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CM Omar Abdullah Vows To Keep Governance Free From Political Affiliations

● Chairs review meeting of Samba, holds public redressal camp



KC NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday reiterated his government's commitment to unbiased governance, emphasizing that decisions would not be influenced by political

affiliations or party lines.

He urged officers to address public issues brought forth by elected representatives with seriousness and urgency. Chairing a district review meeting at the Conference Hall in Samba, the Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy

Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar, and Satish Sharma.

The meeting was also attended by District Development Council chairperson Samba, Members of Legislative Assembly SS Slathia (Samba), Chander Prakash Ganga (Vijaypur), and Devinder Kumar Manyal (Ramgarh), Besides, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, administrative secretaries, departmental heads, and other senior officers.

Highlighting the importance of responsive governance, the Chief Minister stated, "I urge all of you and your officers to address the public issues raised by MLAs with seriousness and urgency. They are elected representatives of the people, and it is natural for people to expect solutions through them. As I have always maintained, this government—or

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We Are Fastest Growing Economy Today: Lg Sinha



KC NEWS NETWORK

UTTAR PRADESH: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today felicitated and interacted with the Youth during Pratibha Samman Samaroh at Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. The event was organized to commemorate the death

anniversary of former Member of Parliament and senior BJP Leader Shri Satya Deo Singh.

At the memorial event, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to Shri Satya Deo Singh and recalled

“He said the visionary National Education Policy is laying a strong foundation for our future growth. Focus on knowledge connectivity, skilling, entrepreneurship and sustained growth has made India world's new growth engine.”

his dedicated service to the nation and commitment to the public good. "Satya Deo Singh was a widely respected leader who distinguished himself in various capacities

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Govt yet to announce by- polls for 3 DDC vacant seats

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Three District Development Council (DDC) seats in Jammu and Kashmir remain vacant after their members were elected as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the three DDC members who were elected as MLAs include Waheed Ur Rehman Para, who was elected as the DDC member from Pulwama-I but was not allowed to take oath as a DDC member; Irfan Hafiz Lone, who



was elected as the DDC member from Sangrama; and Mehraj Malik, who was elected as the DDC member from Kahara.

Waheed Ur Rehman Para won the assembly elections from Pulwama, Lone won from the Wagoora-Kreeri constituency, and Mehraj Malik won from the Doda assembly segment.

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Chila-i-Kalan To Commence With Light Snowfall Over Higher Reaches



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: As the 40-day harshest winter period is all set to commence by this weekend, the weatherman here has forecasted a light snow over higher reaches on the occasion. However, there is no forecast of any major wet spell till the next 10 days.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the

cold wave continued to tighten its grip across Kashmir amidst the persistent dry spell at the majority of places.

As per the details, Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, witnessed a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a low of minus 4.0 degree Celsius.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 5.0 degree Celsius while in Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, it

settled at minus 4.0 degree Celsius. North Kashmir's Kupwar recorded a low of minus 4.2 degree Celsius while Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of 3.9 degree Celsius.

Furthermore, the Meteorological department has predicted persistent cold wave conditions at isolated to scattered places.

For the next four days till December 20, the Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has predicted generally dry and cloudy weather conditions.

However, on December 21 when the 40-day harshest winter period commences, the MeT Director has said that generally cloudy weather is expected with the possibility of light snow over higher reaches towards late evening or night of 21st to 22nd early morning & dry weather thereafter.

From December 23 to December 26, he said that the weather would remain generally dry.

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At 41%, J&K Tops C-Section Delivery Rate in India

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's cesarean delivery (CD) rate of 41% exceeds India's national average of 21.5%, according to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019–2021), analyzed by The Lancet.

According to the Associated News Bureau, this places J&K closer to southern states like Telangana and Tamil Nadu, where over-medicalization and heavy reliance on private healthcare are major contributors to higher CD rates.

According to Dr. Masuma Rizvi,

Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at LD Hospital, the rise in cesarean deliveries in J & K is due to factors like late pregnancies, particularly



in women over 35, and conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. The lack of

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"The global CD rate has been rising, ranging from 20% in Sub-Saharan Africa to as high as 70% in countries like Ireland and the US," Dr. Rizvi noted.

Kashmir's 4 destinations to witness grand Christmas, New Year celebrations

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The picturesque destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg are all set to witness the grand celebration of the New Year as the tourism department has geared up to make all the arrangements including the decoration of these places.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the New

Year celebrations will be organized at four destinations including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Srinagar.

Director Tourism, Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq told KNO that four destinations have been identified for the grand celebration of the New Year event, adding that the local as well as the national level artists will perform

in the events.

Besides, he said the people will also witness the laser shows on the occasion.

Furthermore, the department is planning to light up and decorate the famous destination on the eve of Christmas, saying that all the major destinations across the Valley will be decorated with lights and other things

from December 25 to January 02 to give a festive look on the occasion.

The Director also said that on the eve of Christmas, a cake making competition will be held at Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Srinagar on December 23 while another celebratory programme is

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MP Ruhullah Demands Age Relaxation For JKPSI Aspirants In LS

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Member of Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has urged the Central Government on Monday to grant a one-time age relaxation for aspirants of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector (JKPSI) recruitment.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Mehdi said that the delays in the recruitment process have rendered many candidates ineligible due to exceeding the upper age limit. "This situation has deprived qualified individuals of the opportunity to join the police force," he said as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

"This recruitment process has faced delays for the past four years, primarily due to irregularities linked to the recruitment agency, APTECH. These delays have disqualified many aspirants who have now exceeded the

upper age limit," he said.

Mehdi expressed concern over the impact of these delays on the youth of



Jammu and Kashmir, many of whom, he said, feel uncertain about their future. He suggested that granting a one-time age relaxation would address the issue and help rebuild trust in the recruitment process. He called on the central

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Army Commander Marks Vijay Diwas With Wreath-Laying Ceremonies

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Army's northern command Monday organised wreath-laying ceremonies at various places in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh to celebrate Vijay Diwas, which marks India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the birth of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

The Udhampur-based Northern Command commemorated the occasion with a wreath-laying ceremony led by its General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar at the Dhruva War

Memorial, the Army said. "He (Lt Gen Kumar)

The Jammu-based Tiger Division also celebrated the



interacted with veterans who continue to inspire us through their legacy of courage and dedication," the Northern Command said in a post on X.

day at the 'Balidan Stambh', a war memorial, here.

The event was held to commemorate the supreme sacrifices

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Omer Abdullah Should Focus On Statehood Restoration: JKPCC

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a sharp response to Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's criticism on Congress over its stand on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), senior vice president & chief spokesperson JKPCC Ravinder Sharma on Monday said the party was committed to addressing public concerns about electoral transparency.

Notably, the chief minister Omar Abdullah, in a recent interview had accused Congress of 'inconsistency', suggesting that the party celebrates EVM results when it wins but questions their integrity when it loses.

Sharma, while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), responded by dismissing the jibe, stating that the Congress part was duty-bound to represent the apprehensions of the people



across the nation, including intellectuals, lawyers, and civil society members, who had raised doubts over the reliability of EVMs.

"It is our responsibility as the oldest political party in the country to uphold democracy and respond to the people's concerns.

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Development, Nationalism Have To Viewed From Prism Of Constitution’s Preamble: Jagdeep Dhankhar

NEW DELHI: Development, nationalism, security, welfare of the people and affirmative government schemes have to be viewed only from the “one prism” of the Preamble of the Constitution, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Monday.

In his address at an event here to mark the 7th Defence Estate Day, he also referred to his position on the dais, where he was flanked by the director general of the Defence Estate on his right and the secretary of ex-servicemen welfare department on his left.

“When I occupied the central seat here (dais), I was reminded of my position as chairman of Rajya Sabha. When I sit in the chair (in Rajya Sabha), on my right is the government, on the left is the opposition”, he said.

Here, on the right, is DG, Defence Estate, “I am sure, I have no problem with him” and “fortunately for me, on my left” is the secretary, department of ex-servicemen welfare, “constructive, directional, motivational, always helpful”, the VP said in an apparent reference to the opposition.

“I carry this message to the Upper House of Parliament today where we begin debate on the Constitution, as we enter the last quarter of the century of adoption

of India’s Constitution on November 26, 1949,” Dhankhar said.

The Vice President said being at the event, he was “indeed indebted”



to people for having ensured his day began with “hope and optimism”.

“We are in a nation that is full of hope and possibility. A nation with potential. A nation that is on the rise, a nation that is unstoppable. The rise has been seen in every facet of the governance, be it sea, land, sky or space,” he asserted.

“I will say, ‘Yahi samay, sahi samay hai’ (this time is the right time), though people may read politics into it. And, here I can appeal to all of you, development, nationalism, security, welfare of the people at large, affirmative government schemes, have to viewed

only from one prism, and that is from the prism of the Preamble of our Constitution,” Dhankhar said.

Society needs to appreciate it,

the Vice President said.

“Who else will take pride in the nation, if not us. But, what an irony on occasions, when a small category of people choose otherwise and I would say out of ignorance. But, one thing is for sure, our trajectory is incremental”, he said and cited the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission.

In his address, Dhankhar also suggested that defence estates must “evolve” beyond conventional assets, these have to develop into “self-sustaining ecosystem” and enhance military readiness, community welfare, nutritional security.

“There can be no greater occasion

to convert these areas into wellness centres”, he said and even suggested the idea of herbal gardens.

In the path towards ‘Viksit Bharat at 2047’, precision land management coupled with productive utilisation stand paramount.

“And, I therefore appeal to you – optimal utilisation of your land bank, which has to be holistic and innovative,” the VP said.

In his address, Dhankhar also spoke of climate change.

‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign has become a ‘jan andolan’ (people’s movement), he said, and also suggested fostering collaboration with agencies such as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), which he felt could “set a global benchmark”.

On dispute resolution related to defence estate, he said, “like disease, where more than cure we should take care of prevention and precaution, for dispute also we should ensure it is settled without outside intervention”.

The VP said, “Without going into details, there has to be a larger focus on transparency and accountability.”

“Whenever there are issues of development, which are beyond your estate, and need your sanction, that must be structured, that must be arithmetic,” he added.

Congress Demands PM’s Apology For ‘Twisting’ Facts On Nehru: Kharge

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of misleading the country by “twisting facts” about Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s letter on reservation to states and demanded an apology.

Participating in a discussion on ‘Glorious Journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India’ in the Upper House, Kharge also accused the BJP leaders of indulging in ‘bhakti’ of Prime Minister Modi, asserting that it was leading the country towards dictatorship.

The Congress President cited Modi’s speech in which he had said there was no elected government between 1947-1952 and the Congress had illegally amended the Constitution.

Kharge said the first amendment was carried out by the Constituent Assembly members which included Syama Prasad Mookerjee and was undertaken to provide reservation to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, fix problems related to education, employment and abolish Zamindari system.

“I want to inform the House that the Supreme Court had rejected Madras state’s decision on reservation.”

