikari in Reasi, Rajouri district, extending vital healthcare services to underserved communities.

The camp witnessed a significant turnout, with villagers from Shikari and nearby areas availing themselves of free medical consultations, medicines, and guidance on preventive healthcare. The initiative aimed to address the healthcare challenges faced by residents in this inaccessible region, where medical facilities are limited.

Residents expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts in providing much-needed medical support. "This camp has been a blessing for us as it brought essential healthcare to our doorstep," said one of the attendees.

The initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment to community welfare and its continued efforts to improve the quality of life in remote regions. Such outreach programs underscore the Army's role as a pillar of support for local populations.

Indian Army Educates Haribudha Residents on Winter Disease Prevention



POONCH: The Indian Army organized a lecture on "Winter Diseases and Their Prevention" for the residents of Haribudha, a remote border village in Poonch.

An official spokesperson said this initiative, part of the Army's ongoing outreach efforts under Sadbhavana, aimed to raise awareness about common winter ailments and preventive measures.

The cold climate in the hilly region of Poonch often leads to illnesses exacerbated by low temperatures. Many residents lack awareness about these diseases and the means to prevent them, compounded by limited access to medical facilities in such remote areas.

The lecture provided students with essential knowledge about winter-specific diseases and practical

tips to safeguard against them. The students were encouraged to share this information with their families, spreading awareness throughout the community.

The local population expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for its selfless efforts in addressing this pressing issue. They praised the initiative for tackling a topic that significantly impacts their health but often remains overlooked. "The Army's guidance is invaluable for our community, especially in such challenging weather conditions," shared a local resident.

Through its proactive approach, the Indian Army continues to strengthen ties with the local population, contributing to their well-being and earning their heartfelt appreciation.

DC Baramulla urges Aadhaar holders to update Biometrics, demographic data & documents

BARAMULLA: To review the progress of Aadhaar saturation in the district and address challenges related to enrollment and updates, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired the District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) meeting today at the DC Office, here.

During the meeting, DC underscored the importance of Aadhaar as a document for accessing government services and benefits, and urged residents, particularly those who have not updated their Aadhaar in over a decade, to update their demographic details, biometrics, and supporting documents. Parents were advised to ensure their children's Aadhaar biometric details are updated at the ages of 5 and 15 to keep their Aadhaar active.

Minga Sherpa directed all departments to work collaboratively and intensify efforts to achieve 100% Aadhaar saturation in the district with special emphasis laid on updating Aadhaar for students to align with school records, ensuring seamless application processes for national-level competitive exams.

The DC further instructed the concerned officials to enhance outreach programs and provide adequate resources to facilitate Aadhaar updates for residents.

Meanwhile, the DC highlighted the importance of updated Aadhaar details in promoting ease of living, enhancing access to government services, and ensuring accurate authentication. Residents were encouraged to actively participate in the ongoing campaign and promptly update their Aadhaar details.

State Project Manager UIDAI J&K gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting the initiatives undertaken to streamline Aadhaar enrollment and updates. He detailed the organiza-



tion of special Aadhaar camps in collaboration with the district administration and the establishment of enrollment facilities in hospitals to facilitate Aadhaar generation for newborns using verified birth certificates.

The use of QR code-verified date of birth certificates to prevent rejections during updates was also emphasized during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, District Programme Officer ICDS Project, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, District Statistical & Evaluation Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Superintendent Post Office, Lead Bank Officer, District Manager CSC, District Informatics Officer, Manager India Post Payment Bank and Representative of UIDAI.

Commissioner SMC Reviews Progress of Works Division Projects

SRINAGAR: The Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed IAS, chaired a comprehensive review meeting today to evaluate the progress of ongoing projects under the Works Division. The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioner Works, Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, Chief Engineer SSDL, Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Accounts Officers, and other senior SMC officials.

The review focused on assessing the status of various projects,



addressing challenges, and devising future strategies. Dr. Owais emphasized the importance of completing projects on time while maintaining high-quality standards. Dr. Owais also urged officials to enhance coordination and communication to meet the community's needs and expectations effectively.

Key projects discussed during the meeting included road repairs, infrastructure improvements, and the enhancement of public facilities. The Commissioner highlighted the need for transparency and accountability in all operations and directed officials to provide regular updates on their progress.

Dr. Owais reiterated that timely and efficient execution of projects is essential for better service delivery, ensuring that the community benefits from improved infrastructure and services.

Empowering Food Processing SHGs

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is supporting Self-Help Groups (SHGs) engaged in Food Processing activities through its schemes. Under the Centrally Sponsored PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, the Ministry provides grants for Seed Capital up to Rs. 40,000/per member of SHG. Individual SHG members can avail credit linked grant @35% of the project cost with maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh as a single unit of food processing enterprise. SHGs are also eligible for assistance under relevant component schemes of Central Sector Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY). SHGs have emerged as vital instruments for economic empowerment and community development. Recognizing their potential, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched schemes like the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) to bolster SHGs engaged in food processing. These initiatives provide seed capital, credit-linked grants, and access to resources, aiming to transform small ventures into sustainable enterprises. Despite the impressive ₹1,032 crore sanctioned to over 3 lakh SHG members, the underutilization of credit-linked subsidies signals a need for streamlined processes and greater awareness. Challenges such as procedural hurdles, limited access to markets, and inadequate training hinder the full realization of these schemes' potential. To address this, the government must simplify procedures, ensure skill development, and forge stronger market linkages for SHGs. Establishing shared infrastructure for processing and packaging can further reduce costs and boost efficiency. Empowering SHGs in food processing is not merely an economic imperative; it is a step toward inclusive development and self-reliance. With the right interventions, these grassroots enterprises can drive sustainable growth and uplift communities across the nation.

Striking a Balance: Protecting Children Without Banning Social Media



Priyanka Saurabh

Social media refers to a means of interaction between people through which they create, share, and/or

predators. Restricting access would help protect their psychological and emotional health. Studies show that excessive use of social media can interfere with healthy brain development, sleep, and academic performance. The proposed legislation supports a safe developmental environment. Social media platforms collect large amounts of personal data from users, and children may not fully understand how their data is collected, used, or monetized. Restricting access for young users could help reduce privacy violations and the exploitation of personal data by large technology companies.

has emerged as one of the biggest disadvantages of social media. The rise of social media has exposed many teenagers across the world to name-calling, harassment, embarrassment, humiliation, stalking, threats, and even fraud. Individuals attempt to maintain an 'internet persona' that presents a rosy picture of one's life, using filters to hide parts that are not considered 'good enough.' Frequent social media use can alter parts of the brain that deal with emotions and learning. Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the Information

Technology Act, 2000. All social media platforms have been asked to set up grievance redressal and compliance mechanisms, including the appointment of a resident grievance officer, chief compliance officer, and a nodal contact person. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has also asked these platforms to submit monthly reports on complaints received from users and action taken. Instant messaging apps will have to make provisions for tracking the first source of the message. Section 79 states that no intermediary shall be held legally or otherwise liable for any third-party information,



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Young people need to be taught to think critically about what they see online and how they engage with social media. Parents and teachers also need better tools and resources to help them provide appropriate guidance and support.

