Prasar Bharati launches 'Kumbhvani' FM channel dedicated to Maha Kumbh

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Aspirants Who Dropped **Out Between Nov** 5-18 2024 Eligible For JEE-Advanced: SC



SC Stays GST Notices Worth Over Rs 1 Lakh **Crore Against Online Gaming Firms For Tax Fraud**



Cong leaders silent over Omar's suggestion to wind up INDIA bloc

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A day after Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah suggested that the INDIA bloc should call it a day, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) described the alliance as a "dead horse," while the J&K Congress leaders refused to comment over the issue.

Omar on Thursday had expressed dismay over INDIA bloc's uncertain future and had called for clarity on its leadership. "If this alliance was only for the parliamentary elections, it should be wound up, and we will work separately. But if it is meant for Assembly elections as well, we will have to sit together and work collectively,' Omar had said.

Reacting to Omar Abdullah's statement, BJP's Organizational Secretary Ashok Kaul while talking to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The INDIA bloc is a dead horse. It was formed to counter BJP but it

crumbled under its own weight." He said, "What Omar Abdullah is saying is nothing new. The INDIA bloc has already wound up its activities as all its allies are working separately."Senior Congress leader and MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin

>>SEE ON P-7

CM Omar launches J&K RTI Online Portal

Will simplify citizen access to information

Choudhary, Cabinet Ministers Sakeena

Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, and Javed Ahmad

Dar. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional

Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister

Dheeraj Gupta, administrative secretaries

and senior officers were also present.

Abdullah congratulated the officers

involved in developing the portal,

emphasizing its transformative potential

in simplifying the RTI application process

In his address, Chief Minister Omar



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today launched the Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information (RTI) Online Portal at the Civil Secretariat, marking a significant step towards enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

The launch event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar

a faster, more transparent, and costefficient mechanism," he stated. The Chief Minister also urged the concerned authorities to ensure widespread publicity of the initiative so that citizens across Jammu & Kashmir

for citizens.

become aware of its benefits. Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Jammu and Kashmir, the portal introduces a shift from manual to online RTI applications. This transition enables citizens to submit RTI requests, track their status, and receive responses electronically, eliminating the need for physical visits to government offices. Earlier, Secretary General

"This initiative will provide easy

access to government information under

the RTI Act, empowering citizens with

Administration Department (GAD), M. Raju, delivered

>>SEE ON P-7

Security tightened in Kashmir ahead of PM Modi's visit

P/o



Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: Preparations are in full swing for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Jammu and Kashmir on January 13, during which he will inaugurate the muchawaited Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district. Security measures have been heightened across the valley, with the Special Protection Group (SPG) taking charge of the innermost protection ring. A senior security official told the

news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Jammu & Kashmir Police, along with paramilitary forces, have established additional checkpoints and enhanced surveillance, particularly in central Kashmir, to ensure a secure and smooth event.

"Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been implemented and will remain in effect until January 13. These include the deployment of additional police

>>SEE ON P-7

Development, welfare is prime concern of present Govt: Javed Rana

Assesses development needs of locals of Bathindi



During his visit to the area, laved Rana interacted with the locals and listened to their issues and concerns.

While speaking with the locals, the Minister said that tremendous development and welfare of people of J&K is prime concern and the only priority for the Omar Abdullah led government.

Lok Sabha MP enlightens J&K MLAs during orientation program at LA, Jammu



JKRERA inspects 20 Real **Estate Projects in Kashmir Province**

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to ensure compliance with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) today conducted inspection of more than 20 real estate projects in the Kashmir province.

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today visited several places in Bhatindi to

assess the development needs of the locals.

He was accompanied by MLA Vikram Randhawa besides officers from Jal Shakti and Forest, Ecology & Environment departments.

"Safeguarding people's interest is the main motto of our government and we are duty bound for their welfare," maintained the Minister. He said that the purpose of his visit was



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In continuation to 3 day orientation program for newly elected MLAs, MP Lok Sabha, NK Premachandran, today shared his experiences with the Legislators of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising upon them to deeply understand the rules pertaining to the Legislative and Financial Business.

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, legislators, dignitaries

were also present during the second day orientation program

Detailed discussions were also held on the legislative process including Private Members Bill and Financial Business including Demand for Grants.

Premachandran thoroughly explained the basic concept of the legislature.In the second session, Joint Secretary, Santosh Kumar gave presentation on "Executive

>>SEE ON P-7

The inspection was carried out under the supervision of Chairperson, JKRERA, Satish



Chandra.

Some of the inspected projects included Harco City Centre, Sanat Nagar, Horizon Galleria, Rajbagh, Regal Mall, Lal Chowk, Site at Bye pass road Sanatnagar Srinagar, Ahmad Plaza at Mominabad Batamaloo infront of lower court, Srinagar, Shahjar Apartments SDA land, Upper Soura

>>SEE ON P-7

J&K gets special projects for waterways, urban water transportation for tourism

KC NEWS NETWORK

ASSAM: During the 2nd meeting of Inland Water-

GOVERNMENT

ways Development Council (IWDC) being organised by Inland Waterways Authority of India various development projects for Jammu and Kashmir including jetties for river cruise tourism and urban water transportation ecosystem in River Jhelum. repair of Chhatabal weir for proper navigation and operationalization of River Chenab and River Ravi for waterway tourism was announced

Minister for FCS &CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and

Technology, ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma at-tended the event under Ministry of Ports, Shipping

and Waterways at Kaziranga, Assam. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal presided over the event in presence of MoS Shantanu Thakur, Chief Minister Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma besides Ministers from States and senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Satish Sharma expressed gratitude for inviting him and

blessing J&K with special projects.

He emphasized that it is the need of the hour to accelerate holistic development of national waterways and inland waterways

The Minister said that there is so much potential in terms of water tourism in J&K which can be exploited. He also asked to establish a corporation ramework between state governments and IWAI for development of

>>SEE ON P-7

ACB books SSCL officials for disproportionate assets

Executive Engineer SSCL have

been booked on the charges of

owning assets disproportionate

to their known sources of

income. "The case has been

registered while searches are

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday registered cases against two Srinagar Smart City Limited

(SSCL) officers for owning

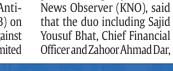
assets disproportionate to

their known sources of income.

conference, Assistant Inspector

General (AIG) Headquarters

Addressing a press



ACB, Abdul Waheed Shah, as underway at 7 locations in this per the news agency-Kashmir regard," Shah said without

divulging details. "We have registered cases and further details can be

shared only after the searches and investigation is completed," ACB's AIG Headquarters said when asked about involvement of more officials.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued to KNO, an ACB spokesman said that the bureau conducted a secret verification into the allegation that Sajid Yousuf Bhat, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) & Zahoor Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineer both presently posted in Srinagar Smart City Limited have accumulated assets disproportionate

>>SEE ON P-7

SC Junks PIL Alleging Kashmir Separatist Group's **Money Exchange**



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL alleging the RBI exchanged Rs 30 crore-worth defaced currency notes belonging to

a Kashmir separatist group. A bench of Justices Surva Kant and N Kotiswar Singh dismissed the PIL, which

> sought a CBI probe into the allegations, >>SEE ON P-7

MeT Dept predicts light snowfall at isolated places today

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir would likely experience a fresh snowfall on Saturday as the weatherman has predicted light rains and snow at isolated higher reaches of both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency–Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has stated that there is a possibility of light rain in plains of Jammu and snow at isolated higher reaches of Jammu division & Kashmir division.

However, no significant January 15 & 16. weather activities are expected till January 18 the weather would remain

Director MeT further said that the weather would remain generally dry from January 12-14 while generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of light snow

generally cloudy, he said. Meanwhile, the cold wave conditions continued at multiple places across the Valley with Pahalgam recording a low of minus 10.0 degree



at isolated higher reaches on Celsius.In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, On January 17 & 18,



KC NEWS NETWORK

Interpol Issues First Silver Notice, It Enables Tracing Illicit Wealth Laundered Across Borders

its armoury of colour-coded notices, the Interpol has issued its first Silver Notice to locate assets laundered across borders as part of a pilot project in which India is also a participant, the global body said Friday.

In its response to a PTI query on the notice, the Interpol said in a statement it has issued the first Silver Notice on the request of Italy which has sought information about the assets of a senior mafia member.

