

Kashmir Convener

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Under Amit Shah's leadership MHA working hard to build 'terror-free' Bharat

● Multi Agency Centre of IB to undergo major technical, operational revamp

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the leadership of Amit Shah is working hard to build "terror-free" Bharat in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.

The 2024 annual report of the MHA accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states that the country is heading towards achieving the goal with the approach of zero tolerance against terror. "Under this vision, the MHA designated Hizb-ut-Tahrir as a terrorist organisation under UAPA. The MHA designated Goldy Brar & Qasim Gujjar as terrorists. Nine organisations have been declared as Unlawful organizations," it states. "In a significant step towards the goal of terror-free Bharat, two



different categories of explosive detectors indigenously manufactured by Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Department of Atomic Energy, and DRDO were handed over to the Director, IB, by the Principal Scientific

Adviser to GOI for Security Forces. The indigenously developed detectors are to be handed over by IB to 12 identified security agencies for field deployment," the report states.

"Multi Agency Centre (MAC) of

IB, responsible for tackling security challenges in the country, in New Delhi is poised to undergo a major technical and operational revamp to increase its reach and efficacy," the report states.

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, according to the report, has stressed for greater synergy among all the agencies to dismantle the terror networks and their supporting eco-systems to address the evolving security threat scenario of the country.

The Union Home Minister has also laid emphasis on constituting a team of young, technically proficient, and passionate officers drawn from all agencies involved in national security to dismantle the terror ecosystem utilising big data and AI/ML-driven analytics and

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KPDCL 'gets 1700 MW power against regular demand of 1800 MWs'

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: Amid peak winters, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on an average is getting nearly 1700 Megawatts (MW) of Power against the average demand of nearly 1800 MWs.

A top official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that "The local DISCOM on an average was receiving nearly 1700 MW of power against the peak demand of over 1800 MW."

The official further said that the highest demand of power in the ongoing winters was recorded at 1922 MW including the enduring power curtailment schedule.

In the meantime, KPDCL on its social media handle

X said that some areas in Srinagar were affected due to the constraints of 220 KV transmission level of Zainakote

Bagh, Jawahar Nagar, Rajbagh and Dandarkha is affected. Power is being supplied on a rotation basis." (SIC)



grid.

KPDCL said, "Due to system constraints at the transmission level (220 KV Zainakote grid), the power supply to areas fed by R/S Exhibition, Batmaloo, Rakhi Arth, Narkara, Gangbough, KP

The DISCOM however said that the power situation in these areas is likely to improve on Thursday. "We regret the inconvenience caused to the general public. The situation

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Use innovative ways to crush terror in J&K: Report

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has stated that the government is committed to crushing terrorism by using innovative ways.

The 2024 annual report of

the MHA accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states: "The government is committed to setting an example by cracking down on terrorists through innovative means. In line with Prime

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ERA of recommendations over in J&K: MHA

Umaisar Gull Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has stated that the era of recommendations in Jammu and Kashmir is over and now all appointments are made on merit basis.

The 2024 annual report of the MHA accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states: "Instead of terrorism, bomb blasts, firing, stone pelting, and strikes, now education, technical

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Union Cabinet Restructures Crucial PMFBY, RWBCIS Schemes

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 with an overall outlay of Rs.69,515.71 Crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The decision will help in risk coverage of crops from non-preventable natural calamities for farmers across the country till 2025-26, According to the Associated News Bureau (ANB).

In addition to the same, for large scale technology infusion in implementation of the scheme leading to increasing transparency and claim calculation and settlement, the Union Cabinet has also approved creation of Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT) with a corpus of Rs.824.77 Crore.

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CS launches YUVA survey to identify 1.37 lakh entrepreneurs



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today launched the much anticipated UT wide baseline survey under Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan).

The survey, to be done jointly by Labour &

Employment (L&E) and Planning Departments, aims identification of around 1.37 lakh potential entrepreneurs besides seeking feedback from the existing enterprises.

Present on the occasion were Vice Chancellors of UT Universities,

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Katra Returns To Normal After Weeklong Protests

Yogesh

JAMMU: Nearly one crore pilgrims paid obeisance at Shri Vaishno Devi Shrine in Katra, Reasi till December 31st 2024, said the CEO of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

Anshul Garg, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SMVDSB, said, "94.83 lakh pilgrims pay obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in 2024, the second highest number in a decade."

Earlier on December 12, 2024, Garg stated that more than 90 lakh devotees have visited the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir for the third consecutive year.

"For the third consecutive

year, the number of devotees (arriving at the Shrine) has crossed 90 lakh. Last year, we crossed 95 lakh. This year's

in connectivity. The CEO also said that the Board's ongoing infrastructure initiatives to improve the pilgrimage



yatra is following almost the same trend," Garg said.

He added that efforts are underway to provide more facilities for the devotees and that the footfall in Katra will increase with the improvement

experience. Moreover, normalcy has returned to Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims, as business activity

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Statehood Restoration: Two independent J&K MLAs launch signature campaign

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Amid ongoing political debate over the demand of restoration of statehood



for Jammu and Kashmir, the two independent Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Rajouri and Surankote constituencies, Wednesday launched a signature campaign.

The MLAs include Muzaffar Iqbal Khan

representing Rajouri Assembly Constituency and Choudahry Muhammad Akram, representing Surankote AC.

On the occasion, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, MLA Rajouri, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while speaking to the media, said the initiative aims to gather one crore signatures over the next three months to present before the assembly.

He said that there was a discontent in the region regarding the changes implemented after August 5, 2019.

The independent MLA said their campaign stands of democratic nature, stating, "This campaign marks the beginning of our demand that we want to present our request to the Union Government in a constitutional and democratic way," Khan said.

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USBRL project: Final CRS inspection on Katra-Reasi Rail Link on Jan 7, 8

Umaisar Gull Ganie

SRINAGAR: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) is set to conduct the final inspection of the Katra-Reasi section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link on January 7 and 8, as part of the effort to complete the rail link from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, officials said.

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Northern Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyaya said the CRS (Northern Circle) is expected to inspect the 16.501 km Katra-Reasi section under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla New BG Rail Link Project before January 15.

The chief PRO said that Prime



Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the Jammu Railway Division from New Delhi on January 6.

Sources in Northern Railways told KNO that after the inauguration of the Jammu Railway Division, the

CRS will conduct the final inspection on January 7 and 8. Senior officials, including the CAO/USBRL, CBE, CSE, COM-G, CEGE from HQ, DRM/FZR, and other

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Govt Asks IAS Officers To Submit Property Details By Jan 31st

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The General Administration Department (GAD) of Jammu and Kashmir has issued a directive requiring IAS officers to submit their annual Immoveable Property Returns (IPR) online by January 31, 2025. This initiative aims to enhance accountability and ensure compliance with the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

In Circular No. 01-JK(GAD) of 2025, issued today, the GAD emphasized that failure to file the IPR within the stipulated deadline would lead to disciplinary action. The department reminded officers that this requirement is mandated under Rule 16(2) of the AIS (Conduct) Rules, which stipulates the timely submission of property returns to maintain transparency within the administrative system.

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Congress to launch ‘Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan’ campaign on Jan 3

NEW DELHI: The Congress will launch its ‘Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan Abhiyan’ in all blocks, districts and states on January 3. The campaign will culminate in a public rally at Mhow on January 26.

The campaign was to be launched on December 27 but was suspended in view of the demise of former prime minister Manmohan Singh on December 26 and the announcement of a seven-day mourning in his honour. The decision to organise the campaign was taken at the last meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) at Belagavi on December 26.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the implementation of the CWC resolution of December 26 was suspended for a week as a mark of “deep respect” and reverence for Singh.

“It will take more time to get used to the fact that he is no longer with us,” he said.

“Even so the Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan Abhiyan will resume in blocks,



districts and states, on January 3, 2025 leading up to rally in Dr. Ambedkar’s ‘janmabhoomi’ Mhow on January 26, 2025 which is also the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India coming into effect and the Republic of India being created,”

Ramesh said. The CWC, in its resolution, had said the Congress is “fiercely committed” to protecting the Constitution and the ideals of the Indian Independence Movement.

Accordingly, the CWC resolution said, the Congress will launch the Jai Bapu, Jai

Bhim, Jai Samvidhan campaign beginning with a rally in Belagavi on December 27 and culminating in a rally at Mhow on January 26.

During this month, it said, rallies and marches will be organised in every block, district and state as well.

Given the urgency of the need to preserve, protect and promote the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi as well as that of the Constitution, this movement will extend beyond January 26 as well, it said.

The CWC also said between January 26, 2025 and January 26, 2026, the Congress will launch a “massive”, nationwide public outreach campaign called the Samvidhan Bachao Rashtriya Padayatra in which all leaders will participate.

“This padayatra will be from village to village, township to township in the form of a relay,” the CWC said.

Finally, it said, an AICC session will be held in Gujarat in the first half of April 2025.

Gaurav Gogoi asks govt to roll back decision to withdraw India Post’s book packet service

NEW DELHI : Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi has sought roll back of the government’s decision to withdraw the India Post’s book packet service saying it will bring hardship to the literary community and directly impact millions of Indians in accessing books that contribute to their education, personal growth and connection to the world.

In a letter to Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia, Gogoi expressed deep concern over the decision to discontinue the India Post’s book packet service and said it will affect readers in smaller towns and villages across India since the service was often the most accessible and cost-effective way to receive books.

“On December 18, India Post decided to withdraw this service in favour of alternatives like Speed Post and Registered Post, which cost nearly 50 per cent more. This price increase poses a significant challenge for publishers, particularly those catering to niche audiences, regional languages, and specialised genres, and could make books less affordable for many readers,” he said.

The Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha said with the new, higher postal rates, access to literature will likely become

more limited, especially for those already facing barriers to obtaining reading materials.

He said the removal of a service that made books more accessible to people across

packet service of the postal department, which allowed publishers to send books weighing up to 200 pages for as little as Rs 20-25 anywhere across India, has been a



regions, without imposing a financial strain on either publishers or readers, runs counter to the broader goals of fostering a literate, informed, and equitable society.

“I request you to reverse this decision immediately to prevent further hardship for the literary community and ensure that books remain accessible to all. I would be grateful if this matter is treated with the urgency and attention it deserves, as it directly impacts the ability of millions of Indians to access books that contribute to their education, personal growth, and connection to the world around them,” he said.

Gogoi said the book

cornerstone for small and independent publishers.

Even when books weighed more, the cost of sending them remained very affordable, with prices rarely exceeding Rs 30.

“This affordable rate made books accessible to readers, particularly in rural and remote areas, where alternatives like private courier services were either too expensive or unavailable.

“While I understand that the changes in postal services were necessitated by the new Post Office Act, I urge you to consider the significant impact on small publishers and readers across India,” he said.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Owns Movable And Immovable Assets Worth Rs 1.64 Crore

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar owns movable and immovable assets worth Rs 1.64 crore, according to his latest disclosure of assets.

According to details of assets of the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues uploaded on the Bihar government website on December 31, Kumar has Rs 21,052 in cash and

nearly Rs 60,811.56 in different banks.