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exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks. The Australian government has announced plans to introduce legislation that would prevent children under 16 from using social media platforms. It is clear that we need to better protect children and young people online. On balance, the Australian Human Rights Commission does not believe that completely banning social media for children under 16 is the right response. There are less restrictive options available that could achieve the aim of protecting children and young people from harm online but without having such a significant negative impact on other human rights. One example of an alternative response would be to place a legal duty of care on social media companies. This would require them to take reasonable steps to make their products safe for children and young people.

Introducing a statutory duty of care would be a proactive way to increase the accountability of social media companies and improve online safety for all. The Commission understands that such a duty of care is being considered by the Government. Social media exposes children and young people to many potential risks, including cyberbullying, harmful content, and online

Restricting access helps parents and guardians better guide their children's online activities and ensure they engage with technology in a supervised manner. We also need to help children and young people better navigate the online space by ensuring that the national curriculum includes a special focus on teaching digital literacy and online safety. Young people should be taught to think critically about what they see online and how they engage with social media. Better tools and resources are also needed to help parents and teachers provide appropriate guidance and support. Social networking sites enable individuals and organizations to share and exchange information at a speed unmatched by traditional promotional or educational methods. Social media has transformed the way information is shared among people. As a result, it plays an important role in promoting good governance by encouraging citizen participation in decision-making. One of the advantages of social media is that it has emerged as a powerful tool for empowerment. Social media has reduced the gap between citizens and their elected government and politicians, leading to greater participation in democracy. The issue of the dissemination of misinformation

data, or communication links available or hosted on its platform. Protection is not provided if the intermediary, despite being informed or notified by the government or its agencies, does not promptly disable access to the content in question. There is a need for a comprehensive transparency law that mandates relevant disclosures by social media platforms. Additionally, content moderation and related actions such as standard setting, fact-checking, and de-platforming should be included. Regarding the mental health of adolescents, parents should be very careful while giving their children access to digital devices and discuss healthy use with them.

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Zain-ul-Abidin’s Golden Era: A Blueprint for Governance and Cultural Renaissance



Siraj Uddin Khan

In the heart of the 15th century, amid the breathtaking valleys and snow-capped peaks of Kashmir, a ruler emerged who would transform the region into a beacon of unity, prosperity, and cultural renaissance. Shahi Khan Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, affectionately known as Budshah (the Great King), with predecessors like Miran Khan Ali Shah (brother) and Sikander (father) inherited a land fractured by religious and cultural divides. Yet, through his enlightened vision and benevolent policies, he wove together the diverse strands of Kashmiri society, fostering an unprecedented era of harmony and prosperity. His reign stands as a testament to the power of inclusive leadership, offering timeless lessons for not only Kashmir but to a world still grappling with discord and division.

At a time when communal tensions could easily have splintered society, as seen in 21 century today and a century back when Britishers divided the Indian subcontinent through The Morley-Minto Reforms 1909 by separate electorate to Muslims, Zain-ul-Abidin pursued a path of reconciliation and inclusivity. Unlike many rulers of his era, he transcended the religious boundaries of his kingdom, treating especially Hindus, with the highest respect. Recognizing the importance of unity in governance, he abolished oppressive taxes like Jazya from 2 Pals to 1 pal (2 pals of silver= 8 tolas) on non-Muslims, promoted interfaith dialogue, and rebuilt Hindu temples destroyed during his predecessors' reigns. This policy of inclusiveness was not mere political strategy; it stemmed from a deep understanding of Kashmir's diverse cultural tapestry. Zain-ul-Abidin's court became a melting pot of scholars which include Jonaraja, Rupyabhanda, Shiryā Bhatta, Pandit Nottasoma, Yodha Bhatta and Avatara Bhatta, poets, and artists from different traditions, reflecting the pluralistic ethos he championed. This environment of

mutual respect not only ensured social harmony but also laid the foundation for Kashmir's golden age.

Unity alone does not guarantee prosperity—it must be accompanied by sound economic policies. Zain-ul-Abidin's reign saw groundbreaking reforms that revitalized Kashmir's economy. His most notable contributions were in agriculture and trade. Understanding the lifeblood of his agrarian kingdom, he introduced advanced irrigation techniques in drought-prone areas of time currently Kupwara, Sopore and parts of Anantnag and incentivized farmers to expand cultivation. The Sultan also focused on reviving traditional Kashmiri crafts, such as shawl-weaving and paper-mâché, which became renowned far beyond the region. Moreover, Zain-ul-Abidin's policies facilitated international trade, bringing wealth and fame to Kashmir. His establishment of trade relations with Central Asia and regions of the Indian subcontinent turned Kashmir into a thriving economic hub and place of Harmony.

Under Zain-ul-Abidin's patronage, Kashmir witnessed a cultural efflorescence unparalleled in its history. Surrounded by a galaxy of Sanskrit scholars he heard Nilamatpurana, Jnana vasishtha by Valmiki about salvation, Gita Govinda sung by Srivara. His court attracted luminaries from Persia, Central Asia, and India, fostering a unique blend of cultural influences that enriched Kashmiri identity. One of the most remarkable aspects of this cultural renaissance was its inclusivity.



Sanskrit scholars found a welcoming audience in the Sultan's court, as did Persian poets and Sufi mystics. By encouraging cross-cultural exchanges, Zain-ul-Abidin not only enriched the intellectual life of his kingdom but also strengthened its social fabric. He himself practiced uncommon enthusiasm and remained present every year in festivals like Nagayatra and Granachakra(5 day festival in Jayapidadapura), Vyath Truvah (festival of lamps), Chaitra (Spring festival).

What sets Zain-ul-Abidin apart from many rulers in history is his genuine commitment to religious tolerance.

Unity alone does not guarantee prosperity—it must be accompanied by sound economic policies. Zain-ul-Abidin's reign saw groundbreaking reforms that revitalized Kashmir's economy. His most notable contributions were in agriculture and trade. Understanding the lifeblood of his agrarian kingdom, he introduced advanced irrigation techniques in drought-prone areas of time currently Kupwara, Sopore and parts of Anantnag and incentivized farmers to expand cultivation.

