

Kashmir Convener



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4 soldiers die, two injured in Bandipora road accident



Sajid Raina

BANDIPORA: Four soldiers lost their lives, and two others sustained critical injuries when an Army vehicle skidded off the Bandipora-Srinagar road and plunged into a deep gorge near Suderkoot-Payeen, close to the Wular sunset point in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on

Saturday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred due to poor visibility and adverse weather conditions. He said the vehicle veered off the road near SK Payeen and fell into a deep gorge, resulting in serious injuries to six soldiers.

"Police, Army personnel

and local residents immediately rushed to the spot to rescue the injured soldiers and evacuate them to the district hospital," the official said. "Two soldiers were declared dead on arrival at the Bandipora District Hospital, while the other four were shifted to a Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment. Tragically, two more soldiers succumbed to their injuries en route to the hospital. The remaining two are in critical condition."

The deceased soldiers have been identified as Lance Naik Jitender, Havildar Hari Ram, Gunner Nitesh and Pawan Kumar. The injured soldiers are Havildar Balappa and Lance Naik Garili. The Army said the accident occurred due to inclement weather and poor visibility conditions.

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LG Sinha, CM Omar, others express grief

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has condoled the loss of lives of Indian Army personnel due to a tragic road accident in Bandipora District.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant



Governor has said: "Deeply grieved by the loss of lives of Indian Army personnel due to a tragic road accident in Bandipora. The nation is deeply grateful for their service and commitment."

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Yellow, Orange warnings issued for J&K areas for today

● Moderate to heavy snowfall likely during next over 30 hours



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Amidst the cloudy weather conditions, Jammu and Kashmir would likely receive a major snowfall during the next two days with the weatherman predicting that an active Western Disturbance (WD) would affect the Union Territory from this evening or night.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), under the influence of the WD, a moderate to heavy snowfall is expected for the next 36 hours over most parts of Jammu and Kashmir while moderate rainfall is expected over plains of

Jammu during the same period.

"Heavy to very heavy snowfall is also possible over higher reaches of Kashmir.

Good snowfall is expected over plains of Kashmir including Srinagar City during the next 36 hours; an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Ari Keng, said.

Meanwhile, the local Meteorological department (MeT) has stated that there is a possibility of heavy snow over middle and higher reaches of Kashmir & Chenab valley during tonight to January 5th late night or 6th morning.

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Z-Morh Tunnel awaits final approval for public opening: Official

● 'Could be inaugurated by PM Modi this month'



Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR: The much-anticipated Z-Morh Tunnel, a 6.5-kilometre-long strategic

route connecting the Srinagar-Leh highway, is awaiting formal approval from New Delhi for public opening. Nearly six months have passed since the

tunnel, constructed by APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway Pvt Ltd, achieved its Commercial Operation Date on July 24, 2024.

Despite the completion of the Rs 2,400 crore tunnel, officials revealed to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they are still waiting for the official green signal to open it to the public.

A source familiar with the project confirmed that the tunnel could be inaugurated by Prime

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Prompt action for forcing parents to purchase non-recommended textbooks: Edu Minister Sakina Itoo



Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: Following the hue and cry regarding purchase

of textbooks other than those prescribed by JKBOSE, the Minister of Education, Sakina Itoo Saturday said that the government will take

prompt action against the private schools who are found guilty.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the minister said, "The complaint of the parents will have a prompt action. If any school is found guilty, we will make sure that action is taken on the very next day."

"We have already constituted a zonal and district level Committee who will monitor the violations done by the private schools," she said. About the selling of textbooks by private schools within the institute,

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Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business 9-member Assembly panel to meet on Tuesday

Mubashir Aalam Wani

SRINAGAR: The Rules Committee constituted by the Speaker of J&K Legislative Assembly is set to hold its second meeting in Jammu on Tuesday (January 7) for framing Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business for the House.

According to the meeting notice issued by the Legislative Assembly secretariat, the panel of MLAs



will hold its meeting under the chairmanship of the Speaker in his office chambers at legislature complex, Jammu on Tuesday at 11:30 AM.

The 9-member panel comprises seven members from the

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Karan Singh Calls For Restoration Of J&K's Statehood

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader and veteran politician Karan Singh has demanded the immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and said that the current status of the region is an "unacceptable" diminution of the "crown of India".

In a recent interview to PTI Videos, Singh, a three-time Rajya Sabha MP and Sadr-i-Riyasat (constitutional head) of the erstwhile state, also voiced his concerns over the changes following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

He noted that before this constitutional change, the entire debate used to revolve around how much autonomy was to be accorded to the state. "The whole game has changed after the abrogation of (Article) 370," Singh said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir's transition to a union territory is a diminution of the erstwhile state and it is "unacceptable".

Singh noted that a former Indian ambassador to the US said that the current status of Jammu

and Kashmir has put it behind states like Himachal Pradesh and Haryana in terms of governance efficiency.

"(Hum) toh mukut hai Hindustan ke (We are the crown of India)," he said.

Asked about statehood restoration, the former Union minister said, "Definitely. Full statehood."

He also advocated for domiciliary laws similar to those in Himachal Pradesh, which restrict land ownership to locals.

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Augment accessibility of healthcare services in rural areas: Sakeena Itoo



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Civil Secretariat here regarding performance and functioning of Health and Medical Education (HME) department in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal and

Pulwama districts.

Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, ADC Srinagar, Director Health Services Kashmir, Principal GMC Srinagar, Principal Government Dental College Srinagar, Mission Director, NHM, CEO SHA, Director

>>>SEE ON P-7

BOTTOM STORY

PM Modi inaugurates Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi today. Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2024 is the theme of the Mahotsav. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Prime Minister greeted all the people present a very happy 2025. He said the grand organization of the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav in the beginning of the year is giving a glimpse of the development journey of India and creating an identity of the same. He congratulated NABARD and other associates for the organization of the event.



The Prime Minister remarked that those of us who were born and brought up in the villages know the potential of the villages. He added that the spirit of the village also resides in those who live in the villages. He further added

that those who have lived in the villages also know how to live the true life of a village. Modi said that he was fortunate to have spent his childhood in a small town with a simple environment. He added that he spent time in the countryside

later when he left the town.

"I have experienced the difficulties and am also aware of the possibilities of the village", said the Prime Minister. He added that since childhood he had observed that although the people of the village are hardworking, they miss out on the right opportunities due to lack of capital. He further added that despite the villagers having diverse strengths in various fields, it is lost in the quest to satisfy their basic amenities. The Prime Minister noted that there were diverse challenges like natural calamities, lack of access to markets facing the farmers. He added that after having seen all these,

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First successful trial run of train on Katra-Banihal section

KC NEWS NETWORK

BANIHAL: Meandering through the Himalayas and snow-capped mountains, the first trial train successfully ran on the Katra-Banihal section on Saturday, in a crucial step towards the final statutory safety inspection next week to determine the commencement of rail services to Kashmir.

The Railways has conducted six trials over the past month on various segments of the track, including major milestones such as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge, and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab at Kauri – the world's highest railway bridge. "Under the safety trials, we conducted today's trial.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Non-Appearance In Response To Proclamation A ‘Stand-Alone Offence’: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has held that non-appearance in response to a proclamation is a “stand-alone offence” and can continue even if the proclamation is extinguished.

The apex court delivered its verdict on January 2 on an appeal challenging a June 2023 judgement of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The bench dealt with legal questions, including whether the proclaimed offender status of an accused under the provisions of the CrPC can subsist if he stands acquitted during trial in connection to the very same offence.

“In conclusion, we hold that section 174A IPC is an independent, substantive offence, that can continue even if the proclamation under section 82 CrPC is extinguished. It is a stand-alone offence,” a bench of justices CT Ravikumar and Sanjay Karol said.

Section 82 of the erstwhile Code of



Criminal Procedure (CrPC) deals with proclamation for person absconding.

Section 174A of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (IPC) pertains to non-appearance in response to a proclamation under section 82 of the CrPC.

“The purpose of section 82 CrPC, as

can be understood from a bare reading of the statutory text is to ensure that a person who is called to appear before a court, does so,” the bench said, adding that the object and purpose of section 174A of the IPC was to ensure penal consequences for defiance of a court order requiring a person’s presence.

It noted what happens if the status under section 82 of the CrPC was nullified, that is, the person subjected to such proclamation, by virtue of subsequent developments was no longer required to be presented before a court of law.

“Then, can the prosecution still proceed against such a person for having not appeared before a court during the time that the process was in effect. The answer is in the affirmative,” it said.

While referring to the language of section 174A of the IPC, the bench said this implies that the “very instance at which a person is directed to appear, and he does not do so, this section comes into play”.

“So, while proceedings under section 174A IPC cannot be initiated independent of section 82, CrPC, that is, can only be started post the issuance of proclamation, they can continue if the said proclamation is no longer in effect,” the bench said.

Khuddian seeks Agri minister’s intervention; bats for Centre-farmers talks

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian on Saturday sought Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan’s personal intervention urging that the Centre should hold a dialogue with the protesting farmers to break the impasse.

He told Chouhan that farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal is sitting on an indefinite hunger strike for the past 40 days at Khanauri protest site in Punjab.

Khuddian told Chouhan that being a Union agriculture minister he should take personal interest in the matter.

On Saturday, Chouhan was addressing agriculture ministers of states during a pre-budget meeting. Khuddian, who joined the meeting through video-conferencing, raised the matter related to the protesting farmers.

Khuddian, who is Punjab’s Agriculture Minister, also told Chouhan that the latter has remained Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

He said states have many hopes towards the Centre and hoped that he will make personal intervention and will contribute

in the present matter.

Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal is on an indefinite hunger strike for 40 days over farmers’ various demands including seeking a legal

their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces.

Dallewal (70) has so far refused to take any medical aid despite his prolonged fasting, which has caused his health to



guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

Farmers, on a warpath against the BJP-led Centre over their demands, had last week called for a “Kisan Mahapanchayat” at Khanauri on Saturday.

The farmers, under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 last year, after

deteriorate.

Asked about holding talks with the protesting farmers to end the logjam, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday that the government will act in accordance with the Supreme Court’s instructions on the ongoing farmers’ protest at the Punjab-Haryana border.

Farmer leaders had earlier said Dallewal had not eaten anything during his fast and was surviving only on water.

Rijiju offers ‘chadar’ at Ajmer Sharif Dargah on PM Modi’s behalf

JAIPUR, Jan 4: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Saturday offered a ceremonial ‘chadar’ sent by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ajmer Dargah on the ‘Urs’ of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

At the dargah, he read out the prime minister’s



message which called on people from across religions to work together in harmony.

The minister also launched the web portal of the dargah, the ‘Garib Nawaz’ app for pilgrims and an operations manual for the conduct of ‘Urs’.

Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is also known as Garib Nawaz.

“Today I have come to the dargah with Prime Minister Modi’s ‘chadar’. I have had the good fortune of coming here to Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Dargah. I prayed for peace,” Rijiju told reporters after presenting the ‘chadar’.

