

Kashmir Convener



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Snowfall Cripples Life In Kashmir

➤➤➤ MeT predicts more snowfall from Jan 3 to 6 <<<



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Following the first major snowfall of the season life came to a standstill across Kashmir

on Saturday.

Major highways and roads remained closed for a second straight day, while flights could neither take-off nor land at the Srinagar Airport.

However, the snowfall brought relief from the cold-wave conditions as all the stations recorded above normal minimum temperatures for the first time in recent weeks.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded 8 inches of snowfall in the past 24 hours.

As per the data, the areas falling in Anantnag, Shopian and Pulwama districts in South Kashmir recorded a snowfall between one foot to 3 feet.

Areas in Ganderbal district recorded snowfall between 6 to 14 inches.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a snowfall of 1 foot and 3 inches while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination recorded 18 inches snowfall, the data reads. Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla districts in North Kashmir recorded snowfall between 2 to 9 inches.

In Jammu division's Kishtwar, a snowfall of 4-5 inches was recorded, Budhal Rajouri recorded 10 inches. Main Doda received 2-3 inches, Bhaderwah 4 inches, Banihal 5-8 inches and Batote 2 inches.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Post Snowfall

Restore essential services swiftly: CM Omar to officials



KC NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah convened a video conference meeting with all district across Jammu and Kashmir to review snow clearance operations and restoration of essential services following heavy snowfall in the Kashmir Valley.

The meeting held at the video conference hall in Ganderbal, was attended in person by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyambir, ADC Ganderbal, and other senior district officials. Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, and Deputy Commissioners from all districts participated via video conferencing.

The snowfall, which began yesterday, has disrupted normal life in many districts across the valley.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners presented updates on snow clearance, restoration of power and water supply and emergency response to deal with inclement weather.

The Chief Minister directed Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise

snow clearance operations, emphasizing the need to obtain photographic evidence of cleared areas to ensure thorough removal and prevent freezing road condition as temperatures drop.

He called for a pro/active approach, urging officials to deploy adequate manpower and machinery on the ground. District administrations were instructed to provide two-hourly updates to the CM's office and the Chief Secretary's office to keep the government apprised of the situation.

The Chief Engineer of Public Health Engineering (PHE) informed the CM that 90% of the water supply across the valley has been restored, with efforts underway to address the remaining 10%. The Divisional Commissioner of Jammu reported that power and water supply in Jammu districts remain unaffected, while the Chief Secretary confirmed steady progress in restoring electricity feeders and assured that district hospitals are functioning smoothly. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of ensuring 100% attendance of doctors and paramedical staff at all district and sub-district hospitals to effectively manage emergencies.

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Indian Army to Participate in Joint Military Exercise in Nepal

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Indian Army contingent, comprising 334 personnel, departed for Nepal on Thursday to participate in the 18th edition of the Battalion-Level Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran. The exercise is scheduled to be held in Saljhandi, Nepal, from December 31, 2024, to January 13, 2025.



Led by a battalion from the 11th Gorkha Rifles, the Indian contingent will train alongside Nepal's Srijung Battalion in the annual exercise, which alternates between the two countries. The focus of the training will be on enhancing interoperability in jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous regions, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under the United Nations Charter.

The exercise aims to strengthen operational preparedness through sessions on aviation, medical training, and environmental conservation. It also provides an opportunity for the troops of both nations to share

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I have great faith in the youth of J&K : LG Sinha



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the 5th edition of Kashmiri Pandit Premier League (KPPL) at MA Stadium, Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to all the players participating in one of the biggest cricket tournaments in Jammu.

"Life is best defined by sports. One of the main objectives of life is to maintain a fine balance between body, mind and soul and this is what sports

teaches us," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

He said, the sports field inspires us to convert dreams into action and performance so that the society can become more energetic.

"Sports gives us courage and determination to achieve the impossible. Sports gives us dreams and provides the strength and courage to fulfil those dreams," he further added. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization on its endeavour to promote sports. "I often say one thing that the best performance

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Stranded tourists praise hospitality; people throw open homes, Masjids

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Amidst the heavy snowfall, stranded tourists praised the hospitality of Kashmiris as many among them were welcomed by the local people at their homes and Masjids.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the social media networking sites were flooded with messages by the stranded tourists, praising the hospitality of the natives.

A video which went viral on the social media platforms revealed that dozens of stranded tourists were being provided tea and other facilities by the common Kashmiris in their homes. "We have never seen such hospitality anywhere," the stranded tourists said.

Some of the tourists on the roads were also praising the hospitality of Kashmiris, saying that

the snowfall has affected their journey, but the people here didn't leave them alone. "We were provided with every facility amidst the inclement weather conditions," they said. "Kashmir is literally a heaven on earth. Be it the picturesque places or the hospitality of its people, everything is praiseworthy."

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Dy CM Choudhary Inspects Departments; Reviews Functioning



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an inspection

of various departments including Industries & Commerce, SICOP, JK Minerals, Geology Mining, Handicrafts Department. He also inspected working

of Mechanical Engineering Department, Bikram Chowk Jammu.

The Deputy Chief Minister had a detailed review of functioning of all these departments. He asked the concerned officers to step up efforts ensuring that the schemes of their respective departments are implemented effectively.

While interacting with the officials, the Deputy Chief Minister asked for fast pacing of various developmental initiatives being undertaken by the government. He also stressed upon them to ensure that public service deliverance mechanism

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Inaccurate MeT prediction

Will Investigate What Went Wrong: Sonam Lotus



Sameer Showkin Lone

SRINAGAR: The inaccurate forecast by the Meteorological Department (MET) in Jammu and Kashmir has created chaos on the ground with many travellers especially tourists found themselves stranded in life-

threatening situations.

People largely blame the weather department and its current incharge in Jammu and Kashmir Mukhtar Ahmad for the inaccurate prediction that caught everyone off guard.

The MET had predicted light rainfall and scattered snowfall in some areas on Friday, but as the day proceeded the plains of Kashmir witnessed heavy snowfall in the afternoon that continued throughout the night leaving people stranded on all the major roads.

Sonam Lotus, a senior most official in the Weather Department (IMD) in an X post, said, "Yes, we underestimated this #WesternDisturbance. Will investigate what v Missed & Grow." The inaccurate and unpredicted weather conditions caught travellers and the

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Cold weather increases risk of heart attacks: Cardiologist

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A significant increase in heart attack cases during colder months has raised concerns among health experts. Dr. Khalid Mohiuddin, Head of the Cardiology Department at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar,

According to news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS), says that cold weather and viral infections increase risk factors for cardiovascular events.

Citing data from the Journal of American College of Cardiology and the SWIR Heart Study, Dr. Mohiuddin explained that prolonged exposure to cold temperatures not only heightens the risk of heart attacks but also exacerbates other cardiovascular issues, especially among elderly and vulnerable populations.

"Last year alone, around 5 lakh people lost their lives due to extreme cold, and millions were left disabled due to heart attacks," Dr. Mohiuddin stated.

>>>SEE ON P-7

SC Gives Punjab Govt Time Till Dec 31 To Shift Fasting Farmer Leader Dallewal To Hospital

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Saturday gave the Punjab government time till December 31 to persuade farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been fasting for over a month, to shift to hospital.

In an unprecedented hearing, a vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan pulled up the Punjab government for allowing the situation to escalate and not complying with its earlier directions to provide medical assistance to Dallewal.

Expressing helplessness, the Punjab government said it is facing huge resistance from protesting farmers who have encircled Dallewal and are preventing him from being taken to hospital.

Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh told the bench that a team of experts visited the protest site and tried to persuade Dallewal to shift to hospital and take medical help.

“He (Dallewal) has refused any kind



of medical aid, including (IV) drips, saying that it will undermine the cause of movement,” he said.

This infuriated the bench which blamed the Punjab government for not doing enough to contain the situation and said the farmer leaders who are not allowing Dallewal to be taken to the hospital are involved in the criminal offence of abetment

to suicide.

The top court allowed the Punjab government to seek any kind of logistics support from the Centre if the situation warrants, and hoped that the state government will comply with its direction of shifting Dallewal to hospital.

The bench said Dallewal is under some kind of “peer pressure” and those farmer leaders who are not allowing him to be shifted to a hospital do not seem to be his well-wishers.

“Are they interested in his life or something else? We don't want to say much and only hope that the Punjab government will comply with our directions,” the bench said.

On Friday, the top court expressed concern over the condition of Dallewal and directed the Punjab government to ensure he is given medical assistance.

It had issued a notice to the Punjab Government on a contempt petition against its chief secretary and the director general of police (DGP) for non-compliance of an order directing that medical aid be provided to Dallewal.

Dallewal has been on an indefinite fast at the Khanauri border since November 26 to press the Centre to accept farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops.

Bollywood Icon Boney Kapoor Unveils Inspiring Hair Restoration Journey at Eugenix Hair Sciences Event

SRINAGAR : Eugenix Hair Sciences, India's premier hair restoration clinic, hosted an exclusive event that brought together



deeply with the audience, highlighting the profound impact of hair restoration.

Dr. Arika Bansal, co-founder of Eugenix Hair Sciences, shed light on the clinic's revolutionary Direct Hair Transplant (DHT) technology. “At Eugenix, we blend cutting-edge innovation with a personalized approach to deliver natural, enduring results. Our focus is always on enhancing our patients' lives,” she remarked.

Adding to the discussion, Dr. Pradeep Sethi, the visionary co-founder of Eugenix, emphasized the clinic's unwavering commitment to excellence. “Our goal is to redefine global benchmarks in hair restoration. By continuously evolving our techniques, we've helped thousands reclaim their

confidence and achieve remarkable transformations,” he shared.

The event took a delightful turn with a surprise appearance by celebrated filmmaker Anees Bazmi, who revealed that he too had recently undergone a hair transplant at Eugenix. “Boney's transformation inspired me to take this leap. I'm thrilled to see the results unfold, and I'm already impressed by Eugenix's expertise and care,” Anees said, adding a personal touch to the evening.

Since its inception in 2010, Eugenix Hair Sciences has established itself as a global leader in hair restoration, having performed over 16,000 procedures for clients from over 30 countries, including renowned sports icons like cricketers Mohammed Shami, Mohammad Azharuddin, and Michael Bevan. With a sterling reputation for excellence, Eugenix has become the go-to destination for individuals seeking world-class hair care and transformative results.

Kejriwal rubbishes LG inquiry in Mahila Samman Yojana, says BJP afraid of defeat

NEW DELHI: The BJP is panicked with the announcement of Rs 2,100 payment to women under 'Mahila Samman Yojana' and it is trying to stop the scheme fearing defeat in the upcoming polls, AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference, Kejriwal also rubbished an order by LG for enquiry into collection of details of women through registration under the scheme as “fake,” saying the



monetary promise was a poll announcement.

“We announced Rs 2,100 per month to all eligible women in Delhi under Mahila Samman Yojna and free treatment of the senior citizen under Sanjeevani Yojna, after forming government in Delhi. What are they going to enquire?” Kejriwal said.

The AAP national convener alleged that the BJP was trying the government's schemes just so that it could have a chance at defeating it in the February election.

Earlier in the day, the LG office shared a letter announcing an inquiry against private persons allegedly gathering personal details of women in the name of Mahila Samman Yojana.

The LG in the letter said that the chief secretary of the Delhi government may bring the matter to the knowledge of the Election Commission of India through the chief electoral office given that the alleged canvassing was happening ahead of the election.

In special drive, Maharashtra ATS arrests 13 Bangladeshi nationals for illegal stay

MUMBAI/JALNA: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested 16 Bangladeshi nationals, including six women, for entering India illegally and staying without valid documents. “The arrests were made during a special drive initiated by the ATS,” officials said.