His administration was a model of pluralism, with mostly Hindus serving in key positions of power a model followed by Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Akbar (1556 to 1605) The Great Mughal Emperor approx 136 years later while Sir Marc Aurel Stein (Hungarian scholar) titled Budshah as Akbar of Kashmir. In my opinion, he should have titled to Akbar As Zain-ul-Abdin of India. One anecdote that encapsulates his philosophy is the rebuilding of the famous Sun Temple in Kashmir. Despite being a Muslim ruler, Zain-ul-Abidin funded the reconstruction of this Hindu shrine, earning the admiration and loyalty of his Hindu subjects.

In an era where identity politics and sectarianism often dominate public discourse, Zain-ul-Abidin's reign offers a powerful counter-narrative. His policies demonstrate that unity and inclusivity are not just moral imperatives but also practical strategies for governance and development. By embracing diversity, he unlocked the creative and economic potential of his people, transforming Kashmir into a model of prosperity. Modern leaders can draw several lessons from Zain-ul-Abidin's example. First, inclusivity in governance fosters trust and cooperation among diverse communities. Second, investing in cultural and economic development creates a virtuous cycle of growth and harmony. Finally, genuine respect for all traditions builds a sense of shared identity, which is essential for long-term stability of any nation.

As the sun sets over the serene Dal Lake and the whispers of Kashmir's past mingle with the present, the legacy of Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin continues to resonate. His reign was more than a period of enlightened rule; it was a blueprint for a harmonious society. By knitting together the diverse threads of religion, culture, and economy, he created a tapestry of unity and prosperity that still remains unmatched by any ruler in the Indian SubContinent.

Jonaraja contemporary writer of Budshah states that 'The amount of love which he received from grateful hindus is known from the fact that they elevated Budshah to the status of the incarnation of Vishnu'

Div Com Kashmir reviews management of vehicular movement through Zojila Pass

SRINAGAR: In view of plummeting temperatures and frosty condition of road connecting UT of Ladakh with UT of J&K through Zojila Pass, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers & agencies regarding the opening and closure of the Pass.

the meeting, Divisional Commissioner exhorted District Administration Kargil, District Administration Ganderbal, SSP Rural Kashmir, officers of BRO & BEACON to maintain close coordination to take a call of closure of the Zojilla Pass according to the weather conditions and position of road and in consultation with BRO & VIJAYK.

He emphasized on establishing the joint control room consisting of District Administration Ganderbal, Police, SDRF and CRPF.

Div Com said that in case of any eventuality, snow fall and closure of road, necessary accommodation shall be provided to the stranded passengers by Deputy



Commissioner, Ganderbal at the stranded passengers

Sonamarg and Gagangeer. Besides, the locations and list should be shared with Deputy Commissioner, Kargil.

RTO Kashmir and SSP Rural were directed to ensure that the vehicles plying on the road shall wear anti-skid chains and must be mechanically sound. Besides, vehicles shall carry permissible tonnage.

Also, RTO Kashmir was instructed to ensure operationalization of weighing bridges enroute the road.

Div Com also stressed all the departments and stakeholders to adhere to

the traffic advisories issued by the Traffic Department in consultation with the committee and directed that the advisory should be given wide publicity through media.

Further, Div Com gave instructions for stationing of recovery cranes enroute the Zojilla Pass.

Moreover, CMO Ganderbal was directed to ensure smooth functioning of the Hospital at Sonmarg during the closure of the road.

DC Srinagar reviews sector wise progress of development works under District Capex Plan 2024-25



SRINAGAR: In order to take first-hand appraisal about physical and financial status of the works taken up under District Capex Plan 2024-25 in the District, a meeting of all Sectoral/ District Officers was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of funds released and expenditure incurred under R&B, PHE, Education, Health, RDD, PDD, I&FC and other sectors, besides progress of works taken up were also reviewed in detail.

The DC after taking sector wise review of all works directed the Officers to ensure 100 percent expenditure in the set time lines by accelerating the pace of the works scheduled for completion during the current year.

Dr. Bilal stressed on achieving the physical/ financial target of total allocated funds/ works taken up for the current fiscal by December 31.

The DC directed the Officers of the Departments to expedite expenditure bookings and accelerate the pace of developmental works by ensuring quality.

He stressed optimal fund utilization for the current financial year, urging officers to mobilize manpower and machinery for timely project completion.

He also instructed officers to promptly book maximum expenditure for ongoing works.

The DC directed the officers to work in coordinated manner with line Departments to achieve development goals well in time keeping in view the limited working season. He asked all the line departments to ensure timely submission of works bills to concerned Treasuries.

Rana directs for in-depth study of recurrent land-drifts, slides in Mendhar

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today directed for an in-depth study of land-drifting in Mendhar.

He called for assessing the destruction caused by them and ways to build a resilient disaster management mechanism against the same.

The Minister passed on these directions during a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here which was attended by Principal Secretary, Home/DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Mohammad Ajaz and other senior officers.

The Minister said that the region faces recurrent landslides and land-drifting since 1990's posing a serious threat to life and property of the inhabitants. He said the events in the region call for integrated preparations for dealing with natural disasters like land drifting in Faizabad and other risk prone areas.

"We need to rope in an expert organisation having vast expertise in the field for an in-



depth study of landslides to address all the components of landslide disaster risk reduction and management," he said. He necessitated evolving an integrated mechanism to ensure the future and dreams of those living in vulnerable areas is secured.

The Minister further said that locals have to be involved in soil conservation, plantation and other measures aimed at mitigation measures.

During the meeting, Javed Rana also reviewed the rehabilitation process of Waltengoo Snow Storm Victims and deliberations were held for their rehabilitation. He said that some families among those affected by the snow storm in the year 2005 at Waltengoo in

Kulgam district are yet to be rehabilitated.

"We cannot leave them alone and assure that the affected people of Waltengoo that the government is committed for their full rehabilitation," he maintained.

Javed Rana stressed on resolving this pending humane issue on priority keeping the gravity in consideration. He encouraged that convergence plan should be developed to create opportunities for them.

Chandraker Bharti, while speaking on the occasion, said that the experts from Geological Survey of India will be roped in for studying the phenomenon so that we can prepare ourselves better in dealing with such situations.

Mission Director JJM holds maiden meeting after assuming charge

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurseed Ahmad Shah, today convened maiden meeting of core team of the Mission at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

meeting was attended by the officers of Mission Directorate and consultants while Jammu based officers and consultants participated online.

Mission Director was apprised of the major components of JJM by Officer on Special Duty, Reyaz Bhat. He was informed that 3253 Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) are in different phases of execution under JJM against which 1402 have been completed, so far.

