

Kashmir Convener

People Struggling
With Rising Prices,
Govt Sleeping Like ‘
Kumbhkarani’: Rahul

P-02



ED Takes Possession
Of Flat In Case
Against Dawood's Brother
Iqbal Kaskar

P-02



Derogatory word against
minister: AICC leader
Surjewala calls for strict
action against BJP MLC

P-02



Education is the process of self-discovery

KC NEWS NETWORK

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, December 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed the Annual Day Function of JS Group of Institutions at Varanasi. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to the management, teachers, students and everyone associated with the JS Group of Institutions.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the critical role of Science and Technology for a brighter future of India. He emphasised that modern education must touch every person of society for progress and prosperity of all.

“Education is the process of self-discovery. It is the art of sculpting individuality. Education not only trains the individual in a specific skill and knowledge, but also develops the latent intellectual, artistic and humanitarian abilities,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the teaching fraternity to provide mentorship and guidance to the students and nurture their inherent potential so that they

>>>SEE ON P-7

Gear Up For Winter Adversity: CM Omar



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure smooth and uninterrupted delivery of essential services and functioning of vital installations across the Kashmir Division, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting here at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments to address challenges posed by harsh winter conditions, particularly in the snow-bound zones of Kashmir Valley and Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister

for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmad Rana, Minister for Agriculture and RDD Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for FCS&CA and Transport Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani participated through virtual mode. The Chief Minister conducted a department-wise review of the winter preparedness measures of all line departments.

He emphasized the need for a robust mechanism to minimize public inconvenience during severe weather conditions.

The Chief Minister also engaged with Deputy Commissioners to assess district-level

preparedness and urged them to prioritize timely and effective responses to weather-related challenges.

Chief Minister Abdullah stressed the importance of keeping men and machinery in a state of readiness to ensure the routine functioning of essential installations.

He directed departments to prioritize uninterrupted trade, transport, and essential supplies while addressing disruptions caused by snow, waterlogging, or power outages.

On snow clearance, he was briefed that a sufficient number of hi-tech snow clearance machines have been deployed by the R&B Department, SMC, MED, BRO, and NHAI, with additional machines on standby to handle heavy snowfall.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah instructed the concerned authorities to focus on clearing key routes, including inter-district highways and roads leading to hospitals, power grids, water supply systems, and fire and emergency services.

The meeting was informed that adequate stocks of ration, petrol, diesel, and LPG are available to meet

>>>SEE ON P-7

5 soldiers killed, as many injured in Poonch accident



KC NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: At least five soldiers were killed while five others were injured after a vehicle they were traveling in plunged into a 150-foot-deep gorge at Balnoi area of Poonch district, officials said. Officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Army vehicle en-route from Nilam Headquarters to Balnoi Ghora Post met with an accident near Ghora Post. The vehicle fell into the gorge following which a Quick Reaction Team rushed to the site and launched a rescue operation.

>>>SEE ON P-7

LG Sinha expresses grief

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has condoled the loss of lives of army personnel due to tragic vehicle accident in Poonch sector. In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor has said:

>>>SEE ON P-7

Reservation Policy: ‘I am a Filed Negro’, MP Aga Ruhulla



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ruling National Conference Parliamentarian Aga Syed Ruhulla has sparked widespread debate on social media with a thought-provoking post referencing Malcolm X's famous speech on "The House Negro and the Field Negro."

According to the Associated News Bureau, the

tweet, made earlier today, delves into the dynamics of oppression and complicity during slavery and appears to draw parallels with the surrounding political issue on the Reservation Policy in J&K.

The tweet reads: "The House Negro and the Field Negro. Malcolm X. "Back during slavery, when Black people

>>>SEE ON P-7

Rahullah Mehdi's Protest 'A Breach Of Discipline' In Party: NC MLA

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) legislator Salman Sagar today clarified the party's position on Member of Parliament Rahullah Mehdi's involvement in Monday's reservation protest, calling it a personal decision that did not reflect the party's stance.

Speaking at the party headquarters in Srinagar, Sagar emphasized that the protest was not organized by the NC but by individuals he described as "enemies of the party."

>>>SEE ON P-7

Include Newly Notified Tribes Under TWS: Javed Rana



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant move towards empowering tribal communities and ensuring inclusive development, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has approved a key departmental proposal for inclusion of newly notified tribes in Jammu and Kashmir under various tribal welfare schemes.

The Minister asked the Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G and Director, Tribal Affairs J&K, Ghulam Rasool and other senior officers to focus on expediting initiatives for socio-economic empowerment of the tribal population in J&K. The Minister accorded approval for expansion of Dharti Aaba Mission, a flagship tribal development program aimed at

>>>SEE ON P-7

Govt Forms Committees for Verification of PDS Beneficiaries

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued an order sanctioning the formation of District Level Committees to verify beneficiaries enrolled in the Public Distribution System (PDS) database. The committees will oversee the identification of eligible individuals, removal of ineligible entries, and inclusion of left-out beneficiaries under the PDS.

According to Government Order No. 2129-JK(GAD) of 2024, the committees will be chaired by the respective Deputy Commissioners. Other members include the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Assistant Commissioner (Development),

District Social Welfare Officer, and the Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS & CA), who will act as the Member Secretary.

The terms of reference for the committees include verifying the eligibility of beneficiaries as per applicable rules, ensuring the inclusion of eligible but left-out individuals, and completing e-KYC for all pending eligible beneficiaries under the PDS.

The committees have been directed to submit their reports to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs within one month. The initiative aims to streamline the PDS database and ensure that benefits

>>>SEE ON P-7

CM, Dy CM, Minister Itoo greet people on Christmas

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended his Christmas greetings to all those celebrating this occasion across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

In his message, the Chief Minister described Christmas as a blessing for humanity, reflecting peace, love, and compassion.

He emphasized the timeless relevance of Jesus Christ's teachings, which continue to inspire the values of kindness, forgiveness, and harmony in today's world.

“Christmas is not just a celebration; it is a testament to the strength of our collective harmony where every community comes together to celebrate this joyous occasion. The teachings of Jesus Christ remain as significant today as they were then, reminding us to strive for a more peaceful and inclusive world,” the Chief Minister said.

Highlighting the secular fabric of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah praised the spirit of unity and brotherhood that characterizes the region.

He urged the people to use this occasion to reinforce their commitment to these cherished values and to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate, ensuring that no one is left behind in the celebration of this joyous festival.

The Chief Minister also called upon the people of the state to reflect on the essence of Christmas and carry forward its message of compassion, hope, and goodwill throughout the year.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Make ‘TB MukT J&K’ by the end of the year 2025: CS



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today in a meeting of Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department impressed upon the concerned to make untiring efforts in making J&K Tuberculosis (TB) free by the end of the year 2025 as envisaged under PM TB MukT Bharat Abhiyan.

Besides the Secretary H&ME the meeting was attended by Principal GMC, Jammu/Srinagar, MD, JKMSCL, Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir; State TB Officer, Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers.

While taking note of the incidence of this disease in the UT, the Chief Secretary stressed on enthusiastic tracing of contacts, intensive

sampling and involvement of community to make J&K free from TB.

He further advised for efficient utilization of the services of ASHA workers, women SHG members of JKRLM and other rural institutions to reach out to all the people and areas in identifying the potential affected persons and drawing of samples for carrying out necessary diagnostics.

As far as the IEC for creating general awareness among public is concerned, Dulloo enjoined upon the Department to send bulk messages to the family members of the patients for their sensitization and care about their health.

He also asked them to make it a regular feature to keep check on the Health & Wellness Centres and Ayushman

>>>SEE ON P-7

Govt intensifies efforts to tackle risks posed by glacial lake overflows

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a bid to tackle the increasing risks posed by glacial lake overflows, the Jammu & Kashmir government has intensified efforts to monitor and mitigate the threats of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFS).

“A series of scientific expeditions have been conducted to enhance understanding and preparedness against these potential hazards, stated an official communication issued in this regard by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

As part of these initiatives, a specialized expedition team led by Dr. Sunil Dhar from the Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University of Jammu, recently undertook

a comprehensive study of three critical glacial lakes in Kishtwar district. The team

Kulgam district. Besides, the Department of Geography & Disaster Management at



conducted a comprehensive study of various lakes including Mundiksar, Hangu and Unnamed lake in the Kishtwar region. Besides, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducted a thorough study of Bram Sar Lake in the

the University of Kashmir conducted field expedition to two glacial lakes, earlier in June. “These expeditions provided valuable data on the lake conditions, surrounding

>>>SEE ON P-7

People Struggling With Rising Prices, Govt Sleeping Like ‘Kumbhkaran’: Rahul

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that the people are struggling with rising prices and are forced to compromise on small things of daily needs while the Government is sleeping like ‘Kumbhakaran’.

Gandhi shared a video on his social media handles on his recent visit to a vegetable market in Giri Nagar here and interaction with housewives who narrated their ordeal due to rising prices of food items. “A few days ago, I went to a local vegetable market and while

shopping with customers, I talked to the vendors to know how the budget of the common people is deteriorating and how inflation has troubled everyone,” Gandhi said in his post accompanying the video.

“People are struggling with rising prices and are forced to compromise on small things of daily needs,” the former Congress chief said in his post in Hindi.

“We discussed the prices of garlic, peas, mushrooms and other vegetables, and heard the real experiences of the people. How



garlic at Rs 400 per kg and peas at Rs 120 per kg have shaken everyone’s budget,” he said.

What will people eat and what will they save, he wondered. “While talking over tea, we

closely understood the problems of the lives of housewives – how the income remained stagnant, inflation kept increasing uncontrollably. How saving has become impossible and how it has become difficult to arrange even a rickshaw fare of Rs 10 due to just meeting the food expenses,” Gandhi said. He urged people to share their experiences with him if they are also feeling the effect of inflation. “Tell us how you are struggling with this problem – you know the condition of the market.

Cong’s CWC in Belagavi: Party to decide 2025 action plan, take up Ambedkar ‘insult’ issue strongly

NEW DELHI: The Congress will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Belgaum session of the party that was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi with an extended session of the CWC which will decide on an action plan for the next year.

The opposition party asserted that the “insult” to BR Ambedkar by Home Minister Amit Shah will be strongly taken up at Belagavi and deliberated upon.

Addressing a joint press conference along with Congress general secretary organisation K C Venugopal and AICC media and publicity department head Pawan Khera, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on December 26 has been named ‘Nav Satyagraha Baithak’.

He said two resolutions will be passed at the meeting.

The Congress has been marking Ambedkar



Samman Saptah against the “insult” of BR Ambedkar by Home Minister Amit Shah, Ramesh said.