“The message from Ajmer Dargah goes to the whole world. Along with presenting the prime minister’s ‘chadar’, I read out his message,” he said. In his message, the Prime Minister has said that every sect and every religion should come together and work together for the country.

Maha Kumbh to be showcased at tourism fairs in Spain, and Germany in January

Maha Kumbh to be showcased at tourism fairs in Spain, and Germany in January

PRAYAGRAJ, Jan 4: In an initiative to position Uttar Pradesh as a leading global tourism destination, the state government is set to showcase the tourism offerings at the International Tourism Trade Fairs in Madrid, Spain, and Berlin in Germany.

During these global events, Maha Kumbh, being held in UP, will be presented as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity, highlighting its spiritual, historical, and cultural significance.

Aligned with the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Maha Kumbh stands out not only as a religious and spiritual event but also as a symbol of India’s rich historical heritage.

The UP Tourism Department has meticulously prepared to present this grandeur on the global stage, ensuring maximum visibility at both international fairs.

This global outreach will invite people from across the world to experience this magnificent event while also showcasing other diverse tourism offerings and special attractions of UP.

The tourism fairs will feature thematic grand pavilions focusing on Maha Kumbh and UP’s rich cultural legacy. A 40-square meter wider outreach.

In addition to promoting the state as ‘Brand UP’, the land



pavilion will be constructed at the International Tourism Trade Fair (FITUR), scheduled from January 24 to 28 in Madrid, Spain, displaying the tourism attractions of UP.

Similarly, another 40-square-meter pavilion will be set up at the ITB Berlin Fair, which will take place from March 4 to 6, in Berlin, Germany.

To maximise global engagement, VVIP lounges will be set up at both fairs, facilitating B2B and B2C sessions. Promotional materials will be made available in multiple languages, including English and local European languages, to ensure

of Buddha and Sanatan faith, discussions will be held with key stakeholders from major tourist sectors and prospective investors to attract foreign investment for the state’s favorable environment.

Engagement will also be established with various tourism sector representatives, including tour operators from host countries and neighboring regions.

UP’s rich spiritual and cultural heritage will be highlighted alongside the promotion of ODOF (One District One Product) items and other traditional products from the state.

BJP has vested interest in keeping Manipur on boil, PM cannot escape culpability: Kharage

NEW DELHI: After fresh violence erupted in Manipur, the Congress on Saturday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he could not escape the constitutional culpability of not following ‘rajdharna’.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

alleged that the BJP had some vested interest in keeping the border state on the boil.

“The BJP is the matchstick which burnt Manipur!” he said in his post.

He also shared a screengrab of a news report about the latest violence.

The Congress chief said in the post, “Narendra Modi ji, your last visit to Manipur was for seeking votes for the BJP, way back in January 2022. Violence erupted in the state on May 3, 2023.”

“More than 600 days have passed, and media reports through satellite images have now revealed that villages after villages have been wiped off in the state,” he added.

Kharage said fresh violence was witnessed recently when a mob attacked the Kangpokpi district superintendent of police, resulting in injuries.

“Your incompetent and shameless chief minister has expressed regret but has conveniently brazened out your absence in the state,” he alleged.

“We are repeating with utmost responsibility that the BJP has some vested interest to keep the beautiful border state on the boil, with more than 250 innocent deaths and 60,000 being displaced. People are still living in camps for 20 months,” Kharage claimed.

Even the Supreme Court has said it was the primary responsibility of the Union and the state governments to ensure peace and normalcy.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K

Phone No: 0191-2586218 (Jammu), 0194-2468116 (Srinagar)

(Email id: relief-comm@jk.gov.in)

Subject: Integration of Migrant Ration Cards into the NFSA Database.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of all the migrants registered with the Relief Organization (M) J&K, that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, in terms of S.O. 392 and S.O. 393 of 2024, both dated 13th August, 2024, has made necessary amendments in the Jammu & Kashmir Food Security Rules, 2021 and the Targeted Public Distribution (Control) Order 2023, for integration of the ration cards of Kashmiri/Jammu migrants into the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database, to enable them to avail the benefits of various Government Schemes. A committee of officers headed by the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, has been constituted for the purpose.

It has, inter-alia, been provided that the Relief Assistance in respect of Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants shall not be counted as income, but as a source of sustenance only. Further, such ration cards shall be issued by the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, or on the recommendations of the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K.

The extant scale of ration/norms shall continue after integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database. For any clarification may contact your Zonal/Camp Office or call on 9484320655 / 9484320657. No: RRCM/Estt/2024-25/29

Dated: 04.01.2025

Sd/-

JKAS Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K

DIPK-10460/24

PMAY-G is a crucial scheme for upliftment of weaker sections in J&K: Javed Dar

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 04 : Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, today termed Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) as a crucial housing scheme for upliftment of weaker sections of the society.

The Minister remarked this during his address after inaugurating one day workshop on PMAY-G here.

The Minister was accompanied by Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary RDD&PR, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, and other officers of the department.

During the workshop, the Minister distributed cheques among the PMAY-G beneficiaries. He also launched a booklet on PMAY-G 2.

The Minister stressed the importance of identifying genuine beneficiaries and

ensuring inclusivity under PMAY-G, emphasising that “no one should be left out.” He called for a sincere, transparent approach in beneficiary selection and resource allocation.

Referring to PMAY-G scheme, the Minister remarked on its transformative impact on rural housing across Jammu and Kashmir.

Acknowledging geographical challenge, the Minister stressed on importance of meticulous planning and efficient fund utilisation for timely completion

of projects. He also highlighted the need for transparency and accountability, emphasising that “public representatives and officers must work in tandem and perform upto the expectations of general public. Only through such accountability can we deliver a better government.”

The Minister stressed the significance of engaging directly with grassroots communities and addressing their grievances.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani called the scheme a significant initiative

aimed at providing dignified housing to economically weaker sections of society. He described a home as “the closest thing to a person’s heart, a place to live comfortably and take care of one’s family.”

He commended the officers and field workers for their vital role in transforming lives through their support and dedication, stating that “there is no bigger social work than helping people fulfill their dream of owning a home.”

He urged the department to streamline the verification process further, ensuring timely identification of beneficiaries before March 31 deadline.

Secretary, RD&PR Aijaz Asad, described PMAY-G as a cornerstone of inclusive development and poverty alleviation strategies, transforming lives by providing not just houses but homes that offer hope, dignity, and a brighter future.



Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg

Office Phone No.01954-254611 Email Address: fbividivisiontangmarg@gmail.com

Fresh e-TENDER NOTICE No.20of 2024-25 FBI Division Tangmarg

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved registered eligible contractors with J&K UT.Govt. for following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of Work(In Lacs)	E/Money (Amount in Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender doc (Amount in Rupee)	M.H. of Account	Ref.to AAA No	T.S	Position Of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Rejuvenation of Masjid Ahlihaadees Spring (Balance work) at Kunzer.	19.84 Lacs	39680/-	30 days	BEE/CEE	500/-	'Amrut '2.0	M C / K Z / Actt/2022-23/40 of 2022 Dated:- 10-08-2022	50-Irri Dated:- ~16-12-2024	Assured

1	Publishing date:	03-01-2025	04:00 PM
2	Download date start:	03-01-2025	05:00 PM
3	Bid Submission date start	03-01-2025	06:00 PM
4	Bid Submission date Ends:	09-01-2025	04:00 PM
5	Date of Opening	10-01-2025	11:00 AM

No: -FBID/CC/6230-55

Dated: -04-01-2025

DIPK-10450/24

Sd/-Executive Engineer

FBI Division Tangmarg

MLA Sonawari inaugurates Cooperative Fruit Parlour at Hajin

BANDIPORA: In order to boost the local economy and encourage self-reliance among the farming community, MLA Sonawari, Ad-



vocate Hilal Akbar Lone, on Saturday inaugurated a state-of-the-art Cooperative Fruit Parlour in Hajin town of district Bandipora. The event was attended by SDM Sumbal Mir Murtaza, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Bandipora, Adnan Nazir besides other senior officials, cooperative society members and a large gathering of people. Speaking at the event, the MLA highlighted the importance of such ventures in transforming the agricultural landscape of the region. He said the parlour will not only provide a platform for farmers/locals to sell their produce but also add value through modern packaging, processing, and brand-

ing. Lone said, the Cooperative Fruit Parlour in Hajin is part of a broader government initiative to promote

cooperative models in rural areas, ensuring socio-economic upliftment and rural prosperity besides providing employment opportunities. The MLA also directed the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Bandipora to organize awareness camps across the Sonawari region. He said, it is essential to educate people about government schemes so they can fully benefit and secure sustainable livelihoods. He urged locals to actively participate in cooperative initiatives, stressing that such platforms not only ensure economic stability but also contribute to community welfare.

RampWorks Aviation to Launch Training Centers Across India, Flagship in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for India's aviation sector, Mumbai-based RampWorks Aviation Private Limited is set to establish training centers in multiple states and Union Territories to prepare youth for careers in seaplane and airport operations, as well as cabin crew and the hospitality industry.

Founded by Siddharth Verma, a veteran with 32 years of experience in seaplane operations, the company will initially open centers in Jammu and Kashmir, the North-East, Himachal Pradesh, and Nagpur, Maharashtra. The flagship center is scheduled to begin operations in Srinagar, J&K, in February 2025.

The centers will offer specialized, intensive 90-day full-time training programs in three areas: ground handling of seaplane and airport operations, cabin crew training, and hospitality. These will include an additional 30-day on-job training. Each course will accommodate 25 students per batch, both male and female, who will be trained by international instructors with extensive experience in amphibious and wheeled aircraft.

What makes RampWorks unique is its comprehensive residential training program, combining classroom and on-the-job training with a 100% placement guarantee at competitive salaries. The company also offers India's first composite training program for seaplane ground staff.

In its second phase, planned for Q3 of

2025, RampWorks aims to launch India's first seaplane pilot training school in Kashmir, followed by a full-fledged flying training program in its third phase.



"Kashmir offers fantastic potential for seaplane operations. We have reserved 20% of seats in each course for Kashmiri students to empower local youth," said Verma. Highlighting the government's RCS-UDAN scheme, which has identified 79 water bodies for seaplane operations, Verma noted the immense demand for trained personnel in this emerging sector.

The CEO of RampWorks, Nehal Vyas, emphasized the rigorous training programs

that will ensure students are "industry-ready" from day one. "The flagship center in Srinagar will set the tone for the development of India's seaplane ecosystem," she said.

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat grieved over death of soldiers in Bandipora

BANDIPORA: MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat Saturday expressed grief over the death of three soldiers in a tragic accident near SK Payeen area of Bandipora district.

In a statement, Bhat expressed sympathy and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed to the Almighty for strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

Three soldiers died and as many were critically injured after an Army truck plunged into a deep gorge near the SK Payeen area today afternoon. Bhat also prayed for the speedy recovery of those who were injured in this tragic accident.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives of brave Army soldiers in the tragic accident. My thoughts and prayers are with the grieving families. I also pray for the speedy recovery of the injured soldiers," he said.