The MD sought the status of technical assessment of schemes which were assigned to the consultants and project Managers for ascertaining the technical and functional feasibility of different components of schemes completed and under execution including source sustainability. He was informed that 2382 schemes were assigned for verifications to consultants and District Project Management Unit's (DPMU's), of which, the reports



of 2261 schemes have been received. The issues identified in these have been shared with the concerned Chief Engineers for taking appropriate action and verification of other schemes is under process.

The Mission Director directed the consultants to speed up the process and complete it within 10 days positively. He also emphasized the need for taking necessary steps to find solutions to the issues in the field so that the Mission is completed within fixed timelines.

Mandeep Kaur inaugurates workshop on Integrated Waste Management Practices

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MLA Dooru launches Mir Maryam's debut novel 'Lost in the Journey of Magic' at GDC Women Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Dooru, GA Mir Friday released 'Lost in the Journey of Magic', the debut novel by Mir Maryam, a Class 7 student of Saint Xian's International School Anantnag, during a special event held at GDC Women Anantnag.

In his address, MLA, GA Mir commended Mir Maryam for her exceptional literary achievement at such a young age. He lauded the school's holistic approach toward education, emphasizing how its innovative curriculum fosters creativity, academic excellence, and personal development among students.

"Students like Mir Maryam exemplify the power of a nurturing educational environment that encourages young minds to pursue their passions and dreams.

It is imperative to support and inspire our student community to shine on national and international platforms, bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir," MLA Mir remarked.

He also expressed his gratitude to the management of Saint Xian's International School for inviting him to share his thoughts with the students and congratulated the



school for cultivating a culture of literary and artistic excellence.

The event concluded with an interactive session where Mir Maryam engaged with the audience, discussing various aspects of her novel and sharing insights into her writing journey. The session inspired students and guests alike, leaving a lasting impression on all present.

Earlier, the event began with a warm welcome address by Dr. Fahmeeda Akhter, Principal of Saint Xian's International School.

Secy RDD Holds Meeting with DCs on MGNREGA and Panchayat Infrastructure

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, presided over a meeting on Friday to discuss pivotal matters including the formulation of MGNREGA Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2025-26, land availability for new Panchayat Bhawans, providing of caste data to the OBC Commission, and identification of land for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs).

The meeting was attended by all District Development Commissioners of J&K, Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat, Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, Director Finance, Umar Khan, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma, Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja, Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Er. Aamir Ali, Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Er. Rajesh Kumar, all Assistant Commissioner Development (ACDs), ACPs and others.

While chairing the meeting, the Secretary highlighted the standing instructions to be followed while submitting material liabilities under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Aijaz Asad also directed all district officials to initiate the preparation of Annual Action Plans (AAPs) for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the year 2025-26.

He also discussed the district-wise identification of suitable land for the construction of Panchayat Ghars.

The Secretary urged District Development Commissioners to identify land promptly to

expedite the construction process of Panchayat Ghars.

He asked officials to expedite the identification of state land. In cases where state land is unavailable, community land donations with proper affidavits



are being encouraged.

Aijaz Asad also highlighted the urgency of providing caste data to the OBC Commission by Deputy Commissioners.

The Secretary discussed the challenges faced in acquiring land for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in Jammu and Reasi.

Aijaz Asad urged all District Development Commissioners to assist in identifying suitable land for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs).

However, he acknowledged challenges in obtaining construction permits due to land ownership issues and zoning regulations in certain districts like Jammu and Reasi.

The Secretary urged Assistant Commissioners of Development (ACDs) in Doda and Anantnag to expedite the implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) projects to enhance water resource management and rural livelihoods.

DC Srinagar chairs meeting of District Cooperative Development Committee

SHOPIAN: SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 13: A meeting of the District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.



At the outset, the DC took a detailed review about the functioning of the Cooperative Department in the District.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised by the Deputy Registrar

Cooperatives, about the progress and achievements made so far by the Cooperative Department. She informed that out of 21 Panchayats in District Srinagar, 19 have been covered under the ambit of the Cooperatives as per laid guidelines and 2 are under process. Dr Bilal asked for recommendations and feedback from other allied Departments to further strengthen the Cooperative sector. He assured cooperation and every possible support to the Department for its better functioning. Apart from reviewing the progress and development in the cooperative sector of the district, the committee deliberated on the Food Processing Unit initiative and approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Food Processing Unit (FPU) to be established by Greenfield Agro Spices and Processing

30 J&K artists selected for 28th National Youth Festival Festival aims at empowering youth with skills, knowledge, confidence: Sarmad Hafiz

JAMMU: The youth of Jammu and Kashmir possesses tremendous talent which needs to be explored at the grass-root level by ensuring quality education to them coupled with high moral values and ethical standards.

This was stated by Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, while addressing the concluding ceremony of Inter-Division UT level competition for 28th National Youth Festival 2024-25.

Sarmad Hafeez was accompanied by Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara and other officers of the department.

The Secretary said that the youth of present era is dynamic and energetic adding the only need is to channelize their energy in the right direction while guiding them to live a healthy lifestyle

away from drug abuse and other social ills.

Sarmad Hafeez thanked the department for providing him an opportunity to witness a wonderful display of art and culture and lavished praise on the organisers, parents, teachers and trainers for guiding them to do wonderfully well, thus making the event a grand success.

While congratulating the selected artists/students, the Secretary said that participating in the upcoming 28th National Youth Festival in the benign presence of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi would be a dream come true for them. He said through such competitions,



the government aims to empower youth with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become leaders and change-makers in their communities.

Sarmad Hafeez further said that such festive activities apart from helping the youth not to fall prey to social evils, helps them to exchange culture, make friends and learn new languages.

Earlier, Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports Central, Jitendra Mishra, presented the welcome address and threw light on the significance of the day.

Syed Qamar Sajad assumes charge as MD, J&K Cable Car Corporation

SRINAGAR: Syed Qamar assumed charge as the Managing Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation yesterday.

Upon taking over, he interacted with the staff and addressed a gathering at the corporation's headquarters.

In his address, Sajad highlighted his commitment to modernizing the corporation and enhancing its efficiency to meet the demands of the growing tourism industry. "The J&K Cable Car Corporation

plays a pivotal role in promoting tourism and boosting the local economy. Together, we can create a more vibrant and sustainable future for this vital sector," he stated.

He emphasized the importance of teamwork, safety, and customer satisfaction in delivering world-class services. Sajad encouraged staff members to bring forth innovative ideas and reaffirmed his focus on infrastructure development, service excellence, and environmental sustainability.