He said there is only one solution that the home minister be sacked and must apologise for his remarks.

ED Takes Possession Of Flat In Case Against Dawood’s Brother Iqbal Kaskar

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate has taken possession of a flat worth Rs 55 lakh in Maharashtra’s Thane, held in the name of an alleged associate of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim’s brother Iqbal Kaskar, as part of a money laundering probe. Sources in the federal probe agency said Tuesday that the residential dwelling in Neopolis Building located in Thane West was attached as part of a provisional order issued under the PMLA in 2022 against its owner Mumtaz Ezaz Shaikh. The adjudicating authority of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) had approved this provisional attachment order paving way for the ED to take its possession. The procedure for taking possession of the flat was completed recently, the sources said. The ED had earlier alleged in a statement that this flat was extorted by Kaskar and others from a Thane-based real estate developer Suresh Devichand Mehta. “Mehta was running the business of construction with his partner through his firm Darshan enterprises. The accused Iqbal Kaskar, Mumtaz Shaikh and Israr Ali Jamil Saiyad due to close proximity with underworld gangster Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar managed to extort one flat in Thane in the name of Mumtaz Ezaz Shaikh,” the agency had said.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.
E-mail:-pgegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285
Extension Notice 7th.

Subject: Construction of 02 No. Service Reservoirs in rural village Ajas including up-gradation of distribution system in left out and outgrowth households of Village Ajas (Production Well).
Reference: This office e-NIT No.31-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./7193-7202, dated: 06-11-2024. Bearing Tender ID No. 2024_PHE_263609_1.
Due to “Poor Response” for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No’s under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 23-12-2024 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	01-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	02-01-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.
No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./9528-37
Dated: 24-12-2024

Sd/=Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK-9981/24

BJP running ‘double blunder’ Govt, not ‘double engine’ one: Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav took a jibe at the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, calling them a “double blunder” instead of a “double engine” Government.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister shared a post on his official social media account on ‘X’ with a news item on the Vande Bharat train incident: “Rasta bhatak gayi Vande Bharat”-jana tha Goa, nikal gayi Kalyan” (Vande Bharat lost its way – ?was supposed to go to Goa but ended up in Kalyan).

Along with the image of the train’s news, Yadav wrote, “The BJP is not a ‘double engine’ Government, but a ‘double blunder’ Government.”

In the same post, he remarked, “BJP has even derailed the country’s engine onto the wrong track.”

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG
-----E mail Id xenmhdang@gmail.com-----
GIST of short-terme-NIT No MHDA/TS/70of 2024-25 DATED: 23-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT Short Term e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered contractors/Firms (Registered on JKPWDOMS) having experience in executing relevant mechanical works for the below mentioned works:

S.No.	Name of the Work	E/Cost (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc.(In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Time of completion (Days)	Technical Sanction.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Repairs to Diesel Road Roller 154 (WILSON) of Mechanical and Hospital Sub Division 2nd Pulwama.	89000	200	1780	10	Accorded
2	Repairs to Diesel Road Roller 667 (WILSON) of Mechanical and Hospital Sub Division 2nd Pulwama.	83000	200	1660	10	Accorded

- Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded
- Position of Funds: Available

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 23-12-2024(16:00Hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 23-12-2024 (17:00Hrs) to 30-12-2024 (14:00Hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 31-12-2024 (14:00Hrs) in office of the undersigned.

No: MHDA/ TS-222/5040-41
Dated: 24-12-2024

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Mechanical and Hospital Division
Anantnag

DIPK-9978/24

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Deptt.
Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr.
H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.
e – mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 – 2416292,
Reference: This Office e-NIT No: 25/JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2024-25, issued Under No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/ 6845-69, dated: 16.11.2024, Works figuring at S No. 01 bearing Tender id. 2024_PHE_264892_1
EXTENSION NOTICE – III

Due to Nil response for the work advertised/ published vide this office above referred e-NIT No. & date bearing tender ID mentioned above, the bid submission end and bid opening (online) dates for the said works are hereby extended & re-fixed as under: -
Last date of submission of Bids online 30.12.2024 upto 12:00 P.M.
Date of opening of bids online 30.12.2024 at 02:00 P.M.
All other terms and conditions of the e- NIT shall remain unchanged.
No. JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. /8744 - 68
D a t e d : - 24.12.2024.3.12.2021.

Sd/- (Er. Samiullah Beigh)
Executive Engineer JS-PHE,
RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.

DIPK-9928/24

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Deptt.
Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr.
H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.
e – mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 – 2416292,
Reference: This Office e-NIT No: 29/JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2024-25, issued Under No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/8438 – 62, dated: 11.12.2024, Works figuring at S No. 01 bearing Tender id. 2024_PHE_267784_1.
EXTENSION NOTICE – I

Due to Nil response for the work advertised/ published vide this office above referred e-NIT No. & date bearing tender ID mentioned above, the bid submission end and bid opening (online) dates for the said works are hereby extended & re-fixed as under: -
Last date of submission of Bids online 30.12.2024 up to 12:00 P.M.
Date of opening of bids online 30.12.2024 at 02:00 P.M.
All other terms and conditions of the e- NIT shall remain unchanged.
No. JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. /8771 - 95
D a t e d : - 24.12.2024.3

Sd/-Executive Engineer JS-PHE,
RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.

DIPK-9927/24

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING SRINAGAR
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No: 55/2024-25 DATED: 23-12-2024
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT/J&K, e- tenders (In single cover system) are invited on PERCENTAGE BASIS from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Block/Pyt Halqa	Adv. Cost (In Lac)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	EMD	Major Head	TYPE OF TEND ER
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Dara A Harwan.	Block: Harwan Pyt Halqa: Dara-A	34.59	1800/	120 Days	AAV/BEE	3% of Adv. Cost	RGSA+SBM(G) +14th FC	OPEN
2	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Theed B Harwan.	Block: Harwan Pyt Halqa: Theed B	34.59	1800/	120 Days	AAV/BEE	3% of Adv. Cost	RGSA+SBM(G) +14th FC	OPEN
3	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Khonmoh C.	Block: Khonmoh Pyt Halqa: Khonmoh C	34.08	1800/	120 Days	AAV/BEE	3% of Adv. Cost	RGSA+SBM(G) +14th FC	OPEN
4	Construction of Panchayat Ghar at Nowgam- A.	Block: Srinagar Pyt Halqa: Nowgam- A.	34.44	1800/	120 Days	AAV/BEE	3% of Adv. Cost	RGSA+SBM(G) +14th FC	OPEN

Position of A/A: ACCORDED
Position of T/S: ACCORDED
Position of Funds: BUDGETED
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-12-2024
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	23-12-2024 from 06:00
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	31-12-2024 upto 06:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	01-01-2025 at 11:00AM or any convenient day In the Office of the Executive Engineer REW Srinagar
5.	NOTE: Lowest Qualified bidder shall deposit hard copy of original Tender documents, Fee Receipt, EMD and other documents within 05 Days after the financial bid is opened. Failed to produce the documents shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the contractor be forwarded to higher authorities for the period of 1 year.	

Conditions for bidders:
1. Any Bidder who will go down more than 15% of Advertised Cost shall upload the Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR/BG during tendering process as per Unbalance Bid Table mentioned below. (Non-uploading of Additional Security will lead to the rejection of the tender)
NO:-XEN/REW/SGR/7472-81
DATED:-24-12-2024

Sd/-Executive Engineer
REW Srinagar

DIPK-10013/24

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SHEEP HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SHEEP BREEDING FARM GOABAL
Email Id: sbfgoabal@gmail.com

Sub: - Auction of Departmental wool At Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal Kangan
Ref: - DSHK-Tech/25/2021-08-DIRECTOARTE SHEEP HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT KASHMIR I/492714/2024 dated 10.12.2024

AUCTION OF WOOL

Government Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal Kangan is conducting auction of Departmental Wool at Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal Kangan on 28/12/2024 (Saturday) at 12:00 noon. As such all the interested persons/parties/firms are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to participate in auction proceedings at above mentioned place on scheduled date and time on following Terms & Conditions which shall be binding on the bidders.

- The payment shall be accepted only through cash to be deposited on spot.
- The committee shall have the final authority to accept or reject a bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall have to immediately lift the wool without any delay.
- Any other terms and conditions as may be deemed necessary by the auction committee shall be announced on spot.

No: SBFG/Tech/Auction/2024-25/ 1819-26
Date: 24/12/2024

Sd/-
Assistant Director
Govt. Sheep Breeding Farm
Goabal Kangan

DIPK-9925/24

Nizamuddin Bhat among 8-member panel set up to frame Business Rules for J&K Assembly

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir assembly speaker Abdul Rahim Rather Tuesday nominated a 9-member committee to finalise the draft



by the speaker

The members include MLA Bandipora and Congress leader Nizamuddin Bhat, Mubarak Gul, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Saifullah Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Hasnain Masoodi, Ranbir Singh Pathania, and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

The committee shall finalise the draft Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly prior to the commencement of the ensuing Budget session.]

Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the legislative assembly. The panel also includes MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat.

According to an order, speaker Abdul Rahim Rather will be the ex-officio chairman of the committee. The panel has been set up under Rule 363 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assem-

DLSA Bandipora organises awareness programme on National Consumer Day

BANDIPORA: As per the calendar of Activities for the month of December, 2024, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in coordination with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal and in collaboration with Mosaic Skill Center Sumbal Tuesday organized an awareness programme on 'National Consumer Day' at Mosaic Skill Center Sumbal.

The programme was organized under the chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora and guidance of Iqbal Akhoun, Secretary DLSA Bandipora.

This year, National Consumer Day 2024 underscores the theme of 'Empowering Consumers for a Sustainable Future,' emphasizing the need for informed decision-making and consumer rights in the age of rapidly advancing technologies and global challenges.

On the occasion, resource person Adv. Abid Hussain Malla and Adv. Tasleema Jan delivered lectures on National Consumer Day and highlighted the theme and significance of this day.



They enlightened the audience about the importance of National Consumer Day and emphasized that the rights of the consumers are to be protected and respected, and that all consumers need to have the knowledge and power to pro-

test against the Market Abuses.

The programme was attended by Staff Members of DLSA Bandipora, TLSC Sumbal, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Bandipora and TLSC Sumbal, and students of Mosaic Skill Centre Sumbal.

...National Mathematics Day

KU Brings Together Scholars, Students and Alumni to Revive Mathematics Interest

SRINAGAR: In an effort to reignite interest in mathematics among students, the University of Kashmir (KU) organized its two-day Math Fest 2024 on December 23-24, marking National Mathematics Day and celebrating the legacy of renowned Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

An official spokesperson said the event brought together scholars, students, and alumni to address critical concerns around the declining interest in the subject, especially at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The Festival is being organised in collaboration with the JK Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Kashmir Math Society, and Le-Khidmah Foundation.