The Lyon-based international police cooperation organisation said the pilot project has participation from 52 members including India.

At present, the Interpol has eight types of colour-coded notices which allows a member country to seek specific kind of information worldwide. The Red Notice allows a country to request the detention of fugitive living in another country.

India has at least 10 fugitive economic offenders. There is no accurate estimation of the total amount of black money which has been transferred offshore.

"The Silver notice will help India to locate assets of criminals who have transferred their illicit wealth to tax havens and other countries thinking that it will never be traced or accounted for," an official in the know of the development in India said.

Under the project, 500 notices can be requested which will be equally divided among the participating countries, the Interpol said.

The information about notices or individuals for whom information is being sought by a country will not be made public



by the Interpol.

"The Silver Notice is the newest addition to the Organization's suite of colour-coded Notices and Diffusions, which enable countries to share alerts and requests for information worldwide. It is being launched as part of a pilot phase involving 52 countries and territories, which will run at least until November 2025," the Interpol said.

The countries can request "information on assets linked to a person's criminal activities such as fraud, corruption, drug trafficking, environmental crime and other serious offenses" through Silver Notices disseminated to all 196 members or Silver Diffusion notices sent to select countries.

"It will facilitate locating, identifying, and obtaining information about laundered assets including properties, vehicles, financial accounts and businesses. Countries may subsequently use such information as

a basis for bilateral engagement, including bilateral requests for seizure, confiscation or recovery of assets, subject to national laws," the Interpol said.

Interpol Secretary General Valdecy Urquiza said stripping criminals and their networks of illegal profits is one of the most powerful ways to fight transnational organised crime, especially considering that 99 per cent of criminal assets remain unrecovered

"By targeting their financial gains, Interpol is working to disrupt criminal networks and reduce their harmful impact on communities worldwide," he said.

The Interpol General Secretariat will review every Silver Notice and Diffusion for compliance with the Organisation's rules prior to its publication or circulation. "This includes ensuring they are not used

for political purposes, in contravention of

the climate.

Article 3 of Interpol's Constitution. During the pilot phase, extracts of Silver Notices will not be published on Interpol's website," the statement said.

The Interpol's 91st General Assembly, held in Vienna, in 2023 outlined the development and implementation of the Silver Notice and Diffusion pilot through a resolution.

The resolution tasked the Expert Working Group on Asset Tracing and Recovery, in collaboration with the General Secretariat, with designing the pilot's scope, format, conditions and safeguard measures. Interpol's Red Notice seeks to locate

and arrest people wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.

The Yellow Notice helps locate missing persons, often minors, or identify persons who are unable to identify themselves. The Blue Notice collects additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.

The Black Notice is issued to seek information on unidentified bodies. The Green Notice is for providing warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety. The Orange Notice warns of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety; while Purple Notice seeks or provides information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals. Interpol's United Nations Security Council Special Notice is issued for entities and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

Aspirants Who Dropped Out Between Nov 5-18 2024 Eligible For JEE-Advanced: SC



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday allowed petitioners, who dropped out from their courses between November 5 and November 18, 2024, to register for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih passed the order while hearing the pleas against bringing down from three to two, the attempts given to JEE-Advanced aspirants.

The apex court noted the joint admission board (JAB), entrusted to conduct the JEE-Advanced exam, had issued a press release on November 5 last year which said students who appeared for the class 12 examination in academic years 2023, 2024 and 2025 would be eligible to appear for the JEE-Advanced.

The bench further said on November 18, 2024, another press release was issued restricting the eligibility only to two academic years -2024 and 2025."If the students, acting on the said representation (of November 5), have dropped from their course with an understanding that they would be entitled to appear for JEE examination, the withdrawal of the promise on November 18, 2024 cannot be permitted to act to their detriment," the bench held

Without observing on the merits of JAB's decision, the top court said students who dropped out between November 5 and November 18, 2024 would be permitted to register for the test.

The top court was hearing two petitions, including one filed by 22 aspirants, challenging the reduction in the number of attempts available to aspirants for JEE-Advanced from three to two.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing for the petitioners said on account of the promise made in the November 5 2024 press release, they dropped out of colleges to pursue the test conducted for admission to the prestigious IITs.

Another plea, filed through advocate Sanjeet Kumar Trivedi, said the matter related to the process for admissions into the IITs and the JAB changed the eligibility criteria for students in an "arbitrary" manner.

"The JAB, vide its press release dated November 5, 2024, first fixed the permissible number of attempts for JEE-Advanced at three, only to change it abruptly vide another press release dated November 18, 2024, and thereby reducing the number of attempts to two," the plea filed by an aspirant said.

SC Stays GST Notices Worth Over **Rs 1 Lakh Crore** Against Online Gaming Firms For Tax Fraud

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed showcause notices issued by GST authorities worth over Rs 1 lakh crore to online gaming companies and casinos over alleged tax evasion. Abench of Justices JB Pardiwala and RMahadevan



India made hydrogen fuel train engine more powerful than others: Vaishnaw

BHUBNEASHWAR: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that the hydrogen fuel-run train engine developed by Indian Railways has the maximum horsepower in the world.

Vaishnaw, who is also the Union Minister in charge of Information and Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, said this while speaking at a plenary session titled "Green Connections: Diaspora's Contribution to Sustainable Development" of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention here.

Stating that only four countries in the world make such train engines, Vaishnaw said, "They produce somewhere between 500 to 600 horsepower while the engine produced by Indian Railways using indigenous technology has an output of 1,200 horsepower, the ighest so far in this category.'

The minister said the first such train is expected to make a trial run in Haryana soon on the Jind-Sonipat route.

While the engine manufacturing has been completed, system integration of the same is currently nderway, he said.

Noting that India's own technological achievements can help the country produce spin-off products and services, he said when the nation can build a hydrogen-run train engine on such a scale, the potential for adapting this technology to manufacture power trains for trucks, tugboats and others can be understood

"Indigenously developed technology provides a unique chance to create derivative technologies for various applications," he said.

The minister said such technological advancement gives the nation confidence and India has a long way to

2024 Becomes Warmest Year On Record, 1st To Breach 1.5 Deg C Guardrail

NEW DELHI, Jan 10: The year 2024 was the hottest year on record, and the first with a global average temperature 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, European climate agency Copernicus confirmed on Friday.

Every month from January to June 2024 was the warmest ever recorded for those months.

Harjeet Singh, climate activist fuels began significantly impacting and the founding director of Satat This is the first time the average Sampada Climate Foundation, global temperature has remained said the world is entering a new



Singh said the world must move from fossil fuels to clean energy quickly and fairly, making sure no one is left behind, and that rich countries have a bigger responsibility to take bold steps.

C3S scientists said that in 2024, greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere hit their highest annual levels ever recorded. Carbon

ED raids RJD MLA, others in Bihar co-op bank 'fraud' PMLA case

PATNA: The Enforcement Directorate Friday conducted searches in multiple states, including in Bihar on premises liked to RJD MLA Alok Kumar Mehta, as part of a money laundering investigation linked to alleged funds embezzlement at a state cooperative bank, official sources said.

About 18 premises in Bihar, West Bengal (Kolkata), Uttar Pradesh

NEWS | 2

said the matters required hearing and all proceedings against the gaming companies should remain stayed in the meantime.

Additional solicitor general N Venkataraman, representing the GST department, said some showcause notices would come to an end in February.

The matter was posted on March 18. GST authorities in October 2023 issued showcause notices to online gaming companies for tax evasion. The government amended the GST law, making it mandatory for overseas online gaming companies to register in India from October 1, 2023 onward. In August, 2023, the GST council clarified 28 per cent GST would be levied on the full value of bets placed on online gaming platforms.

From July to December, except for August, each month was the second warmest on record, behind 2023, it said.According to scientists at the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2024 was the hottest year since global temperature tracking began in 1850.

The average global temperature was 15.1 degrees Celsius – 0.72 degrees above the 1991-2020 average and 0.12 degrees higher than that in 2023, the previous record-holder.

Scientists noted that the average temperature in 2024 was 1.60 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 baseline, the period before human activities like burning fossil



1.5 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average for an entire calendar year.However, a permanent breach of the 1.5-degree Celsius limit specified in the Paris Agreement refers to long-term warming over a 20- or 30-year period.