He said that the other aspect of this amendment was to stop communal propaganda and Sardar Patel in a letter on July 3, 1950 had suggested to Nehru that constitutional amendment was the only remedy for this problem.

“Therefore, Nehru wrote a letter to chief ministers. This has been mentioned in PM’s speech after twisting facts to defame Nehru for which he should

apologise to the nation. This is my demand. If you twist the facts before the nation and attempt to defame, then you should apologise in this House and other House and before people of this country,” Kharge said.



He said the prime minister lives in past, not in present and it would have been better had he listed present achievements that strengthened democracy.

He said erstwhile leaders of RSS were against the Constitution.

“In 1949, the entire country knew that RSS leaders opposed the Constitution because it was not based on Manusmriti. RSS mouthpiece Organiser in the edition of November 30, 1949 had written about it,” he said. Kharge said that it is clear from debates of the Constituent Assembly that erstwhile leaders of RSS were against the Constitution.

“Those who hated the flag, Ashok Chakra and the Constitution are today giving lessons to us on the Constitution.”

Kharge said that even when many powerful countries were not practising

universal adult franchise, women and all sections of societies in India were given the right to vote during the Congress regime through the Constitution.

He said that government leaders cut-paste information and present them

as per their convenience to twist facts.

“Those who did not fight for the country, how will they know the importance of freedom, Constitution?” Kharge asked.

BJP has been giving ‘jumlas’ and befooling people of the country and questioned promises made by Modi to pay Rs 15 lakh,

he said adding people are still waiting for the money as well as two crore jobs and doubling of farmers’ income.

Kharge said that BJP is against reservation and that is why the party is against caste census.

He further said the Congress government will implement women reservation faster than BJP. Kharge also raised the issue of Manipur, which is suffering from ethnic violence for the last one-and-half years.

SC Allows Extension Of Registration Period Of 3 Special Protection Vehicles



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday extended by five years the registration period of three specialised armoured diesel vehicles belonging to the special protection group (SPG).

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Manmohan was hearing a plea filed by the SPG challenging an order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) refusing to allow the extension of registration period of its vehicles being over a decade old.

The top court’s bench, however, granted the relaxation to the SPG after solicitor general Tushar Mehta sought the extension citing importance of the vehicles.

Mehta said such vehicles were essential and integral part of SPG technical logistics.

The NGT on March 22 refused to grant the relief, saying such diesel vehicles, couldn’t be permitted to ply in NCR on the completion of 10 years.

“We are conscious of the fact that these three vehicles are special purpose vehicles which are not normally available and these vehicles have run very less in the last 10 years and are needed for the specific purpose of security of the prime minister but in view of the order of the Supreme Court dated October 29, 2018, the prayer made in the MA (miscellaneous application) cannot be granted,” the NGT held.

The apex court on October 29, 2018, banned diesel vehicles older than 10 years from plying on the Delhi-NCR roads.

The verdict was based on the 2015 NGT order, prohibiting the use of diesel vehicles older than a decade and petrol vehicles older than 15 years in the NCR.

The SPG was raised in 1985 with the intention to provide proximate security cover to the prime minister, former prime ministers and their immediate family members.

I Made Him Tabla, He Made My Life: Zakir Hussain’s Tabla Maker

MUMBAI: For Haridas Vhatkar, tabla making won’t be the same again, as he mourns the passing away of his most celebrated customer, Ustad Zakir Hussain.

“I first began making tablas for his father Alla Rakha, and made tablas for Zakir Hussain saab since 1998,” an emotional Vhatkar, 59, said.

Speaking from his workshop at Kanjur Marg in Mumbai, Vhatkar said he last met the 73-year-old tabla maestro in August this year in Mumbai.

“It was Guru Poornima and we met at a hall where lot of his admirers were also there. The next day, I went to his house in Simla House Cooperative Society on Nepean Sea Road neighbourhood and were engrossed in conversation for a couple of hours,” Vhatkar said.

“He was very particular about what sort of tabla he wanted and when. He paid a lot of attention to the ‘tuning’ aspect of the musical instrument,” said Vhatkar, a third generation tabla maker, hailing from Miraj in western Maharashtra.

“Innumerable,” was Vhatkar’s reply when asked how many tablas did he make for Zakir Hussain over the last two decades. He said he also has many tablas which were left behind for him by the tabla maestro.

“Besides making new instruments, I was also his sort of repair department for maintaining the collection of the older ones,” said Vhatkar. “I made tablas for him and he made my life,” the tabla maker added.

Asked if he and Zakir Hussain were in regular contact, Vhatkar said, “Not really. He called whenever needed, to ask about

a new tabla or regarding repair of some old instruments.”

“Our conversations were after a gap of months and not what you would categorize as regular calls,” said Vhatkar, who entered



tabla making following in the footsteps of his grandfather Kerappa Ramchandra Vhatkar and father Ramchandra Kerappa Vhatkar. His sons Kishore and Manoj have also carried forward the family tradition of tabla making.

Haridas learnt the art of tabla making at an early age and developed a keen sense of innovation and perfection. He came to Mumbai in 1994 and started working as a tabla maker for the famous Haribhau Vishwanath company in Mumbai.

Zakir Hussain, who is regarded as the greatest tabla player of his generation, died at a hospital in San Francisco, his family said on Monday. The Mumbai-born tabla maestro is survived by his wife Antonia Minnecola and daughters Anisa Qureshi and Isabella Qureshi.

1984 Anti-Sikh Riots | Verdict In Murder Case Against Sajjan Kumar On January 8

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court is likely deliver on January 8 next year its verdict in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case against former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja, who was scheduled to pass the order on Monday, deferred the pronouncement.

“January 8 is the next date,” the Judge said. Kumar, who is currently lodged in Tihar central jail, appeared before the court through video conference.

The case pertains to the alleged killings of two persons in Saraswati Vihar area during the anti-Sikh riots.

The court had reserved the judgment after hearing the final arguments in the case related to the killings of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh on November 1, 1984. Though Punjabji Bagh police station registered the case initially, a special investigation team subsequently took over the investigation.

BJP To Rahul After Omar’s Comments: Dont’s Blame EVMs If You Don’T Know How To Fight Polls

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday latched onto Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s sharp take on the Congress over a host of issues to attack Rahul Gandhi, saying if he does not know



how to fight elections then he should not blame Electronic Voting Machines.

“Leadership is not earned and not demanded.

impose yourself,” BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said at a press conference, targeting the Congress leader.

He said the National Conference leader has conveyed his message bluntly to Gandhi due to the conduct of the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

Patra said even Congress allies have realised the legacy of the Gandhi family and the main opposition party. The BJP spokesperson claimed that the INDIA bloc was the “biggest scam” and that its allies fight polls separately and project different leaders as the face of the opposition alliance.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Abdullah had asked the Congress to justify its leadership role in the alliance instead of taking it for granted. The National Conference leader emphasised that leadership “has to be earned” and cannot be taken for granted.

He also dismissed the Congress party’s vehement objection to Electronic Voting Machines and echoed

NSA Ajit Doval Likely To Travel To Beijing Soon To Attend SR Dialogue

NEW DELHI: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is likely to travel to Beijing within the next few weeks to lead the Indian delegation at a new edition of the Special Representatives dialogue on the



larger boundary question that will be held after a gap of nearly five years, authoritative sources said.

The last round of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue took

place in 2019.

The decision to revive the dialogue mechanism was taken at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan on October 23. NSA Doval is travelling to China soon to attend the 23 round of SR talks, the sources said.

One of the sources said the SR dialogue may take place later this month or early January.

There was no official word yet on the venue for the SR dialogue.

In their diplomatic talks December 5, India and China prepared for the upcoming SR dialogue. While India’s Special Representative for the dialogue is NSA Doval, the Chinese side is headed at the talks by Foreign

SC seeks Centre’s reply on plea for pan-India guidelines for providing safe environment for women

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court agreed on Monday to examine a plea seeking direction for framing pan-India guidelines to provide a safe environment for women, children and transgender persons in society.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice to different ministries of the Centre and its instrumentalities and posted the matter for further hearing in January. Senior advocate Mahalakshmi Pawani, appearing for the petitioner Supreme Court Women Lawyers Association, said several incidents of sexual abuse against women are taking place in smaller cities, which are going unreported and pushed under the carpet.

“After the RG Kar Medical College Hospital incident of Kolkata where a trainee doctor was raped and murdered, around 95 incidents of sexual violence have taken place but were not highlighted,” Pawani said, adding that like Scandinavian countries, offenders should get punishments such as chemical castration.

of the prayers mentioned in the petition as they are “barbaric” and “harsh” but there are some issues that are very innovative and need to be examined.

Justice Surya Kant said the question of maintaining proper behaviour in public



transport is one of the issues worth consideration and awareness needs to be created on how one should behave in buses, metros and trains.

The do’s and don’ts in public utility vehicles

North campus KU hosts workshop on soft skills for ministerial staff

Srinagar, 16 Dec: To provide ministerial staff with techniques to manage stress, enhance communication and improve workplace efficiency, the Centre for Capacity Building & Skill Development (CCBSD), University of Kashmir (KU), organized a one-day workshop and orientation programme on 'Importance of Soft Skills' at the North Campus KU.

The workshop highlighted the importance of soft skills in improving communication and the role of such programmes in creating a more collaborative and productive work environment.

While inaugurating the workshop, Director North Campus KU, Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad said, "Workshops like this equip staff with the tools they need to navigate workplace challenges efficiently and contribute effectively to the institution."

The sessions featured speakers including Dr. Bilal Ahmad Kullo, faculty at Department of Teacher Education North Campus KU, Dr. Sarfaraz Ahmed, faculty at Department of Social Work Main Campus KU and Mr. Mohammad Yousuf, Project Officer CCBSD KU.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Kullo discussed the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and leadership skills in both daily life and workplace settings.

Dr. Sarfaraz Ahmed spoke about teamwork and strategies for conflict resolution and Mr. Mohammad Yousuf elaborated on the significance of soft skills and effective communication in fostering a harmonious work environment.

Participants actively engaged in the sessions which were interactive and informative. They expressed satisfaction with the programme and shared their positive feedback on its relevance and practical approach.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

Chairperson DDC B'la reviews developmental scenario in Uri



BARAMULLA: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Beigh today chaired a meeting at Officers Club Uri to review the progress of ongoing projects pertaining to various sectors and schemes in the Subdivision, Uri.

The meeting was attended by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Uri, Javaid Ahmad, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), and representatives from the Public Works Department (PDD), Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Roads and Buildings (R&B), among others.

During the meeting, the chairperson conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the progress made in ongoing projects and reviewed the milestones achieved in their execution across the Uri Subdivision.

Speaking during the meeting, the DDC chairperson emphasized the importance of ensuring that all developmental works are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising quality.

Safina Beigh further instructed the officers to ensure completion of targets and utilization of 100% of funds to avoid any fund lapse and exhorted all the officers to maintain transparency and accountability in the execution of works.