Officials said the Math Fest provided a platform for a wide-ranging discussion on the future of mathematics education.

The fest included Special Guest lectures, panel discussions, and cultural performances aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of mathematics and its significance in various fields.

In his inaugural address, Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the importance of connecting mathematics with real-world applications, stressing the need for innovative approaches to teaching the subject. "Events like these are crucial in cultivating a love for mathematics among students," Prof. Pirzada said.

KU's Registrar, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, spoke about the growing concern over declining enrollment in mathematics programs and called for

collaborative efforts to make the subject more appealing.

"The decline in student interest in mathematics is a pressing issue. We must work together—universities, schools, and policymakers—to make



mathematics more engaging and accessible," he said.

Dean Research KU, Prof. M. Sultan Bhat, emphasized the interdisciplinary relevance of mathematics, pointing out its foundational role in fields such as artificial intelligence, space exploration, and climate science. "Mathematics is at the heart of technological advancements and scientific discovery," Prof. Bhat noted.

Director of School Education, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Ito, assured the department's commitment to promoting mathematics at the school level, expressing his support for initiatives aimed at inspiring students to pursue mathematics as a career.

"We are fully supportive of the University's efforts in organizing programs that will encourage school students to take up mathematics," Dr.

Ito said.

The event also featured an alumni meet, which was a key highlight of the fest. Notable alumni, including Mr. Abdul Hamid Kumar, Director Accounts & Treasuries, Kashmir; Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Gulgam; Dr. Lubna Shah, APCUK; Mr. Arshad Hassan, Lecturer, Pulwama; and Mr. Gulzar A. Dar, Lecturer, SCERT Srinagar, shared their personal experiences and insights, encouraging current students to see the value of mathematics in their professional lives.

Head of the Department of Mathematics and convener of the event, Prof. M.A. Khanday, emphasized the need for creative teaching strategies to combat math anxiety and engage students more effectively. "To combat the decline in enrollment, we must rethink how we teach mathematics, focusing on creative and student-friendly approaches," Prof. Khanday said.

The two-day fest also included a skit performed by M.Sc. students, showcasing the role of mathematics in everyday life. Interactive sessions focused on innovative teaching methods and the universal applicability of mathematics, fostering a deeper appreciation of the subject among the participants.

With more than 200 participants, including school students, teachers, faculty members, and alumni, the event concluded on a high note, with participants expressing hope that such initiatives would help revive the interest and enthusiasm for mathematics in Kashmir.

Airtel Maintains Lead as Top Telecom Operator in Jammu and Kashmir: TRAI Data

SRINAGAR: Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, has maintained its position as the top telecom operator in Jammu and Kashmir, according to the latest data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for October 2024.

According to the Date, As of October 31, 2024, Airtel had 6,101,786 wireless subscribers in the region.

Airtel's dominance in the Jammu and Kashmir telecom market is evident, with private competitors Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) both reporting losses in subscriber numbers during the same period.

Jio recorded a loss of 114,604 wireless subscribers, while VIL lost 2,306 subscribers.

Nationally, Airtel continued to expand its reach, adding 1.93 million wireless subscribers across all telecom circles in October 2024. This growth brought Airtel's total wireless subscriber base to 385.41 million, strengthening its position in the highly competitive Indian telecom market.

Airtel's performance in Jammu and Kashmir was further underscored by its peak Visitor Location Register (VLR) at an impressive 90.74 percent. Nationally, Airtel's VLR percentage stood at 99.48 percent, the highest in the industry, reflecting the operator's superior network quality and reliability.

The overall wireless subscriber base in India experienced a slight decline, falling from 1,153.72 million in September 2024 to 1,150.42 million in October 2024. Despite this dip, Airtel's market share remained strong at 33.50 percent, demonstrating its ability to attract and retain customers even in a challenging market landscape.

Spokesperson said this continued growth and leadership in subscriber numbers solidifies Airtel's position as a preferred telecom provider in Jammu and Kashmir, offering high-quality services and an extensive network that meets the needs of its expanding customer base.

Sainik School Nagrota Celebrates Annual Day with Zeal and Fervour

Nagrota: Sainik School Nagrota celebrated its Annual Day on 23rd December 2024, with grandeur and enthusiasm.

An official spokesperson said the event was graced by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who attended as the Chief Guest. Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, AVSM (Retd), Ex MLC, was also present as the Guest of Honour.

The celebrations began with a ceremonial Guard of Honour, presented to the Chief Guest in the distinctive style of Sainik School Nagrota, symbolizing the discipline and precision of the institution.

Following this, the Chief Guest inaugurated the Art, Photography, and Science Exhibition in the Academic Block, which displayed the creativity and scientific prowess of the cadets.

The cultural program held at the School Auditorium was a vibrant showcase of the students' talent and diversity. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Cock House Trophy to Sindh House, which secured the overall Championship in both junior and senior categories.

Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia, the Principal of Sainik School Nagrota, welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, delivering the school's annual report. He emphasized the school's achievements during the academic session of 2024-25, underscoring its commitment to academic excellence, holistic development, and the nurturing of patriotism among the cadets.

The event concluded with a high tea for guests and parents, marking the end of a memorable and celebratory day at Sainik School Nagrota.

B'pora's ITI Colony Residents Call for Permanent Culvert Solution

BANDIPORA: The residents of Sheikh Hamza Colony, near ITI Bandipora have reiterated their demand for the construction of a permanent culvert near the ITI Bandipora gate. They argue that the RCC pipe currently in place creates frequent disruptions, impacting both water supply and transportation.

"The RCC pipe often gets damaged, causing water supply to Sheikh Hamza Colony to be cut off. The concrete pipe laid beside it, which protects



our water supply line, is repeatedly broken by passing vehicles, leaving our colony without water," said a resident.

The locals expressed frustration over the lack of action despite raising the issue with successive

ITI Superintendents. "We requested them to utilize local funds to build a proper culvert, but they never escalated the matter to higher authorities," another resident complained.

The residents are now appealing to the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Nizamuddin Bhat for personal intervention in this matter. They also appealed to the District Development Commissioner, and the Executive Engineer to include the construction of the culvert in this year's development plan.

"This is not just about solving our daily problems; constructing a permanent culvert will also enhance the appearance of the ITI gate, making it look like a proper institute," they emphasized.

The community hopes that their longstanding demand will be addressed soon, ensuring a permanent solution to their challenges.

Nizamuddin Bhat writes to CM Omar Abdullah; seeks highway status to Sumbal-Bandipora-Gurez road

Srinagar: MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat has written to chief minister Omar Abdullah to seek highway status to Sumbal-Bandipora-Gurez road, the main connectivity to the district with Srinagar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the letter, Bhat has sought the intervention of Omar Abdullah to have this "long pending demand duly considered for early redressal".

He stated that Bandipora the main connectivity has not been accorded highway status from Sumbal to Gurez, despite its strategic, economic, and accessibility considerations.

Bhat also said that all three legislators from Bandipora raised the issue in a joint review meeting of the district with authorities concerned recently.

Demand for granting highway status to Sumbal-Bandipora-Gurez road has been getting louder with all three legislators from Bandipora including Congress leader Nizamuddin Bhat, and National Conference legislators Nazir Ahmad Gurez, and Hiral Akbar Lone raising the issue with the relevant authorities.

DC Baramulla reviews dev. projects, arrangements for Winter Tourism at Gulmarg



BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting at Gulmarg to review the progress of developmental projects and the facilities available related to winter tourism in the Gulmarg sub-division.

The meeting focused on the developmental projects in the region as well as the facilities and arrangements at the world-famous Gulmarg Ski Resort for winter tourism.

The DC took a detailed and comprehensive overview of the status of various ongoing developmental projects in the Gulmarg sub-division, particularly those associated with enhancing the services for the tourists visiting Gulmarg during winters.

During the meeting, Minga Sherpa emphasized the urgency of completing all pending infrastructure development work, particularly in areas concerning road connectivity, snow clearance, healthcare facilities, electricity and accommodation for visiting tourists.

In addition to infrastructure development, the meeting also focused on the operational aspects of winter tourism. The DC directed the AEE R&B and Mechanical to have efficient snow clearance mechanisms in place to have road connectivity to the ski-resort.

Meanwhile, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure round the clock availability of critical services, such as electricity and water supply, during heavy snowfall periods.

The DC further emphasized that Gulmarg's success as a winter tourism hub hinges on the availability of modern infrastructure, safe travel conditions and efficient services, all of which must be in place during the winter season.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Tariq Hussain; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gulmarg, Syed Altaf Musvi; SDPO Tangmarg; Executive Engineer R&B, AEE Mechanical, and PDD, among others.

BILAL HABIB

PAMPORE: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) organized a day-long free medical camp in the Lalpora village area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

The camp, held by the 185th Battalion CRPF as part of its Civil Action program, took place at the Government Middle School in Lalpora, offering quality medical care and free medicines to the local residents.

The event, inaugurated by Arun Kumar Bharti, Commandant of the 185th Battalion, along with Second-In-Command Sunil Mishra, Assistant Commandant Rajender Harijan, and other senior CRPF officers, saw an enthusiastic turnout of locals. Senior citizens from the village, along with other CRPF officers, were also present at the inauguration.

According to CRPF officials, 315 people from Lalpora and nearby areas participated in the camp, where they received health check-ups and free medicines.

The camp catered to a diverse group, including women, children, and the elderly, offering a much-needed service to the local community.

Residents expressed their gratitude for the initiative, which has been a regular feature for the past three years. Shabir Ahmad, a local resident, spoke highly of the ongoing support provided by the CRPF, noting that the medical camps have



been particularly beneficial to the economically disadvantaged people of the village.

Lalpora is home to many laborers, and the cold weather has led to widespread illnesses like coughs, colds, and fevers. Many households have been affected, and everyone has come to benefit from the free medical services today," Ahmad said. Despite the village being located 3-4 kilometers away from the Sub-District Hospital (SDH)

Pampore, the medical camp proved invaluable for the locals, particularly given the harsh winter conditions.

"Even with the cold making travel difficult, people found the camp incredibly helpful," Ahmad added. "The doctors are excellent, the medicines are of good quality, and with the rising cost of living, this free service is a great relief to our community."