“Accordingly, action was taken in the last 24 hours with the help of police in Navi Mumbai, Thane and Solapur. We arrested seven men and six women,” an official said. They have been booked in three cases under the Foreigners Act and other relevant laws.

“These Bangladeshi nationals had managed to get Indian documents such as Aadhaar cards using forged documents,” he said. “A joint squad

of ATS and police arrested three Bangladeshi nationals from Jalna district on Friday night (December



27, 2024,” an official said on Saturday (December 27, 2024.) The accused were working at crusher machines in Bhokardan taluka.

They were arrested from Anva and Kumbhari villages in a joint operation by ATS and local police.

Three from Kerala killed in car-van collision in TN's Theni district

THENI (TAMIL NADU) Three persons reportedly from Kottayam in Kerala died, and 18 persons were injured when a car collided head on with a tourist van near Periyakulam in this district, police said on Saturday.

The three were among the four persons travelling in the car towards Periyakulam. It collided head on with the tourist van coming in the opposite direction. Those travelling in the van and the fourth passenger in the car sustained injuries, police said.

Passers-by who noticed the injured lying on the road at the accident site and police rushed them to the government hospitals at Vattalagundu, Periyakulam and Theni.

Two Held For Recent Grenade Attack On Police Station In Amritsar



CHANDIGARH: Punjab Police has arrested two persons for allegedly carrying out a grenade attack on the Islamabad police station in Amritsar recently, officials said on Saturday.

The attack was carried out in the early hours of December 17, though no one was injured in the incident.

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Saturday said the special operation cell in Amritsar busted a narco-terror module being operated by controllers from abroad.

“Gurjeet Singh from Dande in Amritsar and Baljit Singh from Chhapa in Tarn Taran have been arrested. The arrested persons carried out a grenade attack on Islamabad Police Station on December 17, 2024,” the DGP said in a post on X.

So far, 1.4 kg of heroin, one hand grenade and two pistols have been recovered, he said.

“Further investigations are on to uncover the entire network,” the DGP added.

After an explosion-like noise was heard at the Islamabad police station on December 17, Punjab Police had dubbed it as an “attack” with the DGP ordering strict action against the perpetrators.

The explosion-like noise was heard in the early hours of the day, causing panic in the area. Some locals put the time at around 3.15 am.

The DGP visited Amritsar the same day where he held a meeting with police officers to review the law and order situation and directed

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Saturday said the special operation cell in Amritsar busted a narco-terror module being operated by controllers from abroad.

the officers concerned to ensure professional policing and take strict action against the perpetrators.

A few grenade attacks on police stations have been reported from the state in recent times, though no one was injured in those incidents.

Two days after the Amritsar incident, a similar attack was reported from Gurdaspur district.

On December 30, three suspected Khalistani terrorists allegedly involved in the grenade attack at the police establishment in Gurdaspur were killed in an encounter in Pilibhit in a joint operation by Punjab Police and Uttar Pradesh Police.

Kharge Urges PM To Build Memorial At Manmohan Singh's Final Resting Place



Singh was “phenomenal.”

“His erudition on economic and fiscal matters came from his vast experience as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Chief Economic

Advisor to the Government of India and various other capacities in several organisations,” Kharge said.

Recalling Dr Singh's contributions, Kharge said,

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“Accordingly, action was taken in the last 24 hours with the help of police in Navi Mumbai, Thane and Solapur.

We arrested seven men and six women,” an official said. They have been booked in

three cases under the Foreigners Act and other relevant laws.

“These Bangladeshi nationals had managed to get Indian documents such as Aadhaar cards using forged documents,” he said.

“A joint squad of ATS and police arrested three Bangladeshi nationals from Jalna district on Friday night (December 27, 2024),” an official said on Saturday (December 27, 2024.)

The accused were working at crusher

machines in Bhokardan taluka.

They were arrested from Anva and Kumbhari villages in a joint operation by ATS and local police. “Preliminary investigation shows that the trio forged their identity papers to work illegally in India. They had been staying illegally for the last two years,” the police official said.

A case has been registered under various Sections of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita and the Foreigners Act.

Delhi Court Acquits Three In Attempt To Murder Case, Says Prosecution Failed To Prove Charges

NEW DELHI: A court here has acquitted three men in a 2018 attempt to murder and criminal intimidation case, saying the prosecution “miserably failed” to prove the charges against them.

Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Pahuja was hearing the case against the three accused. The FIR in the case was registered at Malviya Nagar police station under provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Arms Act.

According to the prosecution, the accused fired in the air in front of the victim's house and threatened him on May 14, 2018.

In an order dated December 16, the court said the victim and the complainant (victim's relative) were the star witnesses of the prosecution's case but they turned hostile and denied having identified the accused.

“Even during their cross-examination, the prosecution witnesses failed to identify the accused persons as the perpetrators of the crime and also denied all the suggestions put to them with respect to attributing the role of the accused persons in the present case,” it said.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PUBLIC WORKS(R&B)DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email:rbdivisionawantipora@gmail.com

NO:T-1/EEA/8151-55

Dated: 27/12/2024

Extension Corrigendum

Subject:-

S.No.	Name of Work
1	Repairment of drain opposite house of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat at Drangbal Pampore.
2	Development of Town Awantipora by way of Construction of Lanes/drains and R/wall from Ward No 01 to 13 at Municipal committee Awantipora

Reference: 1. This office E-NIT No.83/EEA/RNB/Of2024-25/6016-6026 Dated: 02/11/2024

2. This office e-NIT. No. 106/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/7596-7606

DATED 10/12/2024

It is notified for the information of all concerned that zero bidder has participated for above said work in subject for S.No. (1) and single bidder for S.No.(2). Hence the above-mentioned works/Tenders are hereby extended/modified and fixed as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	02-01-2025 up to 3.00 PM
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03-01-2025 at 12.00 PM

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NITs

Dated:- 28/12/24

DIPK-10118/24

Sd/- Executive Engineer

R&B Division Awantipora

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER RAJPORA

Phone/Fax:01913-278666

Email: bmocheraforocitgmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamp of Rs5/= (Rupees Five) are invited from the Hoteliers/Suppliers/dealers for the supply of cooked diet or dry food items to the patients admitted in Community Health Centre (CHC) Rajpora under JSSK-Scheme. The quotations along with CDR of Rs5000/- (Rupees Five thousand Only) Pledged to the Block Medical Officer Rajpora from any J&K Bank, shall reach to office of the undersigned with 10 days from the date of publication of this quotation in newspaper.

Terms & Conditions:

1. Initial Contract shall be for the Period of One year or till the scheme Continues which one is earlier.

2. The amount should not exceed Rs100/= per day per patient.

3. The specification of food items per plate should be mentioned clearly & should be of good quality and fresh.

4. The food items should be provide at due time after produce the diet slip.

5. The rates should be written legibly and without cutting/over writings.

6. No conditional tenders will be accepted.

7. The supplies should be FOR to CHC Rajpora.

8. The authority has the right to reject any tender without assigning any reason at any time.

NO:-BMO/Raj./NHM/JSSK/DIET/599-601

Dated:- 28/12/24

Sd/-

Block Medical Officer

Rajpora

DIPK-10116/24

DC Bandipora inspects snow clearance operations, visits key locations

Distt Admin monitoring situation round the clock to ensure minimal disruption: Qadri

BANDIPORA: In order to assess the snow clearance operations and evaluate the overall post-snowfall situation in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harmeet Singh, conducted a comprehensive tour across Bandipora district on Saturday.

During the tour, the DC reviewed snow clearance activities being undertaken by the Mechanical Department and inspected efforts to ensure roads are cleared and accessible, particularly major and vital road links, besides assessed the availability of essentials.

As part of his extensive tour, the DC visited the Mechanical Control Room Mangnipora to review the deployment and functioning of snow clearance machinery.

He inspected the availability and operational status of snow removal equipment, including snow plows, and other machinery. He interacted with the

staff on duty and appreciated their efforts in ensuring prompt action during snowfall.

The DC directed the Mechanical Division to ensure that roads leading to hospitals, and other essential facilities are cleared on priority and instructed them to maintain round-the-clock operations and keep machinery ready to address emergencies.

During his visit to District Hospital, the DC interacted with the staff and patients, ensuring that healthcare services are functioning efficiently despite the inclement weather.

He reviewed the availability of essential medicines, heating arrangements, and other facilities, instructing hospital management to address any shortcomings promptly.

The DC also visited the main market area to check the clearance of snow from roads and footpaths and interacted with public ensuring that their concerns are addressed promptly.



During his visit to Sumlar, the DC inspected the snow clearance operations and availability of basic facilities. He interacted with locals, listened to their grievances and assured them that the administration is

working round the clock to restore all essential services.

The DC held on-the-spot discussions with officers of various departments and directed them to ensure restoration teams are on high alert to resolve any public issues quickly.

Qadri said that sufficient stock of essentials, including food, medicines, and LPG are available in district, besides Control Room is also functioning round the clock to provide timely assistance to public.

He assured the public that the administration is fully committed to mitigate the challenges posed by the harsh weather besides reiterated that the district administration is monitoring the situation round the clock and urged all departments to maintain coordination to ensure minimal disruption.

Among others the DC was accompanied by ASP, District Officers of various concerned Departments, DySP HQ and other concerned.

Post Snowfall: Baramulla Admin restoring essential services

BARAMULLA: In response to the recent snowfall, the District Administration Baramulla has made considerable progress in restoring key services, including road connectivity, power supply and drinking water.

Restoration efforts are being carried out across the district to ensure the swift return to normalcy for residents.

All major roads, including the Srinagar-Uri National Highway, Gulmarg, Tangmarg, and other main roads, have been successfully restored for vehicular movement. Salt was applied early in the morning to clear icy patches, ensuring smoother and safer travel. Work is ongoing to clear link roads in rural and urban areas, with plans to have them fully cleared by this evening.

Efforts to restore power supply are progressing well, with 80% of the 11kV feeders now fully restored. Restoration teams are working round the clock to achieve 100% restoration of power supply in the affected areas.

Drinking water supply has been partially disrupted in several areas due to freezing conditions. Restoration teams are actively addressing these issues and full restoration is expected soon to ensure access to clean drinking water.

The health sector remains fully operational with necessary measures in place to ensure that essential medical services continue without interruption. Emergency teams are on standby to address any immediate healthcare needs.

District Administration is committed to resolving any remaining issues swiftly and ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents. Cooperation from the public is encouraged to aid in the restoration efforts.

DC Kupwara chairs DLC meeting for verification of beneficiaries on e-PDS

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan to-

The Committee has been framed by the Government under the Chairper-



day chaired the meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) to review the verification of all beneficiaries in the Public Distribution System database in the district.

sonship of Deputy Commissioner consisting of ACR, ACD, DSWO as members and AD FCS&CA as Member Secretary. The committee has been mandated to verify the eligibility of all beneficia-

ries enrolled in the PDS database, in light of applicable rules, and ensure weeding out of ineligible beneficiaries there from.

The committee shall ensure inclusion of left out eligible beneficiaries, if any identified in appropriate groups/categories under PDS, besides, ensure completion of e-KYC of all pending beneficiaries eligible under PDS.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the officers to speed up the process of re-verification of all beneficiaries especially belonging to AAY and PHH by checking their current income status to ensure accuracy of data on the PDS.

She also directed them to ensure 100% e-KYC of the beneficiaries and adding the left out beneficiaries if any in the system.

To ensure speedy re-verification and updation in PDS, the DC directed for constitution of Committees at Block and Panchayat levels which will conduct extensive survey and streamline the database.

The meeting was attended by ACR Kupwara, AD Food CS &CA, DSWO, DIO-NIC and other concerned.