The Nitish Kumar government has made it mandatory for all cabinet ministers to disclose their assets and liabilities on the last day of every calendar year.

As per the disclosures, several ministers are richer than the CM.

According to the disclosures made by the CM on the website of the Cabinet Secretariat Department, Kumar has total movable properties worth around Rs 16,97,741.56, while he has immovable assets worth Rs 1.48 crore. The CM has only one residential flat at a cooperative housing society at Dwarka in New Delhi. In 2023, the CM had movable and immovable assets worth Rs 16,484,632.69.

According to disclosures, Bihar Deputy CM, Samrat Choudhary has Rs 6,70,000 in cash, whereas his wife Kumari Mamta has Rs 5,70,000 in cash. Choudhary also owns a rifle worth Rs 4 lakh. He also owns immovable assets worth Rs 8.28 crore. Another DyCM Vijay Kumar Sinha owns immovable assets worth Rs 2.42 crore, whereas his wife owns immovable assets worth Rs 3.32 crore. Sinha, who does not have cash in hand, also owns a revolver worth Rs 77,181.

Other ministers, who have declared their assets, include Sumit Kumar Singh (Science, Technology and Technical Education),

Renowned Botanist K S Manilal dies at 86

THRISSUR (KERALA), Jan 1: Eminent botanist and Padmashree awardee K S Manilal, celebrated for translating the ancient Latin text “Hortus Malabaricus” into English and Malayalam, died following age-related ailments, family sources said here on Wednesday.

He was 86.

He was not keeping well for some time and breathed his last at a private hospital here, they said.

Kattungal Subrahmanyam Manilal, popularly known as K S Manilal, was a former head of the Department of Botany at the University of Calicut.

His decades-long contributions to botany, particularly his efforts to translate Hortus Malabaricus, a 17th century botanical treatise documenting the rich flora of Malabar region (south-western coast of India) into English and Malayalam, earned him widespread recognition.

The treatise remains a vital resource for researchers, academicians and students studying the region’s botanical history.

Manilal penned several books and published over 200 research papers besides introducing many new plant species. He is a recipient of several national and international awards.

The Centre honoured him with Padmashree in 2020 for his contributions in the field of science.

Rajnath Singh Calls 2025 A Year Of Reform, Says “A Step In Modernisation Of Armed Forces”

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has declared 2025 as the ‘Year of Reforms.’ With this declaration, the MoD aims to transform the Armed Forces into a technologically advanced, combat-ready force capable of integrated multi-domain operations.

“Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting with all the Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on the eve of the New Year to review the progress on various schemes, projects, reforms and the way ahead. In order to give impetus to the ongoing and future reforms, it was unanimously decided to observe 2025 as the ‘Year of Reforms’ in the MoD. This would aim at transforming the Armed Forces into a technologically advanced combat-ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations,” as per a Ministry of Defence release.

During the meeting, it was decided that the MoD would focus that reforms should further



bolster Jointness & Integration initiatives, facilitating the establishment of Integrated Theatre Commands. Additionally, it was also emphasised that reforms should focus on new domains such as Cyber and Space, and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Hypersonics and Robotics. Associated Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures necessary to win future wars

should also be developed.

In the meeting, it was also decided that the MoD would focus on developing a shared understanding of operational requirements and joint operational capabilities through inter-service cooperation & training.

It was noted that procedures need to be made simpler and time-sensitive to facilitate swifter and robust capability

development.

It was also decided that MoD would focus on collaboration across various stakeholders in the defence ecosystem. Breaking silos. Effective civil-military coordination should aim to eliminate inefficiencies and optimise resources. Position India as a credible exporter of defence products, fostering R&D and partnerships between Indian industries and foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers for knowledge sharing & resource integration, as per the release.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that the ‘Year of Reforms’ would be a momentous step in the modernisation journey of the Armed Forces.

He stated, “It will lay the foundation for unprecedented advancements in the country’s defence preparedness, thus preparing to ensure the security and sovereignty of the nation amidst the challenges of the 21st century.”

NPCIL Invites Proposals To Set Up Small Nuclear Reactors

NEW DELHI : India’s nuclear power operator NPCIL on Tuesday invited proposals from the industry to set up 220 MW Bharat Small Reactors for captive use, replacing the existing coal-fired thermal power plants used by the steel, aluminium, copper and cement industries.

Bharat Small Reactors are 220 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) with an impeccable safety and excellent performance record, which are compact and tailored for captive use, according to a statement from the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

“NPCIL has today invited Request for Proposals (RFP) from visionary Indian industries for setting up 220 MW Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) for captive use,” said the statement.

The nuclear power operator said BSRs can provide a sustainable solution for decarbonization of hard-to-abate industries.

It would also help these industries secure economic benefits resulting from savings in carbon emission related taxes, thus increasing competitiveness of their products in the global markets, the statement said.

The government plans to deploy 40-50 of these nuclear reactors over the next decade in partnership with the private sector. This is part of the 220-megawatt BSR that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had unveiled in her budget speech in July.

“In line with the announcement in the 2024-25 Union budget, BSRs are planned to be set up with private capital, within the existing legal framework and approved business models,” the NPCIL said.

CBI probes ED officers in bribery & scholarship scam

SHIMLA: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered two First Information Reports (FIRs) against officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), including an Assistant Director and senior officers posted in Shimla, for allegedly demanding and accepting bribes.

The bribery allegations are linked to the ongoing investigation of the 181 crore scholarship scam in Himachal Pradesh.

According to CBI sources, the first FIR pertains to a bribe demand of 85 lakh, while the second involves 80 lakh. Both cases reportedly involve ED officers demanding money from educational institution promoters who are under investigation for financial irregularities under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The primary accused, ED Assistant Director Vishaldeep Singh, allegedly summoned the complainants to his Shimla office, tortured them, and coerced them into paying hefty bribes. The accused officers also involved middlemen, including Vishaldeep’s brother, a senior manager at Punjab National Bank

in Delhi, who allegedly helped facilitate the transactions.

The CBI, based on complaints from the educational institution promoters, planned a trap



operation near Chandigarh. The complainants were instructed to pay 55 lakh in cash to the accused officer while CBI operatives monitored the transaction. However, Vishaldeep Singh, reportedly alerted to the trap, escaped during the operation. His brother and a middleman were arrested, and 55 lakh in marked currency notes were recovered.

The bribery allegations have a direct connection to the 181 crore post-matriculation scholarship scam. Between 2013 and 2017,

funds intended for SC, ST, and OBC students were allegedly misappropriated by private educational institutions. The CBI, which began investigating the

yet to apprehend Vishaldeep Singh, who remains absconding. Attempts to locate him are ongoing.

During a press conference in Shimla, the complainants accused the ED officers of harassment, mental torture, and coercion. They revealed how they were summoned repeatedly, threatened with arrests, and forced to arrange large sums of money. One of the complainants even considered suicide, underscoring the extent of the alleged abuse.

The CBI has recovered substantial evidence, including 55 lakh in graft money and other documents implicating the accused. The agency is also probing the involvement of additional ED officials and their associates. The allegations of corruption within the ED’s Shimla office have raised serious concerns about the integrity of enforcement agencies tasked with combating financial crimes.

With the CBI expanding its investigation, the scandal is likely to have far-reaching implications, not only for the accused but also for the credibility of institutions meant to uphold justice.

Singhvi backs SC collegium move against appointing judges’ kin

NEW DELHI: Hailing the Supreme Court collegium proposal against the appointment of close kin of the judges in the high courts, noted lawyer and Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi has said they should be implemented sooner as judicial appointments are “non objective” that originally conceived.

“If true, both proposals under SC collegium consideration, seemingly radical, are good and should be implemented sooner rather than later,” Singhvi said in a post on X.

“Reality of judicial appointments is much murkier and much more non objective than originally conceived. Mutual Back scratching, uncle judges, family lineages etc demoralise others and bring disrepute to institution,” he said.

“But easier said than done: till now we are unable to even ban lawyer relatives practising in same HC as judge relatives. Time and again the system has proved stronger than desirable impulses for reform,” Singhvi lamented.

The Congress leader said

he wrote decades ago that collegium judges should disguise

may consider an idea against the appointment of close kin



themselves and sit in courts of those judges being considered for elevation or lawyers in action before elevation.

“Like some sultans of old used to do in ancient times to learn what are the real problems of their fiefdom. We would all be astonished (and scared) at the hiatus between cv and reality, between paper appraisal versus court performance. Interviews proposed now not as good as my suggestion but at least second best, though surprise checks in disguise not entirely unrealistic!”, he said in his post.

The apex court collegium

of the judges in the high courts, sources have said.

The proposal if acted upon could bring more inclusivity in such appointments and erase the perception of lineage outweighing merit in judicial appointments.

According to sources, the collegium could consider the idea of instructing the high court collegiums to refrain from recommending candidates, whose parents or close relatives were current or former Supreme Court or high court judges.

While this proposal may disqualify some deserving

candidates, one of the sources believed it would open up opportunities for first-generation lawyers and broaden the representation of diverse communities in the constitutional courts. However, this may lead to unjust denial of judgeship to deserving people just because they are related to sitting or former judges of the higher judiciary, added the source.

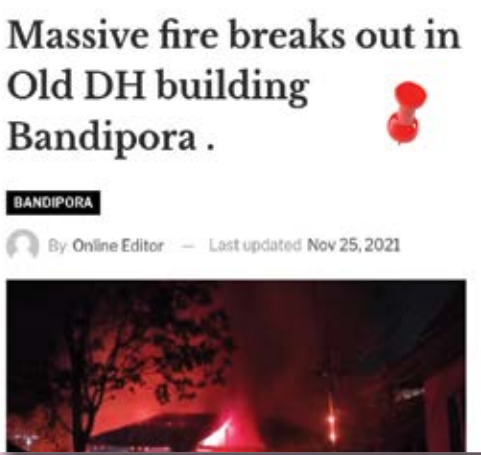
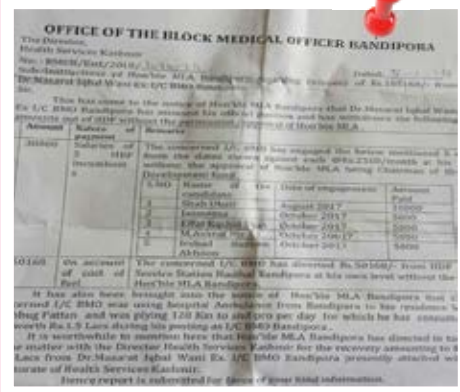
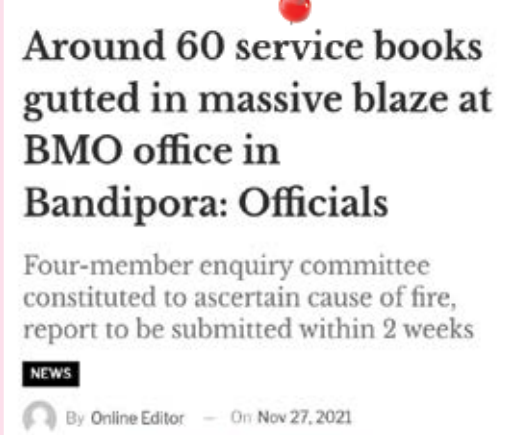
The three-member collegium, which recommends names for the judgeship in the apex court at the moment, comprises Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant.

Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Abhay S Oka are also part of the larger five-member apex court collegium that decides and recommends names for judgeship in the high courts.

The apex court collegium recently started personal interactions with the lawyers and judicial officers recommended for elevation in the high courts, marking a significant leap from the traditional biodata, written assessments and intelligence reports.

Public Outcry as Govt Appoints Controversial Figure to Bandipora Hospital

Civil Society Raises Red Flags Over Dr. Masarat’s Return



CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: In a surprising and contentious decision, the Jammu and Kashmir government has appointed Dr. Masarat Iqbal, who has faced multiple allegations of corruption and administrative misconduct during his previous tenures in Bandipora, as the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Bandipora.

On Sunday, the government transferred Dr. Masarat Iqbal Wani (Medical Officer, Block Lar) to District Hospital Bandipora as Medical Superintendent, vide Government Order No.915-JK(HME) of 2024, dated December 29, 2024.

Dr. Masarat's first tenure as In-Charge Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bandipora in 2018 was marred by allegations of embezzlement, misuse of resources, and illegal appointments.

According to official documents (a copy of which is available with Kashmir Convener), he was accused of withdrawing Rs 30,000 from the Hospital Development Fund (HDF) for unauthorized salaries and diverting Rs 50,168 from the HDF to a private service station without approval from the local MLA, who was the Chairman of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS).

He was also accused of consuming fuel worth Rs 1.5 lakh by using a hospital ambulance for his daily commute to his residence in Goshub Pattan from Bandipora.

Notably, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK)

attached him to the Directorate's office following an inquiry but did not lodge any formal case. (The year of this incident has not been specified.) Then-local MLA Bandipora, Usman Majid, had directed the recovery of Rs 1.85 lakh from the accused for alleged violations.

In his second tenure in 2021 as BMO Bandipora, Dr. Masarat once again found himself in the spotlight for the wrong reasons. On November 25, 2021, the BMO office was gutted in a mysterious fire that destroyed the service books of over 60 employees. Locals suspected the fire was a deliberate attempt to conceal evidence of illegal appointments, although these allegations were never independently verified.

Sources revealed that during the same tenure, the BMO office had a strained relationship with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) office. Both offices exchanged allegations and counter-allegations regarding the procurement of medicines and oxygen concentrators, with each accusing the other of corruption. "This internal discord badly impacted the smooth functioning of healthcare services in Bandipora," civil society members told Kashmir Convener.

Dr. Masarat's repeated controversies have cemented his reputation as a contentious figure within the health department, especially in Bandipora, where both of his previous tenures were characterized by allegations of mismanagement and misconduct.

Civil society members expressed concerns over his return to Bandipora in a senior administrative role. "After a long time, Bandipora District Hospital was back on track, but now we are again concerned. We hope the past mistakes are not repeated, and the government should also be cautious about the same," said Mohammad Iqbal, a resident of Bandipora.

Critics argue that appointing a figure with such a controversial history undermines public trust in the healthcare system. However, some suggest that his return offers an opportunity for redemption and improved healthcare delivery in the district.

"Bandipora has always had bad luck. Twice he has been reverted for the wrong reasons. All defaulters have been reserved for Bandipora. He has been tested twice in Bandipora but failed both times, yet he has been sent back with even more responsibilities," said Gowhar Ahmad, another resident.

Locals appealed to the district administration and public representatives to maintain extra vigilance to ensure past mistakes are not repeated.

Attempts by Kashmir Convener to reach out to the Secretary of Health & Medical Education Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Director Health Kashmir Dr. Jehangir Bakshi, and the officer in question, Dr. Masarat, proved futile. As soon as the officers provide their responses, Kashmir Convener will update their versions online.

Despite rich literary history, Bandipora awaits district library

SAJID RAINA

Bandipora: In a land known for 'Alim (knowledge, Adab (literature) and Aab (water)', the students and aspirants in north Kashmir's Bandipora district face difficulties as there is no modern district-level library.

The district has a tehsil-level library, established in 1972, which operates in private accommodation with limited study materials and no internet access. Its location is unknown to some students, and many are unaware of its existence.

The lack of a modern district-level library forces civil service aspirants to travel to Srinagar for library access.

Students speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Had the facility been available in Bandipora, it would save poor students a significant amount of money."

"The library consists of only two rooms, one serving as a reading area and the other for office staff. It is only open during office hours, limiting study time for students," they said.

Since its establishment, the tehsil library has been relocated multiple times. Initially located in the main market, it was destroyed by fire in 1974. It was then moved to different locations, including near Noor Masjid and the Board office. The library lacks essential resources.

Mariya, a student, said that while some books are available, there is a need for improvements in infrastructure. During her visit, she felt it resembled an old bookshop more than a library.

Although the district is known for its historical association with knowledge, literature and water, the lack of an upgraded library is a concern.

Locals have requested that the library be developed with modern technology and a 24-hour reading room for students preparing for competitive exams.

Sahil Bhat, a student, said the library's limited hours and poor seating arrangements are major issues. He questioned why intellectuals had not advocated for improvements over the years. Many aspirants find it difficult to study in groups due to limited space.

Another significant problem is the lack of access to e-books and online resources. Students from the outskirts also face challenges in visiting the library and have asked for online access to books.

The library is housed in private accommodation, and the people have urged the government to find a permanent location for its establishment.

An official said that higher authorities had approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) with a budget of 5.5 crore rupees, and construction is expected to start in March 2024. The site for the new library has already been identified, he said.

However, locals are concerned about the time taken to initiate construction and request that the government prioritise a suitable location for the library.

Mushtaq Ahmad, another student, said that local ministers had neglected this issue during their tenures. He urged the government and district authorities to prioritise the construction of a modern library with modern technology.

In Hajin, a town with a history of scholars, the local library, established in 1977, operates from a rented building. The library faces challenges like an insufficient collection of new books and a lack of modern infrastructure.

The library's holdings were last updated in 2018, and there have been no additions since. The library's resources are limited to two local newspapers, excluding national newspapers that are necessary for civil service aspirants.

The absence of national papers highlights the gap in resources. The infrastructure of the library is in need of repair.

Nadeem Azad Bhat, an aspirant, said the library lacks essential features like internet access, proper seating and modern technology, which limits its potential for education and community development.

The library is also hard to locate, as the rented building has no signage, and its presence is not well-known.

Zafar Farooq Mir, a civil service aspirant, said he travelled five kilometres to find the library closed.

The lack of resources and operational issues have forced students like Mir to consider moving to Srinagar for better facilities. The library's failure to meet the needs of students underlines the urgency for improvement.

The absence of electricity hampers technological advancements, and the lack of cooling or heating systems makes it difficult to study during extreme weather conditions—(KNO)



4-Day orientation/ Training programme for implementation of NALSA Scheme 2024 commences at Bandipora

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 01: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora on Wednesday inaugurated a four days Orientation Training Programme for the imple-

mentation of the NALSA Scheme 2024. The event was held under the Chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Bandipora/Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora, in presence of Sushil Singh (Additional District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora, Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun (CJM/Secretary DLSA Bandipora, Amandeep Singh (Munsiff Bandipora) and LSUM members. The inaugural session highlighted the importance of the scheme in ensuring access to justice for individuals with mental and intellectual disabilities.

Mehraj-ud-din Sofi, a retired judicial officer advisor/mentor of the committee, addressed the participants virtually. He emphasized the need for effective implementation of the scheme and provided valuable insights on the role of LSUM and LSUC in bridging the gap between the legal system and vulnerable individuals.

The Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, further elaborated on the objectives of the orientation programme, underscoring its importance in equipping the participants with the necessary knowledge and tools to implement the scheme effectively.

Asif Iqbal, a member of Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) and Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) for implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024, shared his practical experiences in the field, providing the participants with a firsthand perspective on handling cases related to mental and intellectual disabilities.

The programme facilitated interactive discussions, enabling participants to exchange ideas and explore effective ways to achieve the goals of the NALSA Scheme 2024. The training session concluded on a productive note, with participants expressing confidence in their ability to implement the scheme in their respective jurisdictions.



mentation of the NALSA Scheme 2024. The event was held under the Chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Bandipora/Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora, in presence of Sushil Singh (Additional District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora, Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun (CJM/Secretary DLSA Bandipora, Amandeep Singh (Munsiff Bandipora) and LSUM members. The inaugural session highlighted the importance of the scheme in ensuring access to justice for individuals with mental and intellectual disabilities.

SDM Sumbal Reviews Republic Day Arrangements

Bandipora: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, today convened a meeting to review the arrangements



for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations in the Sumbal sub-division. The meeting was attended by officer from civil administration, police, and various line departments.

The SDM emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event, which holds immense national significance.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding security arrangements, traffic management, uninterrupted power supply, and other logistical requirements.

SDM, directed all departments to finalize their preparations promptly and ensure all necessary facilities are in place at the venue well in advance.

The SDM further highlighted the need to maintain strict security measures and ensure public convenience during the celebrations.

He called upon all stakeholders to work in unison to uphold the sanctity and spirit of the event.

Among others the event was attended by Tehsildar Sumbal, BDOs and other concerned.

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.

Global Renewal: Bridging Ancient Wisdom and Modern Solutions



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

In addressing the critical challenges faced by humanity today, it is imperative to adopt a deeply reflective, interdisciplinary, and inclusive approach. The interconnectedness of global, subcontinental, Indian, and Kashmiri crises necessitates examining their roots, manifestations, and potential solutions through a comprehensive and profound lens that draws from timeless philosophies, ethical frameworks, and actionable insights from diverse cultures and traditions as pathways to global renewal by integrating harmoniously timeless wisdom and modern solutions for sustainable and just future. The dilemmas facing humanity, whether they relate to environmental degradation, economic inequality, political instability, moral degradation, crises in health/ education sectors, misgovernance, shortsighted policies, existential crises etc. etc. are not isolated or localized—they are deeply interconnected, impacting people, nations, and ecosystems across the world. The urgency of addressing these crises calls for an approach that not only integrates the best of modern science and technology but also takes into account the profound interdisciplinary insights that have guided civilizations for millennia. This holistic perspective, rooted in both contemporary knowledge and ancient wisdom, offers pathways toward solutions that transcend the limitations of traditional models and systems. Drawing from timeless philosophies across cultures—from the ecological stewardship found in Kashmiri Sufism and Shaivism to the communal resource-sharing ethics embedded in India's Gandhian and Reshiyat traditions—this approach urges humanity to embrace a more sustainable and equitable future. These age-old principles of interconnectedness, shared responsibility, and moral accountability hold the key to navigating the complex, multifaceted crises that threaten the fabric of our global community today. Informed by these enduring insights, the pursuit of a just and sustainable future can be framed not just as a technical endeavor, but as a moral and existential undertaking—one that calls for a profound reevaluation of human values and relationships with each other and the environment.

At the global level and indigenous level, climate change, economic/political disparity, technological ethics, Challenges in health and education sectors, reorganisation /restructuring of UNO and other world bodies, moral/existential issues, issues in governance/policy making, media/technological issues, are emerging as serious concern/challenges.