Waste to Wealth

Cleanliness and effective waste management are more than just public health imperatives—they are powerful indicators of good governance and societal progress. As highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, collective efforts toward cleanliness yield sustainable results, promoting both environmental well-being and economic prudence. This principle lies at the heart of India's transformative initiatives like Special Campaign 4.0, which demonstrate the intersection of cleanliness, governance, and sustainable development. A striking example of this synergy can be seen in Ladakh's Nubra Valley. Once burdened by waste, the area was revitalized through a government-led effort under Special Campaign 4.0, which cleared 12 tons of garbage and repurposed the space for constructing a concrete road. This initiative not only improved accessibility but also illustrated the tangible benefits of cleanliness-driven governance in enhancing infrastructure and fostering community well-being. Flagship programs like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) have further propelled India toward comprehensive cleanliness goals. Since its launch in 2014, the SBA has revolutionized sanitation infrastructure in both urban and rural landscapes, with over 4.75 lakh villages now equipped with solid waste management systems and 5.14 lakh villages managing liquid waste effectively. Such achievements are testament to the program's far-reaching impact on public health and environmental sustainability. The "Waste to Wealth" initiative adds another dimension to these efforts, transforming discarded materials into valuable art and utility items. Sculptures crafted from scrap in Ranchi and innovative technologies for converting waste into usable resources showcase how sustainability and creativity can go hand in hand. As of December 2024, over 3 lakh citizens have been sensitized to waste management practices, and 80 cutting-edge technologies are being implemented to promote circular economies across the nation. Furthermore, focused initiatives like the Cyber Swachhata Kendra highlight the integration of cleanliness into broader governance strategies. Cleanliness, as a governance tool, reflects a nation's priorities. Through structured campaigns like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Special Campaign 4.0, India exemplifies how cleanliness can drive progress, transform communities, and redefine governance itself. By turning waste into wealth, these initiatives embody the essence of sustainable development and good governance, setting a model for nations worldwide.



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Good Governance Day on 25 December 2024 holds special significance as it is the 100th birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. To celebrate this milestone, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has announced a week-long campaign titled

ment reach every citizen. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a prominent Indian politician and a founding member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Known for his eloquence and poetic skills, he was respected across party lines for his liberal political views and consensus-building efforts. Vajpayee's political career spanned over five decades, during which he played a key role in shaping India's domestic and foreign policies. In recognition of his service to the nation, he was awarded India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, in 2015. Born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an eminent statesman, poet, and orator. He served as the Prime Minister of India thrice and left an indelible mark on the country's

of the importance of governance that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the people. Good governance is a process of managing public resources and institutions honestly and fairly, without corruption or abuse of power. It ensures that laws are followed, human rights are protected, and the needs of society are met. It aims to raise awareness among people about the responsibility of the government to effectively serve citizens and encourage public participation in the governance process. To recognize his contribution to Indian politics and his vision for a transparent and accountable government. To promote awareness, educate citizens about the importance of good governance and their role in the democratic

that it is not detrimental to anyone. Available resources should be used efficiently to achieve results that meet the needs of their community. Legal frameworks should be implemented in a fair manner to maintain the rights of every individual. People of the society should be able to express their opinions through legitimate organizations or representatives. This also includes weaker and backward groups. Good governance practices help in maintaining the interests of the public. Good governance enables an organization to make optimal and efficient use of existing resources to deliver quality service. Good governance practices also ensure checks and balances against excessive use of power and position. Public participation in the governance process



'Going to Village' from 19 to 24 December 2024. The initiative aims to bring governance to the grassroots level to ensure that administrative services reach the rural population. Good Governance Day is a reminder of the importance of governance that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the people. Good governance is a process of managing public resources and institutions honestly and fairly, without corruption or abuse of power. It ensures that laws are followed, human rights are protected, and the needs of society are met. It aims to raise awareness among people about the responsibility of the government to effectively serve citizens and encourage public participation in the governance process. Good Governance Day is observed every year in India on 25 December to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. First observed in 2014, the day underlines the government's commitment to providing transparent and accountable governance and ensuring that the benefits of develop-

ment trajectory. His tenure included significant economic reforms, infrastructure projects such as the Golden Quadrilateral, and efforts to improve India's global standing. Vajpayee's leadership was characterized by his commitment to democratic ideals, which makes his birth anniversary an appropriate occasion to celebrate Good Governance Day. Good Governance Day 2024 not only commemorates Vajpayee's legacy but also urges citizens and officials to promote transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance for the overall development of the country. Good Governance Day on 25 December 2024 holds special significance as it is the 100th birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. To celebrate this milestone, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has announced a week-long campaign titled 'Going to Village' from 19 to 24 December 2024. The initiative aims to bring governance to the grassroots level to ensure that administrative services reach the rural population. Good Governance Day is a reminder

process. To strengthen the government's commitment to serving the public effectively and ethically. It can be defined as the process of making and implementing decisions within an organization or society. Governance is not only necessary to maintain order; it also helps to achieve objectives and address the needs of a community or group. According to the World Bank, good governance is "the manner in which power is exercised in managing a country's economic and social resources for development." Institutions should operate in such a way that it is easy for others to see what actions are being taken. It also prevents corrupt practices. The ruling class must be accountable to the people. This will ensure the well-being of the people and the entire society. Governing bodies should be sensitive to the concerns of the people and address their needs within a reasonable time. People from all sections of society should be provided equal opportunities for improvement without any discrimination. Decisions should be taken with the consent of a large section of the society so

can only be achieved when good governance practices are implemented. Good Governance Day emphasizes ethical governance, transparency, and citizen participation through various initiatives. These initiatives aim to make administration more efficient, accountable, and citizen-centric. Promotes e-governance, digital literacy, and seamless access to government services. Ensures transparency by empowering citizens to access public information. Encourages citizen participation in policy making by providing feedback on government projects. Focuses on improving sanitation, cleanliness, and waste management across India. Transfers subsidies directly to beneficiaries, reduces corruption, and ensures targeted delivery. Monitors timely execution of government projects while addressing delays for efficient governance.

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Yuval Noah Harari on AI: A Microscope for the Mind and a Mirror to Humanity



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of our time, carrying immense promise and profound challenges. In a recent interview, renowned historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari shared his perspective on AI's impact on humanity, offering a thought-provoking mix of optimism and caution. His reflections shed light on AI's potential to enlighten us about our capabilities and limitations while serving as a sobering reminder of the ethical, social, and existential questions we must confront. The Enlightenment of AI: Unlocking Human Potential Harari underscores that AI has a remarkable ability to illuminate the human mind's capabilities. By analyzing vast amounts of data, identifying patterns, and automating complex tasks, AI reveals how much can be achieved through ingenuity and collaboration. It demonstrates the potential of humans to create systems that augment intelligence and solve problems on an unprecedented scale. During the interview, Harari was asked: Q: "How do you see AI transforming the way we understand ourselves and our place in the world?" A: "AI can be like a microscope for the mind. It doesn't just process data—it helps us perceive the hidden structures of our thoughts and decisions. For example, when an AI analyzes millions of decisions made by humans, it often exposes biases we weren't aware of. This can help us understand ourselves better and aspire to higher standards of morality and rationality." For instance, AI applications in medicine are revolutionizing diagnostics and treatment, enabling early detection of diseases and personalized care. Similarly, in education, AI-

driven tools are tailoring learning experiences to individual needs, fostering better understanding and engagement. Harari emphasizes that such innovations not only improve quality of life but also inspire a deeper appreciation for human creativity and resilience. The Sobering Reality: Risks to Autonomy and Society However, Harari warns that AI's rapid advancement comes with sobering challenges. One of his key concerns is the erosion of human autonomy. As AI systems increasingly

portionately affecting vulnerable populations. The resulting economic disruption could deepen existing inequalities, sparking social unrest and political instability. AI as a Mirror to Humanity Harari also presents AI as a mirror that reflects humanity's aspirations and flaws. AI systems are trained on human-generated data, meaning they inherit our biases, values, and priorities. This mirroring effect forces us to confront uncomfortable truths about discrimination, power



make decisions in areas ranging from hiring to law enforcement, there is a risk of ceding critical choices to opaque algorithms. This shift could lead to a loss of agency and accountability, particularly if these systems embed biases or are manipulated by powerful entities. When asked: Q: "What is your biggest fear about the misuse of AI?" A: "My greatest concern is the concentration of power. Imagine a handful of corporations or governments using AI to monitor and manipulate billions of people. It's not just about privacy—it's about freedom. If we're not careful, AI could create a system where a few control the many, and individuals lose the ability to make meaningful choices." Moreover, Harari highlights the societal impact of AI on employment and inequality. While automation can enhance efficiency, it threatens to displace millions of jobs, dispo-

sonality, and ethical blind spots in our societies. In the interview, Harari addressed this dynamic: Q: "Do you believe AI can ever be truly neutral?" A: "No, because neutrality doesn't exist in the data it learns from. AI is not a divine oracle; it's a reflection of us. If we train it with biased, flawed, or prejudiced data, it will amplify those flaws. But this also presents an opportunity—it forces us to take a hard look at ourselves and ask, 'What kind of world are we teaching AI to create?'" For example, controversies surrounding biased facial recognition systems or discriminatory credit scoring algorithms highlight the urgent need for fairness and inclusivity in AI development. Harari argues that addressing these issues is not merely a technical challenge but a moral imperative, requiring collaboration across disciplines and cultures. Charting a Path Forward: Harari's Call to Action

To navigate the dual nature of AI's enlightenment and sobering consequences, Harari advocates for a proactive and inclusive approach. He calls for global cooperation to establish ethical frameworks and governance structures that ensure AI is developed and deployed responsibly. Transparency, accountability, and public participation are crucial to safeguarding human dignity and rights.

To navigate the dual nature of AI's enlightenment and sobering consequences, Harari advocates for a proactive and inclusive approach. He calls for global cooperation to establish ethical frameworks and governance structures that ensure AI is developed and deployed responsibly. Transparency, accountability, and public participation are crucial to safeguarding human dignity and rights. When asked about solutions: Q: "What steps can humanity take to ensure AI benefits all, not just a select few?" A: "We need to create global agreements—similar to the treaties we have for nuclear weapons. AI is too powerful to be left unregulated. We also need better education systems to prepare people for the changes AI will bring. Beyond technical skills, we need to teach ethics, philosophy, and critical thinking so that future generations can navigate this brave new world with wisdom." Furthermore, Harari emphasizes the importance of education in preparing individuals for an AI-driven future. By fostering critical thinking, adaptability, and digital literacy, we can empower people to thrive in a rapidly changing world and mitigate the risks of disempowerment. Conclusion: A Balanced Perspective AI, as Harari articulates, is both a testament to human ingenuity and a reminder of our vulnerabilities. It has the power to enlighten us about what we can achieve while forcing us to reckon with profound ethical and existential questions. As we stand at this crossroads, the challenge lies in harnessing AI's potential for the greater good without losing sight of the values that define our humanity. By reflecting on Harari's insights, we are reminded that the story of AI is not just about machines—it is a story about us. It is a call to action to shape the future of technology with wisdom, empathy, and foresight, ensuring that it serves as a tool for enlightenment rather than a source of division or despair. Author is Faculty of Mathematics at Department of General Education SUC, Sharjah, UAE. He can be reached at reyaz56@gmail.com

Dy CM Directs Strict Adherence to Deadlines and High-Quality Standards for Ongoing Projects

SRINAGAR: NOWSHERA, DECEMBER 24: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, today chaired a review meeting of the works department, encompassing Public Works Department (PWD), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Roads and Buildings (R&B) department at Dak Bungalow, Nowshera.