Yellow VS white

Which variety of desi ghee is healthier and why



A rich source of proteins, healthy fats, vitamin A, E and K, desi ghee is the complete package that benefits skin, hair, heart and digestive health alike. However, there continues to be a battle between yellow and white-coloured desi ghee on which one is healthier than the other. While the white variety belongs to buffalo milk, the yellow version is made from cow milk



When it comes to Indian food, desi ghee is a staple that adds a touch of flavour, smoothness and goodness to meals. Be it a thin layer over rotis or a spoonful in a bowl of dal – desi ghee adds the wow factor to every dish alike. While many shy away from desi ghee intake owing to its alleged negative effects on health – from obesity to cholesterol and diabetes – this dairy product in truth is a powerhouse of health benefits.

A rich source of proteins, healthy fats, vitamin A, E and K, desi ghee is the complete package that benefits skin, hair, heart and digestive health alike. However, there continues to be a battle between yellow and white-coloured desi ghee on which one is healthier than the other. While the white variety belongs to buffalo milk, the yellow version is made from cow milk.

To learn more about which version is healthier than the other, Times Now Digital connected with dieticians who spoke about the nutrient profile of the two condiments and their respective benefits for health.

Dr Amreen Shaikh, Dietitian at Wockhardt Hospital spoke about the individual benefits of white desi ghee and yellow desi ghee with respect to their nutrition profile.

“White ghee has less fat compared to yellow ghee. The white ghee can be preserved for a long time due to its high-fat content. Buffalo ghee helps in maintaining healthy bones, gaining weight, enhancing cardiovascular muscle activity whereas cow ghee is good for losing

weight, reducing obesity in adults and children and it's easy to digest. Cow milk has A2 protein which is missing in buffalo milk. Modern science has given lot of importance to A2 protein. A2 is available only in desi cows. Cow ghee possesses innumerable amounts of protein, minerals calcium, vitamins, whereas Buffalo ghee provides essential elements such as magnesium, calcium and phosphorus. Cow ghee enables the heart to perform well by reducing fatal blood cholesterol levels and improving the adequate blood cholesterol level,” said Dr Shaikh.

Dr Ushakiran Sisodia, Chief Dietician at Nanavati Max Hospital compared the nutrient profile of both varieties and then recommended the best option for people dealing with particular health woes.

“Both the cow and buffalo ghee is beneficial for physical and mental health as it possess the same amount of fat. Buffalo ghee is less preferable than cow ghee. It helps to enhance beneficial bacteria production by providing nutrition to the body. Generally, cow ghee is better because it has carotene vitamin A which is good for eyes and brain function. It's good for those with weak digestion. Cow ghee is rich in essential nutrients with antibacterial, antifungal, antioxidant properties and is high in calories whereas, Buffalo ghee lacks in such properties. People who consume buffalo ghee are said to have more fats and calories compared to cow ghee. Cow ghee reduces laziness and obesity. It helps on conditions such as cold, cough and phlegm issues. It helps to retain the flexibility of bone joints and the anti-ageing substance results in an anti-ageing effect,” Dr Sisodia explained

Can breastfeeding improve blood sugar levels? Expert answers FAQs

Diabetes is kind to none – be it children, older adults or even mums-to-be. During pregnancy, blood sugar levels are likely to go haywire and result in a condition known as gestational diabetes. This condition does not necessarily mean that the patient may have a history of diabetes and may suffer from it for sure after child birth. However, being unable to manage blood sugar levels properly may increase risk of type-2 diabetes later.

Is there a natural remedy for blood sugar control after child birth?

As it turns out, blood sugars levels can be brought down naturally after childbirth with breastfeeding. Also known for its weight loss benefits, lower risk of cancers, anxiety, rheumatoid arthritis and heart disease, breastfeeding could be your way to dodge type-2 diabetes risk at a later stage in life. Furthermore, for strengthening the mother-baby bond and to lower inflammation risk, experts recommend feeding from both breasts.

In an interaction with Times Now Digital, Dr Gandhali Devorukhkar, Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician at Wockhardt Hospital spoke about how breastfeeding can lower blood sugar levels in mothers by 25%. The expert also shed light on other benefits of breastfeeding after childbirth, and whether or not it is safe to breastfeed a baby while taking insulin and diabetes medication.

“About 5-9% of pregnant women in India develop high blood sugar levels even though they didn't have diabetes before pregnancy, this condition is known as gestational diabetes which significantly raises a woman's risk for type 2 diabetes later in life. In the case of type 2 diabetes, cells do not respond properly to insulin, a hormone that signals cells to take in the sugar glucose from the blood. If they are left untreated the blood sugar levels can rise and cause several health problems, including blindness, heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and amputation. Based on a research, breastfeeding increases insulin sensitivity and improves glucose metabolism in the mother. Additionally, most of

the diabetes medications including insulin and metformin are safe to use,” said Dr Devorukhkar.

Breastfeeding tips for mothers with diabetes

The American Diabetes Association lists some safe and healthy breastfeeding tips for mothers with diabetes.

Breastfeed as soon as you can after delivery of the baby

Get skin to skin contact with the baby and nurse several times after the delivery

Stay calm and relaxed when the milk comes

Have breakfast/snacks before or during the nursing.

Keep an eatable item near you to raise the blood sugar quickly if needed.

Have plenty water and other liquid fluids to stay hydrated

Keep a check on the blood sugar levels before and after nursing

In case of blood sugar fall leading to blackouts, visit your doctor immediately

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NHAI Introduces Advanced 'Rajmarg Saathi' Route Patrolling Vehicles

SRINAGAR: With an aim to enhance road safety and strengthen highway patrolling, NHAI plans to implement the upgraded and forward-looking Incident Management

the operators were not able to keep these equipment in well organised manner, which at times lead to delay in taking prompt action. In order to overcome such situation, the rear

signs, and other infrastructure assets. The data/ video footage including road distresses shall be collected on weekly basis by NHAI and this road distresses data shall be integrated with NHAI One application for more efficient maintenance of roads.

The guidelines for 'Rajmarg Saathi' RPVs include detailed specifications related to the use of vehicle, equipment and manpower. To ensure service fitness of the vehicle, the RPV shall be replaced with a new RPV, once it has exceeded run of 3,00,000 km or has been in operation for three years.

Also, special emphasis has been laid on branding and external appearance of the RPVs to maximise its visibility as a Highway Patrol Services on the National Highways. Equipped with the advanced communication and safety tools, these vehicles will be useful in minimizing traffic disruptions,

improving road safety and enhancing overall road user experience along the National Highways.