Climate change and its impacts—ranging from rising sea levels to extreme weather events—underscore the fragile balance between humanity and nature. While technological advancements like renewable energy and carbon capture are vital, they alone cannot address the deeper ethical and philosophical disconnect between modern humanity and the environment. Ancient wisdom from Kashmiri Shaivism and Sufi traditions reveals a profound reverence for nature as a manifestation of the divine. For instance, Kashmiri Sufi poet Nund Rishi's (Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali) verse, "Food will last as long as forests," serves as a poignant reminder of the intrinsic link between environmental stewardship and human survival. Incorporating such ecological insights into education, policy-making, and community practices globally could catalyze a shift from exploitation to sustainable coexistence.



Economic inequality continues to widen globally and within nations, undermining social cohesion and perpetuating systemic injustices. Reports such as the World Inequality Report 2022 reveal staggering disparities that are not just economic but moral and ethical failures. The subcontinent, particularly India, mirrors these global trends, with systemic poverty and exclusion afflicting millions. Historically, movements rooted in equity, such as the philosophy of trusteeship and the Kashmiri tradition of communal resource-sharing inspired by Reshiyat, offer pathways for addressing such inequalities. These traditions emphasize shared wealth, mutual care, and the moral imperative of uplifting the marginalized. If combined with modern economic models like universal basic income or progressive taxation, these age-old principles could contribute to creating a more just and sustainable society.

The challenge of water scarcity in South Asia, exacerbated by climate change and geopolitical tensions,

reflects a broader crisis of mismanagement and unsustainable consumption. The Himalayan region, including Kashmir, is a critical water source for the subcontinent, yet its resources are increasingly threatened. Historical practices in Kashmir, such as the efficient use of karewa lands and traditional irrigation systems, demonstrate sustainable water management rooted in ecological harmony. These practices could serve as blueprints for contemporary strategies that combine traditional wisdom with advanced technologies like smart irrigation and water recycling systems. Additionally, fostering trans-



boundary cooperation through trust-building measures and inclusive dialogue can ensure equitable sharing of water resources, reducing conflicts and fostering regional stability.

In India, the rise of identity politics and communalism presents a grave challenge to its pluralistic ethos. The Pew Research Center's 2021 report highlights growing religious polarization, which threatens to erode the social fabric of the nation. Kashmir, a region historically celebrated for its syncretic culture, offers a counter-narrative to such divisive forces. The spiritual philosophies of Kashmir, rooted in Shaivism and Sufism, emphasize the unity of existence and the futility of human divisions. For example, the concept of Spanda in Shaivism, which sees the universe as a pulsation of the same divine energy, mirrors the Sufi principle of Wahdat-al-Wujud (unity of being). These insights can inform education systems, public policies, and community initiatives to foster interfaith harmony and collective identity, transcending parochial divides.

Kashmir's enduring conflict exemplifies the complexities of modern political, economic, and psychological struggles. The protracted violence has left deep scars, with the 2023 South Asia Terrorism Portal reporting thousands of casualties and countless incidents of trauma. Beyond the immediate geopolitical dimensions, this conflict demands a human-centered approach. Healing the emotional and psychological wounds of the Kashmiri people requires a blend of modern therapy and traditional practices that nurture resilience and hope. The resilience found in Kashmiri poetry, folklore, and mysticism can serve as a foundation for such healing.

respect for legacy and learnings from timeless wisdom for sustainable future.

The modern health sector faces critical challenges that demand both innovative solutions and timeless wisdom. Disparities in access, with half the global population lacking essential healthcare, underscore the need for equitable resource allocation and the integration of telemedicine, especially in underserved areas like Kashmir. The rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) calls for preventive healthcare, drawing on both modern interventions and traditional practices like Kashmiri diets

rooted in local produce. Mental health, exacerbated by crises like post-COVID-19 and conflict, requires holistic care combining psychological therapies with spiritual philosophies of resilience and inner peace. Antibiotic resistance, a global threat, necessitates stringent policies, awareness, and exploration of natural remedies to reduce dependency. Pandemic preparedness demands robust healthcare infrastructure, equitable vaccine access, and international collaboration, particularly in vulnerable regions. Advancements in medical technology, while revolutionary, raise ethical concerns about equity, privacy, and access. Integrating AI, gene editing, and traditional knowledge must prioritize marginalized communities and uphold ethical standards. Addressing these challenges with interdisciplinary approaches—blending science, philosophy, and cultural wisdom—can build a healthcare system that is inclusive, effective, and sustainable for all.

The restructuring of global institutions like the United Nations is essential to address the inequities and inefficiencies of a system rooted in mid-20th-century geopolitics. The United Nations' inability to effectively challenge Western interventions stems from the entrenched power dynamics, particularly the veto authority held by its most influential members, and the conflicting principles of sovereignty and global justice. While the UN strives for peace and human rights, it remains constrained by the political, economic, and strategic interests of powerful states. This structural imbalance underscores the need for reform in global governance to ensure that the ideals of equity, accountability, and justice are not overshadowed by the power of a few. Until this transformation occurs, the UN's capacity to challenge the exploitative actions of powerful nations will remain limited, leaving the world vulnerable to the perpetuation of inequality and injustice. Expanding representation, particularly in the Security Council, to include emerging economies and marginalized regions is critical for legitimacy and inclusivity. And interdisciplinary approaches—drawing on governance, economics, ethics, and environmental science—can guide reforms.

The IMF and World Bank, despite their central role in global finance, face criticism for neglecting social equity, transparency, and accountability. Their policies often prioritize the interests of wealthier nations, imposing austerity measures that worsen poverty and inequality in developing countries. With opaque decision-making and insufficient representation of marginalized nations, these institutions fall short of addressing global needs. Reforms are crucial to ensure they prioritize social well-being, sustainability, and equitable development for all nations, particularly the most vulnerable.

Equitable voting in the IMF and World Bank, a global climate fund, and frameworks for digital governance are vital to address systemic inequalities, climate crises, and technological challenges. Ethical principles of justice and unity, combined with cultural insights like Kashmir's pluralistic mediation traditions, can inspire sustainable and fair global governance. By integrating diverse perspectives and fostering collaboration, reformed institutions can better respond to the interconnected crises of our time, ensuring they serve humanity collectively rather than perpetuating power imbalances.

Moral degradation reflects humanity's drift from universal values of integrity, empathy, and accountability. Its roots lie in materialism, individualism, and a detachment from ethical and spiritual frameworks. Addressing this requires a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach enriched with timeless religious wisdom and modern insights. Philosophy offers enduring principles—Kant's categorical imperative underscores human dignity, while Sufi traditions highlight humility, selflessness, and the interconnectedness of all beings. These align with religious tenets that universally emphasize accountability, compassion, and justice. For instance, the Quran addresses moral degradation by emphasizing justice (4:135), accountability (52:21), selflessness (59:9), soul purification

(91:9-10), the dangers of materialism (100:8), and the importance of knowledge (39:9) as essential principles for ethical living and societal harmony. The Quran's call for integrity ("And weigh with an even balance" 55:9) and the Bible's teaching to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) resonate as universal moral foundations. Psychology and behavioral sciences complement this by exploring how mindfulness, rooted in Buddhism, or self-discipline, advocated by Islamic and Christian asceticism, can shape ethical behavior. Insights into human biases and emotions help bridge the gap between moral ideals and practical actions, reinforcing inner discipline as taught by religious traditions. Sociology highlights the role of community, an idea central to religious life. Islamic concepts of Ummah (community), Christian notions of fellowship, and Hindu ideals of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world as one family) emphasize collective moral responsibility. Strengthening these bonds can counter individualism, fostering unity and shared ethical commitments. Education serves as a crucible for moral development. Infusing curricula with ethical reasoning, empathy training, and religious teachings on service and humility, such as Sikh seva (selfless service), can cultivate integrity and a sense of purpose in young minds. Religious frameworks also address systemic issues. Islamic economic principles, which discourage hoarding and encourage equitable wealth distribution, offer insights for combating greed and inequality. Similarly, Christian teachings on stewardship and Buddhist emphasis on moderation advocate sustainable living, countering consumerism.

Governance, too, must reflect moral values. Transparent systems inspired by religious ideals of justice—such as Islamic Adl, Confucian meritocracy, and the Judaic emphasis on righteous leadership—can restore trust and accountability in public institutions. Leaders who embody these values serve as moral exemplars for society. Media and technology, while often amplifiers of superficiality, can become tools for moral renewal. Campaigns that draw from religious narratives of resilience and compassion—such as the parables of Jesus or the Quranic stories of the prophets—can inspire collective reflection and ethical action.

In the realm of governance and policy-making, adopting an interdisciplinary approach that transcends disciplinary silos is essential. Complex issues like poverty, inequality, and climate change require solutions that incorporate insights from science, philosophy, history, and cultural studies. For instance, the intersection of technological innovation and ethical governance could yield breakthroughs in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and poverty alleviation. Drawing from diverse traditions—be it the emphasis on self-reliance or the Kashmiri ethos of shared responsibility—can help create governance models that are not only effective but also deeply rooted in humanistic values.

Amid existential challenges such as the loss of meaning, purpose, and growing isolation, anxiety, depression and lack of inner fulfillment, humanity stands at a crossroads, facing a deep disconnection from one another, nature, religious and mystical/spiritual truths. The rise of materialism and individualism, compounded by societal shifts and global crises like inequality, environmental degradation, and political strife, has intensified feelings of despair. However, these challenges present an opportunity for global renewal, guided by ancient wisdom from traditions like Buddhism, Hinduism, Sufism, Kashmiri Shaivism, and the Quran, which emphasize interconnectedness, inner peace, selflessness, and justice. To forge a sustainable and harmonious future, humanity must integrate timeless ethical principles with modern solutions, shifting from unchecked consumption toward sustainability, equity, and spiritual harmony. By embracing a collective sense of responsibility, compassion, and mutual respect, humanity can transcend borders and create a future founded on interconnectedness and shared purpose.

As humanity continues to confront these existential challenges, the need for a collective reimagining of our future becomes even more pressing. Global issues such as climate change, economic disparity, political polarization, health crises, existential crises etc. are not isolated to specific regions but affect us all, creating ripple effects that stretch across borders and cultures. The solutions to these challenges are not solely found in technological innovations or political reforms, but in the ethical and philosophical grounding that can inspire lasting change. Ancient wisdom, rooted in cultural traditions that emphasize harmony with nature, collective responsibility, and moral justice, provides crucial guidance in charting a sustainable course for the future. These insights offer not just a critique of modern systems but an invitation to transcend the ego-driven individualism and exploitation that dominate contemporary thought. As such, the challenges we face today demand not only innovative approaches but also a renewed commitment to values of justice, compassion, and stewardship—values that have endured across cultures, time periods, and geographies. By drawing from the profound spiritual and ethical traditions of the past and integrating them with the transformative potential of contemporary thought, we can begin to forge a future that is not only just and sustainable but deeply humanistic in its orientation. The path to global renewal, then, lies not in disregarding the lessons of the past, but in understanding that these teachings hold the keys to unlocking the solutions to the crises we face today. As we confront an increasingly uncertain future, this fusion of wisdom and innovation can light the way toward a just, sustainable, and interconnected world, one in which every individual and community is empowered to thrive in harmony with each other and the planet. Through a renewed commitment to the moral and ethical imperatives of justice, sustainability, and interdependence, humanity can rise above the challenges of the present and build a just and sustainable future that is not only survivable but truly flourishing for generations to come.