That said, experts feel that the world is now entering a phase where temperatures will be consistently above this threshold.

climate reality - one where extreme heatwaves, devastating floods, and intense storms will become increasingly frequent and severe.

"To prepare for this future, we must urgently scale up adaptation efforts across every level of society - redesigning our homes, cities, and infrastructure, and transforming how we manage water, food, and energy systems," he said.

dioxide levels were 2.9 parts per million(ppm)higher than in 2023, reaching 422 ppm, while methane levels rose by 3 parts per billion (ppb), reaching 1897 ppb.

Sea ice extent in the Arctic and around Antarctica, which is an essential indicator of the stability of Earth's climate, reached "record or near-record low values" for the second year in a row. The year 2024 will also be remembered as the year developed nations had their last big chance to prevent the world from permanently crossing the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold by funding climate action in the Global South, but that didn't seem to materialise.

and Delhi are being searched, they said.

These include premises linked to RID MLA and former Bihar minister Alok Kumar Mehta (58), who is among the promoters of the Bihar-based Vaishali Shahri Vikas (VSV) Cooperative Bank, apart from some other linked entities, the sources said.

The RJD slammed the BJP-led central government over the ED action.

The money laundering investigation stems from some state police FIRs filed against the bank and its office-bearers for alleged embezzlement of funds worth about Rs 85 crore, they said.

The alleged fraud was committed through an estimated 400 loan accounts and disbursal of funds was done based on "fake or forged" warehouse receipts, an agency official said.

The bank employees and other private persons, who are the alleged beneficiary of the proceeds of crime and worked in connivance with Alok Mehta and his associates, are also covered in the search operations, the sources said.

The RBI had carried out a verification of the bank and identified the alleged diversion of the bank funds, they added.

Prasar Bharati launches 'Kumbhvani' FM channel dedicated to Maha Kumbh

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR, Jan 10: Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati's radio division Akashvani on Friday launched 'Kumbhvani'- an FM channel dedicated to disseminating information related to the Maha Kumbh 2025, an official statement said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the FM channel at the Circuit House during the second day of his Prayagraj tour ahead of the mega religious congregation.

"Prasar Bharati has launched the OTT-based Kumbhvani FM channel to disseminate comprehensive information about the Maha Kumbh. Broadcasting at a frequency of 103.5 MHz, the channel will be on air from January 10 to February 26, operating daily from 5.55 am to 10.05 pm," the UP government said in the statement.

CM Adityanath expressed confidence that 'Kumbhvani' would not only reach new heights of popularity but also extend the spirit of the Maha Kumbh to remote villages where many people, despite their desire, cannot physically attend the event.

He emphasised that the channel would serve as a vital medium to deliver all relevant information about the Maha Kumbh to these distant communities. "Such efforts would enable those in far-flung areas to experience and understand the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh," he said, noting the importance

of live broadcasting.

Adityanath said this would allow them to share the pride of this grand celebration of 'Sanatan Dharma' with future generations.

He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati for their efforts in launching Kumbhvani.

Adityanath noted that Akashvani was the first medium to connect people with folk traditions and culture. Recalling his childhood memories, he shared how he would listen intently to broadcasts of the Ramcharitmanas on Akashvani.

As technology advanced, Doordarshan introduced visual mediums, allowing people to experience these cultural narratives visually, he said.

He said that while many private channels later emerged, Prasar Bharati took proactive steps to adapt to the evolving media landscape.

Considering the challenges of reaching remote areas with limited connectivity, Prasar Bharati launched the special FM channel Kumbhvani during the Kumbh festivals in 2013, 2019 and now again in 2025, ensuring that the spirit of the Maha Kumbh reaches even the most distant regions, he added.

"The Maha Kumbh is not merely an event but a monumental celebration of Sanatan Dharma's pride,



glory, and unity," Adityanath remarked, describing it as "a grand confluence where the essence of Sanatan Dharma can be witnessed."

He urged those who view Sanatan Dharma through a narrow lens or those who perpetuate divisions based on communal differences, caste or untouchability to visit the Kumbh.

"Here, there are no barriers of sect, caste or gender. People from all walks of life gather to bathe in the same waters, united in faith, carrying the message of Sanatan pride to the entire world," he said.

This, he said, is the spiritual message of the Kumbh – a global congregation that symbolises harmony and inclusivity.

The CM also highlighted the growing interest of international visitors who seek to understand the profound depths of spirituality by immersing themselves in the Maha Kumbh.

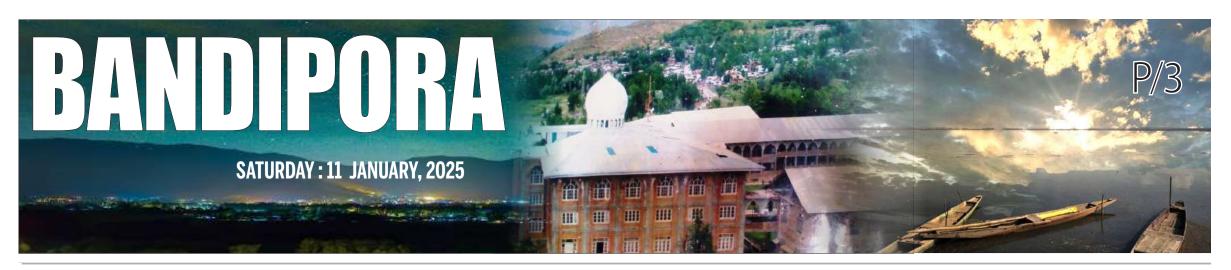
"It is a remarkable moment, and Prasar Bharati has beautifully captured its essence through Kumbhvani," he said.

The Kumbhvani FM channel will not only broadcast live coverage of the daily events but will also share religious references and stories related to the Mahakumbh in remote villages, making the spiritual essence of the event accessible to all, according to the statement.

Reflecting on the power of media to amplify cultural pride, he recalled how Doordarshan's broadcast of the Ramayana during the Covid-19 lockdown saw a significant resurgence in viewership.

"Today, FM channels are immensely popular among the youth, and Kumbhvani will undoubtedly benefit from this trend," he added.

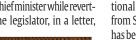
Also present at the occasion were Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr L Murugan, UP's deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak, Jal Shakti Minister Swatantradev Singh, Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Om Prakash Rajbhar, chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and Prasar Bharati Board Chairman Navneet Sehgal.



"CM Omar raises Bandipora-Sumbal highway demand with Union Minister after MLA Nizamuddin Bhat's letter"

SRINAGAR: Chief minister Omar Abdullah has raised the demand of highway status to Bandipora-

ing former's intervention. ing issue relating to grant of Na-The chief minister while reverting to the legislator, in a letter,



tional highway status the road from Sumbal to Gurez. The issue has been taken up with the Union



Earlier, Bhat has sought intervention of chief minister Omar Abdullah to have this "long pending demand duly considered for early redressal".

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

Nizamuddin Bhat also raised the issue in the first session of the

stated that the matter has been Jammu and Kashmir assembly in taken up the Union ministry for November last year, seeking intervention of the house to get this

DH Bandipora to Launch General **Cardiology Consultations Soon**

BANDIPORA: District Hospital Bandipora is set to introduce general cardiology consultations, an initiative which will bring specialized heart care closer to residents of Bandipora

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora, Dr Masarat Iqbal Wani said that the general cardiology consultations will be started within the next 15-20 days which will benefit residents of Bandipora who previously had to travel long distances for such services.He said that Dr. Shahood Ajaz Kakroo, a highly qualified cardiologist with a DM in Cardiology, recently joined the hospital as a Medical Officer whose expertise will be utilized to provide advanced consultations and treatment for

heart-related ailments. Dr Masrat said that this is a major step forward in providing specialized healthcare to the people of Bandipora. He said that

the hospital is committed to make facility," he added. essential medicines and treatments Dr. Wani said that so far eight patients have already been sucavailable free of cost. "We aim to ease the financial burden on uncessfully thrombolyzed this month.



derprivileged patients by ensuring all necessary cardiac medicines are stocked which includes thrombolysis injections, which cost 25,000 in the market but are provided free of charge at our

solving blood clots, and having this facility available locally is a lifesaver for patients in remote areas.

for treating heart attacks by dis-

Thrombolysis is a critical procedure

DC Bandipora flags-off Farmers for Exposure tour to PAU, Ludhiana

BANDIPORA: In a bid to enhance the knowledge and skills of local farmers, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri along with the Chief Agriculture Officer today flagged-off a group of 17 farmers for a seven-day exposure tour to Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.