Youth of Kashmir Accepted Modi's Governance Model: Dr Andrabi

SRINAGAR: BJP National Executive Member and J&K Core Group Member of the party Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today organised an Active



Membership Conclave at Srinagar in which hundreds of Active Members of BJP from Zadibal & Kanyar Assembly segments participated and whose Active Membership forms were handed over by Dr Andrabi to the Party's Membership Incharges Bilal Parray, Arif Raja and BJP Srinagar President Ashok Bhat.

The membership team of BJP hailed the efforts of Dr Darakhshan Andrabi for her public outreach initiatives and her successful membership drive in Srinagar which is going to make the party base at the ground level more strong for the days to come.

In her address Andrabi hailed the participation of the Active Members of the party from Zadibal & Khanyar segments and hoped that many out of these new party cadres will be the future leaders in Kashmir. Later Andrabi spoke to media and said that it was pleasing to see immense public response to BJP's multi-tier Membership Drive in the old city areas where she undertook the public outreach and membership initiative. "People believe in the development model of the Modi led government and more and more people are enthusiastically associating themselves with the world's largest political party", said Andrabi.

She said that during the last leg of the Primary Membership Drive of BJP in Kashmir, the participation of hundreds of new members and delegates in the conclave speaks volumes about the party's growing strength at the grass root level in Kashmir. (ANB)

DC B'la distributes Business Correspondent letters to Krishi Udyamis

Baramulla, January 04: In a significant move towards enhancing financial inclusion and promoting rural development, District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today distributed Business Correspondent (BC) letters to Krishi Udyamis working under the first phase of the Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in Baramulla.

This initiative in collaboration with KAMCO Bank Sopore is aimed at expanding financial services in rural areas and ensuring maximum cover-



age under government schemes such as PM- KISAN, KCC, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PMKMY and PMFBY, while also promoting income-generating opportunities for KJUs.

The Kisan Khidmat Ghars are designed to serve as hubs for all agriculture inputs and farmer oriented services. The initiative will also expand linking banks with critical services like money transfer orders and micro ATMs, thus ensuring financial inclusion and streamlining cash flow processes, especially for farmers.

Chief Planning Officer Baramulla Javed Ahmad, Chief Agriculture Officer Yadvinder Singh, Managing Director and General Manager KAMCO Bank Sopore and Daljeet Singh Nodal Officer for KKGs, were present during the event, highlighting the collective effort to drive this transformative initiative.

With the launch of the KKG initiative, farmers in Baramulla will have better access to government schemes and financial services, empowering them to improve their livelihoods and strengthen the rural economy.

The DC exhorted KJUs to avail this opportunity in favour of their income and employment generation pursuit.

DC Kupwara emphasizes on upscaling therapeutic management, proper counseling of drug addicts

KUPWARA: To review the progress made to curb drug abuse in Kupwara district, a meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination (NCORD) was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan at meeting hall of DC Office Complex, here.



At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal from concerned members of NCORD Committee regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, various issues related to menace of drug addiction, its control and rehabilitation and areas of concern.

The DC meticulously reviewed the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling in Kupwara District. She took feedback from the members of the Committee who presented the latest report related to action taken against drug-addiction and drug trafficking in the District.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the Officers of all the line Departments to further intensify IEC activities, connecting communities including religious influencers and civil society members.

The DC also emphasized the Officers including Enforcement agencies for identification and close vigil of entry points, hot spots of drugs, public places and abandoned buildings.

Similarly, the DC also laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns (seminars, rallies and other programmes on the harmful effects of drug

menace) at Schools and Colleges levels to sensitize students and common masses about ill-effects of drugs and close coordination between Health, Education and other line departments. She also reviewed the functioning of Drug De-addiction Centre Kupwara and Addiction Treatment Facility Centre (ATFC) Handwara and stressed for upscale the therapeutic management and proper counseling of the drug addicts which can help the addicts to come out of the menace.

The DC said in order to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged Rehabilitation, Counseling and Guidance policy is indispensable to be implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace so that sufferings of the drug-affected persons is mitigated.

The Police department was directed to share details of attached properties of drug peddlers with concerned Tehsildars who will mark red entries of these properties which cannot be sold.

The Medical Superintendent District Hospital Handwara was directed to conduct counselling sessions for families of drug abusers so that they may live a respectful life. Patrolling of police parties around the abandoned buildings shall also be intensified, besides, SHOs and Tehsildars shall conduct joint visits to these places to put strict vigil on drug abusers.

On the occasion CMO Kupwara Dr. Ramzan appraised the chair that 1221 cases of drug and substance abuse have been identified in the district, 703 are undergoing treatment, 388 cases fully recovered till date.

It was given out that cent percent CCTV cameras have been installed in the medical stores of the district.

Chair was apprised that as many as 69 FIRs were registered in police district Kupwara 105 drug peddlers were arrested. In Police District Handwara 30 FIRs were registered and 62 drug peddlers were arrested and lodged in different jails.

Passing of veteran trade union leader Abdul Gani Hafiz's daughter a great loss: Tarigami

SRINAGAR: The passing of Shamima Hafiz, daughter of late Abdul Gani Hafiz, a prominent trade Union leader in Jammu and Kashmir, is a profound loss and the departure of a noble soul, said Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, on Saturday.

Tarigami said that Shamima Hafiz had been battling illness and passed away after a prolonged struggle. She was the daughter of a visionary leader who dedicated his life to championing the rights of the working class in J&K.

"Late Hafiz was a lifelong advocate for the working class movement in J&K, tirelessly championing the interests of workers and employees. He devoted much of his time and energy to

strengthening the working-class movement in the region," Tarigami said.



He further added, "Shamima Hafiz was also the sister of Hafiz Ayaz, Editor-in-Chief of Rising Kashmir. I have known this family closely and worked with Hafiz for a number of years. Her passing is a great loss of a sombre and noble soul."

Offering his condolences, Tarigami expressed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and paid tribute to Shamima Hafiz, acknowledging her as a noble soul whose loss is deeply felt. (KNS)

Sajad Lone Urges KU to Establish Examination Centres in Kupwara

HANDWARA: MLA Handwara and Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) president Sajad Lone has urged the authorities at Kashmir University to set up examination centres in District Kupwara, highlighting the difficulties faced by students due to the absence of such facilities.

Kupwara, the northernmost district of Jammu and Kashmir, lies along the Line of Control (LoC). Lone emphasized that the lack of an examination centre poses a significant barrier to academic excellence, forcing students



to travel over 100 kilometres in harsh winter conditions to appear for their exams.

"Travelling such long distances in biting cold is hardly an optimum start for exams. These are non-academic hardships that impact academics and need to be removed," Lone stated.

He also pointed out the psychological impact of such difficulties, stating that recall during exams, concentration, and writing fluency are all affected by the environment. The added stress of long travel negatively impacts academic performance, making it imperative for the authorities to address this issue.

Lone urged Kashmir University to take immediate steps to establish examination centres in Kupwara, ensuring a more conducive environment for students to perform to the best of their abilities. (KNS)

PDP bats for jobs to local youths in JK Railways

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has called on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prioritize employment opportunities for locals in Jammu and Kashmir's railway sector as he prepares to inaugurate a new rail division and railway link in the region next week.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), PDP Vice President Sartaj Madni pointed to the alarming unemployment statistics in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that the region has the highest youth unemployment rate in India at 32 percent. "Female joblessness stands at an even more staggering 53.6 percent, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation."

He said that while the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the



Red Fort has announced the crucial Dill aur Dilli ki duuri statement, he is duty bound to fulfill his pledges and the least he can do is to allocate a separate quota for Kashmiri youth in railways.

The PDP Vice President urged the Prime Minister to actively allocate jobs in the railways to local youth, particularly in areas with limited employment opportunities and that the Prime Minister's scheduled inauguration of the Jammu rail junction should come with the announcement of allocating jobs for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Madni emphasized that Grade III and Grade IV vacan-

cies should be reserved for locals. "The Centre must hold special recruitment drives for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir in the railways," he said.

Highlighting the importance of local participation, Madni added that contractual positions should also be offered to residents to ensure the department's efficient functioning. "This way, unemployed local youth can secure jobs, and the railways will benefit from employees who have a better understanding of the region," he said. The PDP Vice President pointed to the alarming unemployment statistics in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that the region has the highest youth unemployment rate in India at 32 percent. Female joblessness stands at an even more staggering 53.6 percent, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

"Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the epicenter of youth unemployment in India," Madni stated. "Given such circumstances, it is imperative for the railways to lead the way in providing relief to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, enabling them to live dignified lives."—(KNO)

Revolutionizing E-Commerce

India's digital landscape is witnessing a paradigm shift with the advent of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Launched in April 2022 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), ONDC envisions democratizing digital commerce by dismantling monopolistic practices, fostering inclusivity, and empowering small businesses, artisans, and local retailers. At its core, ONDC is built on an open-source methodology, promoting interoperability through open specifications and network protocols. Unlike traditional e-commerce platforms, ONDC's decentralized architecture facilitates seamless transactions between buyers and sellers from various platforms. By embracing these open protocols, it creates a level playing field where small enterprises, marginalized communities, and local artisans can access the digital marketplace without being overshadowed by large corporations. The network's innovative strategies have already yielded tangible results. From pilot programs in cities like Bengaluru and Delhi to the establishment of digital Fair Price Shops, ONDC's reach now spans over 616 cities, covering a diverse range of services including food, fashion, electronics, and health. Its initiatives, such as the ONDC Academy, multi-language handbooks, and digital training sessions, reflect its commitment to fostering digital literacy among sellers and buyers alike. These enterprises, forming the backbone of the nation's economy, can now overcome challenges like limited digital reach and prohibitive platform costs to achieve greater visibility and sustainability. As ONDC continues to scale, its implications extend beyond economic growth. By addressing monopolistic practices and fostering an inclusive digital ecosystem, it aligns with the vision of a Digital India where innovation and equity drive progress.

The challenge ahead lies in ensuring widespread adoption and seamless integration. Stakeholders must remain vigilant against potential misuse and prioritize collaboration to preserve ONDC's foundational principles. The journey to revolutionizing e-commerce has begun, and ONDC stands as a beacon of possibility—a testament to India's resolve to build a fair, open, and inclusive digital future.

American Hegemony and Its Role in the United Nations: Current Influence and Future Possibilities.



Abdul Basit

The United States has played a pivotal role in shaping the structure and functions of the United Nations (UN) since its establishment in 1945. As one of the founding members and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the U.S. has consistently exerted its influence across various domains, from security issues to humani-

peace and security. However, the global landscape has shifted dramatically since the end of the Cold War, with rising powers like China and India, along with regional organisations, challenging the traditional dominance of Western powers in global governance.