J&K Press Corps Backs Editors' Call for DAVP advertisement Rates

SRINAGAR: The Jammu Kashmir Press Corps (JKPC) has expressed strong support for the recent initiative taken by editors of prominent newspapers in Jammu and Kashmir, wherein they have appealed to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, for the implementation of DAVP rates for government advertisements.

The editors' appeal highlights a long-standing and pressing issue regarding the disparity in advertisement rates offered by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K. The rates currently provided by DIPR are viewed as insufficient when compared to the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) rates adopted in other Union Territories, such as Delhi and Chandigarh.

In a statement, the JKPC endorsed the editors' demand, acknowledging the factual nature of their concerns. The press body emphasized that the implementation of DAVP rates is not only justifiable but also critical for the financial sustainability of the newspaper industry in the region.

"The newspaper industry plays an essential role in disseminating information and strengthening democratic values. However, the existing advertisement rates offered by the DIPR have been a major challenge for the survival and growth of media houses in Jammu and Kashmir," the statement reads.

The statement further urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to take swift action in addressing this issue and to bring advertisement rates in line with the DAVP structure, as successfully implemented in Delhi and Chandigarh Union Territories.

"We respectfully request the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor to intervene in this matter and ensure the implementation of DAVP rates for advertisements issued by the J&K Government. Such a step will provide much-needed relief to the media industry and create a fair and supportive environment for its functioning," JKPC in the statement said..



Tiger Division Commemorates 53 Years of 1971 Victory on Vijay Diwas

JAMMU: The Tiger Division of the Indian Army marked the 53rd anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war with a solemn ceremony at the Balidan Stambh War Memorial in Jammu on Saturday.

An official spokesperson said the event paid tribute to the gallant soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the 13-day war that ended on December 16, 1971, with India's decisive victory.

The Deputy General Officer Commanding (Dy GOC) of the Tiger Division laid a wreath at the 'Eternal Flame' at the memorial, honoring the fallen heroes in the presence of military personnel. A ceremonial guard of honor added to the occasion's gravitas.

The Balidan Stambh, known as the 'Tower of Sacrifice,' is India's tallest war memorial, standing 60 meters high. It includes 52 memorial pillars inscribed with the names of 7,512 martyrs, as well as murals of nine Param Vir Chakra awardees and 27 Ashok Chakra awardees. Constructed to immortalize the valor of India's war heroes, the memorial serves as a poignant reminder of their service to the nation.

Vijay Diwas, observed annually on December 16, celebrates the Indian Armed Forces' success in thwarting Pakistan's designs during the war and securing the liberation of Bangladesh. The Tiger Division's commemoration at Balidan Stambh reflects the military's unwavering commitment to honoring its history and inspiring future generations.

Crackdown on illegal Mining; 3 Vehicles seized, 3 Blacklisted in Panthachowk

BILAL HABIB

Panthachowk: In a significant operation to curb illegal mining activities, the department of Geology and Mining seized three vehicles and blacklisted three other vehicles

extraction regulations, sending a strong message about the department's commitment to enforcing the law, officials said.

The officials emphasized that such actions are part of a broader initiative to combat illegal mining and ensure compliance with established mining laws. "This operation reflects our determination to curb illegal activities that harm the environment and violate legal provisions," said an official from the department.

The vehicles were seized while transporting illegally extracted minerals, while the blacklisted vehicles were identified for repeated violations. The department has reiterated its commitment to conducting similar operations in the future to address unauthorized mining and promote sustainable practices.

Earlier this week, the department seized one JCB and six vehicles during a night raid conducted in different areas, including the Panthachowk.

Local residents have appreciated the crackdown, highlighting the importance of preserving natural resources and ensuring environmental sustainability. The department has urged the public to report any instances of illegal mining to the authorities to aid in their efforts to maintain regulatory compliance.

Such measures, officials believe, will serve as a deterrent to those involved in illegal mining activities and uphold the integrity of mineral resource management in the region.



J&K Government Forms Committee To Resolve Land Issue For GMC Handwara Relocation

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a high-level committee to address the issue of land allocation for the relocation of the Government Medical College Handwara and its co-located Nursing College.

This decision was formalized through Government Order No. 2090-JK(GAD) of 2024, issued by the General Administration Department, with the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir appointed as the committee chairperson.

Department, Irrigation and Flood Control, SKUAST Kashmir, and other key sectors. Together, they are tasked with resolving critical issues surrounding the identification and approval of land for the project.

The committee's responsibilities include evaluating the feasibility of new sites proposed by the Deputy Commissioner of Kupwara for the construction of GMC Handwara and its Nursing College. This involves assessing safety and environmental factors such as soil quality, terrain gradient, and flood risks, as well as ensuring the availability of utilities like water supply, road connectivity, and electricity.

The land identified must also meet the National Medical Commission's minimum requirement of 200 kanals, with additional provisions for future expansion.

Moreover, the Committee has been directed to ensure the availability of encumbrance-free land and facilitate the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and other necessary clearances from relevant departments, including Forest, Agriculture, and SKUAST Kashmir. It has the authority to co-opt additional members as needed to accomplish its objectives effectively. [KNT]



Install CCTV Cameras In School Buses By Jan 31: Govt

Srinagar: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan today held a meeting with representatives of school authorities regarding the safety audit of vehicles ferrying students. The aim of the move was to seek active participation and cooperation from the school authorities to ensure that vehicles used for ferrying students are fit and safe for transportation.

According to the Associated News Bureau, referring to the Supreme Court's directions for school buses, the Transport Commissioner set 31st January as the deadline for the mandatory installation of CCTV in school buses so that every activity of the driver and assisting staff while driving is monitored. This will ensure the safety of students round the clock.

The school authorities were directed to ensure that all vehicles are fitted with functional speed governors, with the speed fixed at 40 km/h as per guidelines issued from time to time. They were informed that the vehicles will be seized on the spot if any school bus will be found violating safety norms while playing on roads, especially with regard to overloading and over speeding.

The authorities assured that all safety measures outlined in the Supreme Court guidelines are being followed to ensure the safety of children. They were further asked to restrict underage students from driving two-wheelers/four-wheelers in and around school premises. Additionally, they were directed to hold counseling sessions with the parents to warn about the consequences if their wards are not prohibited from underage driving.

The Transport Commissioner was informed that most schools have their own fleet of vehicles, but some private vehicles are also engaged by parents. Therefore, it is the duty of school authorities to ensure that these vehicles also comply with the mandatory guidelines, such as emergency exit doors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, GPS trackers, CCTV cameras, the use of seat belts, fire detection alarm system etc.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Joint Transport Commissioner Vinay Samotra, Assistant Transport Commissioner, ARTO (HQ) Jammu, and school authorities. (ANB)



Wajahat Raina Raises Concern Over Waste Dumping in Gundpora Rampora

Bandipora: Social activist Wajahat Raina has expressed serious concern over the increasing dumping of waste on the banks of the canal in Gundpora Rampora village of Bandipora District.

Highlighting the issue, Raina said that while the Rural Development Department (RDD) has constructed a waste collection shed in the area, it is designed solely for plastic waste, leaving locals with no option but to dispose of other types of waste along the canal.

Raina emphasized the urgent need for the concerned department to address this issue by identifying suitable land for constructing a waste disposal pit. "A comprehensive solution must be implemented to ensure proper waste segregation and disposal, preventing further damage to the canal and the environment," he said.

He urged the authorities to take swift action to protect the canal from becoming a dumping ground, calling it a vital resource for the locals of Gundpora.

"Neglecting this issue could lead to severe environmental and health hazards," he added.

Raina appealed to both the administration and residents to work collectively towards sustainable waste management practices to preserve the area's ecological balance.

Indian Army Organizes Volleyball Championship to Celebrate Vijay Diwas at Suchetgarh

JAMMU: Marking the 53rd Vijay Diwas, the Indian Army's Tiger Division organized a Volleyball Championship for the youth of border villages in Suchetgarh, RS Pura.

An official spokesperson said the event, held at Satowali, aimed to promote unity, sportsmanship, and commemorate the valor and sacrifices of soldiers during the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams across border villages, showcasing the immense talent and energy of local youth. After a fiercely contested final match, Shaheed Raman Kumar (SRK) Club from Arnia, RS Pura, emerged as the champion.

The winners, runners-up, and all participating teams were awarded trophies, medals, and cash prizes, recognizing their efforts and sportsmanship.

This initiative underlines the Army's commitment to engaging with and empowering border communities through such constructive activities. The local community expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts in providing a platform for the youth to showcase their talent and engage in healthy competition.

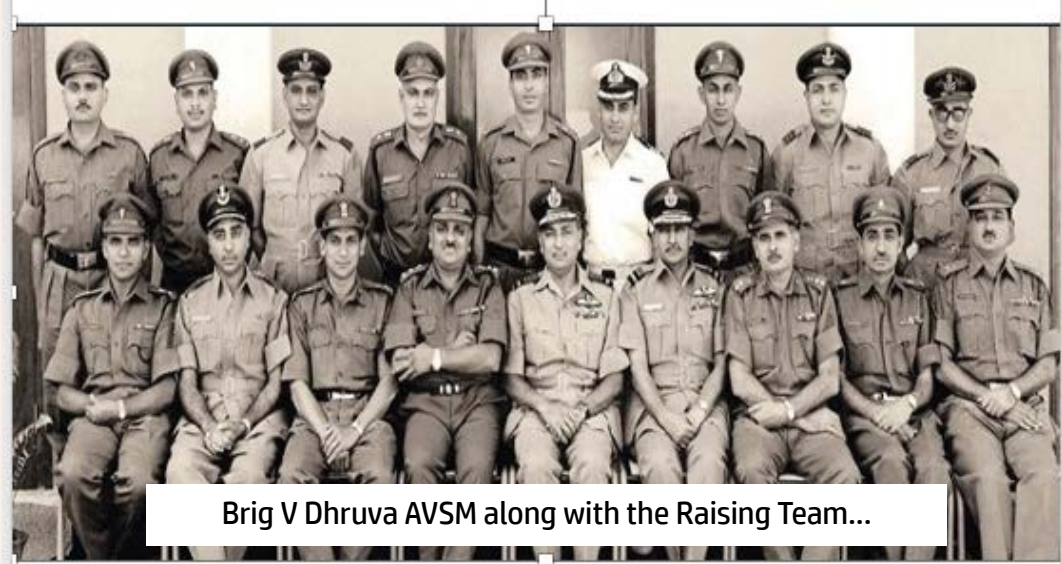
"As the nation observes Vijay Diwas, commemorating India's decisive victory in the 1971 war, the championship serves as a testament to the enduring bond between the Army and the people of Jammu and Kashmir," spokesperson said, adding it reflects the Army's dedication to fostering a sense of pride and unity among the border communities while honoring the sacrifices of the past.



CDM: Celebrating Excellence in Defence Management and Strategic Leadership

From CDM Desk

In a momentous event scheduled to take place in the third week of Dec 24, the College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, will be presented with the prestigious President's Colours, the highest honour that recognises an



Brig V Dhruva AVSM along with the Raising Team...