During the flag-off ceremony, the DC highlighted the importance of the training programme, which is designed to familiarize farmers with the latest technological advancements in commercial farming, real-time trends in agricultural practices, and the scientific methods of cultivating various crops. He said that the exposure tour is part of ongoing efforts to promote modern farming techniques.

The DC stressed that the programme aims to develop skilled human resources in the agricultural sector and encourage sustainable farming practices. He emphasized that the exposure to new methods and innovations would empower farmers to adopt modern techniques and improve productivity, ensuring a prosperous future for the agricultural community.

CAO informed that the group of farmers will visit various agricultural sites and research centers during their week-long tour, where they will gain hands-on knowledge and insights that will benefit their farming practices back home.

DH Bandipora Saves 97 Lives from Heart Attacks in 2024

BANDIPORA: District Hospital (DH) Bandipora has achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully thrombolyzing/ saving 97 patients of heart attack in its Emergency Resuscitation Unit from January 2024 to December 2024.

Speaking about this achievement, Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, Dr. Masarat Iqbal Wani, said that Hospital Administration is committed to deliver life-saving care to the people of the district.

"In the intervening night of January 9 and 10 alone, we managed to thrombolyze six patients, providing them with injections that cost 25,000 -outside, completely free of cost at our facility," Dr. Wani stated.

He emphasized the importance of timely medical intervention in cases of chest pain or heart-related emergencies. "We are here for the people of Bandipora. If anyone experiences chest pain or related symptoms, they should rush to DH Bandipora immediately. Our dedicated team of doctors, including a cardiologist, is always ready to provide expert care during the critical golden minutes of life," he said.

The successful management of these cases underscores the hospital's dedication to providing quality healthcare to the community and highlights the crucial role of the Emergency Resuscitation Unit in saving lives.

Various patients and residents lauded the efforts of Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora for offering advanced cardiac care and ensuring that essential treatments are accessible to all, regardless of financial constraints.

CGM NABARD calls on J&K Bank MD & CEO

SRINAGAR: Chief General Manager (NABARD) Bhallamudi Sridhar

pora Nizamuddin Bhat wrote a "This has reference to your D.O letter dated 20-12-2024, containdemand redressed at an earliest. letter to the chief minister, seek-Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Unveils the 2025 Islamic Calligraphy Calendar

consideration.

SRINAGAR: Unveiling the 2025 Islamic Calligraphy Calendar at Jama Masjid today, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Faroog emphasized that this

Sumbal-Gurez with the Union

minister for Road, Transport and

Highways days after MLA Bandi-



art form reflects the beauty and expression of human imagination and connects us to the eternal

unchecked and unplanned urbanogy-which are all interconnected , is important as they all define isation, rapidly consuming agricultural land and orchards, and our identity, our culture and our future survival as a people. Citing so forth are lopsided and narrow a Hadith of the Holy Prophet

definitions of so called "development". While growth is necessary, it must not come at the cost of disruption to the environment and ecology. Striking a balance is key, while foregrounding ecological and climatic concerns to protect the natural resources and beauty of Kashmir for future generations.

He called upon the government, the civil society, and all people in general to take accountability and collective action to address these challenges and protect Kashmir's

natural and cultural heritage. Concluding his statement, Mirwaiz prayed for guidance from Allah toward wisdom and understanding in fulfilling these responsibilities. He also stressed upon

20% of road accident deaths in JK occur in Chenab Valley

Region emerges as hotspot for road fatalities

Srinagar: The Chenab Valley, comprising the districts of Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar, has become a critical hotspot for road accidents in Jammu and Kashmir, with 20% of all road accidents in the region occurring here over the last six years.

The primary reason cited for these accidents is poorly constructed roads, a fact outlined by a government-formed committee tasked with investigating the issue and recommending preventive measures. Despite this acknowledg-

ment, little progress has been made in improving road conditions in these districts. Factors such as overloading, speeding, unfit vehicles, and a poorly managed traffic system exacer-

tragic incidents, including a bus of an expert committee in falling into a ravine in Kishtwar 2023. This panel included spein 2019, killing 35 people & a cialists from IIT Jammu, engi-



area on November 15, 2023, claiming 39 lives.

Multiple vehicles fell into ravines in Kishtwar and Ramban between 2021 and 2025, leading to significant casual-

gion.

Department (PWD), and road safety experts. The committee's mandate was to identify accident-prone areas and recommend solutions.

Government sources told KNO that concerned depart-Experts highlight the dire ments have begun taking steps to address the crisis. state of infrastructure in the re-"Crash barriers have been installed at various locations, and some road expansions have been carried out. The Transport Department is preparing for stricter enforcement measures in collaboration with the police, traffic authorities, and district administrations. Registrations of overloaded and unfit vehicles are expected to be cancelled soon," officials said-(KNO)

wisdom of the Word of Allah through the Ouran. Mirwaiz said that the theme for the year- The Splendour of Islamic Calligraphy, celebrates the art forms historical evolution, its diversity and crosscultural influences. The calendar is a tribute to Arabic calligraphy, the medium of Quranic revelation, foregrounding the connect between spirituality and our cultural heritage.

Addressing the gathering he said that safeguarding our heritage and our environment and ecoltecting nature and avoiding wastage, are integral to a Muslim's duty. Highlighting environmental concerns in the wake lowest water levels of Ihelum river in history of Kashmir at this time due to rising temperatures, glacial melting and irregular rainfall patterns, Mirwaiz said that experts warn that Jammu and Kashmir have lost 30% of its glaciers in the past 60 years, with the possibility of

(PBUH), Mirwaiz emphasized that

caring for Allah's creations, pro-

losing 70% by the end of the century if this trend continues. This will be devastating if allowed to happen. He further noted that

the urgent need for the government to have a vision and follow it up with a proper road map and comprehensive planning to address these critical issues and ensure sustainable development in the region.

Meanwhile Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid has informed that physical copies of the calendar would be available at Jamia Masjid Srinagar, Gulshan Books Residency Road & Sheikh Mohammad Usman & Sons Gaw Kadal starting early next week against a nominal Hadiya of? (KNS)

bate the problem. ties.

The Nashri-Ramban-Banihal-Qazigund section, declared a "black spot" by the Union Ministry of Transport and Roads, continues to witness frequent accidents.

As per the data available with news agency–Kashmir News Observer (KNO) from 2019 to October 2024, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 4,899 fatalities in road accidents, with 852 deaths occurring in the Chenab Valley alone.

Among these were several

In a detailed report submitted to the High Court, the committee recommended rebuilding critical roads such as Asar Road and Rigi Nala, which are prone to accidents due to faulty construction. However, implementation of these recommendations remains pending.

The High Court, in response to the alarming rise in road accidents, directed the formation

today called upon the MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee at J&K Bank's Corporate Headquarters. During the meeting, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee lauded the NABARD's vital role in fostering rural prosperity and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to extending financial support to under-served people.

While commending the Bank's pivotal role in developing the agricultural landscape of J&K through its continued financial intermediation, CGM NABARD pitched for further strengthening of the relationship between the two organisations.

He also lauded the Bank's leading role in deepening the financial inclusion at the grassroots in the union territories of J& K and Ladakh.

Opportunities for collaborative growth in promoting priority sector lending, were also discussed during the meeting, with a special focus on agriculture and rural development.

BDO Assigned Six Additional Charges in North Kashmir

KUPWARA: The administrative machinery in the Kashmir Valley is once again under scrutiny following a decision by the Rural Development Department to assign six additional charges to a single Block Development Officer (BDO).

The move has drawn sharp criticism from political figures and citizens alike, highlighting concerns about governance efficiency and accessibility for the common man.

The controversy as per the news agency Kashmir News Trust stems from a government order issued by the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Kupwara, which has assigned multiple charges to various BDOs in the district. Notably, Naveed Altaf, the BDO of Qaziabad, who already holds additional responsibilities for Blocks Rajwar, Hyhama, and Natnussa, has now been tasked with managing the Blocks of Mawar and Langate as well.