In order to provide a distinct and professional look, uniform of the PV Personnel has also been redesigned to include brilliant blue colour along with a jacket with reflective stripes and authority logos for easy identification.

Route Patrolling Operations play a critical role in maintaining safety, providing incident management and ensuring smooth flow of traffic on National Highways. NHAI is commitment to enhancing road safety standards as well as provide a seamless and pleasant travel experience to all National Highway users across the country.



Services. The guidelines on the subject include updated specifications for new Route Patrolling Vehicles (RPVs) named 'Rajmarg Saathi' and outlines design, functions, technology, components and manpower specifications for the RPVs.

The RPVs conduct inspection of National Highway stretches to monitor and respond to emergency situations. In the existing RPVs, the rear space is open for keeping instruments and equipments to support in case of emergency situations. However, due to open space,

or trunk of RPV has now been replaced by a closed cabinet with dedicated space for different equipment and inventory.

The shelves have been created to provide quick & easy access to different equipment during the emergency situations and is a significant upgrade from the earlier RPVs.

Additional advanced feature of this new RPV shall be provision for dashboard camera equipped with 'AI video analytics' to capture and identify cracks & potholes as well as other elements including vehicles, pedestrians, road

Residents of Patalbagh Pampore Face Difficulties in Vehicle Movement on National Highway

PAMPORE : Residents of Patalbagh, Pampore, have been facing significant difficulties in maneuvering vehicles on the National Highway due to its narrow lanes. The issue has caused inconvenience for locals, as the congested road makes it challenging for vehicles to pass through, especially during peak hours.

To address the growing concerns of the people, BJP leader and District President of Pulwama, Lateef Bhat, raised the issue with top government officials. He has called for

immediate action to resolve the road congestion and ease

Pampore, along with local authorities, visited the area to

is aware of the problem and that efforts are



the movement of vehicles.

In response, Tehsildar

assess the situation. They assured the public that the government

underway to widen the old communication road. The widening of the road is expected to significantly alleviate the traffic issues and provide better connectivity for residents and commuters alike.

Lateef Bhat emphasized that the timely execution of the road-widening project would not only improve vehicle movement but also enhance the overall infrastructure in the region, benefiting the local population in the long run.

LG extends term of VCs of SKUAST-K, JU

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday extended the tenure of Vice Chancellor of SKUAST Kashmir for a period of two years and Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu (JU) for a period of three years respectively.

Sinha in an order said that the incumbent VC of SKUAST Kashmir Prof Nazir Ganaie shall continue his services for two more years with effect from December-16 which is his existing term of the position.

"I exercise of the powers vested in me, under Section 25 (2) of Sher-I-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Act, 1982, I, Manoj Sinha, Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir hereby extend the tenure of Prof Nazir Ganaie, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir for a period of two years with immediate effect from 16.12.2024, the date of completion of his existing term as the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir," it reads

Wildlife, Forest Deptt Control Major Fire in Khrew Forest

Bilal Habib

PAMPORE: A major forest fire in the Batdalaw Khrew area of Pampore has been successfully controlled by the joint efforts of the Wildlife and Forest Departments.

Officials reported that the fire was contained, saving the region's valuable "green gold." The operation involved field staff, casual laborers, and volunteers using basic tools like sticks and bare hands.

The Peoples Welfare Trust Khrew praised the bravery and dedication of the staff, particularly the casual laborers, for their swift action in averting a potential disaster. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Awantipora, Sajad Ahmad, said the fire, reported on Wednesday evening, was extinguished within 2-3 hours due to



the team's valiant efforts. He noted that dry weather and combustible material increase the risk of forest fires. He urged the public to avoid carrying matches, lighters, or improperly disposing of cigarette butts and to report any fire incidents promptly to forest officials.

Continued From P1...

India Wants

to have relations free of terrorists," he said during Question Hour. This has been the position of the government of India, Jaishankar said.

"We have made it very clear that it is for the Pakistani side to show that they are changing their behaviour of the past and if they don't, of course, there are implications on relations. So the ball is very much in Pakistan's court in this regard," he said.

Trade ties with Pakistan were snapped after the Centre abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dream Big

can generate curiosity, creativity and imagination among students. We must create a conducive environment to develop lifelong learning and problem-solving skills and encourage critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration among students, he said.

He further emphasised on maintaining a fine balance between Science and Sanskar. Along with core subjects, our focus should be on value-based education and promoting new ideas, new innovations while nurturing the individuality of students, he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students, and also congratulated the school for contributing immensely in developing knowledge capital and human capital.

Chaitanya Chowdhary, President, KC International School; prominent citizens; Principal, school staff, teachers, students, and parents were present.

Intact anti-drone

the 60th Raising Day in Jammu, the IG BSF, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that anti-drone system is intact all along the International Border and technology installation has reduced drone activity from across.

He further said that the use of advanced technology to counter infiltration along the International Border is also well in place, and additional troops have also been deployed in Jammu Frontier to augment security grid as part of winter mechanism.

The IG stated that technical surveillance is being expanded and very soon entire border area will be under the physical and technological surveillance. "BSF is laced with hi-tech weapons and equipped with technology along borders."

On suspected Rohingya movement or settlement along border areas, he said there are no reports of settlement of illegal immigrants (Rohingyas) close to the border in Jammu Frontier. He added that BSF is as usual maintaining high degree of alertness and security all along the International Border.

On recovery and infiltration attempts this year, the IG BSF said that BSF is maintaining about 192-km of International Border with Pakistan and is also deployed along the Line of Control along side the Indian Army.

"This year witnessed manifold challenges from the counterpart such as drone activities, smuggling attempts and unprovoked firing, but true to its tradition, BSF Jammu successfully thwarted all adversarial attempts and foiled their nefarious designs," he said.

He also said that this year two Pakistani intruders were killed and two were apprehended, while about 7.659 kg narcotics was also seized.

Kashmir shivers

Kupwara, the mercury settled at 2.5 degree Celsius. Zojilla has however, witnessed the coldest night of the season at minus 23.0 degree Celsius.

The night temperature has plummeted at maximum places following the fresh snowfall in higher reaches as well as in some of the plains of the Valley during the last two days.

Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted no wet spell till December 21.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather would remain dry for the next 24 hours while on December 15, there is a forecast of cloudy weather conditions.

On December 16 & 17, the weather would remain generally while from December 18-20th, the cloudy weather is expected in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the MeT's advisory, there is a forecast of a cold wave

over many stations during the next four days. "In view of fresh snowfall, sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travelers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory," it reads.

Secy RDD

Hussain Bhat, Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, Director Finance, Umar Khan, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma, Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja, Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Er. Aamir Ali, Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Er Rajesh Kumar, all Assistant Commissioner Development (ACDs), ACPs and others.