This paper examines the multifaceted role of the United States in the United Nations, focusing on its impact on the UN's operational priorities and decision-making processes. The paper also explores the future possibilities of U.S. influence, or control, within the organization as emerging powers contest the existing international order. Ultimately, it seeks to understand whether American hegemony within the UN is sustainable in the 21st century or whether the global leadership structure is poised for transformation. The Role of the United States in the United Nations

peace and security. Over the years, the U.S. has used its veto power to influence outcomes in conflicts where it has strategic interests, such as in the Middle East (e.g., blocking resolutions critical of Israel) or during the Iraq War. The U.S. is also the largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, further cementing its leadership role within the organization. This financial dominance allows the U.S. to exert influence on the operations and priorities of peacekeeping missions and humanitarian efforts.

3. Promoting American Ideals

The United States has consistently used its position in the UN to promote democratic values, human rights, and free-market capitalism. Through various initiatives,

China's increasing role in UN peacekeeping and its use of economic power to sway votes in the General Assembly challenge U.S. leadership. Similarly, Russia's assertive foreign policy, especially in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, has led it to actively use its veto power to counter U.S. initiatives, as seen in the Syrian Civil War. The rise of these powers suggests a shift towards a more multipolar world, in which the U.S. may no longer dominate the decision-making processes at the UN.

2. Changing Attitudes Toward U.S. Hegemony

The political climate in the U.S. has also undergone significant shifts in recent years, with increasing skepticism about the role of international organizations. Under the Trump administration, the U.S. withdrew from several UN bodies, including the UN Human Rights Council and UNESCO, reflecting a retreat from multilateralism. Although the Biden administration has sought to re-engage with international organizations, the growing isolationist sentiment in the U.S. may limit its ability to exert influence on the global stage in the long term.

Moreover, U.S. leadership within the UN faces growing opposition from developing nations and emerging powers, who argue that the current international system disproportionately favors the interests of Western powers. The potential for reforms within the UN, such as expanding the Security Council or altering the veto system, could weaken U.S. influence, especially if new members such as India or Brazil gain more power.

3. The Role of Non-State Actors and Globalisation

The rise of non-state actors, including multinational corporations, NGOs, and transnational advocacy networks, also complicates the U.S.'s ability to maintain control over the UN. These actors often work independently of national governments, influencing UN policy through lobbying, funding, and partnerships. Globalisation has made issues like climate change, migration, and health crises (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic) more complex, requiring multilateral solutions that may not always align with U.S. interests.

Additionally, the increasing importance of regional organisations, such as the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), presents alternative centres of influence that may challenge U.S. dominance in global governance. The U.S. may find itself competing for leadership with these rising blocs, which could lead to a more fragmented global order.

The United States has long been a dominant force within the United Nations, influencing its policies and priorities through a combination of economic, military, and diplomatic power. The U.S. continues to shape key aspects of UN operations, particularly in areas of global security and human rights, through its permanent membership on the Security Council and substantial financial contributions. However, as the global power structure becomes more multipolar, the U.S. faces increasing challenges to its hegemonic position, particularly from rising powers like China and Russia. These challenges, coupled with shifting political attitudes in the U.S. and the growing importance of non-state actors, suggest that the future of U.S. control over the UN is uncertain. While the U.S. is likely to remain a key player in international governance, its ability to unilaterally dominate the UN is diminishing. The evolution of global power dynamics will likely lead to a more distributed form of leadership, in which the U.S. shares influence with other major powers in shaping the future of the United States.



tarian efforts and economic development. This paper explores the role of the United States within the UN, the mechanisms through which it maintains its dominant position, and the challenges it faces in a multipolar world. It further examines the potential future of U.S. control over the UN, especially as emerging powers challenge the current international order. Finally, the paper concludes by assessing whether American hegemony within the UN can be sustained or if a new global leadership dynamic is emerging.

Since its inception in 1945, the United Nations has been a cornerstone of international diplomacy, conflict resolution, and global governance. Among its founding members, the United States has been a dominant force, shaping the institution's objectives and policies in accordance with its national interests. As one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (along with China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom), the U.S. holds significant influence in the decision-making processes of the organisation, particularly in matters of

1. Founding Member and Global Leadership

The United States was instrumental in the creation of the United Nations, particularly after World War II. The U.S. vision for the UN was shaped by a desire to prevent future global conflicts, promote human rights, and encourage international cooperation. The U.S. played a leading role in drafting the UN Charter and continues to contribute heavily to the UN's financial support. The U.S. provides the largest single voluntary contribution to the UN's specialised agencies, including UNICEF, WHO, and the UNHCR.

2. Security Council Dominance

As one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the U.S. holds veto power, allowing it to block any substantive resolution. This gives the U.S. an unmatched ability to shape decisions regarding global

the U.S. has pushed for policies that align with its political and economic interests. For example, the U.S. has advocated for economic sanctions on states deemed to violate international norms, such as North Korea and Iran, while also supporting the expansion of democratic governance in post-conflict states. American foreign policy objectives, such as the spread of democracy and counterterrorism, often shape the UN's work, especially within its specialised agencies.

Future Possibilities of U.S. Control over the UN

1. Emerging Global Multipolarity

The U.S. faces significant challenges in maintaining its dominant role in the UN as other global powers, particularly China and Russia, seek to exert more influence. China's growing economic and military power, along with its strategic investments in developing countries through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has positioned it as a potential rival to U.S. influence.

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Decoding the Rupee's Decline: Causes and Remedies

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

A widening trade deficit due to a rise in imports compared to exports leads to foreign exchange outflows, weakening the rupee. India's record trade deficit in 2022 due to rising crude oil and gold imports drives rupee depreciation. The fall in the Indian rupee underscores the challenges of maintaining currency stability amid external sector vulnerabilities. Currency fluctuations are triggered by global geopolitical tensions such as the Russia-Ukraine war, rising crude oil prices, and capital outflows, as well as domestic factors such as the fiscal deficit. Effective policy measures are crucial to enhance India's external resilience and stabilize its economy.

Sustained outflows after the September 2024 stock peak weakened the rupee as investors moved to safer assets amid speculation of a rise in US interest rates. Trade deficits, such as the high trade deficit, highlight external dependence on imports, especially for energy, widening the current account deficit during rupee weakness. India's crude oil import bill rose with the rupee depreciation, widening the 2024 trade deficit to close to \$75 billion.

Global events such as tariff threats and the BRICS currency dispute add to volatility by creating uncertainties for India's external trade and investment. The US President's 2024 tariff warning against the currency plans of the BRICS countries triggered a market sell-off, weakening India's external stability. Heavy reliance on foreign exchange reserves to stabilize the rupee restricts long-term monetary flexibility during sustained global market turmoil.

The rupee exhausted more than \$20 billion in reserves in a single quarter to pull the rupee back to 85.53 in December 2024. A weak rupee constrains domestic monetary policies, raising inflation through costlier imports while reducing fiscal space to address growth concerns. The cost of crude oil imports rose 15% in December 2024, putting pressure on policymakers to effectively balance currency management and fiscal expansion strategies.

Protectionist trade measures, such as tariffs or sanctions, can undermine currency stability by disrupting the trade balance. Political instability or conflict between major

economies creates volatility, boosting demand for the safe-haven dollar and weakening emerging market currencies. The Russia-Ukraine war led to a surge in global crude oil prices, which put pressure on India's import bill and depreciated the rupee. Tight monetary policies in advanced economies lead

to capital outflows from India, putting pressure on the rupee. The US Federal Reserve's rate hike plan in 2022-23 led to foreign portfolio outflows, which weakened the rupee. A widening trade deficit due to a rise in imports compared to exports leads to foreign exchange outflows, weakening the rupee. India's record trade deficit in 2022 due to rising crude oil and gold imports drives rupee depreciation. High domestic inflation depreciates the currency value, making exports less competitive and imports costlier. Rising prices



portfolio investment outflows. Central bank interventions to stabilize the currency are limited by foreign exchange reserves and can provide only temporary relief. A late RBI intervention in December 2024 managed to temporarily stabilize the rupee at 85.53 per dollar. A fiscally constrained government reduces its ability to manage external shocks, thereby weakening confidence in currency stability. India's record fiscal deficit during the pandemic limited government measures to boost external resilience. The government's clear

stance on currency policies boosts investor confidence and reduces speculative pressure. The RBI governor's ruling out of de-dollarization in 2024 reassured the market, temporarily easing concerns of rupee depreciation.

Measures to strengthen external resilience include boosting exports and focusing on value-added manufacturing and services to increase foreign exchange earnings and reduce trade imbalances. Strengthening sectors such as pharmaceuticals and IT can help reduce the trade deficit and stabilize the rupee. Reduce dependence on volatile crude oil and essential imports by entering into long-term agreements with diversified suppliers. Expanding crude oil imports from Russia and Middle Eastern countries reduces average oil import costs in 2023. Build strong reserves through sovereign wealth funds and gold accumulation for effective currency stabilization.

According to the Reserve Bank, record foreign exchange reserves of \$600 billion in 2021 helped manage volatility during the pandemic. Enter into agreements to settle trade in local currencies, reducing dependence on the US dollar and mitigating exchange rate risks. The India-Russia Rupee-Ruble Trading Mechanism eased pressure on foreign exchange reserves during the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Prioritize low-cost and long-term borrowings while reducing short-term external debt to avoid currency risks.

India's increased issuance of sovereign green bonds helped attract stable foreign investment while reducing repayment volatility in 2023. A strong external sector is important for India's economic resilience amid global uncertainties. By promoting export competitiveness, ensuring prudent fiscal policy, diversifying foreign exchange reserves, and increasing bilateral trade in rupees, India can reduce currency volatility. A visionary strategy emphasizing structural reforms and global economic integration will ensure long-term stability and strengthen India's position in the global economy.

Global events such as tariff threats and the BRICS currency dispute add to volatility by creating uncertainties for India's external trade and investment. The US President's 2024 tariff warning against the currency plans of the BRICS countries triggered a market sell-off, weakening India's external stability. Heavy reliance on foreign exchange reserves to stabilize the rupee restricts long-term monetary flexibility during sustained global market turmoil.

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Div Com emphasizes on close coordination among Engineering Departments during snow clearance ops

Srinagar: To address some urgent issues at hand including functioning of ITMS Cameras, relocation of KPCTCL Towers at Sanatnagar, Snow Clearance and rehabilitation cases, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Saturday chaired a meeting of concerned departments & officers, here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL, Dr Owais Ahmad; ADC Srinagar, Khalid Hussain Malik; SSP Traffic Srinagar, Chief Engineers of R&B, MED, SSCL, KPCTCL & concerned revenue officer.

While chairing the meeting, Div Com took serious note of software glitches in the functioning of ITMS which affects the seamless implementation of traffic regulations and directed concerned officer to urgently rectify the issue so the services will be effectively utilized by the Traffic Department.