Chief Justice visits Muskan ‘Home for Children’ at Channi Rama; reviews facilities

JAMMU: Aiming enhanced care and protection of children residing in various Child Care Institutions across the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Tashi Rabstan, accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Ansuya Jamwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Jammu, who also serves as Executive Secretary, District Red Cross Society, Jammu, today visited Muskan, Home for Children at Channi Rama, Jammu.

During the visit, the Chief Justice interacted with the children and distributed sweets and gifts among them. This interaction provided an opportunity to understand the children's living conditions and their specific needs.

The Chief Justice Tashi interacted with the staff members of the Children Home and issued directions for enhancing the amenities

and facilities being provided to the inmates. He emphasised the importance of a supportive and nurturing environment for holistic



development of the children. The ADC Jammu assured the Chief Justice that the suggestions for improvement would be implemented promptly. She highlighted the current facilities being provided at the Children Home, which included regular medical check-ups,

special education classes facilitated under Samagra Shiksha initiative and physical and motor development activities organised by the Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu. Additionally, weekly visits by physiotherapists and psychologists are being conducted to ensure the mental and physical well-being of children, reflecting a comprehensive approach towards their care and development.

The Chief Justice appreciated the efforts of the administration and staff in ensuring welfare of the children. He commended their commitment for addressing any shortcomings and called for continued efforts to uphold the dignity and rights of the children residing there.

This visit underscores the commitment of the judiciary and the J&K Legal Services Authority to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable sections of the society and ensure that their needs are met with compassion and care.

Weather exigency DC Pulwama reviews winter preparedness

PULWAMA: To assess the district's readiness for the second spell of adverse weather forecast for this winter season, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired a meeting of Officers and officials here on Wednesday. During the meeting, the DC emphasised the need for proactive and coordinated efforts to mitigate the impact of severe weather conditions. He commended the concerned sectoral officers and their field teams for their effective response to the recent spell of snowfall and urged them to maintain similar coordination while preparing for potentially larger anticipated weather events.

Priority was given to maintaining essential services, including water and electricity supply and ensuring prompt snow clearance, particularly on critical hospital roads. Departments such as MED and R&B were directed to ensure the continuous functionality of essential services.

Additionally, officers from MED, R&B, PMGSY, ULBs and RDD were instructed to maintain seamless coordination to prevent any overlapping of jurisdictions or lapses in communication. Dr. Basharat also focused on health sector readiness, stressing the availability of essential medicines and emergency services, particularly in remote and vulnerable areas. At the same time CMO was directed to ensure advance evacuation of expectant women and other patients on long term care whose evacuation or travel might be hampered during the snowfall. PHE (Jal Shakti) was directed to ensure availability of drinking water through tankers wherever needed. Disaster response teams were instructed to remain on high alert to handle emergencies efficiently. Additionally, the DC directed concerned officers to stock adequate quantities of essential commodities to avoid shortages and to maintain road connectivity in both rural and urban areas through systematic snow clearance operations and diligent collaboration between the departments.

VC DDC Kupwara inaugurates Tehsil camp office at Khurhama Lolab

KUPWARA: To ease the sufferings of people of adjoining area of Nayabat Khurhama Lolab, VC DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir today inaugurated camp office of Tehsildar Lalpora (every Tuesday) at NT Office Khurhama.

The VC DDC Kupwara said that it is the New Year gift for the people of adjoining areas of Nayabat Khurhama who travel so many kilometres and change multiple routes to get the simple work done in Tehsil office Lalpora.

He said, now they need to visit NT Office Khurhama for the said work on every Tuesday as Tehsildar will remain present there.

VC thanked Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Commissioner Secretary Revenue and Rehabilitation, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara for alleviating the sufferings of people, Tehsildar Lalpora, NT Khurhama, other revenue officials and hundreds of people of North Lolab were present at the event.

MLA Saifullah reviews development profile of Trehgam constituency

KUPWARA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Trehgam today chaired an interactive meeting with officers and people at block headquarter Kralpora to review the



development scenario of Trehgam Assembly constituency.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, MRouf Rehman; ADC, CMO, CAO, CHO, DSHO, Dy. CEO, Executive Engineers of R&B, PMGSY, I&FC, besides, block level officers and general public were present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, MLA Trehgam said that the aim of holding the joint meeting of officers and the people was to bridge the gap between the people and administration for resolution of the public grievances and problems. He impressed upon the officers to work with utmost sincerity and dedication for the welfare of

the common people to leave no gap for the grievances.

The MLA urged the Officers to increase their connection with the people at grassroots level to ease their sufferings. He

will facilitate the local population living in these pockets.

Regarding PHE, the MLA directed the AEE concerned to personally visit the areas having issues of water supply and fix responsibilities on his subordinate staff including JEs and Linemen so that the people do not suffer due to non-availability of water supply.

Reviewing RDD, the ACD informed that estimates of around 1500 works pertaining to the area have been done and progress exceeding 100% have been registered for man-days generation. The MLA asked the concerned officers to ensure the work is distributed equally so that the income status of people in large numbers is improved.

Reviewing Power sector, the MLA directed the concerned officials to ensure power supply strictly as per the curtailment schedule so that the people do not face any inconvenience in this bone-chilling winter period. The MLA also took a review of other departments including Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry and firewood status.

GMC Srinagar launches QR-based Feedback System to enhance patient care service delivery

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards improving the quality of healthcare and administrative services, Govt Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today launched a QR-based feedback system in Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital.

The initiative aims to provide patients and their attendants an easy, efficient and transparent platform to share their experiences and suggestions for the hospital's overall development. The innovative system was launched by the Principal/Dean of GMC Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, who emphasized the importance of feedback in driving institutional improvement.

Others present at the event included Administrator, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; HOD Urology deptt. Prof Dr Sajad Nazir; Medical Superintendent, Dr. Tasneem; Deputy Medical Superintendent, Casualty Medical Officers (CMOs), Resident Medical Officers (RMOs), nursing staff, and key stakeholders of the hospital.

Prof. Dr. Iffat highlighted the hospital's commitment to leveraging technology to ensure patient satisfaction and operational efficiency. She stated, "The QR-based feedback system is a milestone in our continuous efforts to provide patient-centered care. This initiative will help us to understand the needs of the patients better and address their concerns effectively."

Administrator praised the collaborative efforts of the GMC IT Section in designing and

implementing this user-friendly system. "The feedback platform is simple to use and will act as a direct communication channel between patients and hospital administration. We believe this will greatly enhance transparency and accountability."

HOD Urology said that the initiative aligns with the vision of improving healthcare delivery by incorporating patient feedback into decision-



making processes. The system is designed to address both positive and constructive feedback in a time-bound manner.

Patients and attendants can now scan QR codes displayed at various key locations in the hospital, such as reception areas, outpatient departments, and wards, to submit their feedback anonymously or with their contact details. This data will be reviewed regularly to identify areas of improvement and ensure timely redressal of grievances.

Two days orientation programme for LSUM members concludes at Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) of Srinagar and Budgam successfully concluded a two-day orientation programme today conducted for the members of the Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM).

The event was held under the chairmanship of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar/Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar and Om Prakash Baghat, Chairman DLSA Budgam/Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Civil Judge (Sr. Division)/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar/ DLSA Budgam.

The training was organized as part of the implementation of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Scheme 2024.

The programme, which commenced on December 31, 2024, was aimed at enhancing the understanding and capabilities of the LSUM members in delivering effective legal services to individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities.

On the second day of the programme, Secretary

of DLSA Srinagar and Budgam, emphasized the critical role of the unit members in ensuring access to justice for this vulnerable section of society.

She highlighted the importance of the NALSA scheme 2024 in promoting inclusivity and legal



empowerment for marginalized groups. Masarat Shaheen, a retired judicial officer, joined virtually and shared her valuable insights. She discussed the legal and social challenges faced by persons with disabilities and provided practical strategies for addressing these issues. Her experience and expertise enriched the training sessions and inspired the

participants.

Advocates Suhaila Ali and Adv. Laila Khalid also actively contributed to the programme, emphasizing the practical application of the NALSA scheme and encouraging the participants to adopt a proactive approach in their roles.

Members of the Legal Services Unit from DLSA Budgam participated in the programme through virtual mode, ensuring comprehensive involvement despite geographical constraints.

The two-day orientation programme aimed to equip the LSUM members with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement the NALSA Scheme 2024. It also sought to foster a deeper understanding of the legal rights and entitlements of persons with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities, ensuring that they receive the support and assistance they need.

This initiative reflects the commitment of the DLSAs of Srinagar and Budgam in upholding the principles of justice and equality for all, especially the most vulnerable members of society.

Srinagar Admin gears up resources to deal with winter challenges

Srinagar: In order to gear up the District Administration and machinery to deal with winter challenges particularly with regard to current weather advisory, necessary preparations and arrangements were reviewed in Srinagar for ensuring prompt snow clearance and unhindered supply of essential services and supplies in the District.

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, senior Officers of District Administration Srinagar under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik today inspected their respective jurisdictions and took stock of the arrangements made by the line Departments for prompt snow clearance and ensuring unhindered supply of essential services and supplies to the people.

During their visit, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) West, Muzamil Maqbool and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Srinagar Aijaz Ahmad Shah stressed the line Departments on readying men and machinery to ensure timely redressal of weather vagaries and subsequent interruptions of power & water supply and road closure due to snowfall.

They also asked the Officers to keep men and machinery ready for ensuring proper functioning of all essential supplies and services during snowfall, particularly timely snow clearance from roads leading to hospitals, Government offices, fire & emergency, power stations, WSSs and other vital installations.

100% completion of e-KYC for all beneficiaries and to incorporate any eligible beneficiaries who may have been left out into the system.

Meanwhile, to expedite the re-verification and updating process in the PDS, the DC directed the formation of committees at the Block and Panchayat levels which will conduct extensive surveys to streamline and update the database efficiently. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Director FCS&CA and other officers and officials.

(PDS) database for the district.

The committee is tasked with verifying the eligibility of all beneficiaries enrolled in the Public Distribution System (PDS) database, in accordance with the applicable rules, and ensuring the removal of ineligible beneficiaries.

On the occasion, the DC instructed the officers to expedite the re-verification process for all beneficiaries, particularly those under the AAY and PHH categories. He urged a thorough review of their current income status to ensure the accuracy of the PDS database.

Minga Sherpa also directed the Officers to ensure

...Mission YUVA Baseline Survey to identify potential entrepreneurs begins in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: With an aim to identify potential entrepreneurs and to promote entrepreneurship at grassroots level, the baseline survey under Mission YUVA, a critical exercise to gather real-time data on existing and potential entrepreneurs commenced in Srinagar District today.