This decision has led to widespread dissatisfaction, with MLA Langate, Sheikh Khursheed, expressing his disappointment on social media. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), he sarcastically remarked:

"Six charges for one BDO. It's better for Omar Abdullah and Manoj Sinha to give charge of whole district Kupwara to ACD Kupwara or any districtlevel officer. At least a common man will not have to search BDO at six Block Headquarters."

The sarcastic remark underscores the challenges faced by residents in accessing basic administrative services. The assignment of additional charges is reportedly due to Nazir Ahmed Bijran, BDO Mawar, proceeding on a two-month leave. However, the burden placed on other officials has sparked debates about systemic inefficiencies.

According to the order, Dr. Nazir Ahmed, BDO Wavoora with additional responsibility for Block Sogam, has been handed the extra charge of Block Drugmulla. Critics argue that such practices are symptomatic of administrative inertia, where overburdened officials struggle to meet the

Khyber Cement's 2025 Calendar: A Journey through the Evolution of Kashmiri Architecture

Abdul Basit

SRINAGAR: Khyber Cement unveiled its highly anticipated 2025 calendar at an event held at its corporate office in Hyderpora in the presence of chief guest Hamida Akhter. Themed The Evolution of Kashmiri Architecture, the calendar is a visual celebration of the region's rich architectural history, capturing its journey from traditional heritage structures to modern interpretations

Following the success of its 2024 calendar, which focused on The Bridges of Jammu & Kashmir. this year's calendar takes the theme a step further by exploring the intricate evolution of Kashmiri architecture. Khyber Cement's deeprooted philosophy of creating structures like relationships that stand the test of time is reflected in this year's design. The calendar's integral design element this year is centered on the enduring strength and lasting impact of Kashmiri architectural forms, much like the company's commitment to building infrastructure that transcends generations.

Speaking on the occasion, Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Head of Commercials Legal & Regulatory Affairs said, "This calendar is not just a collection

mir."

Khyber Cement, we believe in honoring the traditions that inspire us, even as we contribute to the future of construction and infrastructure in Kash-

of images but a reflection of our cultural pride. At tions added, "Kashmiri architecture is a testament to the skill and resilience of our people. Through this initiative, Khyber Cement aims to keep this heritage alive while continuing to play a pivotal

> role in shaping modern infrastructure in the valley.

> > Chief guest Hamida Akhter, General Manager of the District Industries Center, Srinagar, highlighted the initiative's cultural significance, stating, "Kashmiri architecture is a living testament to our history, resilience, and creativity. This calendar is a tribute to the past and a reminder of how our heritage inspires modernday innovation. I commend Khyber Cement for its efforts to preserve and celebrate this unique legacy."

The calendar showcases an array of architec-Wasim Khan, Chief of Sales & Customer Rela- tural marvels from Jammu & Kashmir, narrating

the evolution of structures across centuries. Beginning with Burzahama in January, it journeys through the iconic Martand Sun Temple in March, highlighting the grandeur of the Jama Masjid in Srinagar and the exquisite Shalimar Gardens, which exemplify Islamic Mughal architecture. The narrative progresses to modern influences, featuring Amar Singh College in October and concluding with The Greystone in December, illustrating the seamless blend of Kashmir's rich architectural legacy with contemporary design.

Attendees praised the company's innovative approach to blending cultural appreciation with modern construction techniques, marking the event as an important milestone in both Khyber Cement's legacy and its vision for the future.

Khyber Cement, a name synonymous with quality and trust in the Jammu & Kashmir region, has consistently strived to go beyond being just a cement manufacturer. With initiatives like this, the company underscores its commitment to blending cultural appreciation with its vision for sustainable development.

As Kashmir's leading cement brand, Khyber Cement remains dedicated to building a future that respects the past, making every project a cornerstone of both progress and preservation.



The New Generation

BY: K S S PILLAI

With a guilty conscience, I immediately agreed when my wife suggested we visit our friend Raju while returning home from shopping. Our son had, as usual, refused to accompany us and was busy with his smartphone when we left home. He did not care when we informed him that we would be late in returning home.

We used to visit our friends or receive them on holidays, but that is no longer true. Personal contact started plummeting years ago due to the advent of television, mobile phones, and social media.

Raju lived with his wife and son in a posh locality in the city. They were happy to meet us and exchange news about our friends, while their only son Joy, a 12th-standard student, smiled, gave us a perfunctory nod, and rushed to his room, looking at his smartphone frequently.

We had known him since birth, and he used to accompany his parents when they visited us on their scooter. He was then suming those dishes and leading a sedentary life. The parents were worried about his food habits, which included many added hormones and had asked their son to join a health club, where he goes regularly like his friends.

We had a lengthy discussion about how modern technology has affected the new generation. They cannot imagine a life without Wi-Fi which is essential for the working of all their gadgets. They have iPads and smartphones with numerous facilities like video calls, messages, and e-mails that have made personal contact unnecessary. They frequently assemble at expensive hotels to celebrate birthdays and other social events without the elders.

With easy connectivity with the entire world, their outlook on life has changed. They imitate foreign cultures, like leading a life away from their parents when they become financially independent, or their relationship with the other sex after viewing films made in different countries. They do not want to look after their aged parents, as is evident from the growing number of old age homes.



Perhaps seeing the expression on my face as it was a vegetarian family, he said the children now imitate their friends in several matters, including food, and do not like interference from elders. They did not want to impose their views on Joy, though they had explained a couple of times the benefits of homemade food. The boy has not taken his parents seriously and decided to follow his friends.

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lean like his father and used to talk to us rarely as his command of our mother tongue was not strong. Visiting the family after a long interval, we were astonished at the growth of that boy. He was in half pants and a T-shirt, had become fatter and taller than his parents and spotted a moustache.

After a short while, a man on a motorbike wearing the uniform of a fast-food agency came and called out the boy's name. Joy came out, took delivery of a packet, paid digitally and disappeared into the kitchen. Children are considered a blessing from God and a symbol of hope for the future, though it is doubtful whether they can fulfil these aspirations. Unlike earlier generations, they can easily access information on any subject or famous personality in a jiffy.

Their education has also become much more expensive. Every city has numerous schools with names like 'International School', 'Global School', and 'Public School' not heard of in the

"My wife and I still like the Kerala food style, but Joy has slowly drifted away. He prefers oily and spicy food supplied by fast food agencies that have mushroomed in the city. He has also become habituated to chicken and other non-vegetarian foods," Raju explained.

Perhaps seeing the expression on my face as it was a vegetarian family, he said the children now imitate their friends in several matters, including food, and do not like interference from elders. They did not want to impose their views on Joy, though they had explained a couple of times the benefits of homemade food. The boy has not taken his parents seriously and decided to follow his friends.

Like most city youngsters, he had become obese after con-

past, with facilities like school buses, air-conditioned lecture halls, libraries with e-books, swimming pools and uniformed security guards with trained dogs.

It is debatable whether governments are paying enough attention to the youngsters who are expected to brighten the country's future.

> (The author is a retired professor of English. A regular contributor to 'The Kashmir Vision', his articles and short stories have appeared in several national and international publications)



J&K KVIB Chairperson chairs district officers' review meeting



JAMMU: In a bid to further enhance successful implementation of employment generation programmes in Jammu division, Chairperson J&K KVIB, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, convened a review meeting with district officers here at Civil Secretariat.

DC Sgr inspects District Export Hub

• Stresses on making facility fully functional at the earliest to boost the Export of Goods, benefit artisans

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat visited 'District Export Hub' established under the ODOP- DEH initiative at Kashmir Haat.

On the occasion, the DC took a detailed round of various



compartments of the proposed District Export Hub and inspected the facilities and the upgradation works completed to develop it on the State of the Art pattern.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the initiative has been taken with an aim to boost the Export of Goods from Srinagar District with adequate market linkage to the Industry, provide guidance regarding exports, consultancy, IT solutions, data management etc under one roof, besides strengthen support at embassy level to facilitate exporters and importers.