While chairing the meeting, the Secretary highlighted the standing instructions to be followed while submitting material liabilities under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Aijaz Asad also directed all district officials to initiate the preparation of Annual Action Plans (AAPs) for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the year 2025-26.

He also discussed the district-wise identification of suitable land for the construction of Panchayat Ghars.

The Secretary urged District Development Commissioners to identify land promptly to expedite the construction process of Panchayat Ghars.

He asked officials to expedite the identification of state land. In cases where state land is unavailable, community land donations with proper affidavits are being encouraged.

Aijaz Asad also highlighted the urgency of providing caste data to the OBC Commission by Deputy Commissioners.

The Secretary discussed the challenges faced in acquiring land for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in Jammu and Reasi.

Aijaz Asad urged all District Development Commissioners to assist in identifying suitable land for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs).

However, he acknowledged challenges in obtaining construction permits due to land ownership issues and zoning regulations in certain districts like Jammu and Reasi.

The Secretary urged Assistant Commissioners of Development (ACDs) in Doda and Anantnag to expedite the implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) projects to enhance water resource management and rural livelihoods.

CS Reviews

He also suggested rope in different sponsors from Hospitality, Travel, Tourism and Corporate sectors for making this multi disciplinary marathon a grand success here for the overall promotion of tourism in Jammu region.

The Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal informed the meeting about the status of arrangements made so far to successfully hold this Marathon in Jammu.

She informed that the Portal is being developed by BISAG-N and would be ready for launch till 25th of December. She further informed that the requisite certification and measurement for 109 kms Ultra Marathon Jammu is currently under progress to give the event a final shape.

Regarding other formats of the race to be organised here, it was added that a half marathon of 21kms, Fitness- gauge Marathon of 10 kms and a Fun Run of 5 Kms distance would also be organised simultaneously for both male and female runners.

Exciting prizes for both Men and Women would be given. These include a first prize of Rs 15 lakhs, 2nd Prize of 12 Lakhs, 3rd Prize of Rs 9 lakhs, 4th Rs 5 lakhs and 5th Prize of Rs 3 lakhs would be given to the winners of Half Marathon.

Similarly prizes of Rs 3 lakhs would be given to the winner of Fitness-gauge runner and Rs 1 lakh to Fun Running event winner followed by others up to the 5th rank in each category for both men and women taking the total award money of Rs 1.33 Cr for all the formats.

It was further revealed that all these races would be held possibly on 23rd of February (Sunday) for the weather this month remains pleasant for holding such an outdoor sporting event.

Protect youth

and joy," he remarked. The Chief Minister also urged students to find time for playing and outdoor activities, emphasizing its impact on health and academic focus.

Encouraging children to inculcate the habit of reading books, he highlighted its role in broadening perspectives and relieving stress. Omar Abdullah did not shy away from pinpointing challenges such as drug addiction among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

While celebrating the achievements of the awardees, he pointed to the alarming rise in addiction cases.

"Addiction is not a habit or a weakness; it is a medically recognized disease. It is only by God's grace that you have stayed on the right path. But we need your help to save others. If you see someone struggling, encourage them to seek treatment," he urged.

On climate change, the Chief Minister reflected on his childhood memories, contrasting them with the present-day reality of erratic weather patterns.

"The world we inherited from our ancestors was far better than the one we're passing on to you. We have a responsibility to act now, to begin reversing the damage we've caused. I hope that when you stand in my place decades from now, you won't feel the same regret I do," he said. Concluding his address, Omar Abdullah shared a simple yet powerful lesson: Never give in.

"No matter how difficult or dark things may seem, you must persevere," he advised, sharing examples from his political career to inspire resilience among the students.

The event ended on a high note, with the chief minister Omar Abdullah expressing his heartfelt congratulations to the students and their parents for their hard work and achievements, while encouraging them to strive for a balanced, fulfilling life.

Address power

program is in progress across all sub-divisions to minimise power outages due to snowfall. Adequate buffer stock of distribution transformers (DTs) has been secured at central and divisional level. Besides, essential materials and high-speed diesel (HSD) for DG sets have been stocked to ensure uninterrupted operations, especially in critical and remote areas like Gurez.

It was also given out that KPDCIL has formed specialized teams equipped with tools and vehicles to address faults promptly. Also, control rooms at divisional and district levels have been activated to provide swift responses during emergencies.

The meeting was informed that preventive maintenance measures have been intensified to reduce the likelihood of technical faults during the winter season.

The Deputy Chief Minister commended the efforts of KPDCIL in preparing for the winter season and directed the officials to ensure seamless coordination across all levels. He stressed the importance of maintaining a consistent power supply to minimize inconvenience to residents.

The Principal Secretary, PDD, assured the Deputy Chief Minister of KPDCIL's readiness to tackle challenges and emphasized the importance of preventive and corrective measures.

Javed Rana

conservation, plantation and other measures aimed at mitigation measures.

During the meeting, Javed Rana also reviewed the rehabilitation process of Waltengoo Snow Storm Victims and deliberations were held for their rehabilitation. He said that some families among those affected by the snow storm in the year 2005 at Waltengoo in Kulgam district are yet to be rehabilitated.

"We cannot leave them alone and assure that the affected people of Waltengoo that the government is committed for their full rehabilitation," he maintained.

Javed Rana stressed on resolving this pending humane issue on priority keeping the gravity in consideration. He encouraged that convergence plan should be developed to create opportunities for them.

Chandraker Bharti, while speaking on the occasion, said that the experts from Geological Survey of India will be roped in for studying the phenomenon so that we can prepare ourselves better in dealing with such situations.

Our Youth

Our youth have started thinking about the future that they want. They are also working towards constructive change for a prosperous society based on equality and social justice," the

Lieutenant Governor said.

Jammu Kashmir is paired with Tamil Nadu under Yuva Sangam to promote unity in diversity by facilitating meaningful interactions, cultural exchange and knowledge sharing among youth.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No 0665040100001509, my name has been Wrongly mentioned as Manya khan S/O Gh Ali Khan, while as my Actual and correct name as per Adhar card is Miya Gojar S/O Gh Ali Gojar, in this regard any person has any objection he/She may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch PazaIpora Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Miya Gojar.
S/O Gh Ali Gojar.
R/O Yali Pathkoot Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216010002592, which is Registered in the name of Gh Mohmmad Ganai S/O Ab Sattar Ganai, R/O 100 KVA Sub Station (B) Ganai Mohallah Chatebandi Bandipora. Now i want to change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Khursheed Ahmad Ganaie S/O Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie, 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.