The meeting aimed to evaluate the progress on ongoing developmental works and review the status of projects yet to be initiated in the region. The Deputy Chief Minister took a detailed account of the works in progress, stressing the need for maintaining high-quality standards in all phases of project execution. Highlighting the significance of infrastructure development, he directed the officials to ensure strict adherence to deadlines besides addressing any bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of projects.

Discussions revolved around key projects under PWD, PMGSY and R&B, with a focus on

road connectivity, maintenance of existing infrastructure and execution of new projects.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern

He instructed the officials to prepare a prioritized list of pending projects and ensure their early initiation. "Quality should not be compromised

people," he remarked.

During the meeting, the officials provided updates regarding the progress on various projects and highlighted challenges, including funding constraints, land acquisition issues and technical difficulties.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured them of the government's full support in addressing these challenges and facilitating smooth implementation of development projects.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Chief Minister called for regular monitoring and evaluation of all ongoing works to ensure transparency and accountability. He also urged the officials to engage local communities and stakeholders in the developmental process to create a sense of ownership and responsibility among the residents.

Chief Engineer Anil Kumar Pandoi, along with Executive Engineers and other senior officials from the Works Department, attended the meeting.



over delays in certain works and emphasised the importance of meticulous planning and execution.

at any cost, as these projects are pivotal for overall development of the region and well-being of the

CM Omar Abdullah condoles death of five soldiers in Poonch road accident

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed his deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences over the tragic loss of five soldiers in a road accident involving an army vehicle near a forward post along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district.

The unfortunate incident claimed the lives of five soldiers and left several others injured.

The vehicle, en route from Nilam Headquarters to Balnoi Ghora Post, veered off course near Ghora Post and fell into a gorge. A Quick Reaction Team immediately launched a rescue operation at the site.

The Chief Minister extended his deepest sympathies to the bereaved families of the soldiers.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of the soldiers injured in the accident.

Satish Sharma extends Christmas greetings

JAMMU: Minister for Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Youth Services and Sports, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, ARI & Trainings Satish Sharma has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the blissful and joyous occasion of Christmas.

The Minister said that Christmas is the festival of happiness being celebrated across the globe with great grandeur and enthusiasm. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ and rekindles the spirit of peace and harmony.

He also remembered Lord Jesus, who spread the valuable message of sacrifice, love, tolerance and preached the sublime qualities of simplicity and mercy.

Kulgam Drug Control Cracks Down on Non-Compliant Agencies

KULGAM: In continuous efforts to achieve 100 percent transparency in sale and purchase of Scheduled Drug formulations, the Drug Control officials of Kulgam District today carried out surprise inspections at various locations of Kulgam.

During the inspections, two Wholesale medical agencies were found violating the conditions of licenses and their discrepancies in the sale purchase records lead to their operation being disallowed on the spot, and have been put on show-cause notices.

Moreover 15 drug samples were randomly lifted for ascertaining their quality parameters.

Authorities have reiterated the importance of adhering to regulatory guidelines and complying with mandatory Computerized Billing System to bring transparency in sale and purchase records of Schedule Drugs especially those liable to be misused, and have warned that failure to comply will result in strict action and cancellation of licenses.

DIPR organizes Road Safety, Traffic Awareness program at S.P. College

KULGAM: SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24: The Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) J&K in collaboration with S.P. College, Srinagar, organized a significant Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Program at the College Auditorium, here.

The event aimed to educate students and youth on the critical importance of adhering to

He discussed the devastating outcomes of over-speeding, drunken driving, and non-compliance with traffic rules. "Every life lost to a traffic accident is a preventable tragedy," he remarked, emphasizing the collective responsibility of citizens to ensure safer roads.

The Cultural Officer, Kashmir, Burhan Hussain underscored the alarming rise in traffic violations and their tragic consequences, urging students to lead by example in their communities. He emphasized that "responsibility begins with individuals" and called on the youth to respect traffic laws, wear helmets, and avoid distractions while driving. His words resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a lasting impact.

The event also featured a thematic skit by the Shahr-e-Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society, which creatively illustrated the importance of traffic awareness. The performance captivated the audience, particularly the younger participants, reinforcing the messages shared by the speakers.

A speech competition on road safety saw Shayan Showkat (10th Semester, Botany) securing first place, Mohammad Behzad Khan (1st Semester, Physics) taking second place, and Basit Bashir (1st Semester, Physics) winning third place.



traffic rules and fostering a culture of responsible road behavior.

The program began with the presidential address by the Principal of S.P. College, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Farooq Mir. He highlighted the growing concerns over reckless driving and the urgent need for students to act as ambassadors of road safety. He stressed that awareness among the youth is the first step toward reducing accidents and saving lives.

RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan provided valuable insights into the consequences of traffic negligence.

DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of Mission-YUVA

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today reviewed the implementation of Mission Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA) in the district in a meeting convened at DC office Ganderbal.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized the objectives of the Mission YUVA, a government initiative aimed at fostering sustainable employment opportunities in J&K by supporting the creation of new micro-enterprises, expanding existing businesses and encouraging innovative entrepreneurial ventures.

He held an in-depth discussion with the officers on the mission's effective implementation which included strategies for providing necessary training, and fostering strong coordination and collaboration among departments and stakeholders.

The DC directed all the line departments to focus on the

key action points and understand their roles to ensure the mission's objectives are achieved effectively and comprehensively baseline survey of existing and potential entrepreneurs in the district. Meanwhile, a comprehensive



efficiently.

He also took a detailed review of training/demonstration sessions to the nominated supervisors, Investigators to ensure smooth and proper conduct of the baseline survey under Mission YUVA. AD Employment informed that training of nominated staff is underway and will be concluded within the timeline.

Furthermore, he urged the officers to prioritize efficient planning for conducting a training program was held for Supervisors, Investigators in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, appointed for the conduct of Baseline Enumeration/Survey to ensure there are no disruptions during the conduct of this extensive survey.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad; CEO, District Officer Employment, DSO, ALC, ACP and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

State Taxes Department Imposes Rs 1.52 Crore Penalty on Tax Violations in 2024-25

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the Enforcement (Central) wing of the State Taxes Department, Kashmir, has imposed a total penalty of Rs 1.52 crore for tax violations related to major commodities, including cement, scrap, TMT bars, timber, and plywood, for the financial year 2024-2025 up to December. This action is part of the department's ongoing efforts to maintain strict vigilance on goods being transported across the state.

Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement (Central) Kashmir, Waseem Raja, and the overall supervision of Commissioner State Taxes, PK Bhat, the department conducted special enforcement activities in Srinagar, Budgam, and Ganderbal districts.

To maximize detection and deterrence, three field teams and a flying squad were formed, comprising State Taxes officers, inspectors, sub-inspectors, and guards. These teams carried out surprise checks and inspections even during late hours and on Sundays.

A special enforcement team at Srinagar airport focused on monitoring mobile phones and other cargo items. The department's efforts have led to a significant rise in penalties compared to previous years. A penalty of Rs 9 lakh was imposed on cement-related

tax violations, while scrap shipments attracted a fine of Rs 2,47,494, marking a 162% increase from last year's penalty of Rs 94,590.

The timber and plywood sector saw a penalty amounting to Rs 9,84,654, which is a 95% increase from the previous year's penalty of Rs 5,03,762. Additionally, penalties on TMT bars amounted to Rs 1,99,800,



reflecting a 60% rise from last year's Rs 1,24,958.

An analysis of violations in September, October, and November 2024 shows a remarkable surge in penalties, particularly in scrap and cement sectors. A penalty of Rs 1,06,100 was realized from scrap cases during these months, representing a 268% increase compared to the Rs 28,800 charged in FY 2023-24. Similarly, the enforcement teams imposed Rs 5,01,580 in penalties

on cement violations during the same period.

To enhance the efficiency of its operations, a Data Analytics Cell was established by DC Enforcement (Central) to monitor transporters and track e-way bills. This cell collects data from the online MIS/E-way bill portal and shares critical inputs with field teams, enabling more accurate and efficient enforcement.

"The creation of the Data Cell aims to streamline our enforcement activities by utilizing smart work to track violators," said Waseem Raja. "The information provided through the online portal has proven to be invaluable in our operations."

Raja praised the efforts of the enforcement teams, noting the success in adhering to recent directions from higher authorities to monitor certain commodities more closely. "Our aim is to further enhance our activities and achieve even greater results by the end of the financial year," he added.

As of December, the enforcement wing has levied a total penalty of Rs 1.52 crore, verifying over two lakh e-way bills from April to November 2024, marking a 45% increase from the same period last year.

DDC Chairman Srinagar Calls for Fast-Tracking Development Works, Ensures Full Fund Utilization

Srinagar: The Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Srinagar, Aftab Malik Tuesday chaired a meeting here to review the progress achieved under District Capex Budget, MGNREGA and PMAY-G schemes for the financial year 2024-25.

Besides, CEO of the Council (ADDC, Srinagar), Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and members of the Council, the meeting was attended by General Manager, DIC Srinagar, ACD, ACP, CMO, CEO besides all Executive Engineers of R&B, KPDCI, Jal Shakti, BDOs and other sectoral officers of the district.

At the outset, the CEO DDC briefed the meeting stating that 241 works under District Capex stand completed. He said an amount of Rs 48.08 lac have been expended on the execution of works identified by the council while work on seven works is going on apace.

Regarding the progress achieved under MGNREGA 2024-25, the meeting was informed that 0.67 lac (143% of the approved labour budget) person days have been generated until now, against the target of

0.55 lac person days earmarked for the Current FY 2024-25. Besides, 169 works have been taken up in hand in four CD-Blocks of this District comprising 21 Gram Panchayats. 1.00 lac person days are anticipated to be achieved/ generated by the end of current FY.

With respect to progress recorded under PMAY-G 2024-25, it was informed that in order to enable poor people in the rural areas to construct their houses, financial assistance worth Rs. 1.30 lac and 95 person days (under MGNREGA) are being provided under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin. Under the scheme, 31 houses have been completed so far against the target of 41, and work on remaining

houses is in progress.