While interacting with the Officers, the DC gave on spot directions to make the export Hub functional as early as possible so that exporters of the Kashmir Division are benefitted from the facility.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Publicity & Exhibition Officer Handicrafts, Manager Government Central Market Kashmir Haat, Officials of Handicrafts & Handloom Department Kashmir and other concerned.

Present in the meeting were Secretary/CEO J&K KVIB, Dr. Jagdish Chander, senior officials from the Board and district officers from Jammu division.

During the meeting, it was informed that a total of 2027 cases involving a margin money of Rs. 42.83 crore have been sanctioned by the banks during the current financial year.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hina Shafi Bhat reaffirmed commitment towards fostering employment opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs and unemployed youth in J&K.

She highlighted that programmes such as PMEGP and JKREGP have been specifically designed to promote entrepreneurship enabling individuals to establish their businesses and contribute to region's economic development.

She asked the district officers to sponsor cases under new and innovative activities which will play a pivotal role in diversification of Industrial sector in UT of J&K.

Dr. Bhat urged the officers to prioritize applications of women and marginalized sections of the society, ensuring that these groups are given preferential treatment they deserve.

Lastly, she reiterated the importance of working together to ensure

that the benefits of PMEGP and JKREGP reach the intended beneficiaries, ultimately empowering communities and strengthening the regional economy.

DC Budgam inspects status of BSNL towers at Yousmarg, Nagbal & Kanidajan

 Directs departments to coordinate for time bound resolution of issues on ground for immediate telecom connectivity

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, conducted an extensive visit to inspect the status of BSNL4G towers installed at Kanidajan, Nagbal and Yousmarg areas under the 4G saturation project.

During the visit to Nagbal, Kanidajan, the DC directed BSNL & line departments to coordinate closely and ensure that all teething issues on ground which are holding back the final operationalisation of towers are resolved in a time bound manner for ensuring uninterrupted connectivity for the





Directs early operationalization of OPD facility at the Centre



SRINAGAR: To review the progress on the upcoming Rehabilitation and Counselling Centre for Youth affected by Substance Abuse at Sanat Nagar, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, chaired a meeting with senior health officials and other stakeholders in his office chamber today.

At the outset, the DC conducted a detailed review of the progress towards making the Centre fully functional and operational.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal emphasized that the purpose of the Rehabilitation and Counselling Centre is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to youth affected by substance abuse and facilitate their reintegration into society.

He stressed the importance of ensuring proper utilization of the Centre in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Health Department, and IMHANS to achieve the intended goals.

The DC directed the officers to take the necessary steps to operationalize the OPD

facility at the Centre at the earliest, enabling immediate rehabilitation and counselling services for substance abuse victims.

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Additionally, the DC instructed the concerned Officers to submit a detailed list of requirements. including manpower and paramedical staff, security and sanitation, baseline investigation labs, and other essential materials, to ensure the Centre becomes operational as soon as possible.

Pertinent to mention that, the rehabilitation & Counselling facility for victims of substance abuse at Sanat Nagar is, in addition, to the facilities available at SMHS Hospital, IMHANS and SKIMS Hospital, Bemina to provide rehabilitation and counselling services for substance abuse victims.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Chief Planning Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Chief Education Officer, Incharge Drug De-Addiction Centre GMC and other senior officers from the Health Department.

local population. Director Sericulture participates in 142nd Board Meeting of Central Silk Board Bengaluru

BENGALURU: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat participated in the prestigious 142nd Board Meeting of the Central Silk Board (CSB), held in Bengaluru under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Silk) & Vice Chairperson,

CSB, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Prajakta L. Verma.

The meeting began with a vote of thanks to the Chair, followed by an insightful presentation by P. Sivakumar, Member Secretary, CSB, highlighting the significant achievements of the Board and ongoing projects aimed at strengthening the sericulture sector across India and Dr.

NareshBabu N, Joint Secretary (Tech), Central Silk Board, placed key agenda items for deliberation during the session.

During the meeting, Director Sericulture underscored the critical need for robust marketing support for the auction and sale of silk cocoons.

He emphasized how such initiatives could



benefit marginal and landless farmers, encouraging sericulture industry through various schemes and them to adopt sericulture as a sustainable and generous budgetary allocations. dignified livelihood.

which has immense potential in the sector.

Expressing his gratitude, Mr. Bhat thanked the

Central Silk Board for its consistent support to J&K's

He also advocated for the revival of the Silkworm He urged stakeholders to work collectively to Seed Station, Manasbal, boost cocoon production in Jammu & Kashmir,

which in-principle agreed by the Chairperson during the meeting.

In a forward-looking discussion, Prajakta L.

Verma highlighted the potential of promoting

sericulture in J&K as a unique tourist attraction, catering to both domestic and international visitors.

 \ll

Stress was laid on third-party evaluation mechanisms and convergence to enhance the sector's efficiency.

The meeting also focused on empowering youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives,

aiming to strengthen the industrial ecosystem and foster substantial economic growth.

Mr. Bhat seized the opportunity to extend an invitation to host the 143rdBoard Meeting of the Central Silk Board in Kashmir, showcasing the region's rich sericulture heritage, diversity and potential.

The high-profile meeting was attended by senior officials and stakeholders from across the country. reflecting a shared commitment to the growth

and sustainability of India's silk industry.

Satish Sharma attends 2nd meeting of IWDC at • J&K gets special projects for waterways,

urban water transportation for tourism



SRINAGAR: ASSAM Minister for FCS &CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma today attended the 2nd meeting of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) being organised by Inland Waterways Authority of India under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways at Kaziranga, Assam.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal presided over the event in presence of MoS Shantanu Thakur, Chief Minister Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma besides Ministers from States and senior officials. During the event, the Ministry

announced various development projects

for Jammu and Kashmir including jetties for river cruise tourism and urban water transportation ecosystem in River Jhelum, repair of Chhatabal weir for proper navigation and operationalization of River Chenab and River Ravi for waterway tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Satish Sharma expressed gratitude for inviting him and blessing J&K with special projects.

He emphasized that it is the need of the hour to accelerate holistic development of national waterways and inland waterways. The Minister said that there is so much potential in terms of water tourism in J&K which can be exploited.

JKRERA inspects 20 Real Estate Projects in Kashmir Province

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to ensure compliance with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (IKRERA) today conducted inspection of more than 20 real estate projects in the Kashmir province.

The inspection was carried out under the supervision of Chairperson, JKRERA, Satish Chandra.

Some of the inspected projects included Harco Citv Centre, Sanat Nagar, Horizon Galleria, Rajbagh, Regal Mall, Lal Chowk, Site at Bye pass road Sanatnagar Srinagar, Ahmad Plaza at Mominabad Batamaloo infront of lower court, Srinagar, Shahjar Apartments SDA land, Upper Soura Hajibagh Srinagar, Firdous colony Buchpora, Rose Hills Estate, Site at Exchange Road Srinagar, Site at Baghat Barzulla, IG Road Parraypora, Palm Spring apartments, Budgam and site at Kursoo Raj Bagh Srinagar. It was informed that



promoters/developers of the notices have been issued to the owners of these real plotted colonies had registered their projects with RERA, as estate projects, directing them to register themselves mandated by Section 3 of with JKRERA within 15 days. the Act. Besides, failure to comply in

Chairperson JKRERA emphasised development of colonies in a planned manner, for which registration with **JKRERA** is mandatory. He stated that numerous colonies are sprouting up haphazardly without requisite approvals from the competent authorities and most of these unauthorised colonies lack basic amenities like roads, electricity and water supply posing a significant threat to planned development. He urged the developers and promoters to strictly adhere to the regulatory framework and obtain necessary approvals before commencing projects. JKRERA is committed to ensure planned development and protecting the interests of homebuyers, he added.

He further informed that non-registration of the project with JKRERA would invite penalty which may extend up to ten percent of the estimated cost of the real estate project. If the promoter or builder continues to violate the provisions of the Act and does not register the project with RERA, he would be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to three years or with fine which may extend up to a further ten percent of the estimated cost of the real estate project, or with both, he added.

In case of any issues or concerns related to a real estate project, JKRERA's dedicated team will assist in resolving the grievances and provide guidance on the necessary steps to take, he stressed.

Div Com Jammu reviews implementation of Financial **Assistance Scheme for DPs, WPRs** JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu

Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting here to review the implementation of the Financial Assistance Scheme for Displaced Persons and West Pakistan Refugees.