Khursheed Ahmad Ganaie.
S/O Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie.
R/O 100 kVA Sub Station (B) Ganai Mohallah Chatebandi Bandipora .

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216010008296, which is Registered in the name of Showkat Hussain Khan S/O Mohd Ayaz Khan R/O Iqbal Market Bandipora. Now i want to change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Rayees Mehraj Mir S/O Mehraj Ahmad Mir R/O Iqbal Market Bandipora, 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.

Rayees Mehraj Mir.
S/O Mehraj Ahmad Mir.
R/O ward NO:02 Iqbal Market Bandipora.

Satish Sharma declares open ‘36th JK Volleyball Championship’ at Jammu

Exhorts youth to adopt sports for overall development

The 36th J&K Senior Volleyball Championship for men and women was declared open here today by Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Transport, FCS&CA, Science and Technology, Information Technology, ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma, at MA Stadium Jammu.

Excise Commissioner, Subash Chander Chibber and Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul graced the function as guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister underlined the importance of sports among youth for all round growth and development of the country. He called upon the youth to play their part devotedly towards eradicating all social evils from the society with special emphasis on drug trafficking.

Satish Sharma lauded the efforts of the organizers and association in promoting sports in general and game of volleyball in particular thus involving youth in constructive activities.

Congratulating the organisers for the Championship which coincides with golden jubilee celebration of Volleyball Association of J&K, the Minister assured them for upgradation/ renovation of Volleyball courts in MA Stadium Jammu.

The Minister also felicitated stalwarts of Volleyball with shawl/ mementoes for their life



time achievements on the occasion.

Interacting with the players, the Minister enquired about their welfare while advising them not to fall prey to the menace of drug abuse which is spreading fast in the society.

The 3-day championship organised by Volleyball Association of J&K in collaboration with J&K Sports council would showcase the outstanding talents of many J&K players who have earned their recognition in National and International events.

As many as 500 players and officials are awfully involved in clinching the Championship where in 20 teams in men and 10 teams in women section from all across J&K are struggling hard to get the distinction in the championship.

Earlier, Vijay Kumar Magotra, General Secretary of the association, gave an account of 3-day championship in which total 62 matches would be played daily on league cum knock-out basis.

The artists of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansathan added grace to the function by presenting colourful theme based programmes.

The departments of J&K Excise, J&K Bank, Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited, Yes Bank, LIC, JK Public School, State Times have supplemented the efforts of organisers for successful conduct of the championship.

The 3-day championship organised by Volleyball Association of J&K in collaboration with J&K Sports council would showcase the outstanding talents of many J&K players who have earned their recognition in National and International events.

Jason Gillespie resigns as Pakistan red-ball coach; Aaqib Javed steps in

Jason Gillespie stepped down from his role as Pakistan's Test team coach and former pacer Aaqib Javed has replaced the Australian for the upcoming two-match series against South Africa, PCB announced on Thursday.

Pakistan will play two Tests against the Proteas from December 26, and they are already in the Rainbow Nation for the white-ball leg of the tour.

Aaqib is currently the interim coach of Pakistan white ball outfits.

Gillespie, whose contract was set to expire in 2026, resigned after the Pakistan Cricket Board didn't review the contract of Tim Nielsen, who was brought in on the recommendation of the former Aussie quick, as the high performance coach of the team.

Gillespie was also peeved at the PCB's decision to absolve him of the powers of team selection and involvement in pitch preparation.

It may be recalled that Gary Kirsten, who joined as the white ball side's coach along with Gillespie, had resigned before Pakistan left for the series in Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Kirsten had resigned citing differences with the PCB on the matters of authority.

Both Gillespie and Kirsten were appointed on a two-year contract before the T20 World Cup 2024 and the PCB had promised a new era for the Pakistan team.

But once Aaqib was brought in as senior selector and PCB granted him full powers including in team selection, the foreign coaches started falling out with the board.



Stokes urges England to stay in the now as Ashes year looms once more

England men's last overseas Test before the 2025-26 Ashes takes place in Hamilton this week - but Ben Stokes has urged his team not to get distracted by next winter's assignment in Australia.

The warning comes as England prepare for their final Test against New Zealand at Seddon Park this week - their 17th of the year - as they look to cap off 2024 with a 3-0 clean sweep. Their next assignment will come in May, a one-off Test against Zimbabwe, before a huge five-match series with India. Though the Ashes glow brightly on the horizon, the captain has reiterated head coach Brendon McCullum's mantra, to "be where your feet are".

Stokes has overseen a transitional year with the red-ball set-up. There have



been seven debuts, with Gus Atkinson, Jamie Smith and Shoaib Bashir becoming mainstays. Winter debutants Brydon Carse and Jacob Bethell have made strong cases to remain part of the XI, particularly against the Black Caps - Carse as the series' leading wicket taker (16) and Bethell as the team's second-highest runs scorer (172 at 57.33). While Carse is 29, the rest are mid-twenties and younger: Atkinson 26, Smith 24, while Bashir and Bethell are both 21.

The collateral has been an experienced core of players moved on, including Test cricket's leading wicket-taker James Anderson at the start of the home summer. Indeed, it was while addressing Anderson's enforced retirement after his 188th and final Test cap, against West Indies at Lord's, that Stokes explained the move to refresh the team was done with a view to competing in the next Ashes.

"We had to make some decisions around what we think is best for the team going into that Ashes series," Stokes said at the time. "We want to go out there and we want to get that urn back."

While there was plenty of blowback from pensioning off Anderson, the motivation was sound. Hard though they pushed Australia in 2023's home series - in which Anderson took five wickets at 85.40 - the 2-2 draw saw England fall short of a first Ashes win since 2015. That disappointment, wrapped up with the 4-1 series defeat to India at the start of 2024 put the onus on finding players who could perform in all conditions - particularly those they will face next winter.

Stokes says he now regrets those comments made at Lord's. While he insists those words have not impacted the team, there is a suggestion the management are wary of players looking too far ahead and possibly overlooking the challenges in front of them.

"I know whenever we spoke about Australia there is a lot looking towards that, but there are still massive series before that," Stokes said. "We have India. And I think through my own fault, I maybe spoke a little too much about the Ashes and putting too much emphasis on that series, considering how much cricket we had to play before that."

"I quite like staying in the present, in the moment. But it is quite tough when you've got an Ashes coming around the corner."

"I've been involved in quite a few of those now and you do always look at the calendar and think 'oh it's nearly here'. It's just hard to avoid. But I think just making sure I keep my focus on being in the here-and-now and what we've got coming up. And then, when the Ashes is our next series, then we will focus on it."

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