Police extends helping hand to needy amid heavy snowfall across Kashmir Valley

SRINAGAR: In response to the recent heavy snowfall across the Kashmir valley, J&K Police have been providing crucial assistance to those in need,

In Budgam, police assisted stranded tourists in Doodhpathri and aided patients, commuters, and tourists stuck on roads across the district, especially in remote areas. In Pulwama, police rescued a group of people with a deceased body stranded at Wahibugh and ensured the body was carried on foot to Qazipora for the final rites. They also helped two women in need of urgent medical attention, transporting them safely to District Hospital Pulwama.

In Ganderbal, police provided support to tourists, commuters, and patients stranded in the snow across various locations. In Awantipora, a distress call about a woman in critical need of medical treatment was responded to swiftly by the police, who evacuated her to SDH Tral for urgent care.

In Kulgam, a cardiac patient in Adigam was swiftly transported to the hospital after the family was unable to access medical facilities due to snow and slippery roads. A police team led by the SHO of Devsar police station ensured the patient received immediate treatment.

Baramulla witnessed extensive emergency operations, with police rescuing stranded vehicles, providing mechanical help, and installing snow chains along key roads like the Gulmarg-Tangmarg axis. Police teams were deployed to assist stranded travelers and tourists in the area.

J&K Police has set up emergency help desks at key locations and deployed teams across the valley, especially in remote areas, to provide assistance in such challenging weather conditions. The force continues its unwavering commitment to supporting the community during emergencies.

J&K Police urges the public to remain cautious during severe weather and to contact the helpline or Dial 112 for any emergency assistance. (KINS)



Indian Army Organizes Ex-Servicemen Meet in Thanamandi, Rajouri

RAJOURI: The Indian Army organized an interaction for Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen at Thanamandi, Rajouri, under the Indian Army Central Welfare Fund project. The event aimed to address grievances, provide healthcare support, resolve pension-related issues, and ensure the well-being of Veer Naris, Veterans, and their families. During the gathering, participants were briefed on various initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army to support the welfare of Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen in the region. Updates were shared on government policies, Digital Life Certificate processes, chatbot services like Sambandh, ECHS and CSD card renewal, pre-recruitment rallies, and other welfare measures planned for the near future.

The event also featured a free medical camp offering consultations, vaccinations, and medicines to help attendees access necessary healthcare services. A lecture was held to promote good eating habits, balanced diets, and personal hygiene for improving overall well-being.

Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen were felicitated during the event, and representatives from various agencies were present to ensure that concerns were addressed effectively. Attendees pledged to motivate local youth to join the Armed Forces, integrate into the mainstream, and avoid illegal activities like drug peddling.

The interaction served as a platform for open dialogue, strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the community. A total of five Veer Naris, seven widows, 37 Ex-Servicemen, five children, and one official representative of the Zila Sainik Board participated in the event.

Winter Relief: Temporary Shelters Arranged for Stranded Passengers in Border Areas

PEERZADA SAYEED

KARNAH: The Kupwara administration has taken significant steps to assist passengers stranded in border areas due to heavy snowfall. As announced in a circular by the District Development Commissioner, temporary shelters have been set up at High Secondary School Panzgam, High School Melyal, and High Secondary School Kalarooos to provide relief to travelers from Karnah, Keran, and Machil. These shelters aim to offer immediate assistance during travel disruptions caused by extreme weather conditions.

While speaking with Kashmir News Service (KNS), Kupwara Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan highlighted the importance of these measures in the face of challenging winter conditions. She urged stranded passengers to take advantage of the temporary accommodations, ensuring their safety and comfort during the ongoing snowfall.

The administration has also set up contact points for passengers in need of assistance: Zahoor Ahmad at Panzgam (7006891849), Ali Mohammad at Melyal (7298336572), and Abdul Rashid Lone at Kalarooos (8899058911).

These efforts are part of the Kupwara administration's ongoing commitment to providing relief and support for residents in remote areas during the harsh winter months. The authorities have reassured the public of their dedication to ensuring the safety of travelers and locals amid extreme weather conditions. (KNS)



REC Limited Allocates Rs14 Crore for Advanced Cancer Treatment in UP

FIROZABAD: REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), has committed Rs14 crore under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative for advanced cancer treatment in Uttar Pradesh.

An official spokesperson said the funding will support the procurement



of a Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine for the Trauma Centre established by Sevarth Sansthan Seth Bimal Kumar Jain Trauma & Physiotherapy Dharmarth Samiti (SSB) in Firozabad district.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on December 27, 2024, by Shri Pradeep Fellows, Executive Director (CSR) of REC, and Shri P. K. Jindal, President of SSB, in the presence of Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chairman and Managing Director of REC Limited.

A Linear Accelerator, or LINAC, is a cutting-edge technology used for precise and effective cancer treatment, including brain, spine, lung, breast, and prostate cancers, among others. The installation of the LINAC machine is expected to significantly enhance cancer treatment facilities in the region, offering advanced care to patients.

Spokesperson further informed that this initiative aligns with REC's commitment to promoting health and well-being as part of its CSR objectives. REC has been a consistent contributor to nation-building, supporting impactful projects across healthcare, education, rural development, and environmental sustainability.

"REC Foundation has undertaken over 400 projects addressing healthcare, sanitation, clean water access, education, skill development, and women empowerment. To date, the Foundation has disbursed over 1,300 crore in CSR funds, with a cumulative commitment exceeding 2,000 crore," he said, adding that this project underlines REC's dedication to creating a healthier and more sustainable future for communities across India.

SSB postpones OMR based examination scheduled on Dec 29

JAMMU: The J&K Service Selection Board has postponed the OMR based examinations for the posts of Junior Stenographers/Junior Scale Stenographers (Shift I) and Steno-Typists (Shift II).

Scheduled to be held on 29.12.2024, the said examination shall now be held on 31.12.2024 in view of the inclement weather conditions.

According to a notification issued here today by the Controller of Examinations J&K Service Selection Board (SSB), the timings for the examinations, examination venues and shifts of the examinations shall remain same. Besides, admit cards already issued shall remain valid for these examinations postponed for 31.12.2024.

Indian Army Organizes Ex-Servicemen Meet in Thanamandi, Rajouri

RAJOURI: The Indian Army organized an interaction for Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen at Thanamandi, Rajouri, under the Indian Army Central Welfare Fund project. The event aimed to address grievances, provide healthcare support, resolve pension-related issues, and ensure the well-being of Veer Naris, Veterans, and their families.

During the gathering, participants were briefed on various initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army to support the welfare of Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen in the region. Updates were shared on government policies, Digital Life Certificate processes, chatbot services like Sambandh, ECHS and CSD card renewal, pre-recruitment rallies, and other welfare measures planned for the near future.

The event also featured a free medical camp offering consultations, vaccinations, and medicines to help attendees access necessary healthcare services. A lecture was held to promote good eating habits, balanced diets, and personal hygiene for improving overall well-being.

Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen were felicitated during the event, and representatives from various agencies were present to ensure that concerns were addressed effectively. Attendees pledged to motivate local youth to join the Armed Forces, integrate into the mainstream, and avoid illegal activities like drug peddling.

The interaction served as a platform for open dialogue, strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the community. A total of five Veer Naris, seven widows, 37 Ex-Servicemen, five children, and one official representative of the Zila Sainik Board participated in the event.

The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of Veer Naris and Veterans, acknowledging their invaluable contribution to the nation.



Make in India

The Government has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years and brought in reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment, there by promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing & technology in the country. These initiatives, inter-alia, include according priority to procurement of capital items from domestic sources under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020; Announcement of 18 major defence platforms for industry led design & development in March 2022; Notification of four 'Positive Indigenisation Lists' of total 411 items of Services and three 'Positive Indigenisation Lists' of total 3738 items of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timelines indicated against them; Simplification of Industrial licensing process with longer validity period; Liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy allowing 74% FDI under automatic route; Simplification of Make Procedure; Launch of Mission DefSpace; Launch of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme involving start-ups & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); Implementation of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017; Launch of an indigenisation portal namely SRIJAN to facilitate indigenisation by Indian Industry including MSMEs; Reforms in Offset policy with thrust on attracting investment and Transfer of Technology for Defence manufacturing by assigning higher multipliers; and Establishment of two Defence Industrial Corridors, one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; Opening up of Defence Research & Development (R&D) for industry, start-ups and academia with 25 percent of defence R&D budget; Progressive increase in allocation of Defence Budget of military modernisation for procurement from domestic sources, etc. With focus on indigenisation and procurement from domestic industries, all the major areas of domestic defence production ecosystem such as weapons, ammunition, fighter aircrafts, helicopters, missile systems, warships, submarines, armoured vehicles, radars, communication systems, surveillance systems, etc. have benefited from the aforesaid initiatives and also given boost to the growth of domestic industries including MSMEs & start-ups. These initiatives not only create employment opportunities but also nurture a culture of innovation and technological advancement within the country.

The concerted efforts and policy interventions undertaken by the Government to promote indigenous defence manufacturing under the Make in India initiative have yielded remarkable results. With a renewed focus on indigenisation and procurement from domestic industries, India is poised to emerge as a global leader in defence manufacturing, contributing to national security, economic growth, and technological innovation. As India continues its journey towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing, it is imperative to sustain the momentum generated by the Make in India initiative through continued policy support and industry collaboration. Government, industry, and academia should work hand in hand to leverage emerging technologies, nurture talent, and foster innovation in the defence sector.

Empowering Students for a Future of Endless Possibilities



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

When we talk about empowering students, what do we mean? It's a buzzword that's been thrown around a lot in educational circles, but let's break it down. Student empowerment is all about giving students the tools, confidence, and opportunities to take charge of their own learning. It's about fostering independence and encouraging them to be active participants in their education. Think of it as handing over the keys to a car; students need to know how to drive it safely and confidently.

What is a Student Empowerment Program?

A student empowerment program is a structured initiative designed to help students develop skills, confidence, and a sense of agency. These programs can take many forms, from leadership training to mentorship opportunities. The goal is to create an environment where students feel valued and capable of making decisions that affect their learning and lives. For instance, programs like student councils or peer mentoring not only build leadership skills but also foster a sense of community and belonging.

How Does Student Empowerment Happen?

So, how does this empowerment actually take place? It starts with creating a culture of trust and respect in the classroom. When students feel safe to express their thoughts and ideas, they're more likely to engage. Teachers play a crucial role here; by encouraging open dialogue and providing constructive feedback, they can help students build the confidence they need to take risks and explore new ideas. It's like planting a seed; with the right environment and care, it can grow into something beautiful.

Barriers to Student Empowerment
What Stops Empowerment?

Despite the best intentions, there are several barriers that can hinder student empowerment. Rigid curricula, lack of resources, and traditional teaching methods can stifle creativity and limit student engagement. Additionally, if students feel that their voices aren't heard or valued, they may become disengaged and disheartened. It's essential to recognize these barriers and actively work to dismantle them. For example, schools can adopt more flexible curricula that allow for student input and creativity.

The Misconception of Empowerment
What Educators Are Actually Striving For

Interestingly, what many educators are actually striving for isn't true student empowerment at all, but rather meaningful student involvement. This distinction is crucial. While empowerment focuses on giving students control, meaningful involvement emphasizes collaboration and partnership between students and educators. It's about creating a shared vision for learning, where students feel like co-creators rather than mere recipients of knowledge.

Where Meaningful Student Involvement Fits
Meaningful student involvement fits into the broader

picture of education as a collaborative process. It's about creating opportunities for students to contribute to decision-making and to have a say in their learning experiences. This can take many forms, from participating in school governance to engaging in project-based learning. When students are involved in shaping their educational journey, they're more likely to feel invested

much more engaged would they be?

Utilizing Technology for Engagement

Let's not forget about technology! In today's digital age, leveraging technology can be a game-changer for student empowerment. Online platforms can facilitate

Finally, creating opportunities for real-world application is vital for student empowerment. When students can see the relevance of what they're learning, they're more likely to engage deeply. This could involve internships, community service projects, or partnerships with local businesses. By connecting classroom learning to the outside world, students can develop a sense of purpose



in their success.