The Chairman, DDC stressed on fast tracking the execution to ensure that the funds are utilized in full ahead of the financial



3- Day New Year Vibrant Baderwah 2024-25 celebrations starting from Dec 29

DDC reviews preparations for Mega Event

DODA: District Development Commissioner Doda (DDC) Harvinder Singh on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the New Year Vibrant Baderwah 2024-25 festival.

The meeting was held in the Mini Meeting Hall, DC Office complex and attended by government functionaries representing the stakeholder departments, besides representatives from the Adventure Association, Hoteliers, Youth Committees, Tour, Travel and Trade Associations, civil Society members, Excursion Agents, BATA Association, and ABTA Association.

The New Year Vibrant Baderwah celebrations, being organized by the District Administration Doda in collaboration with the Tourism Department, will be a three-

day (December 29 to December 31, 2024) event showcasing the scenic beauty and adventure potential of Baderwah Valley. The celebration will be held across prominent locations of Jai Valley, Guldanda, Baderwah Fort, and Bus Stand. For adventure enthusiasts a variety of activities such as skiing, sledging, zorbing, cycling, zip-lining, hot air ballooning

and rafting have been arranged at Guldanda. These activities are designed to attract thrill-seekers and promote Baderwah as an adventure tourism destination.

The event will culminate at the Bus Stand Baderwah with a grand cultural show featuring performances by local artists and a celebrity performance. Departmental stalls and cuisine stalls will also be set up to offer visitors a taste of local flavors and crafts. The DDC Doda emphasized the importance of teamwork and coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the event's success and also invites everyone to participate in this vibrant celebration and ring in the New Year with joy and excitement amidst the picturesque landscapes of Baderwah.



Water Supply to remain affected in areas fed from WTP Doodhganga

SRINAGAR: As per Ex. Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar, in order to carry out desilting work of 1.5 MG Service Reservoir at 10 MGD Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Doodhganga, the general public is informed that water supply shall remain affected in various areas falling under the jurisdiction of Water Treatment Plant Doodhganga.

The water supply shall remain affected w.e.f. 01 January, 2025 (09.00 a.m.) to 02 January, 2025 (09.00 a.m.) in areas include Baghi Mehtab, Kralpora, Mochua, Chanapora, Natipora, Rambagh, Gogji Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Alouchi Bagh, Rawalpura, Hyderpora, Sanat Nagar, Baghat and adjacent areas.

Meanwhile, the general public is hereby notified to store sufficient supply of water to meet the demands. For any complaints/grievances regarding scarcity / shortage of water supply, the general public are requested to contact the PHE Provincial Control Room which remains functional round the clock for the service of the general public. The Contact Numbers of Provincial Control Room are 0194-2477207, 0194-2452047 (Landline Numbers) and 9419413914, 9419413915 (WhatsApp Numbers).



Celebrating Literature, Art & Heritage; 2 days Veshow Literary Festival-2024 concludes at GDC Kulgam

KULGAM: The vibrant two-day long Veshow Literary Festival 2024 concluded today with great fanfare in Kulgam, leaving an indelible mark as a significant celebration of literature, art, and the region's cultural heritage.

The festival drew literary luminaries, artists, and cultural enthusiasts promoting literature, art, and cultural heritage. Renowned literary figures, including Ruksana Jabeen, Satish Vimal, Shad Ramzan, and several other notable personalities, graced the event.

A key highlight of the festival was a thought-provoking skit performed by artists focusing on the pressing issue of drug abuse. Through compelling storytelling and powerful performances, the skit vividly depicted the devastating impact of substance abuse, leaving a lasting impression on the audience and underscoring the urgency of protecting the youth from this menace.

The festival offered a diverse range of activities, including Mushairas, musical performances, and interactive sessions, fostering creativity and celebrating the artistic spirit of the region.

As a gesture of appreciation, certificates and mementos were distributed to the participants by the District Administration.

On the successful conclusion of the programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan expressed gratitude to literary figures, students, art enthusiasts and others who played a role in making the festival a resounding success, emphasizing the importance of such platforms in nurturing talent and preserving cultural heritage.

Deputy Chief Minister greets people on Christmas

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, today extended heartfelt Christmas greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, conveying wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness on this joyous occasion. In his message, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the significance of Christmas as a festival symbolising love, compassion and the spirit of giving. He called upon everyone to uphold these values, which foster harmony and strengthen the

social fabric of the region.

"Christmas is a time to celebrate togetherness and the triumph of hope and kindness. I wish all our citizens a Merry Christmas filled with joy and good health. Let us work collectively to build a society where these values thrive," maintained the Dy CM. The Deputy Chief Minister also acknowledged the contribution of Christian community to the cultural and social development of Jammu and Kashmir. He

reiterated government's commitment towards ensuring the well-being and prosperity of all communities in the region.

He urged the people to celebrate the festival responsibly and in adherence to safety guidelines while spreading the message of unity and brotherhood. The Deputy Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival of Christmas would bring renewed energy and inspiration to work towards development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

Plastic can promote obesity:

Study; tips to safeguard health

After the groundbreaking revelation of microplastics being found in the human blood, a slight fear of plastics has been instilled within people. Plastics have never been the safest or healthiest item since the

Tips to reduce plastic damage
The widespread prevalence of plastic use can make it difficult to eliminate it from your life completely. However, one can always take small, individual steps to reduce its use and make this world a safer and healthier

Various studies have shown the adverse impact of plastic use on the human body in promoting obesity. This is caused due to some toxic chemicals present in the plastics that can contribute to obesity. These chemicals are known as metabolism-disrupting chemicals, or MCDs and some commonly used MCDs include bisphenols and phthalates.

beginning. But that did not stop this material from gaining popularity due to its wide availability, low cost, and convenience. Among the various things that we know about plastic damage, did you know that there's a link between plastic and obesity?

Plastic and obesity - The link
Obesity is considered a double burden on nutrition and it has emerged as one of the most common health concerns across the globe. Obesity can be influenced by multiple factors and plastic use happens to be one of the factors. Various studies have shown the adverse impact of plastic use on the human body in promoting obesity. This is caused due to some toxic chemicals present in the plastics that can contribute to obesity. These chemicals are known as metabolism-disrupting chemicals, or MCDs and some commonly used MCDs include bisphenols and phthalates.

place. Here are some ways in which you can keep plastic damage to your health at bay:
Avoid using takeaway cups, plates, and other dishes. Don't microwave food in microwave containers. Quit using beauty products that contain plastic. Switch to jute or paper bags from plastic bags. Give up on using plastic straws and opt for stainless steel or wooden straws. Opt for loose tea leaves instead of teabags. Moderate your seafood consumption and look after your hygiene. If your dishwasher scrub contains plastic, throw it away. Replace the plastic Tupperware containers in your kitchen with crystal or steel ones. When it comes to plastic, never let go of recycling and reuse opportunities.



The widespread prevalence of plastic use can make it difficult to eliminate it from your life completely. However, one can always take small, individual steps to reduce its use and make this world a safer and healthier place



New Delhi: Did you know that avocados are not vegetables but are giant, creamy berries instead? Yeah, you read that right. There are multiple other vegetables that have been wrongly classified due to a lack of awareness or misinformation. If you're looking to expand and update your 'Fruits and Vegetables' database, we have compiled a list to help you with the same.

Fruits masquerading as vegetables
Tomatoes: Commonly known as tamatar, tomatoes are popularly consumed across the globe. But did you know that these red, juice 'vegetables' are actually fruits? Well, fruit or not, tomatoes are rich in vitamins, potassium, lycopene, and other essential nutrients and must be added to the diet.
Cucumber: Did you know that kheera is botanically a fruit? Believe it or not, this refreshing salad bowl has been mistaken for a vegetable for a long time now and it's time to set things right. Cucumbers are nutritious fruits that are loaded with fibre and water.
Okra: Also known as lady's finger, bhindi is consumed as a popular vegetable in households across the globe. Despite being wrongly classified as vegetables (they're actually fruits), okra has managed to nourish people with its vitamin and magnesium-rich properties.
Pumpkin: Call it kohda or kaddu, just don't call it a vegetable anymore. This big, ball-like food is actually a fruit. It is packed with nutrition and can help boost

immunity, aid eye health, and promote weight loss.
Eggplants: Pair it with baingan can end up being delicious. But eggplants also happen to be one of the vegetables that are falsely classified as vegetables. These fruits are highly nutritious and are rich in vitamin A, C, and polyphenols.
Pepper: Often mistook as vegetables, peppers are actually fruits. These spicy, flavourful fruits offer various health benefits such as weight management, detoxification, improved digestion, etc.
Corn: Be it the separate kernels or baby corn, corn is a popularly known vegetable. But botanically speaking corn is a fruit. Regardless of its category, corn is healthy for the eyes as it is a source of eye zeaxanthin and lutein.
Peas: Commonly known as matar, peas are wrongly categorised as vegetables. This vitamin and antioxidant-rich fruit variety is extremely healthy and must be added to the diet daily.
Bitter gourds: Did you know that one of the most hated vegetables out there, karela, is actually a fruit? We're as surprised as you are but well, looks like we've been lied to our entire lives - just like the lie our moms used to tell us before forcing us to eat karele ki sabzi, "Ek baar khaa kar dekho, accha lagega." No mom, we did not like it. Whether you like it or not, bitter gourds are loaded with vitamin C and can help boost immunity.

10 vegetables that are actually fruits (and their benefits)

Okra: Also known as lady's finger, bhindi is consumed as a popular vegetable in households across the globe. Despite being wrongly classified as vegetables (they're actually fruits), okra has managed to nourish people with its vitamin and magnesium-rich properties.

Continued From P1...

Education is can contribute to nation building and development of the society. The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the revolutionary changes taking place, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in various sectors including education, industry and technology.

Today's classroom will give a new shape to tomorrow's factory. It is the responsibility of our educational institutions to collaborate with Industries and prepare smart technical professionals for the smart factories, he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor commended the contribution of JS Group of Institutions in education sector. He also inaugurated the Administrative Block of JS Public School, Sadhoganj, Varanasi.

Gear Up

the needs of residents for several months. Additional provisions have been made to ensure timely distribution across districts.

The Chief Minister directed for establishment of joint control rooms in all districts to handle winter-related complaints promptly.

He stressed the importance of a swift response system to minimize public inconvenience and ensure seamless delivery of essential services. Reviewing the health sector's readiness, the Chief Minister directed the Health Department to ensure adequate stocks of medicines, oxygen cylinders, and emergency supplies across all hospitals.

He also emphasized maintaining functional central heating systems in healthcare facilities and ensuring the deployment of medical personnel in snowbound areas.