The Mission YUVA initiative is aimed to foster sustainable employment by supporting the creation of new micro-enterprises, expanding existing businesses, and promoting innovative entrepreneurial ventures. The objective of Baseline Survey under the initiative is to encourage entrepreneurship culture and a desirable ecosystem for helping the youth to start new enterprises and generate job

opportunities for others.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has urged the aspirants particularly the youth studying in different



Universities/Colleges to take part in this survey for making it a meaningful exercise by providing feedback about their ambitions regarding self-employment.

He also urged the people in District to extend full support and cooperation to the designated Baseline Survey

DC B'la chairs DLC, reviews verification of beneficiaries in PDS database

BARAMULLA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, convened a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) today at DC office meeting hall to review the verification process of beneficiaries listed in the Public Distribution System

...New Year's Day

TB Awareness camp organized at Ganta Ghar Lal Chowk Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In a significant move toward achieving the goal of a TB-free India, a TB awareness camp was held on New Year's Day, today at Clock Tower Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

The camp was organized by the District TB Control Society Srinagar under the 100 Days TB Intensified Campaign (Nikshay Shivr), and focused on promoting public awareness about tuberculosis (TB) and strengthening community participation (Janbhagidari) in TB prevention and care.

The event was attended by officials from Health Services Kashmir, including Dr. Adhfar Yasein, State TB Officer Kashmir and Dr. Abdul Roof, District TB Officer Srinagar. They were supported by teams from the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) and the Urban Health Center (UHC) Maisuma Srinagar.

The initiative involved community-centric activities and featured targeted awareness sessions for police personnel, traffic police, and members of the local community.

These sessions emphasized early detection and treatment of TB, prevention strategies to stop the spread of the disease.

On the occasion, informational pamphlets were distributed to pedestrians, providing vital details about TB symptoms, free diagnostic

facilities and available treatment options.

A special meeting was also convened with representatives from the Lal Chowk Trade Association, highlighting their role in disseminating information and fostering a TB-free environment.

It is worth mentioning that this initiative



is part of the government's 'Nikshay Shivr Initiative' which prioritizes accessible healthcare services and active community engagement to combat TB.

With optimism and determination, the campaign concluded with New Year wishes from the health team, reflecting the shared commitment to eliminating TB and building a healthier future.

Meanwhile, for more information on TB diagnosis and treatment, citizens are encouraged to contact their nearest healthcare center.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of Sheep Husbandry department

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today held a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of the Sheep Husbandry department in the district.

It was informed in the meeting that 3184 applications under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) have been approved by the Sheep Husbandry department through the HADP portal. Under DAKSH Kisan portal, 8000 registrations were made out of which 3125 farmer beneficiaries were enrolled for undergoing the learning course and 2067 farmers have completed the course so far.

It was also informed that a target of 6550 beneficiaries for completion of courses under DAKSH Kisan have been given to 13 Sheep Blocks of district Kupwara which include Gulgam, Handwara, Kralgund, Kralpora, Kuligam, Kupwara, Machil/Kalarooose, Rajwar, Ramhall, Shartpora, Sogam, Tangdar and Teetwal.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the concerned officers to gear up the pace of enrolment of farmers to achieve the desired targets under DAKSH Kisan and HADP. The officers were directed to facilitate the registration and enrollment of

allied activities which will boost its employment generation scenario.

Meanwhile, the Officers were directed to mobilize field staff and Krishi Udayamis to achieve these targets in a time-bound manner and support farmers throughout the registration and certification process.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara, Block Sheep Husbandry Officers and other concerned.

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

INDIAN AIR FORCE Inductions

- IAF has contracted for C-295 MW aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space. The first domestically manufactured C-295 is likely to be delivered in 2026. The C-295 simulator has also been operationalised.
- Unexploded Ordnance Handling Robot has been designed and developed by R&DE (Engr), Pune based on QRs given by IAF to reduce risk to Explosive Ordnance Device operators during disposal of unexploded ordnance. UXOR is a remotely operated vehicle capable of handling and disposal of unexploded ordnance up to 1000 kg. After

- JV with Russian OEM has been signed by Indian firm for manufacturing of aggregates components related to Aircraft Wheel, Anti-Skid and Brake Units of An-32 to enhance self-reliance capabilities.
- An Indian firm has formed a Joint Venture with the Russian OEM under IGA for joint production, maintenance and repair Wheel Hubs, Brakes and associated spares iro IL Series ac.
- An indigenous MRO facility within India is being established to harness the D Level support in sustaining the tri-services RPA fleet. Setting up a MRO facility for RPA may be viewed as a much required boost towards creating

- over Naina lake between 26 and 28 Apr 24. Between 06 and 08 May 2024, Mi-17 helicopters were utilised for forest fire fighting near Pauri Gharwal, Uttarakhand, in which 44600 litres of water was dispended over 23 sorties.
- Rescue of Two American Tourists. Two female tourists hailing from America, safely from Churdhar peak area in Sirmaur district in Himachal Pradesh on 11 May 2024 by two Cheetah helicopters and were airlifted to Chandigarh. MHA, MEA, MoD and US Embassy were involved in this operation.
- RE-MAL Cyclone (Imphal): From 29 May to 01 Jun 2024, transport effort was provided to airlift NDRF load in

- forest fires at Binsar wildlife sanctuary at Almora district of Uttarakhand. Towards this 13 sorties in 11:35 Hours were flown dispensing 23800 litres of water was dispensed.
- Floods in North East: On 02 Jul 2024 one Mi-17 helicopter was utilised for rescue of 13 persons from flooded area to Mohanbari. On 03 Jul 24, 40 passengers and 2.2 tons of NDRF load was airlifted from Hollongi to Imphal by C-130 aircraft.
- Wayanad Landslides: 110 sorties were flown towards relief operations in Wayanad district of Kerala, from Jul to Aug 2024. 326 people, 56.45 tons of relief material and nine mortal remains were airlifted by IAF.
- Uttarakhand Floods: 41 sorties involving Mi-17 and Chinook helicopters were flown and over 270 people were rescued along with airlifting 9.53 tons of relief material as part of rescue and relief operation in Kedarnath.
- Tripura Floods: One C-130 and two An-32 aircraft were utilized to airlift 120 personnel and 20 tons of NDRF load from Hollongi to Agartala on 22 Aug 2024. Two C-130 aircraft were utilized to airlift 90 personnel and 15 tons of NDRF load from Bihta to Agartala on 22 Aug 2024. Tow Mi-17 V5 airlifted 2 tons and 30 personnel from Agrtala to Chetanwadi.
- Flood Relief Ops in Andhra Pradesh/Telangana: Two IL-76 aircraft airlifted 240 personnel and 40 tons of NDRF load from Halwara to Vijaywada and Bhatinda to Shamshabad, between 01 and 02 Sep 2024. Two C-130 aircraft airlifted NDRF teams (90 personnel and 15 tons load) from Agartala to Vijaywada and one IL-76 airlifted 120 NDRF personnel and 9 tons load from Pune to Vijayawada on 02 and 03 Sep 2024. Additionally, on 03 Sep 2024, two Mi-17 V5, two Mi-17 and two Chetaks flew 23 sorties to air drop 49.875 tons of relief material over the flood affected areas of Telangana.
- Cyclone Dana: One IL-76 and one An-32 aircraft were utilised to airlift NDRF team consisting of 152 personnel and 25 tons of NDRF load from Bhatinda to Bhubaneshwar on 23 Oct 2024.

Defence Cooperation

- Six new defence wings: Towards increasing its footprint across the globe, IAF is in the process of establishing six new defence wings, commencing with Spain, Armenia and Ivory Coast, while continuously exploring avenues to increase its presence in the Indo Pacific Region, Europe, the Americas as well as Africa.
- Exercises: The exercises include Ex Desert Knight 24.1, Ex-Khanjar XI, Ex-Southern Discovery, Ex-Tiger Triumph, Red Flag Alaska-24-2, Hop Ex, Ex Pitch Black-24, Ex Udara Shakti-24, PASSEX with CSG of USA (USS Abraham Lincoln, Ex Tarang Shakti-24, Ex Eastern Bridge-VII in Oman, Air to Air Mission with ITS Cavourn and Ex JMT-24 with RSAF.
- Op Sankalp-Anti Piracy Mission: On 16 March 2024, one IAF C-17 aircraft undertook a joint operation with Indian Navy wherein two combat boats, armament load and MARCO teams were inserted at the designated objective area, in support of antipiracy operations. The mission was flown in international airspace in covert mode to support the rescue ops for the bulk carrier vessel 'MV Ruen', which was hijacked by Somali pirates near the Yemeni island of Socotra.

Pan IAF Exercises:

- Ex-Vayushakti-24: Ex Vayushakti-24 was conducted on 17 Feb 2024 at Pokhran Range. The exercise showcased the devastating punch that IAF is capable of delivering on the enemy
- Ex Gagan Shakti-24: Tri-service IAF Ex Gagan Shakti-24 was held between 01 and 10 Apr 2024 in which full spectrum of operations was exercised in all the domains. Prior to the live exercise, a tabletop, war-game was conducted where operational plans for all contingencies were discussed.

Air Defence

- Deployment of IAF assets in conjunction with assets of other services for surveillance would create required deterrence toward securing our national interests. To realise same, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has accorded approval to the following two projects on 18 Jul 2024: -
- Creation of joint user greenfield airfield and an Indian Air Force Forward Base Support Unit (FBSU) at Minicoy, UT of Lakshadweep at a cost of Rs 4,452.50 crore.
- Expansion of airfield and formation of an Indian Air Force Forward Base Support Unit (FBSU) at Agatti, UT of Lakshadweep at a cost of Rs 7,354.34 crore.
- Work services for Development of Basic Infrastructure at Nyoma C/o AFS Leh was sanctioned on 31 Mar 2023 at a cost of Rs 219.39 crore. Project includes construction of runway including allied operational works, necessary maintenance and administrative infrastructure. Work is likely to be completed by Aug 2025.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Air Force Station Deesa airfield virtually on 19 October 2022. Works Services for "Construction of Runway and Associated Infrastructure at AFS Deesa (Phase-I)" was sanctioned for Rs 393.64 crore by MoD on 31 Mar 2021. Present progress is 90%. Runway work has been completed and execution of certain allied works are in progress.
- IAF Agniveer Women in Tri-services Contingent in RDP 202 A Tri-Services women contingent participated in RDP-2024, which comprised of forty-eight IAF Agniveervayu women.

Agniveer Women Drill Team

Thirty Agniveervayu women were trained specially to perform drill in coordination with music. Within five months of training, their first public performance was conducted at India Gate on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 Jul 2024.



exhaustive field trials Transfer of Technology of UXOR, the first UXOR produced by Indian Firm was inducted in service in August 2024.