Regarding relocation of KPCTCL Towers at Sanatnagar for smooth movement of traffic over flyover, Div Com directed concerned to

expedite the process of land acquisition under 3A National Highway Act for erection of new transmission towers.

In view of weather advisory for snowfall, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir directed operationalization of Divisional Control Room at ICCC to monitor & respond exigencies. He also directed related departments for the deployment of staff at the Control Room.

For the effective implementation of snow clearance plan, Div Com directed SMC, R&B, MED, ULB & PMGSY to maintain close coordination & synergy while ensuring snow clearance operation and restoration of road connectivity.

He urged them that they shouldn't keep their snowclearance operation confined to respective demarcated jurisdictions only rather they should act judiciously & respond promptly to nearby areas to assist in opening of roads.

Div Com instructed CE, MED to coordinate with SMC for providing assistance in view of the priority of restoration of City roads.

Meanwhile the meeting discussed the bottlenecks and acquisition of structures falling in the alignment of road at Habakadal and rehabilitation thereof.

On the occasion, Div Com directed district administration to identify ten plots at the outskirts of the city for the rehabilitation purpose of households.

Inclement Weather: Sgr admin sets up emergency control room

Srinagar: As part of the anticipation of inclement weather and snowfall, the district administration Srinagar has established a 24/7 District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) to ensure a prompt response to grievances during the winter season.

According to an advisory issued , the control room will remain functional round-the-clock to address any emergency situations. Citizens can reach out to various departments through the provided contact numbers.

The key emergency contact numbers include District Emergency Operation Centre: 0194-2483651, 0194-2457552; Winter Control Room: 0194-2457543; Mechanical Engineering Department: 0194-2497458; R&B Department: 0194-2313751; Traffic Control: 0194-2450022. Also, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC): 0194-2470465, 0194-2474499; Fire & Emergency Services: 0194-2452222, 0194-2452155; Animal Husbandry: 0194-2956201; and Public Health Engineering (PHE): 0194-2452047.

Moreover, the nodal officers and contact numbers are: Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat (Supervisor, DEOC Srinagar): 9797370930; Er. Summit Razdan (Assistant Engineer, MH&ED): 9103658810; Er. Anil Ahmad (Junior Engineer, R&B): 9018586906; Mudasir Mushtaq (Junior Building Inspector, SMC): 7066786287; Tariq Rasool (Fireman, F&ES): 7051551379; Nahid Niyaz (HC, SDRF): 7780805144; and Adnan Ahmad (JA, KPDCCL): 7780938397.

Moreover, the administration urged the residents to use these contact numbers to report any emergencies related to snowfall or adverse weather conditions.

The DEOC aims to provide quick solutions to public grievances during the winter months.

DM Baramulla Reviews anti-Drug initiatives, youth engagement plans

Baramulla: District Magistrate Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired the 16th meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee meeting, where a youth from the adverse impact of narcotics," said the DM.

During the meeting, the Principal of Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, Majid Jahangir briefed the DM on the achievements of the Nasha Mukh Bharat (Drug-Free India) initiative. In the first batch, 25 individuals were trained as master trainers, who are now responsible for training others, significantly expanding the reach of the drug awareness and de-addiction campaign.

In addition to anti-drug efforts, the DM addressed initiatives for youth engagement. He directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) and Youth Services Department to organize an annual sports schedule for the youth in the district.

The DM emphasized that these sports events would focus on promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and providing positive alternatives for young people. The annual sports schedule will offer a variety of competitions

and activities, ensuring year-round engagement and opportunities for youth to develop their skills.

The DM also tasked the Principal of Degree College Baramulla with organizing an inter-district college quiz competition to foster academic competition and intellectual engagement among students across Baramulla and neighboring districts. "Academic activities like this quiz competition are essential in developing critical thinking and academic excellence," said the DM.

Furthermore, the DM instructed the Programme Officer to create an animated video aimed at educating children at Anganwadi Centres (AWC) about the dangers of drug abuse. The video will be a fun, interactive tool to raise awareness among younger audiences.

In his closing remarks, the DM also directed the concerned departments to ensure the rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse. He emphasized the need for providing proper counseling, treatment, and support services to help individuals recover and reintegrate into society.

Orientation cum Training Programme on Inclusive Education held at SCERT, Jammu

JAMMU: A one-day Orientation cum Training Programme on Inclusive Education (Children with Special Needs) was organized by Inclusive Education Cell of SCERT, Jammu Division at SCERT, J&K, Divisional Office, Jammu.

The programme aimed to promote inclusive education and provide educators with the skills and knowledge needed to support children with special needs.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, while addressing the gathering, provided insights on the importance of inclusive education and the role of educators in creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment in schools. He discussed about the World Braille Day History and stressed upon the passion and effective implementation of NEP at grassroots level.

The event was marked by the official release of vision documents prepared by SCERT, J&K, Divisional Office, Jammu.

Arati Gupta, Assistant Professor, SCERT, Jammu briefed about the suggestive vision document prepared by the Department of Teacher Education on "Revitalising Morning Assemblies: Fostering Unity, Inspiration and Growth" aimed to instil important values as enshrined in Indian Constitution among the students. It will ensure that the Morning Assemblies serve as important platforms for the holistic development of students as envisaged in NEP 2020.

An overview of Balvatika Workbooks for Pre-School I, II and III was presented by Dr. Sanjeevani Sharma, Head ECCE-Department, SCERT, Jammu.

Pawan Vivek, Senior Academic Officer, SCERT, Jammu, sensitised the gathering about "Mera Gaon Mere Pathshala" guidelines for Mapping of Local Areas and School History. Bhalwal, Academic Officer, SCERT, Jammu, briefed about "Suno Kahani".

An engaging presentation about inclusive education was delivered by Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director CRC Jammu followed by enlightening sessions by renowned experts in the field of inclusive education.

Dr. Aksha, Associate Professor GCW Parade Jammu, deliberated on 'Identification of Children with Special needs' and Neha Kalra, District Resource Person Samagra Jammu shared her experiences on supporting children with special needs in inclusive classrooms under RPWD-ACT.

MVD organises medical, eye check up camp for drivers at Thathri

DODA: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Doda, in collaboration with the Health Department and District Ayush Department, organized a Medical and Eye Check-up Camp today at Thathri. The event was held under the direction of Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and supervised by ARTO Doda, Rajesh Gupta, in the presence of MVD Inspector Robin Singh and officials from the Motor Vehicle and Health Departments.

A large number of drivers from the region participated in the initiative, which emphasized the importance of maintaining good health for the driving community. Drivers underwent comprehensive eye checkups and general health screenings, ensuring their fitness for road safety. Qualified doctors conducted detailed vision tests, providing immediate feedback and recommending corrective measures where necessary. Participants were educated on the critical role of good eyesight in preventing road accidents and ensuring public safety. Doctors gave drivers health tips, highlighting the significance of regular medical checkups for them. After thorough medical check-up the drivers were provided free medicines.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar – Muft Bijli Yojana

GANDERBAL: KULGAM, JANUARY 4: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today convened a meeting with concerned officers to review the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar – Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The scheme aims to enhance the share of rooftop solar capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity, supported by significant financial contributions from the government.

During the meeting, it was informed that a substantial

number of applications have been received for installation of rooftops in the district.

Furthermore, five villages have been identified for the establishment of Model Solar Villages, which will be eligible for significant grants after assessment to facilitate their transition to sustainable energy solutions.

The DC emphasized the need to increase registrations under the scheme and directed the departments to launch massive awareness campaigns.

DLSA Kupwara holds training programme for members of LSUC, LSUM

KUPWARA: District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara, under the aegis of NALSA and JK Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted Four Day orientation programmes for the members of Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) and Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), as per the Training Module and Curriculum developed by NALSA.

The programme was organized from January 01 to 04 at Conference Hall ADR Centre, Court Complex Kupwara.

The orientation programmes were carried under the supervision of Shazia Tabasum, Chairperson, DLSA (Pr. District & Session Judge) Kupwara and guidance of Moneer Ahmad, Secretary (DLSA)/ Sub-Judge, Kupwara.

Shazia Tabasum, Chairperson, DLSA, Pr. District Sessions Judge, Kupwara inaugurated the programme on January 01 in presence of Khemraj Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Geelani Ahmad, SSP Kupwara and Muneer Ahmad, Secretary, DLSA (Sub-Judge) Kupwara, Mozamil Yousuf, Deputy Chief LADC Kupwara, Advocates, Panel Lawyers, and PLVs.

The said orientation programmes were aimed at disseminating information and effective implementation of the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, and NALSA (Legal Services To Persons with Mental Illness and Person with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024.

Javid Ahmad Geelani Retd. Judicial Officer, Advisor/ Mentor to the LSUC & LSUM virtually

joined the programmes. He provided an overview of the units mission, services and policy framework in the context of children.

He also emphasized on the effective implementation of the NALSA (Child Friendly

QR-based feedback system introduced in tertiary care hospitals, Hazratbal block of GMC Srinagar

Srinagar: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has introduced a QR-based feedback system across all its associated hospitals, including eight tertiary care hospitals and the Hazratbal Block.

friendly, allowing patients and attendants to provide feedback easily. The feedback is instantly recorded and accessible to the administration for analysis and prompt action.

The QR-based feedback system aims to enhance patient experience, promote transparency, and drive operational efficiency. By leveraging the feedback, the administration can identify areas for improvement and take prompt action to address concerns.

This initiative demonstrates GMC Srinagar's commitment

to integrating technology into healthcare for efficient service delivery and patient satisfaction. By involving patients and their families, the administration aims to set a benchmark for quality healthcare services in the region.

The launch event was attended by Principal and Dean of GMC Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Administrator Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Medical Superintendents, Deputy Medical Superintendents, BMO Hazratbal, Casualty Medical Officers and Nodal officers.

Highlighting the importance of the new system, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan emphasized, "The QR-based feedback system is a transformative step in our pursuit of patient-centered care. It enables us to actively engage with patients, understand their needs, and address their concerns promptly, thereby ensuring continuous improvement in our service delivery."

Monthly NCORD meeting held at Kulgam

KULGAM: A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today held at Kulgam to discuss various measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district. The meeting convened by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan reviewed the implementation of decisions and directives passed in previous sessions. A thorough discussion was held on several issues related to drug addiction, areas of concern, hotspots of drug use, and the actions taken by the concerned departments to combat the menace of drugs. The meeting also focused on the efforts of enforcement agencies in addressing drug abuse and narcotic trafficking within the district. It was reported that 59 Panchayats in the district have been declared drug-free till date. It was also shared that during the current month, 08 drug peddlers were arrested, and 07 FIRs were registered. The Chair instructed the concerned officials to convene regular meetings of Tehsil and Gram Panchayat level committees. The Assistant Drug Controller reported that they have conducted 104 inspections, suspending 02 licenses in this month and 19 samples were also lifted and sent for analysis to ascertain the quality parameters in the current month. It was also shared that the district achieved a 100% target in the installation of CCTV cameras, and efforts are underway to achieve a 100% target in CBS.