Instructions were given for providing transport service to expecting mothers in remote and far-flung areas.

Highlighting the criticality of uninterrupted power supply during winter, the Chief Minister instructed KPDCCL engineers to prioritize the restoration of electricity, particularly for essential installations.

He called for timely replacement of damaged transformers and urged for protection of field staff with proper safety gear to prevent accidents during repair work.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah underscored the importance of maintaining road connectivity and efficient traffic management.

He directed agencies to deploy sufficient manpower and equipment for snow clearance on national highways, main roads, and internal routes, ensuring minimal disruption to public movement.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah concluded the meeting by urging all departments to work in coordination and take proactive measures to mitigate the impact of harsh winter conditions. He reiterated his commitment to minimizing public inconvenience and ensuring the effective delivery of essential services throughout the region.

Chief Minister directed the PHE Department to deploy sufficient water tankers in affected areas to prevent water scarcity during the extreme weather conditions.

Additionally, he instructed the Forest Department to ensure an adequate supply of firewood in snowbound areas is available.

The Chief Minister also underscored the significance of coordination among line departments and directed for round the clock operationalisation of District Control Rooms to maintain and update records of vulnerable populations, particularly pregnant women in snow-blocked areas.

He emphasized that such cases should be promptly relocated to maternity centers well ahead of their delivery dates.

For regions with possibility of road block, the Chief Minister instructed authorities to ensure helicopter services are put in place for such areas which remain cut off.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reiterated that all preparedness plans should be practical and actionable, ensuring their effectiveness when put to the test.

He called for seamless interdepartmental coordination and directed Deputy Commissioners to maintain regular communication with field officers to address emerging challenges swiftly.

Chief Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the welfare and safety of the people.

He assured people that the administration is fully prepared to tackle the challenges of the harsh winter and deliver essential services effectively. Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra via video conferencing, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir attended the meeting in person.

Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, senior Police and Security Officers, Deputy Commissioners, Commissioners of SMC & JMC, Officers of BRO, NHAI and other Departments also attended the meeting. Officers from Jammu and other District Headquarters participated through video conference.

During the meeting, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Jammu gave presentation on the winter preparedness measures already in place across both the divisions.

5 soldiers

"Ten soldiers were injured while five of them suffered critical injuries, who later succumbed to their injuries," they said, adding that a total of 18 soldiers were onboard the vehicle when the accident took place.

The injured have been shifted to a hospital for treatment

LG Sinha

"I am deeply pained by the loss of lives of our brave army personnel due to a tragic vehicle accident in Poonch sector. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured".

Reservation Policy:

like me talked to the slaves, they didn't kill 'em; they sent some old house Negro along behind him to undo what he said. You have to read the history of slavery to understand this. There were two kinds of Negroes. There was that old house Negro and the field Negro..."

And the house Negro always looked out for his master. When the field Negroes got too much out of line, he held them back in check. He put 'em back on the plantation. The house Negro could afford to do that because he lived better than the field Negro. He ate better, he dressed better, and he lived in a better house. He lived right up next to his master - in the attic or the basement. He ate the same food his master ate and wore his same clothes. And he could talk just like his master - good diction. And he loved his master more than his master loved himself. That's why he didn't want his master hurt. If the master got sick, he'd say, "What's the matter, boss, we sick?" When the master's house caught afire, he'd try and put the fire out. He didn't want his master's house burned. He never wanted his master's property threatened. And he was more defensive of it than the master was ... That was the house Negro. But then you had some field Negroes, who lived in huts, had nothing to lose. They wore the worst kind of clothes. They ate the worst food. And they caught hell. They felt the sting of the lash. They hated their master. Oh yes, they did. If the master got sick, they'd pray that the master died. If the master's house caught fire, they'd pray for a strong wind to come along. This was the difference between the two.

And today you still have house Negroes and field Negroes. I'm a field Negro".

In the original speech by Malcolm X, the analogy outlines the contrasting roles of two groups during slavery: the "house Negro," who enjoyed relative privilege and loyalty to the master, and the "field Negro," who bore the brunt of oppression and resisted it.

Ruhulla's post, quoting extensively from this speech, has led many to speculate whether the politician was commenting on divisions within marginalized communities or critiquing political figures aligned with dominant powers.

The tweet has ignited a flurry of reactions across the political spectrum. Supporters have hailed Aga Ruhulla's boldness in invoking a historically charged analogy to question the seriousness of chief minister Omar Abdullah led government in addressing the Reservation Policy issue.

Many argue that the post shines a spotlight on systemic issues of inequality and calls for greater unity among the disadvantaged communities.

The post comes amidst ongoing discussions on the reservation policies, which have drawn both support from the majority of the population.

Analysts suggest that Ruhulla's reference to Malcolm X could be interpreted as a critique of individuals or groups perceived as undermining collective efforts for social justice in favor of personal or political gain.

Farooq Ahmad, a student activist, praised Ruhulla's candidness. "It's rare for a politician to use such strong, historical metaphors. This tweet is a call for introspection within our society," he said.

Ruhulla stated, "The message is clear: we must question where we stand in the fight for justice and equality. It's about self-reflection, not division."

Rahulhah Mehdi's

He asserted that Mehdi's participation was in his personal capacity and not as an NC representative.

"It was not a National Conference protest. Not a single leader from NC was part of it," Sagar stated.

He called Mehdi's participation a breach of party discipline and a blow to its public image, adding, "This incident has provided detractors an opportunity to malign our party. It was a deliberate drama aimed at defaming the National Conference, and unfortunately, our MP inadvertently played into their hands."

Despite his criticism, Sagar expressed solidarity with the students involved in the reservation issue. He voiced confidence that the matter would be resolved under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. "I stand with the students and am optimistic that their concerns will be addressed," he said.

Include Newly

improving the quality of life in tribal-majority villages. Under the proposal, which is being submitted to Ministry for Tribal Affairs (MoTA), the mission will cover 20 districts, 112 blocks and 393 villages notified in J&K.

Additionally, 676 new villages and 204 villages from aspirational districts including Baramulla and Kupwara, have been identified for inclusion, bringing the total number of tribal villages under the mission to 880. The Dharti Aaba Mission will prioritize interventions in infrastructure, education, healthcare and livelihood development.

The Minister emphasized the inclusion of newly recognized tribal communities under welfare schemes. With the recent amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Tribes Order, 2024, communities such as Pahari Ethnic tribe, Gadda Brahmin, Koli and Paddari have been added to the Scheduled Tribes list, doubling the tribal population of J&K to approximately 30 lakh, which accounts for 11.9 percent of J&K's total population. These newly recognized tribes will immediately benefit from key programs such as Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships to boost educational opportunities and Dharti Aaba scheme for livelihood development.

Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) will be extended to tribal villages, focusing on holistic development with an emphasis on improving basic amenities and socio-economic indicators. A detailed socio-economic survey is also in the pipeline to identify the specific challenges and needs of tribal communities, ensuring that interventions are targeted and effective.

To further strengthen the tribal economy, self-employment schemes like Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are being prioritized. Under these initiatives, tribal artisans and entrepreneurs will receive skill development training, financial support and market linkages to promote their indigenous crafts and products.

The Tribal Affairs Department has prepared a comprehensive proposal to expand the coverage of tribal villages, selecting them based on specific criteria, such as a minimum population of 500 people with at least 50 percent belonging to Scheduled Tribes. For instance, Baramulla district will include 43 new villages alongside 54 aspirational district villages, while Kupwara will cover 50 new villages and 150 aspirational district villages, making them major hubs for tribal-focused areas.

Underlining the intent of the Government to ensure that all tribal welfare schemes reach their intended beneficiaries, the Minister instructed the Director Tribal Affairs to plan the launch of a series of awareness campaigns in collaboration with tribal leaders, NGOs and local bodies. These campaigns will educate communities about their rights and entitlements under various welfare schemes, he added.

Stressing the importance of a robust monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of tribal welfare schemes, Rana directed for regular reviews to ensure transparency, accountability and timely delivery of benefits.

Recognizing the pivotal role of women and youth in tribal communities, the Minister announced roll out of special initiatives under the Dharti Aaba Mission to empower tribal women through skill development centers and Self Help Groups (SHGs). Dedicated programs will also be launched for tribal youth, including career counseling sessions, sports programs and training for competitive exams to foster leadership and educational growth among the younger generation.

"The inclusion of newly declared tribes under welfare schemes marks a historic step in addressing inequities that have persisted for decades," the Minister said, adding that the Government remains steadfast in its efforts to ensure that every tribal community has access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

Govt Forms

reach deserving individuals without discrepancies.

CM, Dy CM,

Concluding his message, Omar Abdullah wished for peace and prosperity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and prayed for a future filled with happiness and harmony for all

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, today extended heartfelt Christmas greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, conveying wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness on this joyous occasion.

In his message, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the significance of Christmas as a festival symbolising love, compassion and the spirit of giving. He called upon everyone to uphold these values, which foster harmony and strengthen the social fabric of the region.

"Christmas is a time to celebrate togetherness and the triumph of hope and kindness. I wish all our citizens a Merry Christmas filled

LG addresses Annual Day Function of JS Group of Institutions at Varanasi

LG highlights the critical role of Science & Technology for a brighter future of India

Modern education must touch every person of society for progress and prosperity of all: LG Sinha

VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Annual Day Function of JS Group of Institutions at Varanasi. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to the management, teachers, students and everyone associated with the JS Group of Institutions.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the critical role of Science and Technology for a brighter future of India. He emphasised that modern education must touch every person of society for progress and prosperity of all.

Education is the process of self-discovery. It is the art of sculpting individuality. Education not only trains the individual in a specific skill and knowledge, but also develops the latent intellectual, artistic and humanitarian

abilities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the teaching fraternity to provide mentorship

education, industry and technology.

Today's classroom will give a new shape to tomorrow's factory. It is the responsibility



and guidance to the students and nurture their inherent potential so that they can contribute to nation building and development of the society.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the revolutionary changes taking place, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in various sectors including

of our educational institutions to collaborate with Industries and prepare smart technical professionals for the smart factories, he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor commended the contribution of JS Group of Institutions in education sector. He also inaugurated the Administrative Block of JS Public School, Sadhoganj, Varanasi.

with joy and good health. Let us work collectively to build a society where these values thrive," maintained the Dy CM.

The Deputy Chief Minister also acknowledged the contribution of Christian community to the cultural and social development of Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated government's commitment towards ensuring the well-being and prosperity of all communities in the region.

He urged the people to celebrate the festival responsibly and in adherence to safety guidelines while spreading the message of unity and brotherhood.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival of Christmas would bring renewed energy and inspiration to work towards development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena, has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Christmas.