Armed Forces institution's outstanding contribution and service to the nation. This recognition comes as a testament to the college's stellar legacy of shaping the strategic leadership and imparting higher defence management skills to senior military officers. The Colour presentation will mark a historic chapter in the evolution of CDM and cement its position as the foremost institution for management education in defence.

The Historical Evolution of the College of Defence Management

The story of the College of Defence Management is one of an enduring vision, transformation, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Established in 1970, CDM was founded with a singular purpose: to address the emerging need for skilling senior military leaders not only in combat operations but also make them adept in the managerial and strategic planning aspects of modern warfare. Over the decades, the college has evolved, adapting to changing national and global security dynamics, to become an institution that serves as a bedrock for the development of military leadership and management expertise in the Indian Armed Forces.

Early Years: The Birth of CDM and Its Foundational Years

The idea of establishing a dedicated institution to train officers in management and strategic leadership was conceived in the late 1960s, a period marked by complex national security challenges and rapid technological advancements in warfare. The Indo-Pak War of 1965 highlighted the need for military commanders to be equipped with higher defence management competencies; to develop strategic perspective, superior resource management and operational art for optimal synergy and effectiveness. The emerging battlefield milieu, high velocity and lethality of war-waging with large yet agile mission-oriented forces, high-cost weapon platforms and equipment and resource limitations necessitated setting up of a Tri-service Institution with core proficiency in developing strategic thought through a scientific approach in higher defence management for planning and prosecution of war.

This unique tri-service institution came into being as

who could navigate the complexities of both war and peace. The College started the Long Defence Management Course (LDMC) in March 1971 with 44 students. In September 1972, it hosted its first Defence Management Seminar in New Delhi. In June 1973, it began conducting capsules at other

institutions. In November 1973, Major Baharuddin BK Che Din from the Malaysian Army became the first foreign participant in the LDMC.

In its early years, CDM began offering programs focused on the administrative and logistical aspects of warfare. As the 1970s and 1980s unfolded, however, the scope of CDM's training

the strategic challenges they would face at higher levels of command. The course included modules on Leadership, Strategic Management, Resource Allocation and International Relations.

The success of the CDM alumni proved that the college succeeded in propagating the strategic thinking and management skills required for contemporary military leadership. The foundation stone for the new complex of the CDM was laid by Gen VP Malik, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, the then Chief of the Army Staff on 21 Jul 1999 and inaugurated by Maj Gen KC Padma, VSM, the then Commandant on 22 April 2001. The College shifted to its new location in Jun 2001. The CDM Officers Mess complex was inaugurated by Air Marshal SP Tyagi, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC; AOC -in-C, SWAC on 28 Jul 2003.

During this phase, CDM also introduced various other short-term courses and seminars focused on contemporary aspects of modern warfare, such as information warfare, cyber security, and defence economics. The college's ability to adapt to global changes and the increasing complexity of warfare demonstrated its commitment to producing versatile and capable military leaders.

The 21st Century: Adapting to Modern Challenges

The 21st century brought with it a new set of challenges for the Indian Armed Forces, requiring even more specialized knowledge and a broader scope of expertise. Globalisation, technological advancements, and the increasing prevalence of non-traditional security threats in multiple domains necessitated a shift in military education. CDM embraced these changes by expanding its curriculum to include emerging

The college's role has evolved from one of military logistics management and administration to that of a developing comprehensive strategic leadership. Today, CDM's leadership development programs are regarded as critical in preparing officers for senior roles not only in the Indian Armed Forces but also in formulation of national security policy and international cooperation. CDM alumni have risen to occupy key positions in India's strategic decision-making processes, serving as advisors to the government, apex military commanders, and even in international diplomatic roles.

CDM has collaborated with IIT, Hyderabad and its technology incubation centre has instituted a unique initiative of Acclimatization Boot Camp for Defence, an initiative that seeks to nurture budding startups towards better aligning them for defence use cases. CDM is the knowledge partner for the initiative and has been harnessing its rich repository of knowledge and experience to mentor young startups and bridge the gap between what the armed forces require and what the start-ups offer through various seminars and symposiums.

The contemporary curriculum at CDM places a strong emphasis on emerging security challenges, including cyber threats, artificial intelligence, and the globalisation of defence supply chains. Through partnerships with leading global defence and academic institutions, CDM provides its officers with unparalleled opportunities for international exposure and collaborative research. The college continues to be a hub of innovation, constantly evolving to meet the ever-changing demands of modern warfare and military leadership.

The Significance of the President Colour

The upcoming presentation of the President Colour to CDM represents a landmark achievement in the institution's history. The President's Colour is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a military institution, and its presentation is a recognition of the institution's sustained excellence and service to the nation.

In the case of CDM, the President Colour is not merely a ceremonial award; it is a symbol of the institution's pivotal role in shaping India's military leadership. This prestigious honour is given to institutions that have demonstrated exceptional service to the nation and have maintained the highest standards of operational readiness and professionalism. It is a tribute to the dedicated faculty, staff, and officers who have passed through CDM's hallowed premises, each of whom has contributed to the college's legacy of excellence.

The Colour presentation ceremony will be a highly commemorative occasion, attended by senior dignitaries from the Indian Armed Forces, government, and academia. The event will also serve as an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable journey of the college and the significant role it continues to play in shaping India's military future.

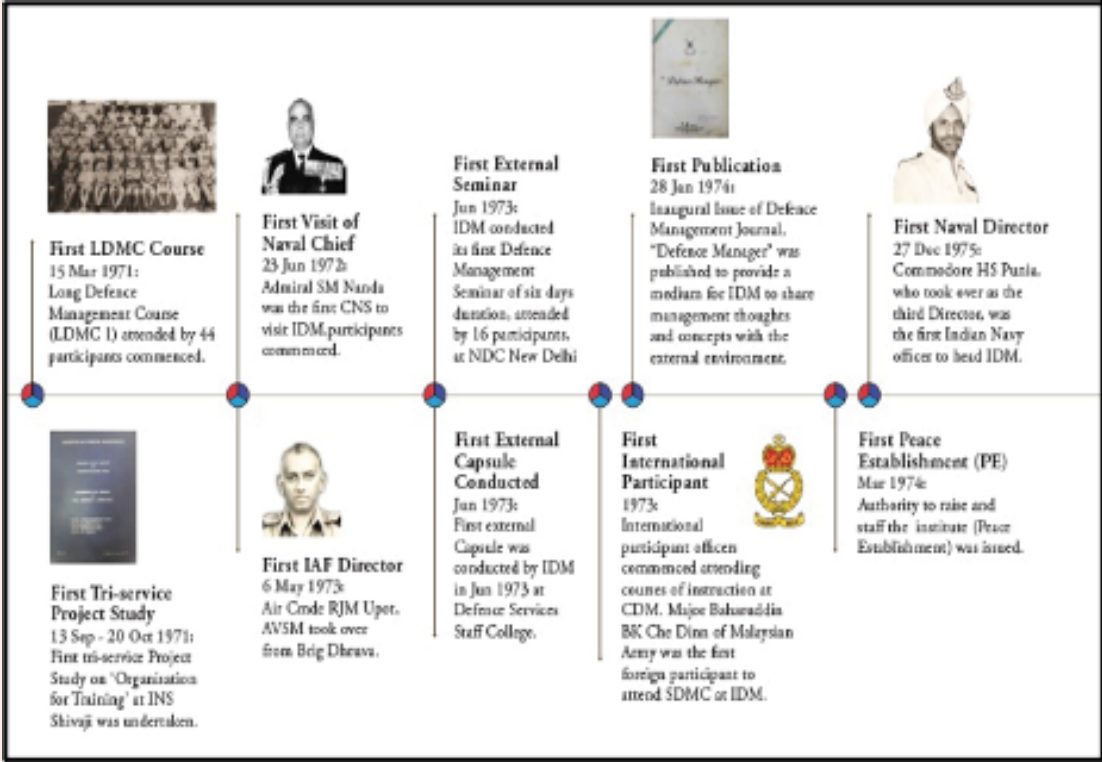
The Road Ahead: Future Ready

CDM is future ready and poised to continue its legacy of excellence. With the growing importance of multi domain warfare, CDM's curriculum is evolving to meet the demands of the next generation of military leaders. The college is set to expand its partnerships with global defence institutions, and its faculty is actively engaged in research on new-age military strategies and technologies.

CDM faculty boasts of 30 PhD & 99 MPhils acquired till date. Having a mandated role of Research and Consultancy to Defence Forces, CDM is repository of 4357 dissertations, 4429 of case studies and 512 project studies. This college is dedicated to enhance the quality of research to the next level to steer policy formulation and provide systemic solutions to various organs of the state. CDM has also embarked upon promoting study of Ancient Indian Knowledge System. Forum of Indian Strategic Culture and Thoughts (FISCT) at CDM collaborates with IGNC, Ministry of Culture to propagate Indian Strategic Culture. Military Analytics Club (MAC) at CDM hosts nationwide Datathon to expound the data-based decision making in military leadership. China and Other Nation States Study (CORNSS) forum engages in strategic studies of neighbourhood and publishes annual compendiums. The Defence Export Promotion forum is being established to review policy, procedures and processes to boost defence exports.

CDM's role in preparing military leaders for a dynamic and increasingly interconnected world is now more important than ever. As India's military continues to adapt to the changing global security environment, the knowledge and expertise imparted at CDM will remain a key factor in ensuring India's strategic advantage.

The upcoming presentation of the President's Colours is a testament not only to the college's past achievements but also to its bright future.



began to expand. The college began to integrate leadership development, strategic planning, decision sciences and organizational theory into its curriculum, acknowledging that modern military leadership required wider competencies.