Distt Admin Shopian provides winter kits to frontline workers of essential services

Shopian: District Administration Shopian today distributed winter kits among numerous frontline workers of essential services departments, demonstrating its commitment to their well-being and safety during the ongoing harsh winter.

The distribution function was held at Town Hall, MC Shopian and was presided by DC Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar.

During the function, frontline workers of MC Shopian, Jal Shakti and KPDCCL including drivers, line-men, sanitation workers and other staff associated with snow clearance and restoration of essential services were provided jackets, shoes and other essentials.

The aim of initiative was to acknowledge their selfless service in maintaining cleanliness & hygiene in the town and restoration of water and power supply lines across the length and breadth of district.

DC Shopian appreciated the efforts of frontline staff who worked hard during the last spell of snowfall for the early snow clearance and restoration of services.

He said administration is committed for taking all possible measures for their upliftment and asked them to perform their services with utmost sincerity and dedication.

This initiative is a token of appreciation and small contribution from the district administration resources to provide some comfort to workers, recognizing their selfless service to the community, DC said.

Amid weather advisory, SMC Commissioner says: ‘Snow clearance plan in place, resources ready for emergencies’

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner Dr Owais Ahmad stated on Saturday that the corporation is fully prepared to address weather and snowfall challenges, with comprehensive measures implemented to ensure smooth operations throughout the winter season.

Speaking to selected news reporters in Srinagar, as reported by the news gathering agency KINS, the SMC Commissioner stated that the corporation is responsible for clearing approximately 1,500 km of roads, along with 5,500 lanes that are manually cleared.

The Commissioner highlighted that the SMC's priority system is structured into three categories:

Priority 1 includes 500 km of crucial roads, connecting hospitals and essential public services, which are cleared immediately, even during snowfall. Following that, Priority 2 and Priority 3 cover other roads and residential areas.

He stressed the continuous nature of the snow clearance operation, explaining that as snow accumulates, the clearing process is repeated. Additionally, to prevent water inundation, the SMC has upgraded 100 drainage stations with power backup and deployed 127 drainage pumps.

The Commissioner assured the public that SMC's snow clearance plan is in place, with resources ready to tackle any emergency or priority needs. Extra machinery has been hired, including modified JCBs, snow clearance machines, and small robotic snow blower machines designed for tight spaces.

He said that in a bid to speed up the manual snow clearance process, the SMC has also ordered hand-held snow blowers, which are currently being tested.

The Commissioner appealed for public cooperation, urging residents to report any issues via the control room or social media handle of the corporation. (KINS)

...Year End Review-2024

India successfully met an all-time maximum power demand of 250 GW during FY 2024-25

The year 2024 marked a landmark period for India's power sector, with historic advancements in energy generation, transmission, and distribution. From meeting record power demand of 250 GW to reducing energy shortages at the national level to a mere 0.1% in FY 2024-25, the sector demonstrated resilience and commitment to sustainable growth. Significant strides in energy conservation, consumer empowerment, and infrastructure development underscore

simplified windows. Window-I permits allocation of coal at "Notified Price" to Central Generating Companies and State Governments. Window-II allows allocation to all generating companies (Central, State, or Private) at a premium over the "Notified Price," irrespective of ownership or nature of PPAs. The new policy aims to support the development of an additional 80 GW of thermal capacity.

- Hydro Projects. Central Government in November

MW of Inter-regional Transfer Capacity have been added.

- Right of Way (RoW) compensation Guidelines: To ensure the timely development of power transmission infrastructure for evacuating 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, the Ministry of Power revised the Right of Way (RoW) guidelines in June, 2024, linking compensation to the market value of land. For tower base area, the compensation has been increased from 85% to 200% of the land value. For the

on-grid electricity connections under RDSS. To date, a total of 4,355 crore has been sanctioned for the electrification of 9,61,419 households, including those from PVTGs and tribal communities, along with public places identified under the DA-JGUA initiative.

Energy Conservation

- EV Charging Guidelines: Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure-2024 have been issued to support creation of a nationwide connected and inter operable EV charging network. This will help increase the chargers from 34,000 presently to about 1 lakh by 2030. These guidelines are expected to create a robust, safe, reliable, and accessible EV charging network, enhance the viability of charging stations, encourage use of solar energy for electric vehicle charging, and prepare the electricity grid to handle increased demand of EV charging.
- Sustainable Building Codes Issued: India has taken a major step towards a greener future with the introduction of two new building codes: the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) for commercial buildings and the Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) for residential buildings. The revised codes apply to large commercial buildings and multi-storied residential complexes with a connected electricity load of 100 kW or more, which means the codes will impact big offices, shopping malls and apartment buildings, and will help in reduction of 18% electricity consumption. Additionally, it incorporates sustainability features related to natural cooling, ventilation, water, and wastewater disposal. States may adopt these building codes.
- Indian Carbon Market. The Ministry of Power has notified the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, empowering industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and earn carbon credits. This initiative fosters investments in transformative technologies, positioning India as a leader in global green finance. It is intended to operationalize the trading of certificates of mandatory sectors by October 2026 and of voluntary sectors by April 2026.

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for ALL (UJALA): UJALA programme was launched in 2015 under which LED bulbs, LED Tube lights and Energy efficient fans are being sold to the domestic consumers for replacement of conventional and inefficient variants. Till date, over 36.87 crore LED bulbs, 72.18 lakh LED Tube lights and 23.59 lakh Energy efficient fans have been distributed by EESL across India. This has resulted in estimated energy savings of 48.41 billion kWh per year with avoided peak demand of 9,789 MW, GHG emission reduction of 39.22 million ton CO2 per year and estimated annual monetary savings of INR 19,335 crore in consumer electricity bills.

- Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP): SLNP was launched in 2015 to replace conventional street lights with smart and energy efficient LED street lights across India. Till date, EESL has installed over 1.31 crore LED Street Lights in ULBs and Gram Panchayats across India. This has resulted in estimated energy savings of 8.82 billion kWh per year with avoided peak demand of 1,471 MW, GHG emission reduction of 6.08 million ton CO2 per year and estimated annual monetary savings of INR 6,179 crore in electricity bills of municipalities.

Reforms and Initiatives

- Rights of Consumers Rules: Electricity Rules were notified in February 2024 to empower electricity consumers. This framework lays down their rights and provides mechanisms to enforce them. The rules ensure timely access to services such as new connections, grievance redressal, and billing transparency while facilitating rooftop solar adoption and electric vehicle (EV) integration. Key provisions include:
 - Simplifying rooftop solar installation processes with exemptions from technical feasibility study for systems up to 10 kW.
 - Allowing separate connections for EV charging stations to promote clean mobility.
 - Reducing timelines for new connections: 3 days in metros, 7 days in municipal areas, and 15 days in rural regions (30 days for hilly terrain).
 - Mandating consumer rights for separate metering and billing in residential colonies, enhancing transparency and fairness.
 - Introducing mandatory check meters to verify consumption in case of complaints.
- Additional Surcharge Elimination: The Electricity Rules, 2005 have been amended in 2024 to rationalise open access charges. New rules now allow large consumers (open access consumers) to buy electricity from the cheapest sources across India, not just from their local Distribution Licensee. Some State regulators charge large consumers heavily to buy electricity from other sources. In an effort to reduce these charges, the additional surcharge levied is now being gradually reduced and will be completely removed within four years. Importantly, large consumers who have never bought electricity from their distribution licensee are not required to pay additional surcharge.
- Computer Security Incident Response Team – Power (CSIRT–Power): Union Minister for Power inaugurated Computer Security Incident Response Team – Power (CSIRT–Power) facility in September, 2024. Equipped with advanced infrastructure, cutting-edge cybersecurity tools, and key resources, CSIRT–Power is now well-prepared to tackle emerging cyber threats. With a dedicated team of experts, it is set to become a cornerstone of the sector's cyber defence, coordinating incident response, establishing a strong cybersecurity framework, and implementing crucial measures to enhance overall preparedness and resilience.



the government's efforts to ensure reliable, affordable, and clean energy for all.

With groundbreaking initiatives such as universal electrification, enhanced rural power availability, and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, India is firmly on the path to becoming a global energy leader.

Improvement in Power Supply Position:

- Record Demand Met: India successfully met an all-time maximum power demand of 250 GW during FY 2024-25.
- Sharp Reduction in Power Shortages: Due to significant additions in generation and transmission capacities, energy shortages at the national level have reduced to a mere 0.1% in FY 2024-25, a major improvement from 4.2% in FY 2013-14.
- Rise in Per Capita Electricity Consumption: Per capita electricity consumption in India has surged to 1,395 kWh in 2023-24, marking a 45.8% increase (438 kWh) from 957 kWh in 2013-14.
- Universal Electrification Achieved: Villages and households across the country have been electrified, marking a significant milestone in India's power sector.
- Improved Power Availability: The average availability of electricity in rural areas has increased from 12.5 hours in 2014 to 21.9 hours, while urban areas now enjoy up to 23.4 hours of power supply, reflecting substantial improvements in the reliability and reach of electricity services.

Generation:

- Significant Growth in Installed Capacity: India's total installed power generation capacity has surged by 83.8%, increasing from 249 GW as of March 31, 2014, to 457 GW as of November 30, 2024*.
- Major Expansion in Renewable Energy: Since April 2014, 129 GW of renewable energy capacity, including large hydro, has been added. This includes 91 GW of solar power, 27 GW of wind power, 3.2 GW of biomass, 1.3 GW of small hydro, and approximately 6.3 GW of large hydro generation capacity, demonstrating India's strong commitment to clean energy.
- Award of thermal projects: To address the peak demand of India's rapidly expanding economy, the Government has awarded 19.2 GW of new coal-based thermal capacity. The total installed capacity of coal and lignite-based thermal plants now stands at 217.5 GW. An additional 29.2 GW of capacity is under construction, with 13.4 GW expected to be commissioned in FY 2024-25. A further 36.3 GW of capacity is in various stages of planning, clearances and bidding.
- Coal Stock Position: As of March, 2024, Domestic Coal-Based (DCB) power plants held a coal stock of 47.8 MT. As of December, 2024, these plants hold 41.4 MT of coal which is targeted to increase to 50 MT by March 2025. Sustained coal supply during Q1 and Q2 of FY 2025 ensured meeting the peak demand of 250 GW in May 2024. With improved domestic coal availability, the Ministry of Power discontinued its advisory for blending imported coal beyond October 15, 2024.
- Revision of SHAKTI Policy: The Government of India is reviewing the coal allocation policy to encourage private sector participation. The revised policy proposes two

2024 has approved Heo Hydro Electric Project (186 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh. The project will be completed in 50 months at a cost of 1939 Cr.