- IAF has inducted indigenous Counter Unmanned Aerial System to thwart sub conventional threats to IAF Vulnerable Area/Points. To encourage start-ups/MSMEs towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, contracts for development of such systems and Jamming Guns under iDEX challenge were concluded on March 2024.
- First batch of Weapon Systems branch cadets completed their Stage-I training at Air Force Academy in June 2024. The cadets are undergoing Stage-II training at the newly raised Weapon Systems School in AF Station Begumpet. This is the first time since independence that a new operational branch has been created in the IAF.
- With the induction of Weapon Systems Branch, two new directorates were carved out of Directorate of Operations (Air Defence) to function independently under Director General Air Operations till establishment of Director General (Weapon System) post.
- IAF has been extending support to prominent research organisations for conducting the Integrated Navigation Test (INT), Engineering Model Tests (EMT) and the Landing Experiment (LEX) missions. IAF provided Chinook Hepr for RLV LEX2 trials, which were successfully carried out.
- Integrated Airdrop test of crew module from Chinook Hepr was carried out as part of Gaganyaan program at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- IAF has been successful in integration and firing of many new generation/ indigenous air to ground weapons such as CMMKII, HSLD MKII, Spice 1000, SFW, SAAW and NGCCM on various aircraft of IAF such as SU-30 MKI, Jaguar, LCA and MiG 29. This will go a long way in achieving Aatmanirbharta in the air armament domain and reduce foreign exchange spending of the nation.
- Site Acceptance Test (SAT) of Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) Batch-III software is under progress. The SAT at three IACCS Nodes has been completed.

Sustenance of IAF fleet

- Life extension study for AL-31FP aero engine of Su-30 MKI aircraft to maximise the service life was taken up by IAF, DMRL, CEMILAC and HAL (Koraput). This initiative has paved way for extension studies from 2,500 hours to 3,000 flying hours for gainful utilisation of assets.
- Additionally, contract for procurement of AL-31 FP Aeroengines for Su-30MKI aircraft fleet of IAF from HAL (Koraput) was signed in September 2024 for an amount of Rs 26,964.41 crore.
- Contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for procuring RD-33 aero engines for MiG-29 aircraft of Indian Air Force, at an amount Rs 5,249.72 crore was signed on 01 Mar 2024 towards fulfilling IAF's need to sustain operational capability of MiG-29 fleet for next 15 years.

Self-Reliance Efforts by IAF through IGA/ JV

the MRO eco-system in India.

- 61 lines of spares have been indigenised in Apache fleet in the last one year.
- Magnesium Teflon Viton flares used in IAF aircraft have been indigenised with help of High Energy Material Research Laboratory and ground trials have been completed successfully.
- The impetus on indigenisation over the last decade has resulted in indigenisation of approximately 73,000 lines of spares for sustenance of IAF assets of which approximately 1700 spares have been indigenised in the last one year. Approximately Rs 645 crore of Foreign Equipment has been saved in the last FY while the FE savings for this FY till date is approximately Rs 115 crore.
- Three ongoing D&D projects are nearing completion under Make-II scheme and two new projects each in Make-Make-III and I have been launched.

Tri-services Integration.

- Central Servicing Development Organisation is spearheading the Tri-services Integration of Common Aviation assets with Indian Army & Indian Navy. It achieved a significant milestone towards the integration of tri-services aviation assets, where in two Hawk aircraft of IN and IA LCH flew on e-MMS platform.
- All the national air surveillance radars are planned for integration to achieve a fused air picture at IACCS. Presently, integration of all IAF and civil radars has been completed. Integration of IA sensors is planned through project Akashteer and integration of Indian Naval ships based sensors is planned through Project Trigun, for which the first site integration is under progress. The naval sensors located on mainland and island territories are being integrated directly to enhance surveillance in island territories.

Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief

- International**
 - Flood relief to Kenya: On 14 May 2024, one C-17 aircraft airlifted 40 tons of relief aid to Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Airlift of Mortal Remains from Kuwait - fire incident: One C-130 brought back the mortal remains of 31 deceased Indians from Kuwait to Cochin and 14 of them were further carried to Delhi from 13 to 14 Jun 2024.
 - Nepal Bus Accident: One C-130 aircraft airlifted 24 mortal remains from Bharatpur, Nepal to Jalgaon on 24 Aug 2024.
 - Typhoon Yagi: One C-17 aircraft was utilised to airlift 10 tons relief material for Laos and 35 tons relief material for Vietnam on 15-16 Sep 2024. One IL-76 aircraft was utilised to airlift 32 tons relief material for Myanmar on 17 Sep 2024.
 - Med Evac of IA Soldier from Israel. One C-130 was utilised as an air ambulance to airlift one Indian Army soldier deployed in UN mission in Israel to Delhi on 26 Sep 2024.
- Domestic**
 - Tamil Nadu Forest Fire: IAF helicopters were utilised for the Bambi Bucket Operations. 16 sorties over 06:30 hours were flown, dispensing 24300 litres of water.
 - Uttarakhand Forest Fire: IAF helicopters flew 21 sorties over 10:30 hours and dispensing 41800 litres of water

“

All the national air surveillance radars are planned for integration to achieve a fused air picture at IACCS. Presently, integration of all IAF and civil radars has been completed. Integration of IA sensors is planned through project Akashteer and integration of Indian Naval ships based sensors is planned through Project Trigun, for which the first site integration is under progress. The naval sensors located on mainland and island territories are being integrated directly to enhance surveillance in island territories.

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support of relief for Cyclone Remal. Nine tons of load and 90 NDRF pax were airlifted over 12 sorties.

- Assam Floods: On 03 Jun 2024, one Mi-17 was utilised for evacuation of nine SDRF personnel involved in rescue mission owing to floods in the state of Assam.
- Casevac of Trekkers at Uttarkashi: Nine trekkers suffered fatal injuries while trekking in Shahstra Taal in Uttarakashi. Airlift was provided to shift the mortal remains of the deceased and five trekkers to Dehradun.
- Forest Fire Almora, Uttarakhand: One Mi-17 was utilised for Bambi Operations from 14 to 16 Jun 2024, to douse

Continued From P1...

Under Amit

technological advancements,” the report states. It further states that the MHA has launched the unique Digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS) Platform of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). “The newly developed CCMS will strengthen the NIA against terrorism and organised crime cases. It will improve coordination in the functioning of NIA, which will improve the justice system,” it adds.

The report states that the policy of ‘zero tolerance against terrorism’ has been accepted by the whole world. “The MHA will soon formulate a National Counter-terrorism Policy & Strategy to fight the entire ecosystem of terrorism,” the report states, adding, “A 25-point integrated plan was made to stop terror financing; several steps have been taken in cases ranging from Jihadi terrorism to insurgency in North-East, Left-Wing Extremism, fake currency and narcotics.”

Use innovative

Minister Narendra Modi’s Zero Tolerance Policy against terrorism, the goal of ‘terror free Jammu and Kashmir’ will be achieved at the earliest.”

“PM Modi led government is building a terror-free J&K. While the security forces are waging a full-blown war against terror on the ground, the MHA is empowering them by banning individuals and organizations involved in terror and anti-India activities.”

The report states that due to the sustained and coordinated efforts of the Union Government, the ecosystem of terrorism in J&K has almost ended.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, according to the report, has directed agencies to replicate the successes achieved in Kashmir through the “Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan” in the Jammu division.

“The government is committed to setting an example by cracking down on terrorists through innovative means. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Zero Tolerance Policy against terrorism, the goal of ‘terror free Jammu and Kashmir’ will be achieved at the earliest,” the report states.

Referring to the successful back-to-back elections held in J&K in 2024 without any boycott call or fear of separatists and terrorists, the MHA report states: “Unprecedented participation of the J&K people in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections shows that they have full faith in democracy.”

“In the 2024 Lok Sabha election J&K secured 35-year-high voter turnout at 58.46%. In the 2024 assembly election, J&K witnessed a meteoric 63.88% voter turnout,” it added.

ERA of recommendations

institutions, industries, and infrastructure are being seen in Jammu & Kashmir.”

The MHA report stated that the recruitment processes in J&K have become transparent and clean. “The Union Home Minister distributed more than 1000 appointment letters for J&K Combined Examination-2024 and compassionate appointments through video conferencing from New Delhi,” the report states.

Referring to the launch of e-buses the report states that to make commuting easy Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched 100 air-conditioned eco-friendly buses in Jammu region.

The report states that in pursuit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh, MHA decided to create 5 new districts in the Union Territory.

The new districts, namely Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang, will take the benefits meant for the people to their doorsteps by bolstering governance in every nook and cranny.

“There will now be a total of seven districts in Ladakh, including Leh and Kargil. Being extremely difficult and inaccessible, at present district administration is facing many difficulties in reaching the grassroots level,” the report states, adding, “After the formation of these districts more and more people have been able to take advantage of all the public welfare schemes of the Central Government and Ladakh Administration.”

KPDCL ‘gets

is likely to improve by tomorrow.” (SIC) Earlier in the day, Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation (JKPTCL) on its micro-blogging site X said, “Due to the need to rationalize load between 220/132 kV sources Delina and Zainakote, an emergency shutdown will be taken at 3:30 P.M in GSS Delina. This shutdown, expected to last approximately one hour, may result in a temporary load reduction of 100 MW.”

“We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding as we work to optimize our power distribution system,” JKPTCL said

Shah To Release

those less conversant. It is presented in seven sections that cover over three thousand years of the region’s history. Each illustration selected for inclusion has been done with care, being representative of an age, its importance and contribution to the larger historical canvas of Indian history. Published in Hindi and English, this book is the result of collaborative efforts of the National Book Trust, India, and the Indian Council of Historical Research.

Katra Returns

resumed, following a week-long shutdown over a controversial ropeway project in Reasi district. The protest had brought all activities to a halt in the bustling pilgrimage town.

Police released eighteen detainees, leading to overnight celebrations. All shops, restaurants, and business establishments reopened, much to the relief of the pilgrims, as traffic movement was restored. Hundreds of devotees thronged Katra on the year’s first day to pay homage at the temple, marking the end of the shutdown.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti started the protest on December 25, opposing the proposed ropeway project, which aims to connect Tarakote Marg to Shri Chhat to ease access for senior citizens and children. The Samiti’s week-long stir was aimed at derailing the project, which they felt threatened the town’s traditions.

CS launches

Secretary, L&E Department, DG, E&S, Director, IIM Jammu, MD, JK Bank, MD, JKRLM and representatives from IIT Jammu, NABARD, BISAG-N besides other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners joined the event through video conferencing.

Addressing on the occasion, the Chief Secretary highlighted the significance of this survey besides the original motive of handholding the youth ready to adopt entrepreneurship and self employment as job avenues. He called upon the concerned departments to ensure accurate through regular monitoring of the whole exercise. He suggested the Vice-Chancellors of different Universities to further utilise this data in accomplishing various research papers.

Dulloo also enjoined upon the Labour & Employment department to constitute a team of experts from concerned departments with faculty members from different Universities and National Institutes. This will help in laying an analytical framework to develop a well meaning document out of these analytics at the end of this survey, he added. He emphasised upon them to reach out to each household in every village/panchayat through their IEC activities in order to create necessary awareness among the people about the importance of this survey. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to extend full support to the teams on ground besides giving their feedback about the functioning of the online application so that, any technical glitch faced by the investigators is resolved instantly.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed functioning of this survey app developed by BISAG-N in consultation with the department. He underscored the importance of control rooms in resolving the issues faced besides making the exercise smooth and seamless.