The Growth Phase: Broadening Horizons and Deepening Expertise

By the 1990s, the Indian Armed Forces were undergoing

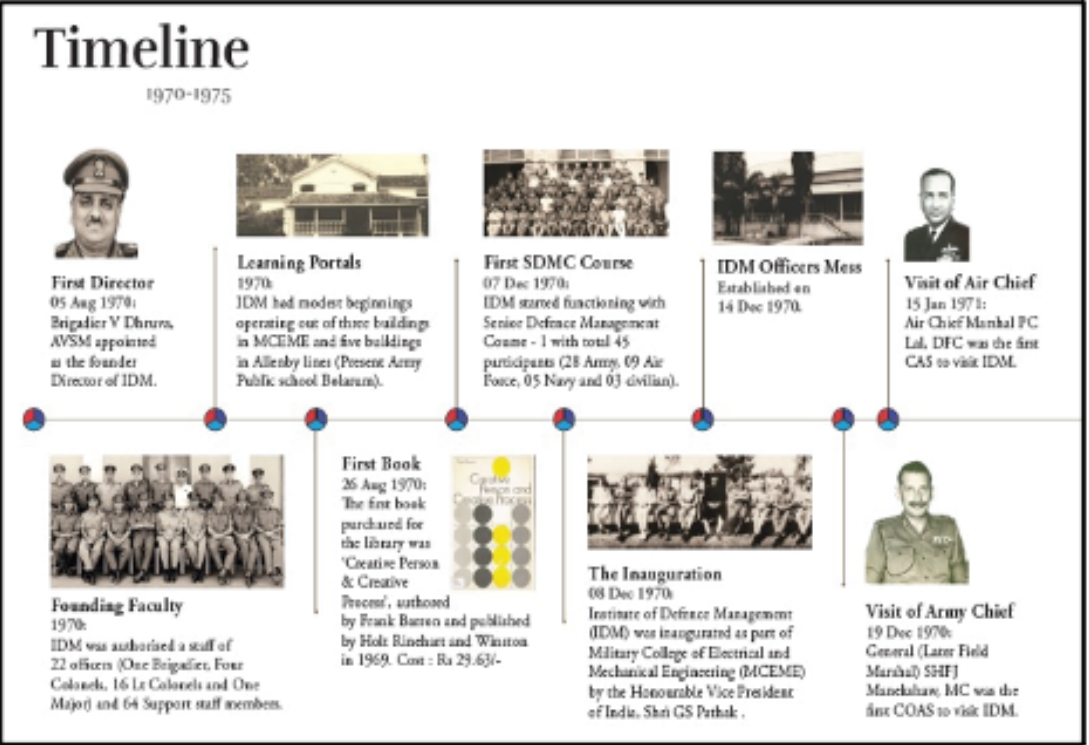
technologies like big data analytics, data-based decision making and artificial intelligence in warfare, integrated defence policy analysis, and conflict resolution.

One of the significant shifts during this period was the increasing integration of civilian academic disciplines into the military curriculum. CDM has forged strong partnerships with reputed civilian institutions, business schools, and international defence institutions to ensure that its officers are not only well-versed in military strategies but are exposed to the best practices of corporate management, financial management and international diplomacy. The aim is to equip officers with a holistic understanding of the paradigm of Diplomacy, Information, Military & Economics (DIME).

Additionally, CDM's emphasis on international collaboration has reached new heights in the last five years. The institution began engaging more actively in international defence and management forums, hosting seminars and symposia on global security issues. This global outreach allowed CDM to position itself as a thought leader in defence management education and gain eminence worldwide.

The Role of CDM Today: A Global Leader in Defence Education

CDM stands today at the forefront of professional military education in India and beyond. Today, the college offers a range of academic programs, including the flagship Higher Defence Management Course (HDMC), the Senior Defence Management Course (SDMC), and specialized short-term courses on subjects ranging from resource management, organisational behaviour, big data analytics, decision making, net assessment, negotiations etc.



the Institute of Defence Management (IDM) on 07 July 1970 in Secunderabad, with the vision of providing senior officers of the Indian Armed Forces with the skills needed to manage large organizations, complex logistics, and strategic operations effectively. The Vice President of India, Shri GS Pathak inaugurated this inter-services institute on 08 December 1970. Initially, CDM's focus was largely on providing training in administrative functions, resource management, and the efficient handling of military assets. Brigadier V. Dhruva, AVSM, the first Commandant of CDM, played a pivotal role in shaping the early curriculum, ensuring that it provided not only operational training but also a strong foundation in management and decision-making. The integration of management principles from the corporate world with military doctrine allowed CDM to cultivate well-rounded leaders

a transformation. As India increasingly engaged in global affairs, its military leaders needed to be equipped not only with military expertise but also with an understanding of international relations, macro-economic policies, and the broader strategic landscape. CDM, recognizing these evolving needs, broadened its curriculum to address global challenges and integrate modern management theories.

Osmania University, Hyderabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the College on 14 August 1994, recognising the core programme as equivalent to a post-graduate degree course in Management Studies. Participants of the Course, from 1994-95 onwards, are awarded the degree of Master of Management Studies (MMS) by Osmania University. The course was designed for selected senior officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, aiming to prepare them for

CDM Defence Startup Mentorship Programme



Surplus quantity of firewood placed at Sale Depots across Valley

SRINAGAR: To satiate the demand for firewood, the Forest Department has placed surplus quantities of firewood at all sale depots across the Valley.

was stated by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir in a meeting chaired by Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

The Div Com on Monday convened an urgent meeting to assess the availability of firewood in Valley to fetch the demand.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com enjoined on Additional Deputy Commissioners & District Officers of Forest Department to promptly address the demand for firewood in view of the current winter season.

He directed all ADCs to designate nodal officers for effective coordination

It was given-out that 95% of the demand for firewood is raised by the masjid



vis-a-vis meeting the firewood needs within their respective districts.

committees from Srinagar and urban areas of other districts besides Gurdwara

Committees. CCF informed that the department has raised the target of firewood consumption to 80 thousand quintals for this year from 60 thousand quintals in previous year.

He said that the department has already deposited 63 thousand quintals of firewood in sale depots till date, of which 44 thousand quintals have been already distributed. The sale depots have also been increased from thirteen during last year to thirty for the current year.

In response to the concern raised by some Hon'ble MLAs regarding deficiency of firewood in their constituencies, Div Com urged concerned officers to resolve the issue without delay.

DC Anantnag Stresses 100% Aadhaar Saturation in District

facilities in hospitals to facilitate Aadhaar generation for newborns using verified birth certificates.

importance of Aadhaar as a document for accessing government services and



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

The DC underscored the benefits. He urged residents, particularly those who have not updated their Aadhaar in over a decade, to update their demographic details, biometrics, and supporting documents.

RTA Approves 42 Route Permit Applications in Kupwara

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to review applications for different route permits across the district.

meeting focused on discussing various matters related to public transport in the district and sanctioning of route permits.

During the session, the DC, who also serves as the chairman of the RTA, along with other members, meticulously reviewed applications for road permits.

A total of 42 applications which include 11 Mumkin cases were received for issuance of Letter of Authority (LA) to get

District Permits and local route permits.

All the 42 applications which pertained to 18 Magic cabs and 24 Mini Busses were approved by the RTA after thorough review

and comfortable travelling experience to the people especially living in far flung areas of the district.

On the occasion, the DC urged the Traffic Department to ensure



and discussion.

It was informed in the meeting that this extra fleet of mini busses and cabs added in the district will provide a smooth

proper traffic regulation and take necessary action against violators, underscoring the commitment to maintaining order on the roads.

Principal GMC Srinagar inspects PHC Khag, Govt Unani Medical College Gbl

SRINAGAR: Principal and Dean Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Monday conducted inspection visit to Primary Health Centre (PHC) Khag and the Government Unani Medical College Nawab Bagh, Ganderbal.

Dr. Iffat was accompanied by Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Srinagar; HOD SPM, Dr. Salim Khan, Block Medical Officers and Assistant Director Planning.

The inspection visit to the PHC in Khag aimed to assess the facilities, services, and overall functioning of the health centre.

The inspection focused on infrastructure, staff availability, patient care, and essential supplies. Principal visited various sections of the newly constructed building and also inspected the site for construction of the Hostel Block. She also visited MHRU and enquired about its working.

During the visit to the Government Unani Medical College, Dr. Iffat Hassan conducted an in-depth inspection to assess the college's facilities, Academic activities, services and overall operational

standards. The inspection covered critical areas such as infrastructure, academic progress, staff and faculty availability, patient care, and essential resources.



Dr. Iffat engaged with students and faculty members, listening to their concerns and suggestions. She assured them that all necessary resources and facilities would be provided and urged the college administration to create a dynamic and supportive environment for students.

She emphasized the importance of dedicated efforts from all staff members, encouraging them

“Shopian Aims for Holistic Development in Backward Blocks”

SHOPIAN: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today reviewed the progress of the district under Aspirational Block Development Plans (ABDPs) and Aspirational Panchayat Development Plans (APDPs), at Mini Secretariat Shopian.

During the review, the DDC emphasized the importance of developing panchayats, stating that they are the basic building units of the nation and their development is of utmost priority for the administration.

The District Administration's focus on panchayat development is in line with the government's efforts to strengthen grassroots democracy and promote rural development.

The plans are aimed to ensure that these development plans are aligned with the needs and aspirations of the local community, especially the more backward pockets and blocks. The DDC instructed the officials to expedite the implementation of development projects and ensure that the benefits of these projects reach the intended beneficiaries. Shahid focused on saturation of all government schemes emphasising the importance of bringing these areas at par with other developed areas through convergence.

DC Shopian visits Aglar Industrial Estate, resolves illegal eneroachments issue, public grievances

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today visited the Aglar Industrial Estate to address pressing issues faced by the industries department and the local community due to the development of Industrial Estate in the area.

MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie was also present on the occasion.

During the visit, the DC met local members and interacted with them to understand their concerns and grievances.

Some of the key issues that were resolved on the occasion include removal of illegal encroachments. The DC ordered immediate action to remove illegal encroachments from the government land and ensured that the industrial estate's land is used for its intended purpose.

The DC reviewed the progress of the development of the industrial estate and listened to the grievances of the local community and industrial unit holders, providing on-the-spot solutions to their problems.

He instructed for proper access of road connectivity to the locals through the estate and access to the local school and playground without compromising on the development of the estate.



The visit was a significant step towards resolving the long-standing issues faced by the industrial unit holders and the local community, and is expected to boost industrial growth and development.

Srinagar District Prepares Action Plan for Sustainable Enterprises Under Mission YUVA

SRINAGAR: In order to finalize the action plan for successful implementation of Mission Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyan in the district, a meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the DC held a detailed discussion focused on the effective execution of the mission, strategies to identify, deployment and training of manpower, and ensuring effective coordination and collaboration among the departments and other stakeholders. During the meeting, key action points, roles of line departments were outlined to ensure the Mission's objectives are met effectively and efficiently.

On the occasion, the DC highlighted the objectives of the Mission Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyan launched by the Government for creating new micro enterprises, expanding existing ones and collectives, and promoting new enterprises based on innovative ideas

in J&K with a view to create sustainable employment opportunities.

He added that the strategy is to build an ecosystem for developing entrepreneurial culture, facilitate capacity building, and provide opportunities for

the concerned Officers at their respective level and sensitizing their staff deployed regarding the implementation of Mission YUVA.

He said the initiative is being monitored at a high level and urged all stakeholders



access to finance and capital.

The DC stressed the Officers to give focused attention on efficient planning for conducting the baseline survey of existing and potential entrepreneurs in the district. He emphasized on proper monitoring of the process of survey by

to work in mission mode for its successful implementation.

The DC underlined that the survey will serve as a foundation for planning and implementing future development projects. He observed that Training of staff is pivotal for successful survey,

decision-making and effective execution of the Mission.

He also asked for setting up a robust Control Room at District level for effective management and coordination and monitoring of Baseline Survey and successful implementation of the Mission YUVA

The DC emphasized the intensified awareness campaign regarding the Mission YUVA for which he directed the constitution of a District Level Publicity team for mass scale public awareness.