Strategies for Empowering Students in a Connected World
Building a Supportive Environment

In our increasingly connected world, there are numerous ways to empower students. First and foremost, it's essential to build a supportive environment. This means fostering relationships based on trust and respect, where students feel comfortable sharing their ideas and opinions. Teachers can create this environment by being approachable, actively listening, and showing genuine interest in their students' thoughts and feelings.

Encouraging Student Voice and Choice

Another key strategy is to encourage student voice and choice. When students have a say in what they learn and how they learn it, they're more likely to be engaged and motivated. This could involve allowing them to choose project topics, collaborate with peers, or even design their own assessments. Imagine a classroom where students can explore their passions and interests—how

collaboration, provide access to diverse resources, and enable students to connect with experts and peers around the globe. Imagine a classroom where students can engage in discussions with authors, scientists, or even fellow students from different countries! This not only broadens their horizons but also helps them develop essential digital literacy skills.

Fostering Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

Empowering students also means equipping them with critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Educators can create opportunities for students to tackle real-world challenges, encouraging them to think critically and creatively. For instance, project-based learning allows students to work on meaningful projects that require them to analyze information, collaborate with others, and develop solutions. This hands-on approach not only enhances their learning experience but also prepares them for future challenges.

Creating Opportunities for Real-World Application

and agency in their education.

Conclusion: The Future of Student Empowerment
In conclusion, empowering students is not just about giving them control; it's about fostering a culture of meaningful involvement and collaboration. By understanding the barriers to empowerment and implementing strategies that promote student voice and choice, educators can create an environment where students thrive. As we move forward in this connected world, let's continue to prioritize student empowerment and meaningful involvement, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to shine. After all, when students feel empowered, they're not just learning—they're leading the way to a brighter future!

Let's embrace this journey together, because the future of education depends on the empowered voices of our students.

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The Importance of Aesthetic Literacy in Education and Life

Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi

Aesthetic literacy, though often underemphasized, plays a vital role in education and personal development, influencing various dimensions of human life. This concept involves the ability to interpret, appreciate, and create aesthetically meaningful experiences in fields such as visual arts, music, literature, and even daily surroundings. Its importance lies in its impact on cognitive growth, emotional intelligence, and cultural awareness, making it indispensable for holistic development.

In terms of cognitive development, aesthetic literacy enhances critical thinking and problem-solving capabilities. Exposure to different forms of art stimulates creativity and encourages expansive thinking, allowing individuals to perceive the world from diverse perspectives. Additionally, engaging with artistic expressions aids in building emotional intelligence by fostering an understanding of human emotions. Art's ability to evoke deep feelings enables individuals to better express and manage their emotions, promoting mental wellbeing.

In today's interconnected world, aesthetic literacy plays a critical role in fostering cultural harmony. It equips individuals with the ability to appreciate and respect diverse artistic and cultural traditions, creating a sense of unity amidst diversity. Beyond the visual and performing arts, aesthetic literacy extends to language and communication. A person with aesthetic literacy can effectively convey thoughts with clarity, eloquence, and subtlety, enhancing their overall communication skills.

The benefits of aesthetic literacy are not confined to intellectual and emotional realms but also extend to improving the quality of everyday life. Whether it's appreciating a beautifully composed piece of music, enjoying the elegance of well-structured writing, or admiring the aesthetics of a well-designed space, these experiences contribute to an enriched, fulfilling life. Moreover, it promotes innovation and creativity, vital in addressing complex problems. By encouraging individuals to think beyond conventional approaches, aesthetic literacy fosters unique and unconventional solutions.



Professionally, aesthetic literacy is an asset across various fields, such as design, marketing, and education. Individuals with an understanding of aesthetics often bring unique perspectives to their work, which can enhance creativity and problem-solving in professional environments. This quality sets them apart in competitive industries and adds value to their contributions.

Integrating aesthetic literacy into education systems can transform learning experiences. Schools can include arts education in curricula, exposing students to visual

arts, music, literature, and performing arts. Encouraging visits to museums, galleries, and theaters can deepen students' exposure to diverse artistic traditions and broaden their understanding. Interdisciplinary approaches linking aesthetics with other subjects, such as history or science, can create a more engaging and holistic learning experience.

However, several challenges hinder the promotion of aesthetic literacy. Many educational institutions face financial constraints that limit their ability to invest in arts programs. Addressing this requires advocacy for the importance of

aesthetic literacy and exploring creative solutions, such as partnerships with local art organizations or community-driven initiatives. Additionally, the emphasis on standardized testing often marginalizes arts education, treating it as nonessential. Advocates must highlight how aesthetic literacy is integral to nurturing well-rounded individuals capable of navigating modern complexities.

The advent of the digital era has also shifted attention away from traditional art forms, posing another challenge. To bridge this gap, educators can leverage technology by

integrating digital tools into arts education. Virtual reality experiences, online exhibitions, and interactive platforms can bring artistic expressions to students who may not have physical access to cultural institutions, thereby democratizing access to the arts.

Assessing aesthetic literacy requires innovative methods. Standardized tools can evaluate skills such as analyzing visual art, interpreting literary works, and engaging critically with music. Moving beyond traditional exams, portfolio-based assessments allow students to showcase creative projects and demonstrate their ability to apply aesthetic principles practically.

Recognizing cultural diversity is crucial when promoting aesthetic literacy. Educational programs must move beyond Western-centric perspectives and incorporate artistic traditions from various cultures. Facilitating international exchanges and collaborations can provide students with firsthand experiences of diverse aesthetics, fostering a global outlook.

Aesthetic literacy also extends beyond formal education. Encouraging lifelong engagement with the arts ensures that individuals continue to explore and deepen their aesthetic understanding throughout their lives. Technology plays a significant role in this process, as it enables greater access to artistic experiences. Online platforms, virtual exhibitions, and other digital tools make art more accessible to individuals regardless of their location or resources.

Promoting aesthetic literacy requires collective efforts from educators, policymakers, and society as a whole. By understanding its importance, addressing challenges, and embracing innovative solutions, we can prepare future generations to navigate not only the academic and professional worlds but also the rich and diverse realm of artistic expression that defines human culture.

Through a focus on aesthetic literacy, we can create a society that values creativity, embraces cultural diversity, and nurtures individuals who are intellectually and emotionally well-rounded. It is not just an educational goal but a societal necessity to enhance our shared human experience.

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Mian Altaf Chairs DISHA Meeting in Poonch, Reviews Progress of Key Government Schemes

POONCH: Member Parliament, Rajouri-Poonch-Anantnag Constituency Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi, on Saturday chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here at Dak Bunglow Poonch.

The meeting focused on assessing progress of centrally sponsored projects, flagship programs, and social security initiatives.

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal provided a detailed presentation, highlighting achievements under key government schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and other developmental works in the district.

Altaf commended the District Administration for its commendable performance under these centrally sponsored initiatives.

The MP emphasized the need for increased public outreach to raise awareness about government programs, ensuring that benefits reach grassroots levels. He urged the timeline completion of



ongoing works, noting that of the 122,668 works planned under district Capex approximately 77.98% have been completed. During the session, it was revealed that a total of 60,354

beneficiaries are currently receiving support under social security schemes, including old age pensions, widow and divorcee assistance, and provisions for the physically challenged. Specifically, 31,959 individuals benefit from old age pensions, 4,918 from widow/divorcee assistance, and 23,477 from support for the physically challenged. Additionally, 6,741 beneficiaries have been covered under the National Social Assistance Programme, and 763 under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme for the financial year 2024-25.

The MP also directed the concerned officers to ensure that every family has access to clean drinking water and stressed the importance of maintaining the quality of road construction. He urged the BRO to expedite the blacktopping of key roads and enhance connectivity for security forces and the general public.

The MP called for greater awareness of the PM Surya scheme and reviewed staff strength across various departments to ensure effective implementation of government initiatives.

DC conducts extensive visit of Shopian town

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar along with SSP, Anayat Ali today conducted an extensive visit to the town, overseeing the restoration of essential services, snow clearance operations, and rescue efforts.

This proactive approach ensures that the district administration is well-prepared to tackle the challenges posed by the snowfall.

During the visit, the DC took stock of the snow clearance operations, reviewing the progress and directing the concerned agencies to expedite the process. The focus was on clearing major roads to restore connectivity and facilitate the movement of people and essential services.

He also assessed the restoration of essential services, including power, water supply and healthcare facilities.

In addition to overseeing the restoration efforts, the DC also reviewed the rescue operations, ensuring that the necessary resources and personnel are deployed to assist those in need in view of slippery roads in town.

Officers of district and police administration and local authorities accompanied the DC during the visit.

Snowfall: GMC Srinagar ensures uninterrupted Healthcare services to patients

SRINAGAR: Amidst heavy snowfall in the valley, the Associated Hospitals of Government Medical College

patient care. Principal/ Dean Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan and Administrator Associated Hospitals Mohamad Ashraf

The inspection team visited several hospitals, including SMHS Hospital, Super Specialty Hospital, Govt Children Hospital, Govt Bone & Joint Hospital, Govt Chest Disease Hospital, Lal Ded Hospital, and Kashmir Nursing Home. They reviewed the status of snow clearance and the overall preparedness of the hospitals.

In addition to the hospital visits, Prof. Hassan and Hakak also visited the Govt Boys Hostel Bemina, where they interacted with undergraduate and postgraduate students. They inquired about the facilities available and the students' well-being during the snowfall.

Prof. Hassan emphasized the importance of providing all possible healthcare services to patients, despite the challenging weather conditions. They commended the hospital staff for their dedication and hard work in ensuring uninterrupted services.

Hakak conducted a thorough inspection of all associated hospitals to ensure seamless patient care. They assessed the availability of staff, central heating systems, electricity, water supply, and medicines.



(GMC) Srinagar continued to provide uninterrupted healthcare services to patients. The hospitals have been equipped to handle any emergencies, and the staff has been working tirelessly to ensure

Snowfall aftermath: DC Srinagar tours city areas, oversees snow clearance measures

Stresses on inter-agency coordination to ensure hassle free essential services to people

SRINAGAR: In order to take stock of the ground situation in wake of incessant snowfall in the District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today morning toured various areas of the Srinagar City to inspect snow-clearance operations and take first hand appraisal about functioning of essential supplies.

The DC visited various areas of the City including Lal Chowk, Ghanta Ghar, Residency Road, Polo-view, Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar, Gogibagh, Rambagh, Barzulla, Hyderpora, Bemina and other adjoining areas, and took stock of the ongoing snow clearance measures.

During the tour, the DC took onsite inspection of the ongoing snow clearance measures and

stressed the Officers and officials to ensure that snow is cleared from all main roads to pave ways for smooth vehicular movement, particularly of ambulances ferrying patients.



He also stressed on prioritizing snow clearance on roads leading to vital installations including hospitals ensuring unhindered access for medical emergencies, as well as facilitating the smooth flow of essential services amidst the challenging weather conditions.

The DC also laid emphasis on snow clearance from inner lanes and by-lanes to make sure people do not face any inconvenience. He underscored the importance of making other necessary facilities available to residents to minimize the impact of severe weather events on the people.

Dr Bilal stressed on ensuring free A m b u l a n c e movement enroute all City Hospitals and emphasised on snow clearance from remote Srinagar areas like Harwan, Dara, Fakir Gujri, Khanmoh, Balhama, Soiteng, Panzinara, etc.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Officers of R&B, MED, SMC, PDD, PHE and other line Departments

Snowfall aftermath DC Kulgam conducts extensive tour of various areas

KULGAM: To take first hand appraisal of the situation arising due to Snowfall and restoration of essential services, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today conducted extensive tour of Nihama, Mirhama, Gopalpora, Pombay and other areas in the district.