In a presentation, Secretary, L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, informed the meeting that this activity has two major components aiming survey of the existing enterprises for looking into their challenges they besides identifying the potential entrepreneurs. He added that the department has already accomplished the task of training the Master Trainers at divisional level and around 1000 supervisors and nearly 17,000 investigators at district level. It was added that a pilot survey is currently going on in which nearly 90,000 entries had been made across the districts.

The roles and responsibilities of each concerned were explained during the meeting with Deputy Commissioners envisaged to monitor the whole process in their respective districts. Besides, Dos and Don’ts for investigators were discussed and the significance of Supervisors in verifying each detail entered in the application by the surveyors was deliberated upon.

It was informed that the objective of this month long exercise is to foster entrepreneurship culture and desirable ecosystem for helping those in the age group of 18-49 years to start at least 1.37 lakh new enterprises thereby generating around 4.25 lakh job opportunities in next 5 years in J&K.

Union Cabinet

The fund will be utilised towards funding technological initiatives under the scheme namely, YES-TECH, WINDS, etc as well as Research

and Development studies.

Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH) uses Remote Sensing Technology for yield estimation with minimum 30% weightage to Technology based yield estimates. 9 Major States are currently implementing (namely AP, Assam, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka). Other States are also being on-boarded expeditiously. With wider implementation of YES-TECH, Crop Cutting Experiments and related issues will be gradually phased out. Under YES-TECH Claim calculation and settlement has been done for 2023-24. Madhya Pradesh has adopted 100% technology based yield estimation.

Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS) envisages setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at block level and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) at panchayat level. Under WINDS, 5 times increase in current network density is envisaged to develop hyper local weather data. Under the initiative, only data rental costs are payable by Central and State Governments. 9 Major States are in the process of implementing WINDS (namely Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh Puducherry, Assam, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand & Rajasthan are in progress), while other States have also expressed willingness to implement.

WINDS could not be implemented by States during 2023-24 (1st year as per EFC) due to various background preparatory and planning work required before tendering. Accordingly, the Union Cabinet has approved 2024-25 as the first year of implementation of WINDS as compared to 2023-24 earlier to give benefit to State Governments with higher central fund sharing in 90:10 ratio.

All efforts are made and will continue to be made to saturate all farmers of North Eastern States on priority. To this extent, the centre shares 90% of premium subsidy with North Eastern States. However, due to the scheme being voluntary and low gross cropped area in North Eastern States, flexibility has been given to avoid surrender of funds and for reallocation in other development projects and schemes with fund requirement. (ANB)

Statehood Restoration:

He also criticized claims that certain individuals who, according to him, have misled people into believing that they were happy with the current circumstances in the region.

The MLA further stated, “We want the Union Government to understand that no one in Jammu and Kashmir is satisfied with snatching of statehood and the changes imposed after August 5, 2019.”

Khan said the campaign would take the form of a constitutional movement, and that would reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. “We will take this campaign to the people throughout Jammu and Kashmir,” he said.

Khan highlighted the importance of the initiative, noting that it was a way to show that the people of the region are not happy with the changes brought after the August 5, 2019, decision.

“This is an indication that what happened to us on that day was wrong, and we are not happy with it,” he said.

USBRL project

officers, will accompany the CRS during the inspection. Indian Railways is set to introduce a new Vande Bharat train and two Mail/Express trains for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These trains will operate between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (SVDK) and Srinagar railway stations and will be maintained by the Northern Railway zone.

As per a communication from Northern Railways Vande Bharat Train will depart from Katra (SVDK) at 8:10 am. and arrive at Srinagar Railway Station at 11:20 am.; Mail/Express Train 1 will depart from

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Daughter's School Records her Mother's name has been Mistakenly written as Gulshan Begum. While as her actual and correct Mother's name is Gulshan Bagum. 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 Blooming Buds Computer School Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mehraj-ud-din Mir.
F/O Hurma Mehraj.
R/O Ward NO: 03, Plan Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Name of my Son has been Mistakenly written in his school records as Faisal. While as his Actual and correct name is Faisal Ahmad Rather. 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 Faiz Aam Secondary school Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Manzoor Ahmad Rather.
F/O Faisal Ahmad Rather.
R/O Arin Dardpora Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No:0202010002347, which is Registered in the name of Ghulam Nabi Rather, Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Abdul Aziz Rather S/O Ghulam Nabi Rather. In this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Rajbagh Srinagar with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Abdul Aziz Rather.
S/O Ghulam Nabi Rather.
R/O Ikhrajpora Srinagar.

ACB J&K Transitions To Electronic Challan System For Enhanced Transparency



SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Jammu and Kashmir is taking a significant step towards enhancing transparency and efficiency in its operations by transitioning to a fully electronic challan system.

Effective January 1st, 2025,

all ACB branches will discontinue the use of manual registration of FIRs and submit their respective challan electronically through the Crime & Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS), a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads.

This initiative aims to streamline the challan filing process, improve record-keeping, and facilitate faster case management. All Investigating Officers (IOs) within the ACB will be required to submit specific forms within the CCTNS system for each case challan.

To facilitate this transition, CCTNS labs have been established in all eight ACB police stations across Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, 18 officials have undergone training to ensure smooth operation of the CCTNS platform.

Supervisory officers are instructed to withhold approval of any challan until all necessary information is entered into the CCTNS.

“Empowering J&K ethnic groups among major achievements ”

Waris Fayaz

SRINAGAR : Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has listed empowering Pahari ethnic group, Padari tribes, Koli, and

Gadda Brahmin in Jammu and Kashmir among the major achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government. The 2024 annual report of the MHA accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states: “Peace in Jammu and Kashmir has been a priority of the PM Modi led government.

Katra at 9:50 am. and arrive at Srinagar Railway Station at 1:10 pm. and Mail/Express Train 2 will depart from Katra at 3:00 pm. and arrive at Srinagar Railway Station at 6:20 pm.

The 17-km Katra-Reasi section's final phase, including the challenging T-33 tunnel, has been completed. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project, initiated in 2005-06, includes several sections: the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section (2009), the 18 km Banihal-Qazigund (2013), and the 25 km Udhampur-Katra (2014). In February, a successful electric train trial run was held on the 40 km Banihal-Sangaldan track, and normal train operations are currently running on this section.

Govi Asks

The circular also referred to Rule 3(1) of the IAS (Pay) Rules, revised through a notification dated December 30, 2021, further strengthening the obligation for officers to declare their assets.

This move reflects the government’s ongoing efforts to uphold ethical governance and foster a culture of transparency within the administrative framework.

4 MLAs skip meeting of House Committee on Rules of Procedure

JAMMU: Four MLAs on Wednesday skipped the first meeting of a committee set-up by the Speaker of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly to frame Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House.



The House panel, which was set-up by the Speaker last week, met today in Jammu and held discussions on how to proceed ahead with its task.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Mir Saifullah (MLA Trehgam), Justice (retd.) Hasnain Masoodi (MLA Pampore), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (MLA Rajouri) and RS Pathania (MLA Udhampur East) didn't attend the meeting of the panel which was chaired by the Speaker himself.

The committee has seven members from the ruling alliance and two from BJP. No MLA from Kashmir—based opposition is part of the panel. The committee is likely to finalise the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly prior to the commencement of the ensuing Budget session

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020006154, which is Registered in the name of Habib Dar, S/O Wahab Dar. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Mohammad Yousuf Dar, S/O Habib ullah Dar, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohammad Yousuf Dar.
S/O Habib ullah Dar.
R/O Jamia Masjid Kema District Bandipora.

مدرسۃ البنات دار العلوم رحیمیہ بانڈی پورہ

کی تعمیر و تکمیل کے صدقہ جاریہ میں خصوصی حصہ لیجیے، موقع غنیمت جانیں



اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ کے فضل و کرم سے لڑکیوں کے لئے زہر تعمیر ”مدرسۃ البنات“ کی پہلی عمارت کی آخری منزل مکمل ہونے جا رہی ہے۔ اب اس میں اہم مرحلہ چھت کے بنانے کا ہے۔ انجینئرز حضرات کے تنقید کے مطابق چھت میں تقریباً 33 ٹن لوہا لگے گا۔ اس کا لیور اور میٹرل مکمل ماکر خرچ تقریباً 40 لاکھ روپیہ بنتا ہے۔ چھت پر لگنے والے ٹن کے شیٹ کامر حلہ اس کے بعد جس جس میں الگ سے تقریباً 10 لاکھ روپیہ لگنے کا تخمینہ ہے۔

عمارت کی چھت کی حیثیت سرپوش کی ہوتی ہے جو سارے کام کی ستر پوٹی اور سایہ کرتا ہے۔ لہذا انجینوں اور مستورات کے اس ادارے کی سرپوشی اور سایہ کا انتظام کرنا اللہ تعالیٰ کی جانب سے رحمت اور سایہ نصیب ہونے کا ذریعہ بنے گا۔ ان شاء اللہ تعالیٰ۔ اس کا ورنیز میں حصہ لینے کے لئے مدرسۃ البنات کا یہ کاؤٹ نمبر متعین کیا گیا ہے:

Account Number	072701010000200
Title of account	Madrasa Tul Banat Darul Uloom Raheemiyah
Branch	JK Bank Branch Nishat Park Bandipora Kashmir
IFSC Code	JAKA0NIPARK

اس سے قبل بھی اس تعمیر میں بہت سے خوش نصیب حضرات نے کمرے بنا کر یا ان کا حصہ لیکر صدقہ جاریہ رکھنے کے لئے اپنا حصہ ادا فرمایا۔ اب پھر اللہ پاک نے یہ موقع عطا فرمایا کہ شوق رکھنے والے لوگ اس کام میں بھی حصہ لیکر اپنے لئے، اپنے والدین کے لئے، عزیز و متعلقین کے لئے صدقہ جاریہ متعین کر سکتے ہیں۔ اپنی ذاتیں کو بھی ترغیب دیں تاکہ وہ بھی اپنا حصہ اس کار خیر میں لگائیں کیونکہ یہ مدرسہ مستورات کے لئے مخصوص ہے۔ ایک کمرے کی لاگت ساڑھے پانچ لاکھ روپے ہے جتنی توفیق ہو کر میں یا چھت میں حصہ لیں۔ اللہ قبول فرمائے۔

اہم تذکرش یہ ہے کہ بیک کمائی میں رقم ڈالنے کے بعد فون نمبر 9419089250 یا 8899101091 پر سرکین شاٹ ڈال دیں یا وائس اپ منیج کے ذریعہ یا فون پر اطلاع کریں نیز اپنا نام اور ایڈرس روانہ کریں تاکہ رسید بھیجے میں ہولت ہو کیونکہ اب یہ تقصیلات بیک سے دستیاب نہیں ہوتیں۔

محمد رحمت۔ انس کشفیری
تائم دار احسولم رحیمہ بانڈی پورہ کشمیر

"Not that I'm aware of... I think I saw a photo of them shaking hands and a little tap on the back. It's Test cricket. I'm not 100 per cent sure, but Sam didn't take it to heart," said Carey.