Dr Bilal urged the concerned to ensure productive capacity building training sessions focused on the strategic framework of Project YUVA, implementation modalities, and the roles and responsibilities of Officers/ Officials involved, besides encouraging youth to take full advantage of the government support available under Mission YUVA and work towards building sustainable and scalable enterprises.

Distt Admin Shopian organises one-day Seminar on Competitive Examinations for Aspirants



SHOPIAN: The District Administration Shopian today organised a day-long seminar on competitive examinations for the aspirants titled 'How to approach the Competitive examinations' at Government Degree College Shopian.

The District Administration under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar conducted the seminar for the aspirants to acquaint them with the basic know-how of competitive examinations.

The Officers discussed the various parameters of successful preparations for the competitive examinations including the Civil Services.

JKAS Officers including ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar; DPO, Arshi Rasool; Tehsildar, Anjum Khan; STO, Sarfaraz Ahmad; BDOs, Shakeel Ahmad & Gulzar Bin Rehman; DSWO, Ibrar Ahmad and CDPO, Saddam Hussain, on the occasion shared insights on exam/ preparation strategies for the aspirants.

Overview of the Civil Services examinations, Polity, Geography, Environmental Science, Science and Technology, Arts and History, Current affairs, economy etc were dealt with in detail by officers for the benefit of aspirants.

DC appreciated the response of the aspirants for coming in good numbers to attend the seminar despite the bone chilling cold. He expressed hope that the seminar becomes a stepping stone to their success. Exhibition of hard work, proper exam strategy, perseverance and focus are key to the success for cracking the competitive examination, said Shahid while alluring them to channelise their energies towards pursuing their career goals. He impressed upon them to make use of the facilities available at the Reading rooms to them for their career development. ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone urged the students to work hard and make use of valuable insights being shared during the day-long seminar.

DLAMC Kulgam urges Aadhaar holders to update Biometrics, Demographic Data & Documents

KULGAM: To review the progress of Aadhaar saturation in the district and to address challenges related to enrolment and updates, a meeting of the District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) was today held at the DC Office, Kulgam.

The meeting, convened by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Vigar Ahmed Giri, was attended by the District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Tehsildars, Health, Education, Lead Bank Manager and other line departments.

State Project Manager UIDAI J&K gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting the initiatives undertaken to streamline Aadhaar enrolment and updates. He detailed the organization of special Aadhaar camps in

collaboration with the District Administration and the establishment of enrolment facilities in hospitals to facilitate Aadhaar generation for newborns using verified birth certificates.

meeting. During the meeting, ADC underscored the importance of Aadhaar as a document for accessing government services and benefits and urged residents, particularly those who have not

to ensure their children's Aadhaar biometric details are updated at the ages of 5 and 15 to keep their Aadhaar active. All the departments were instructed to work in collaboration 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.

Instructions were further issued to the concerned officials to enhance outreach programmes and provide adequate resources to facilitate Aadhaar updates for residents. Meanwhile, the ADC highlighted the importance of updated Aadhaar details in promoting ease of living, enhanced access to government services, and ensuring accurate authentication.



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

updated their Aadhaar in over a decade, to update their demographic details, biometrics, and supporting documents. Parents were advised

Road safety enforcement drive carried at Anantnag

ANANTNAG: In a major step towards improving road safety, an extensive enforcement operation was today carried out in Anantnag. The drive aimed at ensuring strict adherence to the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, led to the issuance of numerous e-challans for various traffic violations.

The operation focused on key compliance areas including the verification of route permits, inspection for unauthorized vehicle modifications, and the installation and functioning of speed governors. These measures are crucial for regulating driving speeds and minimizing the risk of accidents.

During the enforcement drive, Rs 34,000 was collected on-site from violators. An additional Rs 74,000 is expected to be collected as a result of the ongoing operation. The team also discovered several serious violations, resulting in the recommendation for the suspension of six driving licenses.

This decisive action reflects the department's commitment to upholding traffic regulations and promoting responsible driving behavior.

The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) emphasized that such drives will continue as part of an ongoing effort to improve road safety and reduce traffic-related incidents. The department remains focused on ensuring the safety of all road users in the region.

DC Kulgam reviews preparedness for Good Governance Week-2024

KULGAM: For smooth and successful conduct of Good Governance Week 2024, which will be observed from December 19 to 24 under the theme 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur', the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting here to review the District's preparedness.

During the meeting, the Officers were briefed about the objectives of the programme, with its focus on

grievance redressal, improved service delivery, and the implementation of good governance practices at the grassroots level.

The DC directed officers to organize service delivery and grievance redressal camps across the district.

He also instructed them to coordinate with line departments to meet the set targets and submit daily progress reports to the DC

Open Volleyball Tournament inaugurated at BHSS Ganderbal

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the 115 Battalion CRPF, commenced an exhilarating Open Volleyball Tournament for boys today at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Ganderbal.

Eight teams representing various higher secondary schools from across the district are competing in this two-day event.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by the Commanding Officer of the 115 Battalion CRPF, DYSSO Ganderbal Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal, and Deputy CEO Ganderbal, Rumaisha Sangeen.

The dignitaries lauded the collaborative effort in organizing the tournament, emphasizing the significance of sports in

matches, kicking-off with BHSS Ganderbal taking on Qamariah Higher Secondary School Ganderbal. BHSS Ganderbal displayed remarkable skills and secured a straight-set victory (2-0) in the opening match.

Other thrilling matches saw BHSS Batwina, BHSS Manigam, and BHSS Kurhama emerge victorious, securing their places in the semi-finals alongside the host school.

The tournament will continue tomorrow with two semi-final matches, culminating in an exciting final to crown the champions.

fostering discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills among youth.

The opening day witnessed four intense



LOSE BELLY FAT

the smart way with these six pro tips

Talk of stubborn weight and one simply can't think past belly fat as it is the easiest to accumulate and toughest to get rid of. Belly fat, besides making one seem out of shape, belly fat contributes to an increased risk of obesity, metabolic disorders, diabetes and other chronic health problems. While there are a plethora of diet fads and workout routines that can help burn stubborn belly fat like a pro, we'll help share some basic tips to keep you moving on the road to fitness.

Take a look at our top five tips to help you lose belly fat like a pro and one additional pro suggestion that no one told you about.

Increase your fibre intake: Fibre is a macronutrient that keeps the digestive tract clear and healthy, prevents constipation. According to a 2012 study by experts from the University of Carolina, increasing daily fibre intake by 10 grams helps reduce abdominal fat levels by 3.7 per cent. Foods like fruits, vegetables, pulses, beans, whole grains, and whole-wheat bread, and pasta are rich sources of fibre – foods that can help prevent bloating and may over time lower the risk of stroke.

Watch your alcohol intake: One of the biggest foes of your weight loss efforts is alcohol. With its high-calorie content, alcohol in excessive quantities can add additional inches to your waistline in a brief period; and when combined with carbonated drinks or fruit juices, the effect is further worse.

Enjoy healthy snacks mindfully: When it comes to snacking, one often struggles to find the right options. However, once those options are discovered, the next question is how much to eat safely. Experts recommend snacking wisely – opting for nuts and seeds instead of low-fat yogurts, fat-free crackers and biscuits, and no-sugar sodas as they do no good to your health. The key rule for snacking wisely is eliminating high sugar, high salt, high calorie, and high-fat foods while practicing portion control on the safe options. Instead of helping reduce your waistline, it could contribute to belly fat accumulation.

Cut down on sugar: Sugar is another foe of health – increases belly fat accumulation risk, obesity risk and over time can contribute to diabetes as well if consumed uncontrollably. However, sugar does not specifically mean refined white sugar – it also includes energy drinks, packaged biscuits, cookies, cereals, binge-eating fruits, etc.

Go for strength training: Strength training is super effective for weight loss and burning belly fat. According to several studies, it burns fat more effectively and builds muscle mass as well. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, strength training twice a week can be helpful for burning belly fat.

Get ample sleep: Surprisingly, sleep can also contribute to the loss of belly fat as it helps manage cortisol levels. Sleep induces a sense of rest, curbs cravings, keeps appetite under control, and gives you more energy to move around. According to a study by experts from Columbia University, sleep-deprived people are more like to consume 300 additional calories than those who get ample rest.



Watch your alcohol intake: One of the biggest foes of your weight loss efforts is alcohol. With its high-calorie content, alcohol in excessive quantities can add additional inches to your waistline in a brief period; and when combined with carbonated drinks or fruit juices, the effect is further worse



Gone are the days when back pain was a concern for older adults – people aged 40 and above. Sad as it is, youngsters too struggle with back pain these days – and the lifestyle choices, weak immune system, and other underlying health problems stand accused. However, while diet is the key perpetrator that could make things go haywire, it is the one component that could work wonders to improve the state of your health. And there is one spice that can particularly have a positive impact on back pain. Keep reading to find out what it is.

Can diet help with back pain?
One of the best ways to manage back pain naturally is by making changes to your diet – including anti-inflammatory foods that alleviate pain and discomfort. One of the leading causes of back pain is sitting in the same place and in the same position for hours – be it working professionals or students or those accustomed to a sedentary lifestyle.

Over time, this increases strain on your back thereby triggering back pain. While excessive back pain can be mitigated with medication and physiotherapy, a mild form of the same can be treated with lifestyle changes – exercising, eating the right foods, and not sitting in the

same place for too long, and so on.
On the diet front, experts recommend turmeric (haldi) for alleviating back pain.

Turmeric and back pain: The link explained
The golden spice from your mum's masala box – which adds a bright colour to your milk, curries, and other preparations, has a warm effect – is a rich source of antioxidants, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial properties that could raise your health quotient significantly. These effects are attributed to curcumin, the anti-inflammatory compound that gives haldi its healing virtues.

Curcumin reduces inflammation, soothes back muscles, and alleviates pain over time. Be it in the form of haldi dudh (turmeric latte) or herbal tea or in your curries, haldi can be consumed in every way for maximum benefits.

Is turmeric the only anti-inflammatory spice?
Turns out, turmeric is not the only spice that comes with anti-inflammatory properties. Take a look at three others that can offer relief from inflammation.