The meeting, attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba and Kathua and Provincial Rehabilitation Officer Jammu, focused on latest efforts put in by respective District Administrations for inviting and searching left out beneficiaries eligible for the Scheme.

The Divisional Commissioner sought the District wise details of camps, participants, public outreach initiatives and door to door exercises conducted to find out the left-out eligible DPs and WPRs.

The Deputy Commissioners apprised the Divisional Commissioner on the latest camps and the number of cases received for scrutiny.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the officials to submit the applications received during the public outreach programs after proper scrutiny to the higher ups for further action. He further directed to put the disposal of the cases done at their end in public domain via public notices and publications. He further stressed on submitting all the eligible cases by the end of January to the higher ups for their approval.

KTA urges Govt to provide compensation to business owners affected by fire incidents

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) has called upon the government to extend adequate compensation to business owners who have suffered losses due to recent fire incidents in the Valley.

The appeal follows a disturbing trend of increasing fire cases that have resulted in extensive damage to shops and business establishments in Kashmir. Aijaz Shahdhar, President of the KTA, emphasized the growing concern surrounding fire safety and the need for a more inclusive relief framework.

this regard will result in actions

against them as warranted

under the relevant sections

of the Real Estate (Regulation

and Development) Act, 2016.

conducted by a team of

officers and officials from

JKRERA including Chief

Revenue Officer, Suhail

Ahmed Chintsaz, Under

Secretary JKRERA, Esha Chib

and others. The move was

aimed to verify whether the

The inspection was

"While the administration has made efforts to provide assistance to households affected by fires, it is crucial to remember that many small shopkeepers operate without insurance coverage and,

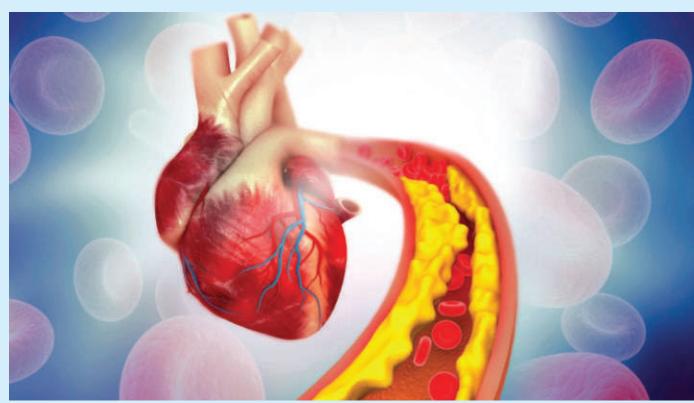
therefore, fall through the cracks of these relief measures," he said in a statement issued to the news

agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The KTA is particularly alarmed by the alarming rise in fire incidents during the winter months, which poses a significant threat to local businesses. Reports indicate that over 40 fire incidents occurred within the first week of this year alone,

devastating numerous shops and business establishments across the region.

11 FOODS that lower cholesterc



hanging what foods you eat can lower your cholesterol and improve the bloodstream. Adding foods that lower LDL, the harmful cholesterol-carrying particle that contributes to artery-clogging atherosclerosis, is the best way to achieve a about half that amount.) low cholesterol diet.

Add these foods to lower LDL cholesterol

Different foods lower cholesterol in various ways. Some deliver soluble fiber, which binds cholesterol and its precursors in the digestive system and drags them out of the body before they get into circulation. Some give you polyunsaturated fats, which directly lower LDL. And some contain plant sterols and stanols, which block the body from absorbing cholesterol.

1. Oats. An easy first step to lowering your cholesterol is having a bowl of oatmeal or cold oat-based cereal like Cheerios for breakfast. beans are a very versatile food.

It gives you 1 to 2 grams of soluble fiber. Add a banana or some strawberries for another armada of fats floating through your half-gram. Current nutrition guidelines recommend getting 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day, with at least 5 to 10 grams coming from soluble fiber. (The average American gets

> 2. Barley and other whole grains. Like oats and oat bran, barley and other whole grains can help lower the risk of heart disease, mainly via the soluble fiber they deliver.

3. Beans. Beans are especially rich in soluble fiber. They also take a while for the body to digest, meaning you feel full for longer after a meal. That's one reason beans are a useful food for folks trying to lose weight. With so many choices - from navy and kidney beans to lentils, garbanzos, black-eyed peas, and beyond – and so many ways to prepare them,

4. Eggplant and okra. These two lowcalorie vegetables are good sources of soluble fiber.

eating almonds, walnuts, peanuts, and other nuts is good for the heart. Eating 2 ounces of nuts a day can slightly lower LDL, on the order of 5%. Nuts have additional nutrients that protect the heart in other ways.

6. Vegetable oils. Using liquid vegetable oils such as canola, sunflower, safflower, and others in place of butter, lard, or shortening when cooking or at the table helps lower LDL.

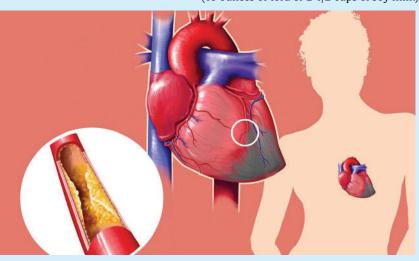
7. Apples, grapes, strawberries, citrus

fruits. These fruits are rich in pectin, a type of soluble fiber that lowers LDL.

8. Foods fortified with sterols and stanols.

Sterols and stanols extracted from plants gum up the body's ability to absorb cholesterol from food. Companies are adding them to foods ranging from margarine and granola bars to orange juice and chocolate. They're also available as supplements. Getting 2 grams of plant sterols or stanols a day can lower LDL cholesterol by about 10%.

9. Soy. Eating soybeans and foods made from them, like tofu and soy milk, was once touted as a powerful way to lower cholesterol. Analyses show that the effect is more modest - consuming 25 grams of soy protein a day (10 ounces of tofu or 2 1/2 cups of soy milk)



5. Nuts. A bushel of studies shows that can lower LDL by 5% to 6%.

> 10. Fatty fish. Eating fish two or three times a week can lower LDL in two ways: by replacing meat, which has LDL-boosting saturated fats, and by delivering LDL-lowering omega-3 fats. Omega-3s reduce triglycerides in the bloodstream and also protect the heart by helping prevent the onset of abnormal heart rhythms.

> 11. Fiber supplements. Supplements offer the least appealing way to get soluble fiber. Two teaspoons a day of psyllium, which is found in Metamucil and other bulk-forming laxatives, provide about 4 grams of soluble fiber.

Putting together a low cholesterol diet

When it comes to investing money, experts recommend creating a portfolio of diverse investments instead of putting all your eggs in one basket. The same holds true for eating your way to lower cholesterol. Adding several foods to lower cholesterol in different ways should work better than focusing on one or two.

A largely vegetarian "dietary portfolio of cholesterol-lowering foods" substantially lowers LDL, triglycerides, and blood pressure. The key dietary components are plenty of fruits and vegetables, whole grains instead of highly refined ones, and protein mostly from plants. Add margarine enriched with plant sterols; oats, barley, psyllium, okra, and eggplant, all rich in soluble fiber; soy protein; and whole almonds.

Of course, shifting to a cholesterol-lowering diet takes more attention than popping a daily statin. It means expanding the variety of foods you usually put in your shopping cart and getting used to new textures and flavors. But it's a "natural" way to lower cholesterol, and it avoids the risk of muscle problems and other side effects that plague some people who take statins.Just as important, a diet that is heavy on fruits, vegetables, beans, and nuts is good for the body in ways beyond lowering cholesterol. It keeps blood pressure in check. It helps arteries stay flexible and responsive. It's good for bones and digestive health, for vision and mental health.

11 High-Cholesterol Foods – Which to Eat, Which to Avoid

Cholesterol is arguably one of the most misunderstood substances. For decades, people avoided healthy yet cholesterol-

in the general population.

Though dietary cholesterol can slightly impact number of calories from bread and jam.

association between dietary cholesterol and heart disease per day did not raise "bad" LDL cholesterol, compared to the same amount of low-fat cheese or the equal RDI.

steak packs about 62 mg of cholesterol, or 20% of the Though processed meat has a clear association with

rich foods like eggs due to the fear that these foods would increase their risk of heart disease.