During the visit, the DC interacted with the people and listened to their issues for redressal.

He also visited District Hospital Kulgam and took stock of patient care services, and also interacted with the staff and patients there. During his visit to District Hospital, he was briefed about the services being provided to the patients at the hospital. He directed the hospital officials to ensure round the clock availability of medical personnel.

The DC also visited several wards and also took stock of availability of essential medicines. Later the DC also visited Grid station/Receiving station Kulgam to take stock of availability and restoration of power supply in Kulgam.



RDD Secretary Pushes for Expedited Progress on Key Rural Initiatives

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Saturday chaired a meeting to review status of convergence works under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), identification of sites for Phase-II of Mission Amrit Sarovar, progress under UNNATI initiative and implementation of GOBARdhan plants as part of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G).

Secretary underscored the critical need for heightened convergence with various departments to amplify the impact of developmental efforts under MGNREGS.

He emphasized that effective convergence will not only enhance the scheme's impact but also ensure better utilization of resources and improved service delivery to rural communities.

To achieve this, the Secretary instructed all the districts to conduct regular convergence meetings with line departments, particularly those involved in agriculture and allied sectors.

The Secretary emphasized the potential for creative convergence between MGNREGS and other relevant programs. He specifically encouraged the planning and implementation of innovative works such

as working sheds for SHGs of NRLM, Mushroom sheds and Cattle sheds.

Aijaz Asad instructed the officials to explore and implement such innovative works in a convergent manner, leveraging



the strengths of different government programs to maximize their impact. He had discussion on identifying sites for Mission Amrit Sarovar's second phase.

The Secretary directed all the Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) to immediately complete the identification process of sites for Phase II under Mission Amrit Sarovar and submit the detailed proposals within five days.

, formulation of the Annual Action Plan for MGNREGS for the financial year 2025-26 was reviewed to ensure timely and effective planning, with deliberations on financial challenges and potential solutions.

The Secretary highlighted the importance of the UNNATI initiative, which is pivotal

for skill development and employment generation among rural youth. He directed the officers to expedite the progress on ongoing training programs ensuring that maximum number of youth benefit from



the training sessions.

Aijaz Asad underscored the importance of Gobardhan plants, emphasising its potential to enhance rural sanitation and sustainable domestic energy practices.

He directed all districts to expedite construction of biogas plants and closely monitor their progress. In districts where initial plants have been constructed, he urged the officials to tie up with local dairy units to ensure steady supply of raw material.

Aijaz Asad encouraged the use of technology for artificial temperature control and asked for a discussion with IIT Roorkee team on the technical feasibility of establishing the plants in Kashmir valley.

Mission Director Rahul Yadav Tours RS Pura to Review Progress of Agricultural Initiatives

JAMMU: Mission Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) -Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), Rahul Yadav conducted a detailed tour of the RS Pura Subdivision to assess the progress of various agricultural initiatives under the HADP.

Mission Director was accompanied by Director Agriculture Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Vinod Kumar Kundal, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Surinder Gupta, and the staff of Sub Division RS Pura.

The visit commenced with an inspection of the Controlled Conditioned Cropping Unit of beneficiary Vijay Kumar, part of HADP Project No. 10 (Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation), located in RS Pura. Mission Director evaluated the unit's functioning and its contribution to mushroom farming in the region.

Following this, Rahul Yadav visited the Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) of beneficiary Bhanu Partap under HADP Project No. 20 (Innovative Approaches in Agriculture Extension). The tour then proceeded to another KKG at Village Gondla, where the Mission Director inspected its operations

and assessed its impact on local farmers, ensuring that these centres are fulfilling their role in agricultural extension and support.

The tour also included a visit to the



Mini Soil Testing Lab at Village Laswara under HADP Project No. 19 (J&K Soil & Land Resource Information System). Here, the Mission Director reviewed the lab's operations and its critical role in providing essential soil health data to farmers in the region.

A key aspect of the visit was the interaction between Rahul Yadav and progressive farmers, members of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs), and Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) at Village Amria, Sub Division RS Pura. During this engagement, the Mission Director discussed the challenges faced by FPOs

and explored strategies to enhance their operations for greater efficiency and sustainability.

The Mission Director also visited the Hi-Tech Polyhouse of progressive farmer Mahesh Choudhary from Village Gazzian. Rahul Yadav inspected the polyhouse operations and the innovative agricultural techniques being employed by Mahesh Choudhary. During the visit, the Mission Director shared the Agro-Tourism concept with Mahesh Choudhary, which aims to integrate tourism with farming to promote sustainable agricultural practices and boost local tourism.

Following this, Rahul Yadav visited Choudhary's farm, where he observed the various farming practices and techniques being utilized. Rahul Yadav also visited SM Farm Kotli, where the Mission Director inspected the ongoing work and projects at the farm.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Potato Seed Village at Village Arnia, where the Mission Director inspected the ongoing initiatives related to seed potato production, aimed at improving crop quality and boosting the local agriculture economy.

GMC Srinagar Issues Winter Advisory to Prevent Heart Attacks Amid Cold Weather

Srinagar: In view of prevailing cold weather conditions, the Head of Department of Cardiology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, today issued advisory for general public to stay safe of heart attacks, suffered due to low temperatures.

While stating the study of Journal of the American College of Cardiology, the Advisory underlines that 10 million people globally experience disability and 500,000 deaths occur annually due to low temperatures.

It notes that cold weather has been established as a critical factor triggering both minor and major heart attacks by causing blood vessels to constrict, increasing blood pressure and the workload on the heart.

Additionally, exposure to cold can exacerbate respiratory tract infections, further stressing cardiovascular health.

Air pollution has been

identified as another key risk factor for heart attacks, contributing to systemic inflammation and impaired cardiovascular function.



People at higher risk, including those with hypertension (HTN), diabetes, obesity, a history of smoking, previous heart attacks, or heart failure, are advised to take extra precautions during winter months. It advises people to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature using adequate heating besides wear warm clothing, including hats, gloves, and insulated footwear, when venturing outdoors.

In order to prevent Respiratory Tract Infections, people have been asked to avoid

unnecessary exposure to cold environments and to consider influenza vaccinations to reduce the risk of viral infections.

Further, advisory has suggested people to modify Outdoor Activities to avoid outdoor jogging or other strenuous physical activities during cold weather, as this can increase the risk of cardiac events.

While raising caution regarding Snow Shovelling, Advisory maintains that there is a data evolving which has established a relationship between Snow Shovelling & Heart Attacks and advised people to Stay Inside, Stay Warm & Avoid Shovelling & other Strenuous & heavy work.

In light of above, it is crucial for everyone, especially high-risk individuals, to adopt preventive measures during winter to safeguard heart health. By staying warm and minimizing exposure to cold and air pollution, we can significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks

...Post-Snowfall Commissioner SMC inspects clearance & dewatering operations in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed, accompanied by senior officials of the corporation, conducted thorough inspections across several areas today to assess the ongoing snow clearance and dewatering operations following the snowfall.

During his visits, Dr. Owais toured areas including CBD Lal Chowk, SMHS Hospital, and government housing colonies in Balgarden, Karanagar, Sanat Nagar, Chanpora, and the Leprosy Hospital in Bahar Lal Bazar, along with dewatering stations. He engaged with on-site officers and supervisors to evaluate the progress of these operations and identify any challenges faced.

The Commissioner also interacted with local residents, gathering valuable insights into the effectiveness of the snow clearance and dewatering efforts.

Dr. Owais gave on-the-spot directions for prompt snow removal and effective dewatering to safeguard public safety, facilitate transportation, and minimize disruptions to essential services. He expressed appreciation for the hard work of SMC frontline workers, who play a crucial role in these operations.



AHD Hosts Virtual Workshop on Technological Tools for HADP Projects"

JAMMU: The Department of Animal Husbandry Jammu today conducted a virtual capacity building workshop cum interaction for district and sectoral officers of the division to increase awareness about use of novel technological tools like Kisan Sathi-Output Tracking App and documentation of success stories under HADP here at its Directorate.

Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Dr. Waheeda Parveen presided over the event which was attended through virtual mode by all district officers and officers designated as Field Level Officers (FLOs), besides officers from technical section and documentation cell.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that several units have been created under different HADP projects in dairy, poultry and fodder sectors across the Jammu division for reporting and monitoring of these units by using technological tools to ensure transparency in the implementation process.

'Kisan Sathi-Output Tracking App' is a mobile application designed to record and monitor progress of all the projects/units established under HADP', she added.

The director further exhorted the district officers and field level officers to acquaint

themselves with the modalities involved in operating this software as their progress is continuously being monitored by higher authorities. "There shall be no laxity whatsoever in timely reporting and uploading data through this app" she maintained.

Nodal officer for KS-Output Tracking App



Dr. Rajeev Manhas gave a detailed presentation on its features and functions as well as the role of FLOs in ensuring that progress is uploaded and monitored on a real-time basis.

Members Documentation Cell, Directorate of Animal Husbandry Jammu Dr. Sandeep Kumar and Ajay Sharma provided participants with useful tips on impactful capturing and further documentation of inspiring success stories of farmers in under the HADP projects, through audio-video and photographic mediums

Ministry of Defence: Year End Review: 2024- Part-I

2024 witnessed some path-breaking achievements & breakthroughs as Ministry of Defence (MoD), marched ahead with renewed vigour to make India a strong, secure, self-reliant & prosperous nation, as envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Rajnath Singh assumed the office of Raksha Mantri for the second consecutive term in June this year and under his leadership, the Ministry reaffirmed its resolve to work in the priority areas to realise the vision of self-reliance in Defence. Some of the major highlights of 2024 include:

India-China border consensus
India and China achieved a broad consensus to restore the ground situation in certain areas along the LAC. Both countries have been holding



talks at diplomatic and military levels to resolve the differences in some areas along the LAC. As a result, a broad consensus was developed on the basis of equal and mutual security. Raksha Mantri, during the Chanakya Defence Dialogue on October 24, 2024, described the consensus as proof that continuous dialogue brings solutions.

Aatmanirbharta in Defence
Positive Indigenisation List: To boost Aatmanirbharta in defence & minimise imports by DPSUs, Department of Defence Production in July, notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting of 346 items. These include strategically-important Line Replacement Units/Systems/ Sub-systems/Assemblies/Sub-assemblies/Spares & Components and raw materials. Earlier, four PILs comprising 4,666 items were notified by the DDP for DPSUs, of which 2,972 items, having import substitution value worth Rs 3,400 crore, have already been indigenised. These five lists for DPSUs are in addition to the five PILs of 509 items notified by the Department of Military Affairs. These lists include highly-complex systems, sensors, weapons and ammunition.

Record Defence Production: MoD achieved the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms during Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, on the back of successful implementation of the policies and initiatives of the Government. The defence production went up to a record-high figure of Rs 1,26,887 crore, reflecting a growth of 16.7% over the defence production of the previous financial year. The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was Rs 1,08,684 crore. Of the total value of production in 2023-24, about 79.2% has been contributed by DPSUs/other PSUs and 20.8% by the private sector. The data shows that in terms of absolute value, both DPSUs/PSUs and private sector have recorded a steady growth in defence production. MoD has set a target to achieve Rs three lakh crore defence production by 2029.

Record Defence Exports: Defence exports touched a record Rs 21,083 crore (approx. US\$ 2.63 Billion) in the FY2023-24, a growth of 32.5% over the previous fiscal when the figure was Rs 15,920 crore. The figures indicated that the exports grew by 31 times in the last 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14. The defence industry, including the private sector and DPSUs, have made tremendous efforts in achieving the highest-ever exports. The private sector and DPSUs contributed about 60% and 40% respectively. Raksha Mantri has exuded confidence that the target to export defence equipment worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029 will be met.