Make 'TB Muk

Aarogya Mandirs for sending samples from their areas of service. He also directed the senior officers of the Department to visit the TB facilities created across the length and breadth of J&K.

In his presentation the Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah gave out the overall view of the TB scenario here along with the aims and objectives of this ongoing PMTBMB Abhiyan.

He revealed that J&K has a TB affected population of around 11,650 persons who are provided free treatment through different facilities established across the districts of the UT.

He also revealed that besides the free treatment of these patients they are being provided Rs 1000/ month under Nikshay Poshan Yojana and a food basket to 6146 patients through 5406 Nikshay Mitras, who had given their consent to receive the community support.

In addition it was given out that the districts of Anantnag, Budgam and Pulwama had already been declared 'TB Free' with Baramulla, Srinagar, Bandipora, Kupwara, Kulgam, Shopian and Ganderbal submitted for this declaration to Sub-National Certification.

The meeting was further apprised that this year about 463872 presumptive tests were done against a target of 486887 (1000/lakh of population) at the rate of 3047 persons per lakh of population here.

It was also apprised that out of 4243 Panchayats, 1516 had been declared 'TB Free'. In addition a '100-Days TB Campaign' has been launched from Dec, 7 this year to hold Ni-Kshay Shivir, targeting 347 high-priority districts across India, including Jammu, Srinagar & Baramulla districts of J&K under National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The campaign aims at accelerating TB case detection among

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020015146, which is Registered in the name of Ismail Rahim Lone S/O Abdul Rahim Lone. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Mohd Hanif Lone S/O Mohd Khalil Lone, in this regard any person having 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.

Mohd Hanif Lone.
S/O Mohd Khalil Lone.
R/O Mantrigam Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010011984, my name and parantege has been Wrongly mentioned as Shameem Ahmad Qurashie S/O Faquierullah Qurashie, While as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhar card is Shameem Ahmad Awan Gojer S/O Faquierullah Awan Gojer. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having 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.

Shameem Ahmad Awan Gojer.
S/O Faquierullah Awan Gojer.
R/O Chithibandi Bandipora.

vulnerable populations, reducing TB mortality through better management of cases and preventing new infections by implementing focused interventions in districts with the highest TB burden.

Govt intensifies

environmental factors and potential risks of GLOF events. The insights gained will be instrumental in formulating risk mitigation strategies and enhancing early warning systems in the region," added the document.

These expeditions played a key role in collecting crucial data and assessing the risks associated with potentially dangerous glacial lakes (PDGLs) in Jammu & Kashmir.

The communication added that the GLOF mitigation strategy will be implemented in two distinct phases.

The phase I "expedition and data collection" will initially focus on identifying and studying glacial lakes that pose a high risk of GLOFs, based on the assessments provided by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), NRSC, CWC etc. The phase II will focus on developing and implementing specific mitigation measures.

A fully functional Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Early Warning System (EWS) will also be established to enhance preparedness. The personnel will be trained in the operation and interpretation of EWS, ensuring effective responses to potential GLOF events where necessary lake-lowering techniques will be deployed to further mitigate the risks.

Pertinently, the Jammu & Kashmir government had constituted a Focused Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Monitoring Committee (FGMC) in the month of April 2024 to focus on mitigation measures

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Saving Bank account No:0061040100038276, My name and DOB has been mentioned as Poosha Bagum, and DOB as 02-03-1975, while as my Actual and correct name and DOB as per my Documents is Poshha Akhter and DOB is 05-04-1965. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Posha Akhter.
W/O Abdul Majeed Khan.
R/O Checkreshpora Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Son's Adhar card bearing Registration No 610665208699, his name has been mentioned as Nasir Nazir, while as his Actual and correct name as per his Birth certificate is Muhammad Salim Mir, Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the 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.

Nazir Ahmad Mir.
F/O Muhammad Salim Mir.
R/O Nagbal Ganderbal, jammu and kashmir.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i have lost Number plate of my vehicle bearing Registration No JK04E-2548, while traveling from S K Payeen to S K Bala, Now i want to apply for its duplicate and also want to Submit missing report in police station in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mukhtar Ahmad Malik.
S/O Mr Ramzan Malik.
R/O Zalwa Gopalpora Chadoora Budgam.

MP, Telangana lift titles; J&K bags silver in boys, bronze in Girls

J&K emerging as a sporting hub: Sarmad Hafeez

JAMMU: Complimenting the organisers and the organisations that play a pivotal role in successful conduct of mega sports events in Jammu and Kashmir, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, today said that Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as a sporting hub and the Government is committed to promote sports in every nook and corner of the Union Territory.

He said this during the closing ceremony of 37th Sub Junior National Softball Championship held at MA Stadium here today. He declared the games closed.

Present on the occasion were Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and a galaxy of dignitaries.

Sarmad Hafeez said that J&K Sports Council has organised 16 nationals during the year, adding that the Department of Youth Services and Sports has hosted historic four National School Games on the trot in Jammu.

Appreciating the participants for showing discipline, sporting spirit and preserving sanctity of sports and games, Sarmad Hafeez termed the athletes as future sporting stars of the nation. He said that such events apart from helping the youth to showcase their sporting talent, help them not to derail from the mainstream.

Terming the participants as ambassadors



of the nation, Sarmad Hafeez said that sporting extravaganzas like this help the participants to make new friends, exchange culture and language and build camaraderie.

Earlier, getting the better of their rivals in their respective summit clashes, the formidable teams of Madhya Pradesh and Telangana lifted the title trophies, thus winning Gold medals while Jammu and Kashmir won Silver medal in boys and Bronze medal in girls in the 37th Sub Junior National Softball Championship,

organised by Softball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, under the auspices of Softball Association of India and J&K Sports Council.

In the boys section, Madhya Pradesh defeated J&K in the finals by eight homes to six (8-2) to win the title, while Andhra Pradesh claimed the 3rd place.

In the girls category, Telangana drubbed Andhra Pradesh by (5-2). in the finals to win the title, while the third place went to Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, in Baseball-5 boys, Kerala won Gold, Madhya Pradesh Silver and Chhattisgarh claimed Bronze while in Baseball-5 girls, Jammu bagged Gold medal, Kerala won Silver and the Bronze medal was bagged by Madhya Pradesh.

On the occasion, Sarmad Hafeez and other dignitaries honoured the medal winning teams with trophies and medals. He also felicitated technical officials and those who helped in conduct of this mega event in a most befit-

Smriti Mandhana closes in on top spot in ODIs and T20Is

DUBAI: Swashbuckling Indian batter Smriti Mandhana closed in on the top spot while occupying the second slot in both the ICC T20I and ODI batting rankings released on Tuesday.

While Mandhana moved a spot in the T20I rankings, the Indian vice-captain retained her second place in the ODI charts, following impressive performances against the West Indies in both the formats.

The left-hander's ODI rating of 739 is only bettered by Laura Wolvaardt's 773, and her T20I rating of 753 is narrowly shaved by Beth Mooney's 757.

Mandhana made 62 (41b) and 77 (47b) in the two T20Is for the week to move up to No.2, completing a trifecta of half-centuries against Hayley Matthews' team in as many matches.

The 28-year-old went on to make 91 (102) in the opening ODI in Vadodara, and now boasts scores of 50 plus in her last five visits to the crease in international action.

On the opposing side, Matthews too showed her class with bat in hand, with scores of 85 not (47) and 22 (17) in the two T20Is across the week, leading to a two-spot jump to equal-third on the Rankings, level with Tahlia McGrath with a rating of 748.

The bottom half of the ODI batting top-ten meanwhile saw multiple shuffles, as ICC Women's Championship action played out across the world.

Harmanpreet Kaur's score of 34 at Vadodara helped her jump three spots and is back in the top 10.

Australian Alyssa Healy's scores of 39 and 34 against New Zealand saw the opener up two spots to the eighth place with a rating of 640.


Compatriot Annabel Sutherland enjoyed arguably the most noteworthy jump of the week, with scores of 105 not out and 42 leading to an 11-spot climb to 18th (563 rating points).


The right-arm quick went on to claim 3/39 in the third ODI to see her move up two spots into 7th on the All-Rounder rankings (301), moving past Sophie Devine and Chamari Athapaththu.

While there was little change in top ten bowling rankings across ODI and T20I cricket, emerging talents across series in India and New Zealand did make significant strides.



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Niki Prasad to lead India in Under-19 Women's **T20 World Cup 2025**

Niki Prasad will lead almost the same squad that won the recent Under-19 Asia Cup for women at next month's U-19 World Cup, in Malaysia. The only change in the 15-member squad is the inclusion of Vaishnavi S in place of 15-year-old medium-pacer Nandhana S, who has been named among the stand-bys.

The other standby players are Ira J and Anadi T, who have replaced Hurley Gala, Happy Kumari, G Kavya Sree and Gayatri Survase from the standby list for the Asia Cup.

The U-19 women recently lifted the Asia Cup in Kuala Lumpur by beating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final.

Gongadi Trisha, the Player of the Match in the final, had top-scored with 52 off 47 balls while opening the batting with G Kamalini, who had bagged a WPL contract with Mumbai Indians on the same day she scored an unbeaten 44 off 29 against Pakistan in the Asia Cup.

The others from the squad to get their first WPL deals were Prasad (Delhi Capitals) and VJ Joshitha (RCB). Medium-pacer Shabnam Shakil was already with Gujarat Giants, and has the experience of playing four WPL games and a couple of white-ball games for India A in Australia in August.

Trisha, Shakil and Sonam Yadav will be playing their second U-19 World Cups, having been part of the previous edition too.

India's win at the Asia Cup came after an unbeaten run (apart from a washed-out game against Nepal). They won their other league game, against Pakistan, and beat Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the Super Fours before winning the final.

The upcoming World Cup will be the second such edition, to be played from January 18 to February 2. The 16 teams have been divided into four groups of four each; India are the defending champions and in Group A along with Malaysia, West Indies and Sri Lanka. India will play all their league games at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur.

India's campaign will start against West Indies on January 19 before they play Malaysia on January 21 and Sri Lanka on January 23.

After the league stage, three teams will progress from each group for the Super Sixes in which there will be two groups of six teams each. Every team will carry forward their wins, points and net run-rate, which is secured against their fellow Super Six qualifiers. The top two sides from each group will then play the semi-finals on January 31 before the final on February 2.

India squad for Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025

Niki Prasad (capt), Sanika Chalke (vice-capt), G Trisha, G Kamalini (wk), Bhavika Ahire (wk), Ishwari Awasthe, Mithila Vinod, VJ Joshitha, Sonam Yadav, Parumika Sisodiya, Kesari Drithi, Aayushi Shukla, Anandita Kishor, MD Shabnam, Vaishnavi S