- CFA for HEPs NER: Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 28th August, 2024 has approved the scheme of "Central Financial Assistance (CFA) towards equity participation by the State Govts. for development of Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) in North Eastern Region (NER)". Under this scheme, the equity portion of the State Government of NER (capped at 24% of the total project equity, subject to a maximum of 750 crore per project) would be funded through this scheme. The scheme will be implemented during the period from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32, with a total financial outlay of 4136 crores.
- Enabling Infrastructure HEPs: Union Cabinet Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 11th September, 2024 has approved the scheme of "Modification of the Scheme on Budgetary Support for the Cost of Enabling Infrastructure for HEPs". Total outlay of the scheme is 12461 crores for the period from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32. A cumulative hydro capacity of approximately 31 GW, including 15 GW of PSP capacity, would be supported under the scheme.
- Pump Storage Projects (PSP): India has the potential of PSPs of about 181 GW with around 5 GW (2.6%) developed so far. Government has set an ambitious target of adding 35 GW PSP capacity by 2031-32 out of which, 6 GW is under construction and rest is under development stage.
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme for development of BESS, a capacity of 13,000 MWh is targeted for addition.

Transmission

- National Electricity Plan: Govt. of India has finalised National Electricity Plan from 2023 to 2032 for Central and State transmission systems to meet a peak demand of 458 GW by 2032. The total cost of the plan is Rs 9.15 lakh Cr. Under the previous plan 2017-22, about 17,700 circuit kilometers (ckm) lines and 73 GVA transformation capacity were added annually. Under the new plan, transmission network in the country will be expanded from 4.91 lakh ckm in 2024 to 6.48 lakh ckm in 2032. During the same period the transformation capacity will increase from 1,290 Giga Volt Ampere (GVA) to 2,342 GVA. Nine High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) lines of 33.25 GW capacity will be added in addition to 33.5 GW presently operating. Inter-Regional transfer capacity will increase from 119 GW to 168 GW. This plan covers the network of 220 kV and above. This plan will help in meeting the increasing electricity demand, facilitate RE integration and green hydrogen loads into the grid.
- 50 GW ISTS Capacity Approved: 50.9 Giga Watt of Inter State Transmission Projects costing Rs. 60,676 Cr has been approved. The transmission network required to connect 280 GW of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) to the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) by 2030 is planned to be 335 GW. Out of this, 42 GW has already been completed, 85 GW is under construction, and 75 GW is under bidding. Balance 82 GW will be approved in due course.
- Improvement in Transmission System: During 2024, 10,273 ckm of transmission lines (of 220 kV & above), 71,197 MVA of transformation capacity (of 220 kV & above) and 2200

“Major Expansion in Renewable Energy: Since April 2014, 129 GW of renewable energy capacity, including large hydro, has been added. This includes 91 GW of solar power, 27 GW of wind power, 3.2 GW of biomass, 1.3 GW of small hydro, and approximately 6.3 GW of large hydro generation capacity, demonstrating India's strong commitment to clean energy.”

RoW Corridor, compensation has been raised from 15% to 30% of the land value.

Distribution

- Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS): Under RDSS which aimed at improving operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of Discoms, 19,79,24,902 prepaid Smartmeters, 52,52,692 DT meters and 2,10,704 Feeder meter have been sanctioned at a cost of INR 1,30,670.88 Cr. Loss Reduction works of ~INR 1.46 lakh Cr. have been sanctioned and Rs 18,379.24 Cr have been released towards loss reduction works under RDSS. As a result of reform measures taken under the scheme, AT&C losses have come down to 15.37% and ACS-ARR gap has reduced to Rs. 0.45/kWh in FY2023.
- All identified households from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) under the PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) and tribal households under the DA-JGUA (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan) are being provided with

Continued From P1...

4 soldiers

In a statement, the Chinar Corps expressed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and gratitude to the local Kashmiri citizens for their swift assistance during the rescue operations.

“On 04 Jan 2024, while performing duty in Bandipora District, a vehicle of the Indian Army skidded and fell into a gorge due to adverse weather conditions and poor visibility. Injured soldiers were promptly evacuated for medical care with assistance from Kashmiri locals, for which we express our gratitude. Tragically, three bravehearts lost their lives in the unfortunate accident. The Indian Army extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families,” the statement read.

The bodies of the deceased soldiers were handed over to their respective units after completing the necessary legal formalities, a police officer said, adding that an investigation is underway to ascertain the exact cause of the tragic accident.

LG Sinha,

My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured”.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic death of three army soldiers who lost their lives in a road accident in Bandipora district.

The unfortunate incident occurred when the vehicle they were traveling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge near SK Payeen in Bandipora district of north Kashmir.

In his condolence message, the Chief Minister extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, offering his prayers for strength and solace during this difficult time.

He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and wished a speedy recovery to the soldiers injured in the accident.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge mourned the loss of lives and urged authorities to take measures to prevent such incidents. “Deeply saddened by the tragic accident in Bandipora, where soldiers have lost their lives. We salute their selfless service. Authorities must take adequate safety measures to prevent such incidents in the future,” he said in a post on ‘X’.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also expressed her condolences. “The news of the martyrdom of our soldiers in Bandipora is deeply saddening. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, and I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured soldiers,” she said.

MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat expressed grief and extended his sympathies to the families of the deceased soldiers. “Deeply saddened by the loss of lives of brave Army soldiers in this tragic accident. My prayers are with the grieving families, and I hope for the speedy recovery of the injured soldiers,” he said.

This tragedy comes just a week after a similar incident in Poonch, where five soldiers lost their lives in a road accident.

Yellow, Orange

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather could remain generally cloudy while there is a possibility of light to moderate rain in plains of Jammu and snow at most places of J&K with peak activity during tonight to 5th late night or January 6th morning.

He added that the weather conditions would improve from January 6th afternoon.

According to him, the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of dry weather from January 7 to 10 while from January 11 & 12, there is a possibility of light snow at isolated to scattered places.

Ahmad said the weather would remain generally dry from January 13-15.

According to the details shared by MeT, the yellow and orange warnings have been issued for tomorrow (January 05). The orange warning has been issued for the areas including Bandipora, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam and Ramban while the yellow alert has been issued Baramulla, Kishtwar and Doda.

For January 6, the MeT has issued yellow warning for Anantnag, Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Kulgam and Shopian.

Z-Morh Tunnel

Minister Narendra Modi later this month, though no official date has been confirmed yet.

“The Z-Morh Tunnel is fully ready for public use, but we are still awaiting formal approval from New Delhi. We hope to receive the go-ahead soon,” an official said.

He said the tunnel has the potential to boost tourism and ease travel hardships. “This tunnel will make our lives much easier, especially during the harsh winters. It’s frustrating that it’s still not open to the public despite being ready for months,” he said, adding, “We hope the government acts quickly, as this is crucial for our local economy and daily commuting.”

The Z-Morh Tunnel, part of a build-operate-transfer (BOT) model, is expected to enhance connectivity between the popular tourist destination of Sonamarg and the rest of Jammu & Kashmir. Located at an altitude of 8,500 feet, the tunnel will provide all-weather access and boost military logistics to Ladakh, a region critical to national security.

The project was first envisioned by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in 2012, with construction later taken over by the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL). Originally slated for completion in October 2024, the tunnel was recently opened on an emergency basis to clear traffic stranded due to heavy snowfall and slippery road conditions on the highway.

The tunnel is expected to play a crucial role in ensuring safer, year-round connectivity for civilians and military operations alike, eliminating the snow-related challenges that often block the Srinagar-Leh highway

Prompt action

the education minister a day before haf said that the government has constituted a district and zonal level committee. “They have been asked to monitor the violation so that appropriate action is taken against those private schools.”

In the meantime, sources informed KNO that the government is mulling to cancel the recognition of those private schools immediately after the complaint if found guilty.

“If any private school is found guilty in sale and

pursue of non-recommended textbooks will face the de-recognition very next day,” sources said.

Pertinently, Netizens took to different social media platforms to raises their concern regarding sale and purchase of non-recommended textbooks within the educational institutions.

The Netizens have also expressed their concerns regarding the soaring prices of the unnecessary textbooks.

9-member Assembly

ruling alliance and two from BJP. No member from Kashmir-based opposition parties including PDP and PC is part of the panel.

The panel comprises Mubarak Gul, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, Saifullah Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Hasnain Masoodi,Ranbir Singh pathania, and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

Karan Singh

“These are the domiciliary laws that we want,” he said. However, Singh feels not everything about the abrogation of Article 370 is negative.

He said the abrogation scrapped a law that took away the property rights of women from the state who married outsiders and also enabled many people who migrated from Pakistan to exercise their franchise.

“So I took a very nuanced view. Some things are positive in it,” he said.

Decades ago, Singh had proposed trifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He proposed that Jammu should be merged with Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh should be made a union territory and Kashmir should remain a state.

“Everyone jumped at me and the proposal was rejected. Today things are different, Jammu has its own personality now,” he said.

Asked if he had any such radical proposal now, he said, “I think that now the only radical suggestion is the reinstatement of statehood plus domiciliary laws to safeguard the people of the state and a genuine attempt to strike a fair balance between Jammu and Kashmir regions.”

The only way to do this is to have a peaceful relationship between the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government, he underlined.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked Article 370 of the Constitution, stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and dividing it into two union territories — J&K and Ladakh. While the former has a legislative assembly with limited authority, Ladakh operates without one.

In December 2023, the apex court upheld the Centre's decision but reiterated the need for the swift restoration of statehood.

During the interview, Singh also reflected on his relationship with the Abdullah family, particularly with Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, the first chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

He described Sheikh Abdullah as a “remarkable” Kashmiri leader who significantly influenced the region's political landscape, but acknowledged the complexities of their interactions given the historical tension between the monarchy and the emerging democratic forces.

Recalling the time when Jammu and Kashmir's first assembly was constituted, Singh said his father Maharaja Hari Singh and many of his loyalists thought that he should not take up the role of ‘Sadr-i-Riyasat’ because Sheikh Abdullah had insulted the Dogras and the Maharaja.

“So that was where the tension in a way began. I suppose it was an inevitable fallout of politics. You see, I realised that the monarchy had lost its importance. That the future lay in democracy. I wanted to be part of that democracy,” he said.

Singh credited National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah for bringing him back into politics after a 12-year hiatus.

Augment accessibility

Coordination New GMCs, MD, JKMSCL, Project Director, AIDS Control Society, Medical Superintendents, CMOs of concerned district and other senior officers of health and medical education department attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed medical infrastructure, human resources, medical supplies and equipments as well as emergency preparedness of each district. She also took detailed appraisal regarding functioning of PHCs, CHCs, SDHs and district hospitals of all these districts.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, Sakeena Itoo stressed upon them for maximising accessibility of healthcare services in rural areas especially during winters. She called upon them for posting of specialists and adequate staff in PHCs and CHCs so that people get best medical care in their vicinities without moving to tertiary care hospitals.

The Minister also stressed upon the officers for enhancing the existing mobile health services for reaching out to remote areas more effectively.