Ginger – To be consumed in tea form or in curries
Willow bark – Helps soothe muscle pain, menstrual cramps, and back pain – active ingredient salicin helps mitigate inflammation

Devil's claw – Extracts to be used as a remedy for arthritis

Back pain

A warm spice from your mum's masala box could work wonders

”

Over time, this increases strain on your back thereby triggering back pain. While excessive back pain can be mitigated with medication and physiotherapy, a mild form of the same can be treated with lifestyle changes – exercising, eating the right foods, and not sitting in the same place for too long, and so on

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Nearly 500 applicants received daily at Srinagar Passport Office

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: The Regional Passport Office (RPO) in Srinagar is witnessing a daily footfall of nearly 500 applicants, which reflects the increasing efficiency of the passport application process in Kashmir and Ladakh. Regional Passport Officer (RPO) Davinder Kumar said there have been improvements in the system that have reduced the waiting period, adding that appointments are now scheduled for the day after an application is submitted. Speaking exclusively with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) at his office, RPO Davinder Kumar said, “We

are handling around 500 appointments daily, and the office,” the officer said. Elaborating on the



most applicants complete their formalities on the same day.” He said that just a few years ago, the appointment cycle at the passport office was about three months. “Now, once an applicant applies, we give them a next-day appointment at

streamlined process, RPO Kumar said, “Once the formalities are completed, we process the application on the same day and forward it to the police, CID, and other departments for verification. The issuance of the passport then depends on these

verifications.” He added that in cases where there are no issues with verification or documentation, passports are issued within 15 days. To address public grievances, the RPO said, “I have instructed staff and security to allow people with issues or grievances to meet me directly.” He said applicants facing document-related problems or delays are guided on how to resolve them efficiently. “The improvements in processing time and the focus on resolving grievances are aimed at ensuring a seamless and applicant-friendly experience at the Srinagar Passport Office,” Kumar added.

Schools to install CCTVs by Jan 31: Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan

JAMMU : Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan today held a meeting with representatives of school authorities regarding the safety audit of vehicles ferrying students. The aim of the move was to seek active participation and cooperation from the school authorities to ensure that vehicles used for ferrying students are fit and safe for transportation. Referring to the Supreme Court’s directions for school buses, the Transport Commissioner set 31st January as the deadline for the mandatory installation of CCTV in school buses so that every activity of the driver and assisting staff while driving is monitored. This will ensure the safety of students round the clock.

The school authorities were directed to ensure that all vehicles are fitted with functional speed governors, with the speed fixed at 40 km/h as per guidelines issued from time to time. They were informed that the vehicles will be seized on the spot if any school bus will be found violating safety norms while plying on roads, especially with regard to overloading and over speeding. The authorities assured that all safety measures outlined in the Supreme Court guidelines are being followed to ensure the safety of children. They were further asked to restrict underage students from driving two-wheelers/ four-wheelers in and around school premises.

At the famous destination - Pahalgam, a hotel owner said they have witnessed a good response for New Year bookings. He also said Christmas reservations have been limited. Similar views were expressed by many other hoteliers in Pahalgam. At Sonamarg, the travel operators said that they are observing nearly 70 to 80% occupancy for the holiday period while in Doodhpathri, the hotel owners are expecting an increase in the footfall during Christmas and New Year celebrations

MP Ruhullah

government and the Home Minister to take immediate action to resolve the matter and ensure that the eligible candidates are given a chance to participate in the recruitment process. “This step would provide an opportunity for these individuals to secure employment and address the challenges they have faced due to the delays,” he said

Army Commander

made by the gallant soldiers during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 in which the Indian armed forces defeated the Pakistan Army in only 13 days to end the war on December 16, 1971, a defence spokesperson said.

To commemorate the event, the deputy general officer commanding, Tiger Division, laid a wreath at the eternal flame of the memorial with a ceremonial guard of honour in the presence of other ranks of the division, he said.

In the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Army commemorated Vijay Diwas with a solemn ceremony at the 'Hall of Fame' in Leh to honour the brave soldiers.

Chief of Staff, Fire and Fury Corps, Major General Dinesh Kumar Singh led the tribute by laying a wreath, the spokesperson said. He said the ceremony to pay homage to the fallen heroes was attended by military officers, junior commissioned officers and other ranks of the Fire and Fury Corps, Air Force Station, Leh, and other units.

The event concluded with a resolve to uphold the legacy of the war heroes and a commitment to protect the sovereignty of the nation, the spokesperson added.

Omer Abdullah

While other parties, including the National Conference, are entitled to their views, the Congress will continue to chart its own path on such critical issues,” Sharma said. Notably, this is not the first time the National Conference party and Omar Abdullah have spoken out against the Congress. With a pre-poll alliance agreement ahead of the general assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir between the National Conference and Congress party, soon after the results, Abdullah criticised Congress for paying a lot of focus to Kashmir when the elections were about the party’s performance in Jammu. Sharma said Abdullah should focus on pressing matters like the ‘restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood’ and the rights of its people rather than criticizing Congress. Asked about Abdullah questioning Congress’s leadership role in the INDIA bloc alliance, Sharma refused a direct response but said, “He is entitled to his opinion, but the Congress remains steadfast in its leadership and commitment to the alliance’s goals.” Sharma, however, added that the difference in opinions

J&K has eight identified polluted river stretches

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has eight polluted river stretches identified in 2022, according to Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav. The pollution in these river stretches is primarily attributed to the discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage from urban areas, industrial effluents, improper solid waste management, operational issues in sewage and effluent treatment plants, lack of dilution, and other non-point sources, the minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said. Yadav further said that J&K has one Grossly Polluting Industry (GPI), which is operational and complies with environmental standards.

3.5 lakh challans issued this year: SSP Traffic Rural

Waris Fayaz

SRINAGAR: Senior Super intendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Pal Singh on Monday warned that those who continue to violate traffic rules will not be spared, as the authorities intensify efforts to curb road accidents and fatalities. The SSP, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), acknowledged that compliance with traffic regulations has improved to some extent but emphasized that much more needs to be done. “We need to work with greater intensity to curtail accidents and

fatalities. The graph must come down at any cost, and this is only possible with public cooperation,”



he said. He noted that while public support has been encouraging

during traffic drives, it is crucial for drivers—both two-wheeler and four-wheeler operators—to

graph requires drivers to bear with us and follow the rules sincerely,” he added. The SSP, during a traffic enforcement drive, revealed that approximately 3.5 lakh challans have been issued this year for various traffic violations. He congratulated the public for showing improvement in adhering to Motor Vehicle (MV) rules but stressed that there is still significant room for progress. “We need to instill discipline and a sense of responsibility. Lane driving is still not followed properly, and wrong-side driving is a major contributor to road fatalities,” the SSP Singh said.

Continued From P1...

CM Omar

any government—should not make decisions based on the basis of political affiliations. We must prioritize whether a project holds public utility or a public issue benefits the people. If it does, it must be processed and dealt with without delay.” Chief Minister Omar Abdullah acknowledged the challenges faced by the administration this year, citing two major elections as key reasons for delayed developmental activities. He remarked, “The Parliament elections stretched over a long period, and the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct brought work to a halt. Even in some areas, where the work season coincided with the elections, progress was further delayed.” Addressing the district-specific concerns, he urged the administration to expedite developmental activities, stating, “Accelerate the pace of work as much as possible, ensuring it is executed effectively at the ground level. Efforts must focus on completing the work satisfactorily.” He also stressed the importance of timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) for funds to be allocated by the central government. He said, “When we approach the central government repeatedly—whether to discuss with a minister or secure funds for Jammu and Kashmir—the common complaint is that UCs are not submitted on time. Prompt submission of UCs will ensure continuity of financial support and effective resource utilization.” Speaking on governance, CM Omar Abdullah noted the impact of the return of MLAs after 2018. “With the return of MLAs, public expectations and pressures have significantly increased. This requires a coordinated effort to address the people’s demands effectively.” Chief Minister took note of key issues raised during the meeting such as progress in respect of industrial estates, installation of smart meters. He directed immediate review and resolution of issues flagged by MLAs and concerns raised by MLAs to be verified. Calling drug addiction a growing menace over the past decade, Chief Minister Abdullah emphasized coordinated efforts to curb its impact. He remarked, “Despite securing international borders, the problem persists due to inflow from other areas. Addressing this issue at its source is critical for our state.” The Chief Minister assured action, stating that the Dy CM has already directed the DC and officers to address the issue promptly. The Chief Minister also addressed critical infrastructure concerns, including delays in the Katra-Amritsar-Delhi Expressway project. He urged officials to resolve land acquisition and other bottlenecks to keep the project on track. Touching on staffing issues, he expressed concern over vacancies in hospitals and schools due to the practice of staff attachments. He directed officers to provide details of such cases so that corrective measures can be taken to fill posts in rural areas. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of addressing public grievances raised by DDC members, MLAs, and civil society during the public outreach programme. Other issues raised included drinking water supply, sanitation, regularization of daily wagers, upgradation of schools, establishment of colleges in remote areas, industrial policy, and shortage of staff in hospitals and schools. Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, presented a detailed profile of the district, outlining targets and achievements across various departments, including Jal Shakti (PHE), Public Works (R&B), Power Development, Education, Health, Agriculture, and Social Welfare. The Chief Minister also e-inaugurated three key projects and laid the e-foundation stone for another transformative initiative. These projects, designed to enhance public welfare and boost the region’s development, were virtually dedicated to the people. Following the review meeting, the Chief Minister conducted a redressal camp, where local residents, industrial representatives, and delegations from far-flung areas submitted grievances and demands. The Chief Minister assured the people that their genuine

concerns would be resolved promptly. While concluding, chief minister Omar Abdullah praised the overall performance of the district despite challenges, expressing confidence in continued cooperation and progress. He encouraged MLAs and stakeholders to submit priority projects in writing for inclusion in upcoming budget proposals, ensuring better planning and execution in the next fiscal year. **We Are Fastest** in a public careers spanning more than four decades. He understood the needs of the future and the challenges India was facing and remained committed to provide solutions by ensuring social equality and equal access to opportunity for all,” the Lieutenant Governor said. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the changes taking place in higher education sector, under the guidance of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the past few years. He said the visionary National Education Policy is laying a strong foundation for our future growth. Focus on knowledge connectivity, skilling, entrepreneurship and sustained growth has made India world’s new growth engine, he added. The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the crucial role of educational institutions in capacity building of the future workforce and realizing the vision of Developed India. He observed that the educational institutions are driving the nation’s progress and they should promote learning beyond the classroom. National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes on capacity building to adjust to continuously changing scenarios. It has given the college campus the courage to make new discoveries, new inventions. We need to make necessary reforms, aligned with NEP 2020, to develop a conducive environment where students acquire skills and values to deal with the challenges of the real world, the Lieutenant Governor added. “We are the fastest growing economy today but our challenge is to make sure India’s share of world GDP is more than a quarter by 2047,” he said. The Lieutenant Governor also gave his valuable suggestions on promoting innovation, invention and research and encouraging inter-disciplinary education in the educational institutions. Every higher educational institution should focus on four important aspects - Access, Equity, Quality and Outcome, and nurture scientific-thinking, curiosity and creativity among the students. Youth should be prepared for moral leadership and also motivate others to work for the welfare of the society, he further added. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated individuals who excelled in diverse fields. He also inaugurated the Shastri Pavillion at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College and released a publication of Satya Saroj Foundation. Neha Sharma, President, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College Managing Committee; Varsha Singh, Vice President of the college’s Managing Committee; members of Satya-Saroj Foundation, prominent citizens, faculty members and students of the college were present. **Govt yet to** It has been around two months since the assembly election results were announced, but the authorities have yet to declare by-polls for these three seats. The DDC elections were introduced as part of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, which was amended by the Government of India to establish a three-tier governance system in the Union Territory (UT). The first-ever DDC elections in J&K were held in November-December 2020 in eight phases. These elections were historic as they marked the first significant electoral exercise in the UT after the reorganization of J&K into two separate UTs—J&K and Ladakh—in August 2019. The DDCs replaced the District Development Boards, empowering