C-295 TATA Aircraft Complex: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish President Mr Pedro Sanchez jointly inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex for manufacturing of C-295 transport aircraft at TATA advanced systems limited Campus in Vadodara, Gujarat in October 2024. In September 2021, MoD had signed a Rs 21,935-crore contract with Airbus Defence and Space SA, Spain for supply of 56 aircraft - 16 to be brought in fly away condition from Spain and 40 to be built in India by TATSL. Of the 16 aircraft, six have already been inducted into IAF at 11 Sqn based at Vadodara. The last would be delivered by August 2025. The first Made-in-India C-295 is expected to be rolled out of the Final Assembly Line facility at Vadodara by September 2026 and the remaining by August 2031.

Indian Light Tank: Indian Light Tank (ILT) 'Zorawar' has achieved a major milestone by firing a number of rounds at different ranges at an altitude of more than 4200m (High Altitude Location) with consistently accurate results. This was subsequent to the Phase I trial in desert environment in September 2024. This light tank has been defined, designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment, the Chennai-based laboratory of DRDO for the Indian Army. It is manufactured by the Industry Partner Larsen & Toubro Precision Engineering & Systems.

During the field trials conducted in the desert terrain, the Light Tank demonstrated exceptional performance, efficiently meeting all the intended objectives. In the initial phase, the tank's firing performance was rigorously evaluated and it achieved the required accuracy on designated targets.

Major Inductions/Commissioning
INS Arighaat: The second Arihant-Class submarine 'INS Arighaat' was commissioned into the Indian Navy on August 29, 2024 at Visakhapatnam in the presence of Raksha Mantri. The construction of INS Arighaat involved the use of advanced design and manufacturing technology, detailed research & development, utilisation of special materials, complex engineering and highly skilled workmanship. It has the distinction of having the indigenous systems and equipment which were conceptualised, designed, manufactured & integrated by

the Indian scientists, industry and Naval personnel. The technological advancements undertaken indigenously on this submarine make it significantly more advanced than its predecessor Arihant.

INS Tushil: INS Tushil (F 70), the latest multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia on December 09, 2024. It is an upgraded Krivak III class frigates of the Project 1135.6 of which, six are already in service - three Talwar class ships, built at Baltiysky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantar shipyard, Kaliningrad. INS Tushil, the seventh in the series, is the first of the two upgraded

additional follow-on ships, the contract for which was signed in October 2016 between JSC Rosoboronexport, Indian Navy and the Government of India. Armed with a range of advanced weapons, it is designed for blue water operations across the spectrum of naval warfare in all four dimensions - air, surface, underwater and electromagnetic.

LCH Prachand: Induction of all Light Combat Helicopters LSP was completed in February 2024. IAF personnel were vigorously trained on the system and the LCH successfully participated in Ex Gagan Shakti in April 2024.

Major Acquisitions
To provide substantial boost to the Indian defence industry and reduce foreign spending significantly, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) and Defence Procurement Board (DPB), during 2024 (upto November), accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 40 Capital Acquisition proposals amounting to Rs 4,22,129.55 crore. Out of these, AoNs for Rs 3,97,584.34 Crore (i.e. 94.19 %) have been accorded to be procured from indigenous sources. These include:



- DAC, in September 2024, accorded AoN for 10 capital acquisition proposals amounting to Rs 1,44,716 crore. These include procurement of Future Ready Combat Vehicles, Air Defence Fire Control Radars, Dornier-228 aircraft, Next Generation Fast Patrol & Offshore Patrol Vessels.
- DAC, in February 2024, accorded approval for AoN for various capital acquisition proposals amounting to Rs 84,560 crore. The proposals include new generation anti-tank mines, Air Defence Tactical Control Radar, Heavy Weight Torpedoes, Medium Range Maritime Reconnaissance & Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft, Flight Refueller Aircraft & Software Defined Radios.
- In July 2024, DAC approved capital acquisition proposals including procurement of Advanced Land Navigation System for Armoured Fighting Vehicles of the Indian Army and 22 Interceptor Boats with latest state-of-art system for the Indian Coast Guard.
- DAC, in December 2024, accorded AoN for five capital acquisition proposals amounting to over Rs. 21,772 crore. These include procurement of Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts, Fast Interceptor Craft, Electronic Warfare Suite, Next Generation Radar Warning Receiver, Advanced Light Helicopters for surveillance in coastal areas.

- Major contracts**
 - MoD inked a contract with the US Government for Tri-Service procurement of 31 MQ-9B Sky/Sea Guardian High Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) in October 2024. Another contract was signed with General Atomics Global India Pvt Ltd for Performance Based Logistics for these RPAS through Depot Level Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul in India.
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**
 - A contract was signed in September 2024 for 240 AL-31FP Aero Engines for Su-30MKI aircraft at a cost of over Rs 26,000 crore.
 - A contract for procurement of 12 Su-30MKI aircraft along with associated equipment was inked in December 2024, at an approximate cost of Rs 13,500 crore.
 - Two contracts for a combined value of Rs 8,073.17 crore were signed in March 2024 for acquisition of 34 Advanced Light Helicopters

(ALH) Dhruv Mk III along with Operational Role Equipment for Indian Army (25 ALHs) and Indian Coast Guard (09 ALHs).

- A contract for RD-33 Aero Engines for MiG-29 aircraft was inked in March 2024 at a cost of Rs 5,249.72 crore. These aero engines will be produced by the Koraput Division of HAL.

- A contract was signed in March 2024 for Mid Life Upgrade of 25 Dornier Aircraft along with associated equipment for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 2,890 crore.

- Bharat Electronics Limited**
A contract was inked in February 2024 for procurement of 11 Shakti Electronic Warfare Systems along with associated equipment for Indian Navy under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category at a total cost of Rs 2,269.54 crore.

- Advanced Weapon Equipment India Limited**
A contract was signed in February 2024 for manufacturing & supply of a total of 463 indigenously manufactured 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Guns for the Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of Rs 1,752.13 crore, with Indigenous Content of more than 85%.

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**
A contract was inked in January 2024 for acquisition of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard. The value of the contract is Rs 1,070.47 crore. These multi-role FPVs will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured under Buy (Indian-IDDM) Category.

- Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited**
In March 2024, a contract was signed for the procurement of 693 Armament Upgrades of Infantry Combat Vehicle BMP2 to BMP2M. This upgrade includes Night Enablement, Gunner Main Sight, Commander Panoramic Sight and Fire Control System (FCS) with Automatic Target Tracker under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.

- BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited**
Two contracts were inked in March 2024 for procurement of BrahMos missiles at a cost of Rs 19,518.65 crore and Procurement of Ship borne BrahMos system at a cost of Rs 988.07 crore.

- Larsen & Toubro Limited**
Two contracts for procurement of Close-in Weapon System at a cost of Rs 7,668.82 crore, and High-Power Radar at a cost of Rs 5,700.13 crore were signed in March 2024.

- A contract was inked with Larsen & Toubro Limited in December 2024 for procurement of 155 mm/52 calibre K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns for the Indian Army under Buy (Indian) category at a total cost of Rs 7,628.70 crore.

- Cochin Shipyard Limited**

- A contract was inked in November 2024 for Short Refit and Dry Docking of INS Vikramaditya at an overall cost of Rs 1,207.5 crore.

- Chowgule & Company Private Limited**
A contract was signed in October 2024 for procurement of six Air Cushion Vehicles for the Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of Rs 387.44 crore. These amphibious vessels, also called 'Hovercrafts', will be procured under the Buy (Indian) category.

- Defence Budget**
In the Union Budget of FY 2024-25, MoD has been allocated Rs 6.22



Record Defence Exports:
Defence exports touched a record Rs 21,083 crore (approx. US\$ 2.63 Billion) in the FY2023-24, a growth of 32.5% over the previous fiscal when the figure was Rs 15,920 crore. The figures indicated that the exports grew by 31 times in the last 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14. The defence industry, including the private sector and DPSUs, have made tremendous efforts in achieving the highest-ever exports. The private sector and DPSUs contributed about 60% and 40% respectively. Raksha Mantri has exuded confidence that the target to export defence equipment worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029 will be met.

lakh crore (approx. US \$75 Billion), the highest among the Ministries. The allocation to MoD for FY 2024-25 is higher by approx. Rs one lakh crore (18.43%) over the allocation for FY 2022-23 and 4.79% more than allocation of FY 2023-24. Out of this, a share of 27.66% goes to capital; 14.82% for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational pre-

paredness; 30.66% for Pay and Allowances; 22.70% for Defence Pensions, and 4.17% for civil organisations under MoD. The total allocation comes out to approx. 12.90% of Budgetary Estimate of Union of India. 75 per cent of the defence capital procurement budget has been earmarked for domestic industry.

Gaganyaan Programme
The Gaganyaan Programme was launched by the Government for demonstrating Human Spaceflight capability in Low Earth Orbit, wherein, a manned spacecraft will be launched safely to LEO for an orbital mission of 5 to 7 days followed by safe re-entry and recovery on earth. The Prime Minister revealed the names of four IAF astronauts to the nation and awarded them with the 'Space Wings' in February 2024. The four IAF astronauts are: Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla. Presently, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair are undergoing space training at NASA for Axiom-4 mission to International Space Station scheduled in 2025.

Defence Cooperation
The year saw Ministry of Defence take defence cooperation with its friendly countries to the next level through visits of the dignitaries and military exercises. Raksha Mantri, Raksha Rajya Mantri, Chief of Defence Staff, three Service Chiefs and Defence Secretary undertook visits to various nations with the aim to strengthen defence ties with them. Major events of Raksha Mantri include:

- US visit: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited US from August 23 to 26, 2024. He met US Secretary of Defence Mr Lloyd Austin, during which the two Ministers held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral defence cooperation, industrial collaboration, regional security and other international issues. Raksha Mantri also met the US Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Mr Jake Sullivan.

- Russia visit: Raksha Mantri visited Russia from December 08 to 10, 2024. He co-chaired the 21st session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation with his Russian counterpart in Moscow. Raksha Mantri also called on Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Both leaders discussed various issues of bilateral defence cooperation, and expressed that partnership between both countries holds immense potential and combined efforts will pave way for remarkable outcomes.

- UK visit: Raksha Mantri paid an official visit to London, United Kingdom from January 09 - 10, 2024. He held a bilateral meeting with UK Defence Minister Mr Grant Shapps in London, and discussed a range of defence, security and cooperation matters with particular emphasis on enhancing defence industrial collaboration. He also called on the then Prime Minister of UK Mr Rishi Sunak, highlighting that both nations have made significant strides in moulding and recrafting the historic ties into a modern, multifaceted and mutually beneficial partnership.

- ADMM-Plus: Raksha Mantri addressed the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) at Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 21, 2024. He reiterated India's stand for rule-based international order for peace & prosperity in Indo-Pacific, and pitched for Buddhist doctrines of peaceful co-existence for global peace. On the sidelines, Raksha Mantri met the Defence Minister of China Admiral Dong Jun and highlighted the fact that amicable relations between India and China, would have positive implications for global peace and prosperity. He also met US Secretary of Defense Mr Lloyd J Austin, with both sides recognising remarkable progress made under US-India Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap. Raksha Mantri also met his Malaysian, Lao PDR, South Korean, Australian, New Zealand Philippines counterparts.

- India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue: Raksha Mantri and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar hosted Japanese Minister of Defense Mr Kihara Minoru and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Yoko Kamikawa for the 3rd India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi on August 20, 2024. On the sidelines of the 2+2 dialogue, a bilateral meeting was held between Raksha Mantri and his Japanese counterpart. They reviewed the existing defence cooperation activities and discussed ways to enhance further cooperation.