While reviewing progress on ongoing projects in these districts, Sakeena Itoo impressed upon the officers for timely completion of these projects as they are vital for filling the gaps of progressive health care services for people. She further encouraged the officers to prioritise establishment of more diagnostic centers and specialty services at district hospitals in order to cater to the increasing health needs of the people and reduce burden on tertiary care hospitals.

The Minister also called upon all Medical Superintendents to display rates of all diagnostic tests at designated places in their respective hospitals for ease of common masses.

PM Modi

he resolved his mind and was encouraged to tackle the challenges faced by them. He further added that the development works being undertaken today in the rural areas are inspired by the lessons and experiences from the villages. Modi said that since 2014, he has been constantly in the service of rural India.

“Ensuring a dignified life for the people of rural India is the priority of my Government”, exclaimed the Prime Minister. He added that their vision was to ensure an empowered rural India, provide ample opportunities for villagers, reduce out migration and ensure ease of life of the people of villages. Therefore, he said, the Government had implemented a program in each and every village to ensure basic amenities. Modi highlighted

that every house was provided with a toilet as part of Swachh Bharat Mission, crores of people in rural India were given pucca houses as part of PM Awaas Yojana and lakhs of houses in villages were ensured safe and clean drinking water through Jal Jeevan Mission.

“Today, Health facilities are being provided in more than 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs to the people”, said the Prime Minister. He added that Telemedicine, assisted by digital technologies, has ensured the option of best doctors and hospitals to the villages. Crores of people in the rural areas have benefited from the telemedicine through e-Sanjeevini, he further added. Modi remarked that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the world wondered how India's villages would cope. He added that however, the Government ensured that vaccines reached the last person in every village.

The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of creating economic policies that consider every section of rural society to strengthen the rural economy. He was pleased that over the past 10 years, the government has formulated special policies and made decisions for every section of the village. Modi remarked that just a few days ago, the Cabinet approved the extension of the PM Crop Insurance Scheme for another year and decided to continue the subsidy on DAP. He emphasised that the government's intentions, policies, and decisions are infusing new energy into rural India.

The Prime Minister underscored the goal of providing maximum economic assistance to villagers within their villages, enabling them to engage in farming and create new employment and self-employment opportunities. He noted that through the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, farmers have received approximately Rs 3 lakh crore in financial assistance. Noting that over the past 10 years, the amount of agricultural loans has increased by 3.5 times, Modi mentioned that now livestock and fish farmers are being provided with Kisan Credit Cards. He added that in addition, more than 9,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in the country are receiving financial assistance. He further underlined that the government has consistently increased the MSP for several crops over the past 10 years.

Modi highlighted the launch of campaigns like the Swamitva Yojana, through which villagers are receiving property papers. He remarked that over the past 10 years, several policies have been implemented to promote MSMEs. The Prime Minister emphasized that MSMEs have benefited from the Credit Link Guarantee Scheme, with over one crore rural MSMEs reaping its benefits. He noted that today, rural youth are receiving support from schemes like the Mudra Yojana, Start-Up India, and Stand-Up India.

The Prime Minister highlighted the significant contribution of cooperatives in transforming the rural landscape. He remarked that India is on the path to prosperity through cooperation, and for this purpose, the Ministry of Cooperation was established in 2021. He noted that around 70,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) are being computerized to ensure that farmers and villagers get better value for their products, thereby strengthening the rural economy.

Modi emphasised that apart from agriculture, various traditional arts and skills have been prevalent in our villages, such as blacksmithing, carpentry, and pottery. He remarked that these occupations have significantly contributed to the rural and local economy, but were previously neglected. He added that to enhance their skills and provide affordable assistance, the Vishwakarma Yojana is being implemented, giving lakhs of Vishwakarma artisans an opportunity to progress.

“When intentions are noble, the results are satisfying”, said Modi. He added that the country is now reaping the benefits of the hard work done over the past 10 years. Citing a recent large-scale survey that revealed several important facts, Modi noted that compared to 2011, consumption in rural India has nearly tripled, indicating that people are spending more on their preferred items. He noted that previously, villagers had to spend more than 50% of their income on food, but for the first time since independence, the expenditure on food in rural areas has fallen below 50%. He explained that this meant the people are now spending on other desires and needs, improving their quality of life.

Highlighting another significant finding from the survey, which revealed that the gap in consumption between urban and rural areas has decreased, the Prime Minister remarked that it was previously believed that urban individuals could spend more than those in villages, but continuous efforts have reduced this disparity. He emphasized that numerous success stories from rural India inspire us.

The Prime Minister noted that these achievements could have been realized during previous governments' tenures, but for decades after independence, lakhs of villages were deprived of basic necessities. He pointed out that the majority of SC, ST, and OBC populations reside in villages and were neglected by previous governments. This led to migration from villages, increased poverty, and a widening gap between rural and urban areas. Citing an example of the previous perception of border villages as the last villages of the country, Modi stated that his government has given them the status of the first villages and launched the Vibrant Villages Scheme for their development. He highlighted that the development of border villages is increasing the income of their residents. He emphasized that those who were previously ignored are now being prioritized by his government.

The Prime Minister mentioned the launch of the PM Janman Yojana for the development of tribal areas, ensuring equal rights for regions that were deprived of development for decades. He remarked that over the past 10 years, his government has corrected many mistakes of previous governments. He emphasized that the government is moving forward with the mantra of national development through rural development. Modi highlighted that as a result of these efforts, 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in the past 10 years, with the majority being from rural areas. He mentioned a recent study by the State Bank of India, which revealed that rural poverty in India has decreased from approximately 26% in 2012 to less than 5% in 2024. He noted that while some people have been chanting slogans to eradicate poverty for decades, the country is now witnessing a real reduction in poverty.

Emphasising the significant role of women in India's rural economy and the government's efforts to expand this role, Modi remarked that women are redefining rural life as Bank Sakhis and Bima Sakhis, and are leading a new revolution through self-help groups. He noted that 1.15 crore women in villages have become Lakhpati Didis and the government aims to make 3 crore women

Lakhpati Didis. He added that special schemes were also being implemented for women from Dalit, deprived, and tribal communities.

Underscoring the unprecedented focus on rural infrastructure, the Prime Minister highlighted that most villages are now connected to highways, expressways, and railways. He noted that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, approximately 4 lakh kilometer of roads was constructed in rural areas over the past 10 years. “Villages are becoming modern 21st-century villages in terms of digital infrastructure”, said the Prime Minister. He noted that over 94% of rural households now have access to telephones or mobile phones and banking services and world-class technology like UPI was available in villages. Modi highlighted that the number of Common Service Centers has increased from less than 1 lakh before 2014 to over 5 lakh today, providing dozens of government services

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No: JK15 20120006276, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly written as Mehrban Ahmad Khan, S/O Saif-u-din khan. While as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Meharban Ahmad Gojar Turk, S/O Saifuddin Gojar Turk. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/ she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Meharban Ahmad Gojar Turk.
S/O Saifuddin Gojar Turk.
R/O. Aloosa, District Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010007454, which is Registered in the name of Gh Mohammad wani. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Parvaiz Ahmad Khan S/O Amanullah Khan, in this regard any person having any objection he/ She may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Parvaiz Ahmad Khan.
S/O Amanullah Khan.
R/O Madar Bandipora.

از دفتر نایب تحصیلدار سوپور (با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

منفون: درخواست منجانب بشارت مودود۔ بشیر احمد مسعودی کا سہ ماہی اقبال خان بانات نسبت اجرائی لیگل حیمیر بابت واگڈار رقم۔

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور کی نسبت درخواست مایل/ مایلد دفتر حرا میں زیر کاروانی ہے اس ضمن میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بلب کی گئی اور ملاطبت رپورٹ پٹواری و مندوفا، سائل کاوالدی بشیر احمد مسعودی ولد عبدل اعجب مسعودی مومرنہ 23-03-2020 کو فٹ ہو چکا ہے۔ متوئی مرکز ریڈیٹ سے دکاندار تھا۔ متوئی مرکز کے وارثان جائز بیل در لفٹ ہوئے:-

نمبر شمار	نام	رشتہ تہر او متوئی	عمر (تخمینی)	پیشہ
1	شمش النساء	زویہ	77 سال	گھر بیو کلام
2	تہسم احمد مسعودی	پسر	63 سال	پیشہ
3	فطیل مسعودی	//	61 سال	//
4	نہرت النساء	دختر	60 سال	//
5	نذہت مسعودی	//	56 سال	سرکاری ملازم
6	آفاق احمد مسعودی	پسر	53 سال	ہاؤس ملازم
7	بشیر احمد مسعودی	دختر	52 سال	سرکاری ملازم
	بشارت مسعودی	پسر	48 سال	ہاؤس ملازم
	مدر احمد مسعودی	//	45 سال	تجارت کار

مندرجہ بحث اجرائی پر اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو اندر رات یوم تک اسے نذرات دفتر حرا میں پیش کرے۔ بعد میں حاد کرنے کوئی بھی نذر قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدور۔

مدرسۃ البنات دار العلوم رحیمیہ بانڈی پورہ

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



اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ کے فضل و کرم سے لڑکیوں کے لئے زیر تعمیر ”مدرسۃ البنات“ کی پہلی عمارت کی آخری منزل مکمل ہونے جا رہی ہے۔ اب اس میں اہم مرحلہ چھت کے بنانے کا ہے۔ انجینئر حضرات کے تجویز کے مطابق چھت میں تقریباً 33 ٹن لوہا لگے گا۔ اس کا لیور اور میٹرل کا کل ملا کر خرچہ تقریباً 40 لاکھ روپیہ بنتا ہے۔ چھت پر لگنے والے ٹین کے شیٹ کام مرحلہ اس کے بعد جس میں الگ سے تقریباً 10 لاکھ روپیہ لگنے کا تجویز ہے۔

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

Account Number	0727010100000200
Title of account	Madrasa Tul Banat Darul Uloom Raheemiyah
Branch	JK Bank Branch Nishat Park Bandipora Kashmir
IFSC Code	JAKAONIPARK

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 موقعہ ظافر مایا کا 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 خواتین کو بھی تربیت دیں تاکہ وہ بھی اپنا حصہ اس کار خیر میں لگائیں کیونکہ یہ بدستور متاور کے لئے مخصوص ہے۔ ایک سرکے کی لاگت ساڑھے پانچ لاکھ روپے ہے جتنی توفیق ہو کر وہ میں یا چھت میں حصہ لیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ فرمائے۔

اہم گزارش ہے کہ بینک حاکمات میں رقم ڈالنے کے بعد فون نمبر 9419089250 یا 8899101091 پر سکرین شاٹ ڈال دیں یا وائسا پیج کے ذریعہ یا فون پر اطلاع کریں نیز اپنا نام اور ایڈرس روان کریں تاکہ سریدہ نیچے میں بولت ہو کیونکہ اس یہ تفصیلات بینک سے دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتیں۔

محمد رحمت اللہ کشمیری

ناظم دارالعلوم رحیمیہ بانڈی پورہ شہیر