elected representatives to formulate and execute development plans for their respective districts. The councils consist of 14 members per district, directly elected by the public, and are responsible for overseeing the execution of developmental projects and schemes. A by-election for two DDC seats was held in 2023 after it was revealed that two previously elected candidates were not Indian citizens. The polls for two District Development Council (DDC) seats were declared “null and void” after it emerged that two women from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), married to locals from the valley, had contested the elections. The State Election Commission (SEC), in the exercise of the powers conferred under Section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, had declared the polling for the DDC constituencies of Drugmulla and Hajin (A) as void, cancelling the candidature of Soomla Sadaf and Shazia Aslam **Chila-i-Kalan To** Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT has said that in view of fresh snowfall, the sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travellers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory. **At 41%, J&K** consistent, round-the-clock maternity services also leads many women to opt for cesareans over the risks associated with vaginal delivery. “The global CD rate has been rising, ranging from 20% in Sub-Saharan Africa to as high as 70% in countries like Ireland and the US,” Dr. Rizvi noted. She also highlighted a shift in younger generations, who are increasingly unwilling to endure labor pain, further driving up cesarean rates. The region’s reliance on private healthcare exacerbates the problem. Dr. Rizvi emphasized that private nursing homes in J&K often lack adequate manpower and infrastructure, making cesareans a more convenient option. Late marriages, a growing trend in J&K, are also a critical factor. Dr. Farhat Jabeen, former Head of Gynaecology at GMC Srinagar, explained that women marrying in their late 30s or 40s face higher pregnancy-related risks. “Younger women are more likely to experience normal deliveries, but late marriages and infertility challenges often lead to cesareans,” she said. The medicos stressed the importance of awareness campaigns to promote safe vaginal deliveries and the need for stricter regulation of private healthcare practices. Vaginal delivery remains the safest option for most women, Dr. Jabeen said, and she called on the medical community, social media influencers, and community leaders to educate the public on the long-term implications of overusing cesarean procedures. **Kashmir’s 4 destinations** set to be held at Gulmarg Club on December 24. The ski-resort Gulmarg and other places usually witness huge rush of tourists on the Christmas and New Year as the people from different parts of the country flock to the picturesque places to celebrate the occasion. According to the reports, Gulmarg will be completely booked for Christmas and the New Year celebrations from December 20, 2024 to January 5, 2025 while the travel operators have been receiving the queries ahead of the events. In 2023, Gulmarg recorded over 10,000 tourists on Christmas eve, with a significant influx of foreign visitors while on the eve of New Year, the place witnessed an increase in the number of visitors. In 2024 also, the twin events witnessed a massive footfall of the events as all the hotels remained jam-packed and occupied by the visitors. This year also, the hotel owners from Kashmir’s famous tourist destinations and tour and travel agents said the bookings for the New Year celebration in the valley have been already sold out at Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216020005490, which is Registered in the name of my Brother namely Mohammad Amin Rather, S/O Gh Hassan Rather, Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Bashir Ahmad Rather S/O Gh Hassan Rather, in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted. **Bashir Ahmad Rather. S/O Gh Hassan Rather. R/O kaloosa Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216010008542, which is Registered in the name of my Late Father Namely Habibullah Lone, S/O Gh Mohmmad Lone. Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Zaiba Begum D/O Late Habibullah Lone, 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. **Zaiba Begum. D/O Late Habibullah Lone. R/O Nadihal Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Aadhar Card bearing Registration No 9029 6714 6524, my name has been Wrongly mentioned as Shahid Ahmad Ganie. While as my Actual and correct name as per my Documents is Irshad Ahmad Ganie, Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the same Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted. **Irshad Ahmad Ganie. S/O Sonawul Law Ganie. R/O kehnusa Tehsil Aloosa District Bandipora**

Rashid Khan back in Afghanistan Test squad for Zimbabwe series

Afghanistan's ace spinner Rashid Khan is set to play his first Test match in more than three years after having been named in

came against Zimbabwe, was back in March 2021 in Abu Dhabi. The squad includes seven uncapped play-

Ahmad, Riaz Hassan and Sediqullah Atal who are also yet to represent Afghanistan in Test cricket. Omarzai, Fareed and Riaz were all



their squad for the upcoming two-Test series in Zimbabwe.

Rashid had earlier taken a break from the longest format on medical advice because of a groin injury. Rashid's last Test, which also

ers, including allrounder Ismat Alam, left-arm spinner Zahir Shehzad and left-arm quick Bashir Ahmad Afghan. The trio has been rewarded for its strong domestic performances and will join Azmatullah Omarzai, Fareed

part of the squad, though, for the one-off Test against New Zealand, which was washed out without a ball being bowled in September earlier this year.

"Rashid Khan returns to the Test squad,

which is a promising sign for our red-ball game going forward," Ahmad Shah Sulimankhil, ACB's interim chief selector, said in a statement. "The rest of the team underwent good preparations recently in Nangarhar province, which featured 19 players and all the support staff to work with the players and ensure full preparation for the series.

"We have thoroughly monitored the proceedings and have picked the squad which includes several new faces, including Ismat Alam, Bashir Ahmad, and Zahir Shehzad, who have performed well during the recent Ahmad Shah Abdali first-class tournament."

Meanwhile, Nasir Jamal, Zia Ur Rehman, and Mohammad Ibrahim will be part of the group as reserve players.

Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott, who was in charge of the ODI leg of the team's multi-format tour of Zimbabwe, has made himself unavailable for other formats of this tour for personal reasons. Hamid Hassan will stand in as head coach and Nawroz Mangal as the assistant coach in Trott's absence. Hashmatullah Shahidi will continue to lead the team, with Rahmat Shah being his deputy.

Bulawayo will host both the Test matches, with the series running from December 26 to January 6.

Afghanistan Test squad

Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Rahmat Shah (vice-capt), Ikram Alikhail (wk), Afsar Zazai (wk), Riaz Hassan, Sediqullah Atal, Abdul Malik, Bahir Shah, Ismat Alam, Azmatullah Omarzai, Zahir Khan, Zia Ur Rehman, Zahir Shehzad, Rashid Khan, Yamin Ahmadzai, Bashir Ahmad, Naveed Zadrar, Fareed Ahmad

Open Volleyball Tournament inaugurated at BHSS Ganderbal

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the 115 Battalion CRPF, commenced an exhilarating Open Volleyball Tournament for boys today at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Ganderbal.

Eight teams representing various higher secondary schools from across the district are competing in this two-day event.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by the Commanding Officer of the 115 Battalion CRPF, DYSSO Ganderbal Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal, and Deputy CEO Ganderbal, Rumaissa Sangeen.

The dignitaries lauded the collaborative effort in organizing the tournament, emphasizing the significance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills among youth.

The opening day witnessed four intense matches, kicking-off with BHSS Ganderbal taking on Qamaria Higher Secondary School Ganderbal. BHSS Ganderbal displayed remarkable skills and secured a straight-set victory (2-0) in the opening match.

Other thrilling matches saw BHSS Batwina, BHSS Manigam, and BHSS Kurhama emerge victorious, securing their places in the semi-finals alongside the host school.

The tournament will continue tomorrow with two semi-final matches, culminating in an exciting final to crown the champions.

This initiative aims to provide a platform for students to showcase their talent and foster a spirit of sportsmanship among the youth of Ganderbal.



"Rashid Khan returns to the Test squad, which is a promising sign for our red-ball game going forward," Ahmad Shah Sulimankhil, ACB's interim chief selector, said in a statement. "The rest of the team underwent good preparations recently in Nangarhar province, which featured 19 players and all the support staff to work with the players and ensure full preparation for the series.

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Kohli needs to look at his hero Tendulkar's 241 in Sydney to end batting woes, says Gavaskar

BRISBANE: The legendary Sunil Gavaskar on Monday urged India superstar Virat Kohli to draw inspiration from Sachin Tendulkar's monumental 241 against Australia in Sydney in 2004 and refrain from playing cover drive in order to end his persistent struggle against deliveries outside off-stump.

On a rain-marred third day of the ongoing Brisbane Test, Kohli copped yet another failure when Josh Hazlewood had him caught behind for 3 as a struggling India ended at 51 for 4 when the stumps were drawn.

Gavaskar said Kohli, who has scores of 5, 100 not out, 7, 11 and 3 so far on this tour, need not look beyond "his hero" Tendulkar, who responded with an exceptional 436-ball 241 including 33 fours at the SCG when he too was going through a similar phase of getting caught behind during the Australia tour of 2003-04.

Tendulkar's knock, for which he batted more than 10 hours, is widely considered as one of his best-ever as the legendary batter curbed his instinct to drive and scored the majority of his runs on the on-side.

"He (Kohli) only needs to look at his hero, Sachin Tendulkar. The way in which he (Tendulkar) had kept his patience and control on his off-side game, scoring those 241 runs at Sydney," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"He did not play any shot on the off-side, or at least in the cover (region) because before that he was getting dismissed while attempting to play in covers.

"The shots that he played were pretty much straight or on the on-side," he added.

Gavaskar said Kohli, who has been caught behind the wickets thrice on this tour, must look to defend every single delivery in the channel of the off-stump and find other scoring areas like Tendulkar did.

"Similarly, he (Kohli) should keep a control on his mind and on his game. If the ball is on the off-stump, (he should think that) 'I would defend it. I would not try to score of it'," Gavaskar said.

The legendary batter said Kohli should trust his bottom-hand play more than going for his drives in order to banish his troubles.

"He has such a wonderful bottom hand play, with that he can play in that area, straight or towards midwicket," Gavaskar said.

Indian Army Organizes Volleyball Championship at Suchetgarh

JAMMU: Marking the 53rd Vijay Diwas, the Indian Army's Tiger Division organized a Volleyball Championship for the youth of border villages in Suchetgarh, RS Pura.

An official spokesperson said the event, held at Satowali, aimed to promote unity, sportsmanship, and commemorate the valor and sacrifices of soldiers during the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams across border villages, showcasing the immense talent and energy of local youth. After a fiercely contested final match, Shaheed Raman Kumar (SRK) Club from Arnia, RS Pura, emerged as the champion.

The winners, runners-up, and all participating teams were awarded trophies, medals, and cash prizes, recognizing their efforts and sportsmanship.

This initiative underlines the Army's commitment to engaging with and empowering border communities through such constructive activities. The local community expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts in providing a platform for the youth to showcase their talent and engage in healthy competition.

"As the nation observes Vijay Diwas, commemorating India's decisive victory in the 1971 war, the championship serves as a testament to the enduring bond between the Army and the people of Jammu and Kashmir," spokesperson said, adding it reflects the Army's dedication to fostering a sense of pride and unity among the border communities while honoring the sacrifices of the past.