- India-Singapore Defence Dialogue: Raksha Mantri and Minister of Defence of Singapore co-chaired the sixth India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi on October 22, 2024. Both Ministers acknowledged the deep and long-standing bilateral defence relations based on shared outlook on regional peace, stability and security.

- India-Netherlands: Raksha Mantri held a bilateral meeting with the Netherlands Defence Minister Ms Kajsa Ollongren in New Delhi on February 23, 2024. Both Ministers discussed the possibilities for expanding their bilateral defence cooperation, particularly in maritime and industrial domains. They noted the increased interaction between the two Navies and expressed keenness to work together to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

OROP 10th Anniversary
November 07, 2024 marked the tenth anniversary of One Rank One Pension (OROP). OROP was implemented as a significant step towards addressing long-standing demand and reaffirming the nation's gratitude to the heroes. It is a tribute to veterans and ex-service personnel who dedicated their lives in protecting the nation. Over the decade lakhs of pensioners and their families have benefitted from the landmark initiative. OROP also represents the government's commitment to the well-being of the armed forces.

Appointments
Rajnath Singh assumed charge as the Raksha Mantri for the second consecutive term in June 2024. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our aim will be to further strengthen the security apparatus of the country, with focus on achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing. Armed Forces modernisation and the welfare of the soldiers, both serving and retired, will continue to be our main focus," he said upon his joining.

Sanjay Seth assumed charge of the office of Minister of State, Ministry of Defence in June 2024. He said he would strive towards fulfilment of several initiatives of the Ministry of Defence aimed at strengthening the nation's security.

General Upendra Dwivedi, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Air Chief Marshal AP Singh took over as the Chief of the Air Staff, Chief of the Naval Staff and Chief of the Air Staff respectively this year.

Rajesh Kumar Singh assumed the office of Defence Secretary and Shri Sanjeev Kumar took over as Secretary (Defence Production).

DG Paramesh Sivamani took over as the 26th Director General of Indian Coast Guard.

--To Be Concluded

Javed Rana announces key initiatives for water, tribal welfare

RAJOURI: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a review meeting with officers from all departments held at Rajouri to assess progress on development projects and tribal welfare schemes being implemented in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, briefed the meeting regarding the status of various developmental initiatives being implemented under central and UT sponsored welfare schemes.

The meeting covered a wide range of issues including Rural Development, Power, Public Works, PMGSY, Jal Jeevan Mission, Irrigation and Flood Control, upgradation of education and health infrastructure, Cluster Tribal Model Villages, forestry and wildlife, tribal welfare schemes, industries and other social sector programs.

The Minister stressed the importance of ensuring quality in developmental works, improving work culture while upholding high standards of workmanship.

He asked the Deputy Commissioner to



identify state land for creating a land bank to facilitate plantations under the Forest Department, particularly as a compensatory measure for projects in forested areas.

Javed Rana instructed for installation of handpumps on community basis instead of individual setups. He announced provision of two water tankers per constituency in

Rajouri district to address water scarcity in deficit villages.

The Minister directed for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) worth Rs 10 crore per constituency for soil conservation under convergence with MGNREGA, IWMP, and Irrigation and Fisheries Department to enhance water recharge and raise the

water table. He emphasised incorporating projects under the "Dharti Aabha" initiative to enhance education infrastructure and road connectivity.

Javed Rana highlighted that all villages in Rajouri have been included in tribal welfare schemes, ensuring extensive benefits for the tribal population.

MLAs from Rajouri, Budhal, Kalakote, and Thanamandi constituencies besides DDC Chairperson Adv Naseem Liaquat, raised key issues pertaining to their regions.

The Minister assured them of timely resolution of their issues and concerns while reiterating government's commitment towards meeting public aspirations and prioritising the needs of public representatives.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson, Adv Naseem Liaquat, MLA Budhal Javed Iqbal Choudhary, MLA Kalakote, Thakur Randeer Singh, MLA Thanamandi, Muzaffar Khan and MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed, ADDC Rajouri, Dr Raj Kumar Thapa and other district and sectoral officers.

Snowfall halts Smart City buses in Sgr, commuters face hardships

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Heavy snowfall in Kashmir Valley, particularly in Srinagar, disrupted the operations of Smart City buses as the services were suspended for the entire day. Partial operations resumed in the evening for some buses. The news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) received calls from various parts of Srinagar city and its outskirts, with residents expressing frustration and anger over the suspension of Smart City bus services. A commuter at Lal Chowk said, "We rely on these Smart City buses for our daily commute. I had an emergency today, but I was left stranded as these buses were missing from the roads." "This isn't the first time snowfall has disrupted public transport. They advertise these buses as a modern solution, but what's the point if they can't function during bad weather?" said another resident at Lal Chowk.

A tea stall owner in the city said, "People were forced to take cabs or walk long distances in freezing weather. If the government is investing in such projects, they should ensure

that they are operational in all conditions."

A student from IGNOU expressed his disappointment, saying he had an exam and depended on the Smart City buses for transportation. "I waited for hours and eventually had to walk all the way to my exam center. This is unacceptable," he said.

When contacted, officials from Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) told KNO that the bus services were disrupted due to snowfall during the night, which led to a power outage at the Pantha Chowk charging station, preventing buses from being charged.

The official added that the situation improved in the evening, allowing for partial resumption of bus services. "If the electricity supply remains stable throughout the night, the buses will be fully charged and operational in the city and its outskirts tomorrow," he said. Speaking about the charging system, the official said, "It takes nearly three hours to fully charge a bus, providing a backup of 100 kilometers. The buses charge on 11,000 kV lines overnight. We are optimistic that services will be fully restored tomorrow if power supply issues are resolved."

Admission to Sainik School Nagrota for 2025-26 to Be Done Online



JAMMU: Sainik School Nagrota is offering admissions for class VI and class IX for the academic year 2025-26. The All India Sainik School Entrance Examination (AISSEE) 2025 will be conducted on 19th January 2025 by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Candidates wishing to apply can register online through the official AISSEE 2025 registration portal at AISSEE-2025 Registration.

The entire admission process for Sainik Schools has been made online for the academic year 2025-26 through a dedicated portal, available at AISSEE-2025 Portal.

Detailed guidelines and instructions regarding the examination are uploaded on the AISSEE portal and are available in the Information Bulletin for AISSEE-2025 at AISSEE-2025 Information Bulletin.

Snowfall brings hope for Kashmir's farmers, horticulturists

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: The first spell of snowfall this season, after a prolonged dry period, has brought joy to thousands of fruit growers and farmers in Kashmir, who are now hopeful of better crop production this year.

The Kashmir Valley received its first heavy snowfall on Friday evening, ending an extended dry spell and bringing relief to horticulturists and agriculturists alike.

Experts speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the six-month-long dry period, with no rain or snow, had raised concerns for fruit growers and farmers. They said prolonged dryness leads to a lack of soil moisture, which can severely affect both the quality and yield of crops, including apples, in the following season.

They said a dry spell also delays the germination of Rabi crops, which negatively impacts production. "A lack of rainfall over an extended period dries up soil moisture, which, in turn, affects flowering and fruit-setting," experts said, adding that



crop quality and quantity are directly linked to these processes.

The first snowfall of the season, however, has brought relief to worried farmers and fruit growers.

Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, a renowned fruit trader and expert from Shopian, said, "There were no rains for nearly six

months. If this dryness had continued, it would have severely impacted the horticulture and agriculture sectors."

Bhat added that most orchards rely on rainwater, and the prolonged dryness had left no water for irrigation. "With the snowfall, we now have sufficient water, and such issues have been mitigated," he said. He further noted that the dry spell had increased the risk of pest attacks, as dryness and a lack of moisture make fruit trees vulnerable. Dr Suhaib, an environmental expert, told KNO, "Prolonged dry weather significantly impacts orchards and fruit crops in Kashmir, posing substantial challenges to agricultural productivity. Extended dry spells disrupt natural irrigation patterns, reducing water availability for crops. This scarcity hampers the growth and development of fruit trees, leading to reduced yield and quality." The extended dryness had also worried farmers who had sown Rabi crops. The low soil moisture delayed germination, which would have affected production. Dry conditions also created an environment conducive to pests and diseases, further threatening orchards.

Continued From P1...

Snowfall Cripples

Moreover, the weatherman predicted that the weather would remain generally dry till December 31.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that weather would remain generally cloudy between January 1 and 2 and there is a possibility of light snow at isolated places.

He added that there is a possibility of light to moderate snowfall at many places of Jammu and Kashmir from January 3 to 6.

The MeT in its advisory stated that a cold-wave is expected at isolated places on 30th and 31st December. "In view of snowfall, sub-freezing temp & icy conditions over roads (plains/higher reaches), the tourists, travellers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisories.

Meanwhile, all the flights at Srinagar Airport were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions on Saturday.

Director Srinagar Airport, Javed Anjum, confirmed to KNO that due to inclement weather conditions and poor visibility, all 35 flights from Srinagar airport were cancelled.

He advised passengers to stay in touch with their respective airlines for updates on rescheduling or refunds.

On Friday, only six flights were cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions.

All the major roads and highways continued to remain closed for vehicular movement for the 2nd straight day while the stranded vehicles were allowed to ply towards Ramban on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

"All the stranded passengers have been allowed to ply towards Ramban today," a top official said, adding that no fresh traffic was allowed from either side along the National Highway.

He added that the traffic has also been stopped at Banihal and Ramban due to the fresh snowfall.

The roads including Mughal Road, SSG road, Bandipora-Gurez and others also remained closed for the vehicular movement as precautionary measure.

Restore essential

Special instructions were issued to the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to coordinate with airport authorities to assist stranded tourists and to provide transportation, if required.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir assured that sufficient stocks of essential commodities, including food and other civil supplies, are available in all districts.

Commending officials for their efforts, the Chief Minister urged them to remain vigilant, proactive, and responsive to the needs of the people during this challenging period.

He emphasized the importance of seamless coordination and uninterrupted services to mitigate the impact of the snowfall on the public.

PDD restores

has streamlined nearly 90 percent of power supply to give a major relief to the residents of the valley.

Taking to micro-blogging site—X, Omar said, "Out of forty-one 33KV feeders dysfunctional in Kashmir due to heavy snowfall, thirty seven have been restored and charged." (SIC)

He further said, "Similarly, out of 739 dysfunctional 11KV feeders, 639 have been restored and recharged, bringing a major relief to the valley.

The majority of the rest are expected to be restored by the evening. Kudos to the PDD team for their relentless efforts in this snowfall in such a short time." (SIC)

Earlier in the day, Omar said, "In Kashmir region, 41 feeders at 33 KV level and 739 feeders at 11kv level are down. None at

132KV or 220 level. Restoration work is underway and more than 90 percent feeders are expected to be up and functional by evening today. I'm in regular touch with the PDD team to monitor the situation." (SIC)

In the meantime, KPDC Chief Engineer (Distribution) Aaqib Sultana Waheed Deva informed KNO that "We have almost restored 85 to 90 percent of power supply across the Kashmir valley."

"However, there is a small dependency in Kulgam and Anantnag districts. Most likely, we will restore the power supply completely by Saturday late evening. We are continuously working on it," Deva said.

On asking about the damage due to snowfall, Deva said, "As such there is no major damage witnessed so far but there has been a minor damage to Distribution Transformers (DTs). We are ascertaining the damage to DTs."

I have great

of any sportsperson is not for any other player or team but he plays to overcome his own limitations," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the initiatives like Kashmiri Pandit Premier League will provide a vibrant platform to the players to hone their abilities and overcome their limitations. It will also help in developing a good rapport among the members of Kashmiri Pandit community living in different parts of the country, he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated his commitment towards the welfare and empowerment of Kashmiri Pandit Community.

"Kashmiri Pandit community is a living example of the ideals and values of sacrifice, resilience, determination and nationalism enshrined in our culture. I am truly proud of their accomplishments at national and international arena," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"I see Kashmiri Pandit community as a ray of light for the bright future of the country," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised that we must follow the vision of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi' and ensure that every youth is included in, and harnessed to, the process of development.

"We are one of the world's oldest civilizations and have an exceptionally young demographic profile. This opens up for us the possibility of a demographic dividend. It is potentially the single most important comparative advantage we enjoy which could be leveraged to catapult India to the front ranks of human civilization," he said.

He further called upon the youth to stay connected with their social & cultural roots and selflessly serve the society.

"I have great faith in the youth of Jammu Kashmir. It is our collective responsibility to provide them with the necessary opportunities and handholding and empower them to contribute to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Anil Bhat, President, Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization shared the future endeavour of his organization to organise a similar tournament in Kashmir as well.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) &K; senior officials of UT and Police Administration, prominent citizens, sportspersons and members of Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization were present.

Indian Army

experiences, refine combat skills, and enhance coordination in challenging scenarios.

This edition of Surya Kiran follows high-level visits, including Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi's visit to Nepal and Nepal Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel's visit to India.

The joint training underscores the strong ties of friendship, trust, and cultural linkage between the two countries, reflecting their commitment to broader defense cooperation and shared security objectives.

The exercise is seen as a key initiative to bolster bilateral relations and operational collaboration between India and Nepal.

Stranded tourists

one of the stranded tourists said.

Besides providing spaces to the stranded tourists at their homes, the locals in Ganderbal district also opened Masjids to allow the stranded tourists to take shelter till the road was cleared. "The locals opened the Masjid for us after the roads were closed due to the snowfall. Kashmiris are completely different from what is being portrayed. Such hospitality doesn't exist anywhere other than Kashmir," said, a stranded tourist, who spent the night in a Masjid.

Pertinently, Kashmir received the major snowfall of the season on Friday leading to suspension of the flight operations and the closure of major roads and highways as a precautionary measure

Dy CM Choudhary

is speeded up so that the people do not face any inconvenience.

"We should be available to the general public so as to have maximum outreach which would ensure need based and proper implementation of various government initiatives," maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

Will Investigate

administration off guard, leading to significant inconvenience and safety concerns.

The heavy snowfall caused roadblocks, particularly on high-altitude routes like Sonamarg, Gulmarg and Pahalgam, where tourists were unprepared for the sudden weather shift.

At many places, the local villagers had to unlock mosques and their homes to provide shelter to the stranded travellers. "At some places babies are found in cars without milk and other essential supplies," as per the social media reels and videos.

Around 2000 vehicles were stranded on the vital Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the valley's lifeline due to the snow accumulation.

Similarly, the flight operations at Srinagar International Airport were affected, leaving visitors stuck without proper accommodations.

The failure of the MeT Department to predict the intensity of snowfall has drawn severe criticism from both locals and tourists on social media.

The Hoteliers and travel agencies expressed frustration, stating that better forecasts could have allowed for more preparation and minimized disruption.

People took to the social media platforms to express their frustration and backlash against the MET.

Those stuck on several roads shared their ordeals, with some posting pictures of being stranded in snowbound vehicles or makeshift shelters. Others tagged the MET department and government authorities, demanding accountability for the oversight.

Cold weather

He also pointed out that respiratory tract infections, including those caused by seasonal flu and viruses, have a compounding effect on cardiovascular health.

The COVID-19 pandemic further revealed the connection between viral infections and increased heart attack and stroke rates.

To mitigate these risks, Dr. advises maintaining warm surroundings, avoiding prolonged exposure to cold, and ensuring timely vaccination against seasonal flu for high-risk individuals. "Preventive measures, especially for the elderly and heart patients, are crucial during October and November when such cases surge," he added.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Mother's name of my Son has been Wrongly mentioned in his school records as Parveena Begum, while as her actual and correct name is Parveena Nargis. 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 principal Wular Valley Model Secondary school Papchan Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Shakeel Ahmad Khan.
F/O Hadi Shakeel.
R/O Kanzalwan tehsil Gurez District Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Son has been Wrongly mentioned in his school records as 06-03-2013. While as his Actual and correct DOB is 06-03-2015. 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 Headmaster GOVT Boys Middle Bagh Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Naseer Ahmad Ganie.
F/O Ibrahim Naseer.
R/O ward NO 06 Bagh Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that my Daughter Namely Jabeena Zaffar is reading in 4th class in Army Good Will School Ayatmullah Bandipora. Her name and DOB has been Mistakenly written as Jabeena Zaffar Lone and DOB as 02-03-2017, instead of Jabeena Zaffar and DOB 01-03-2015. Now want to make necessary rectification in the name and DOB of my Daughter in her school records, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Army Good will School Ayatmullah Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Zaffar Ahmad Lone.
F/O Jabeena Zaffar.
R/O Shah pora Chowrwan Gurez District Bandipora.

Nitish Kumar Reddy's dramatic 105* leads India's rearguard

India 358 for 9 (Reddy 105*, Washington 50, Boland 3-57, Cummins 3-86) trail Australia 474 by 116 runs

A defiant maiden Test century by Nitish Kumar Reddy, brought up with No. 11 Mohammed Siraj for company, led an outstanding rearguard from India at the MCG to give them hope of at least avoiding defeat in the fourth Test although Australia were still set to take a significant first innings lead.

Reddy, who had shown his batting prowess at various stages through his first Test series, arrived at the crease early on the third morning after a Rishabh Pant dismissal that prompted some strong reactions and was still there when bad light and rain brought an early close. He forged a stand of 127 in just under 48 overs with Washington Sundar to halt Australia in their tracks when they appeared likely to take a stranglehold on the game.

However, Reddy's crowning moment came amid huge tension after Washington was dismissed. In what appeared to be a lack of communication, he and Jasprit Bumrah came back for a second run off the final ball of an over which exposed the No. 10 to Pat Cummins and he edged to slip as Reddy watched from the non-striker's end on 99. But Siraj was able to negotiate three deliveries from Cummins to huge cheers from the Indian supporters.

Now, facing Scott Boland, Reddy defended two deliveries before unleashing a lofted straight drive down the ground to bring up a magnifi-

cent century, just the second of his first-class career. His father was in the crowd, among those on the edge of the seat as the landmark approached, and couldn't contain his emotion. When the players left the field for a second



time-rain having earlier brought an early tea - Australia's advantage had been whittled down to 116, far fewer than looked on the cards when they had India 221 for 7 before lunch. They will

still hope for a lead in three figures but could now face a race against time to earn victory on a true pitch that hasn't shown significant signs of deterioration. The second evening had finished with



Australia claiming 3 for 6 around the run out of Yashasvi Jaiswal, the ramifications of which were still being hotly debated when play resumed, with India 310 behind. Pant led the

scoring early on the third morning, but fell in a manner that created many headlines when he attempted to scoop Boland over fine leg and got a leading edge to deep third. In a Test that had been dominated by Sam Konstas' scoops, this was an example of when things go badly.

Ravindra Jadeja played a largely defensive innings before being defeated by a superb piece of bowling from Lyon who skidded one through to trap him lbw. It was just Lyon's fourth wicket of the series but, having later made one bounce to remove Washington, he could yet have a key role to play. When Jadeja fell, India were still 253 runs adrift with the follow-on the first target as Washington joined Reddy, although there's almost no chance Cummins would have enforced it.

Reddy had been positive when he arrived, quickly overtaking Jadeja's score despite his partner having a 35-ball headstart. Shortly after Lyon had removed Jadeja, Reddy skipped down to the offspinner and sent him straight for six. His half century came up with a rasping back-foot drive against Mitchell Starc and, as it had previously in the series, his technique shone of someone who will be higher up the order as his career develops.

Washington, who played a vital role with the bat in the famous 2021 victory at the Gabba, was watchful throughout, collecting his first and only boundary from his 103rd ball when he sent Starc through point with an elegant drive. The selection of the extra allrounders over Shubman Gill had been the topic of much debate but they could have done little more with the bat to justify it.

21st District Water Skiing Championship Concludes in Kathua



The 3 Days 21st District water skiing Championship organized on 26/12/2024 by J&K Water skiing Association concluded today on 28/12/2024 at Ranjit Sagar Dam Basohli, Kathua. In the event more than 100 participants both boys and girls from Different Districts of UT J&K participated in this Championship. The championship organising under the aegis of J&K Sports Council in collaboration with J&K Tourism Department and other Government Departments.

On the occasion Chief Guest was Additional Deputy commissioner Basohli - Shri Anil Kumar Thakur (JKAS) and Guest of Honour Shri Ajeet Singh (JKAS) BBDA, Basohli and Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma (JKPS) Deputy Superintendent of Police, Basohli distributed the prizes among the winners of water skiing championship and all encourage them to winners, participants, local youth that taking stress to more & more taking part in this type game which helped him in feature to made a carrier.

The event was organise under the leadership of President Ms Rajni kumari Sawhney. Genral Secretary Muzaffar Ahmad Shah and Organizing Secretary Ghulam Mohammad Khan seen the interest here in youth related to games say that the next UT Championship conducting here in next coming month.




The second evening had finished with Australia claiming 3 for 6 around the run out of Yashasvi Jaiswal, the ramifications of which were still being hotly debated when play resumed, with India 310 behind. Pant led the scoring early on the third morning, but fell in a manner that created many headlines when he attempted to scoop Boland over fine leg and got a leading edge to deep third.



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I could have got Konstas out **6-7 times** in first 2 overs: Bumrah

MELBOURNE: Jasprit Bumrah said on Saturday he "never felt" he was far away from a wicket even as Australia's 19-year-old Test debutant Sam Konstas went after India's champion pacer in what is a rare sight in international cricket. Bumrah said it was an interesting battle against Konstas on the opening day of the fourth Test but believed he could have got the batter out six-seven times in the first two overs. Konstas, who played some unconventional shots on way to an impressive 60 off 65 balls, hit Bumrah for two sixes during his knock. This was the first time in three years that Bumrah was hit for a six in Test cricket. "I don't look at things that way. Yes, I have felt good and the results have been in my favour but I have bowled better in different places. This is how cricket goes, some days your execution might be off and you get wickets but some days your execution could be perfect but you don't get wickets. So I think it all evenly balances out," Bumrah told Channel 7. "I have experienced heaps of it. I have played T20 cricket a lot, more than 12 years of T20 cricket." Bumrah, who has so far taken 24 wickets in the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25, added, "Interesting batsman (Konstas) as well and I always felt I was in the game, I never felt I am far away from a wicket. "Initially I felt I could have got him out 6-7 times in the first two overs but that's how cricket goes, some days it pays off, it looks good, some days if it doesn't you might be criticising the same person. "I love different challenges, always looking forward to a new challenge." Bumrah, who made his ODI debut Down Under, said Australia always brings the best out of him. "It always brings the best in you. I came here on my first Test tour in 2018, I made my ODI debut here in 2016 as well, so it brings out a lot of challenges because the wickets are very flat, the Kookaburra ball does a bit with the new ball and then doesn't do anything. "So your accuracy is tested, the weather sometimes can test your fitness, your patience, so everything is tested. So once you come out on top after that it really leaves you in a good space and you can become a better cricketer," said Bumrah, who returned figures of 4 for 99 in the first innings, here. Bumrah also praised Steve Smith, who scored 140 in Australia's first innings, terming him a challenging batter to bowl to. "He (Smith) is always been a challenge. He is unorthodox, bit like me. He is not a conventional batter, someday he is shuffling someday not, so it brings out a new challenge. He scores in different area of the ground and so you have to be consistent and bowl good balls ball after ball. "I always had good battles with him in all formats I played against him. Obviously, one of the greats of the game and in this format he is always difficult to bowl," he said.