However, recent research shows that - for most people — consuming healthy foods that are high in cholesterol won't harm your health.

What's more, some cholesterol-rich foods are loaded with important nutrients that are lacking in many people's diets.

This article explains why cholesterol in foods should not be feared and lists healthy high-cholesterol foods and some that should be avoided.

What Is Cholesterol and Is It Unhealthy?

Cholesterol is a waxy substance found in your body and in animal products like meat, eggs and dairy.

It plays important roles in the production of hormones, vitamin D and the bile necessary for digesting fats.

Cholesterol is an essential component of every cell in your body, giving cell membranes strength and flexibility.

Your liver produces all of the cholesterol that your body needs to function, but cholesterol can also be introduced through the consumption of animal products.

Since cholesterol doesn't mix well with liquids (blood), it's transported by particles called lipoproteins, including low-density and high-density lipoprotein - or LDL and HDL.

LDL is often referred to as "bad cholesterol," as it's associated with the plaque buildup in arteries, while HDL("good cholesterol") helps excrete excess cholesterol from your body.

When you consume extra cholesterol, your body compensates by reducing the amount of cholesterol that it naturally makes.

In contrast, when dietary cholesterol intake is low. your body increases cholesterol production to ensure there is always enough of this vital substance (3Trusted Source).

Only about 25% of cholesterol in your system comes from dietary sources. The rest is produced by your liver.

Is Dietary Cholesterol Harmful?

Research has shown that dietary cholesterol does not significantly impact cholesterol levels in your body. and data from population studies does not support an cholesterol levels, this isn't an issue for most people. In fact, two-thirds of the world's population experience

little or no increase in cholesterol levels after eating cholesterol-rich foods – even in large amounts.

A small number of people are considered cholesterol non-compensators or hyper-responders and appear to be more vulnerable to high-cholesterol foods.

However, hyper-responders are thought to recycle extra cholesterol back to the liver for excretion.

Dietary cholesterol has also been shown to beneficially affect the LDL-to-HDL ratio, which is considered the best indicator of heart disease risk.

While research shows that it's unnecessary for most people to avoid dietary cholesterol, keep in mind that not all cholesterol-containing foods are healthy.

1-7. Healthy Foods That Are High in Cholesterol

Here are 7 high-cholesterol foods that are incredibly nutritious.

1. Eggs

Eggs are one of the most nutritious foods you can eat. They also happen to be high in cholesterol, with one large egg delivering 211 mg of cholesterol, or 70% of the RDI.

People often avoid eggs out of fear that they may cause cholesterol to skyrocket. However, research shows that eggs don't negatively impact cholesterol levels and that eating whole eggs can lead to increases in heartprotective HDL.

Aside from being rich in cholesterol, eggs are an excellent source of highly absorbable protein and loaded with beneficial nutrients like B vitamins, selenium and vitamin A

Research has shown that eating 1–3 eggs per day is perfectly safe for healthy people.

2. Cheese

A 1-ounce (28-gram) serving of cheese provides 27 mg of cholesterol, or about 9% of the RDI.

Although cheese is often associated with increased cholesterol, several studies have shown that full-fat cheese does not negatively impact cholesterol levels.

One 12-week study in 162 people found that a high intake of 80 grams or about 3 ounces of full-fat cheese

Different types of cheese vary in nutritional content, but most cheeses provide a good amount of calcium, protein, B vitamins and vitamin A.

Since cheese is high in calories, stick to the recommended serving size of 1-2 ounces at a time to keep portions in check.



3. Shellfish

Shellfish – including clams, crab and shrimp – are an excellent source of protein, B vitamins, iron and selenium

They're also high in cholesterol. For example, a 3-ounce (85-gram) serving of shrimp provides 166 mg of cholesterol which is over 50% of the RDI.

Additionally, shellfish contain bioactive components - such as carotenoid antioxidants and the amino acid taurine – that help prevent heart disease and lower "bad" LDL cholesterol.

Populations that consume more seafood have demonstratively lower rates of heart disease, diabetes and inflammatory diseases like arthritis.

4. Pasture-Raised Steak

Pasture-raised steak is packed with protein, as well as important vitamins and minerals like vitamin B12, zinc, selenium and iron.

It's lower in cholesterol than feedlot beef and contains significantly more omega-3 fatty acids, which have anti-inflammatory properties.

A 4-ounce (112-gram) serving of pasture-raised

heart disease, several large population studies have found no association between red meat intake and heart disease risk.

5. Organ Meats

Cholesterol-rich organ meats - such as heart, kidney and liver – are highly nutritious.

For example, chicken heart is an excellent source of the powerful antioxidant CoQ10, as well as vitamin B12, iron and zinc.

It's also high in cholesterol, with a 2-ounce (56-gram) serving providing 105 mg of cholesterol, or 36% of the RDI.

One study in over 9,000 Korean adults found that those with a moderate intake of unprocessed meat including organ meats – had a lower risk of developing heart disease than those with the lowest consumption

6. Sardines

Sardines are not only loaded with nutrients but also a tasty and convenient protein source that can be added to a wide variety of dishes.

One 3.75-ounce (92-gram) serving of these tiny fish contains 131 mg of cholesterol, or 44% of the RDI, but it also packs 63% of the RDI for vitamin D, 137% of the RDI for B12 and 35% of the RDI for calcium.

What's more, sardines are an excellent source of iron, selenium, phosphorus, zinc, copper, magnesium and vitamin E.

7. Full-Fat Yogurt

Full-fat yogurt is a cholesterol-rich food packed with nutrients like protein, calcium, phosphorus, B vitamins, magnesium, zinc and potassium.

One cup (245 grams) of full-fat yogurt contains 31.9 mg of cholesterol, or 11% of the RDI.

Recent research shows that increased consumption of full-fat fermented dairy products is associated with reductions in "bad" LDL cholesterol and blood pressure, as well as lower risks of stroke, heart disease and diabetes

Plus, fermented dairy products like yogurt benefit intestinal health by positively impacting friendly gut bacteria (37

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Cong leaders silent over

Bhat while talking to KNO said, "The INDIA bloc was formed by the top opposition leaders in the country. We cannot comment over the issue. It is for the Congress high command to react."

A senior J&K Congress leader wishing not to be named said, "INDIA bloc is too big an issue for us to comment on it."

Soon after Omar's statement on the INDIA bloc, his father and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah had said that the alliance was formed not just to contest elections but was meant for the unity of the country and to remove hatred. "If someone says the alliance is only for the parliamentary poll, it is a misunderstanding," he had said.

Pertinently, the INDIA bloc was formed as a united front to challenge the BJP ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It saw big gains in the last general election. However, discontent started brewing among alliance members over its vague leadership structure and questions arose over whether Congress, the main opposition party, should be leading the alliance or not. Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also offered to lead the bloc. However, the INDIA bloc leaders have stayed away from each other after the parliamentary elections ended

CM Omar

a presentation on the portal's features, highlighting its accessibility, convenience, speed of processing, cost efficiency and role in promoting accountability.

He outlined the portal's key functionalities, including its user-friendly interface, streamlined RTI workflow, and robust documentation features.

A unique feature of the portal is the issuance of a registration number to applicants via SMS and email for future reference, enabling easy tracking of RTI applications.

The portal integrates 61 government departments, 272 nodal officers/public authorities, 720 First Appellate Authorities (FAAs), and 3,419 Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) and Public Information Officers (PIOs), ensuring comprehensive coverage and making the citizens informed about the activities of the Government.

Security tightened

and paramilitary personnel, installation of CCTV surveillance, and the setup of checkpoints and frisking points," the official said.

In Sonamarg, security arrangements have been intensified with the coordinated efforts of the police, paramilitary forces and the Army. These measures include area domination exercises, thorough searches, and regular patrols to ensure the safety of the event and its attendees.

The 6.5-kilometre Z-Morh tunnel, which will be inaugurated by the PM, is a critical infrastructure project under the larger Zojila project. The tunnel will connect Ganderbal's Gagangir area to Sonamarg and provide year-round connectivity to the region, which has been historically isolated during winter due to heavy snowfall. The project is seen as a boost to both civilian and military mobility in the region.

The inauguration ceremony will see the presence of prominent dignitaries, including Union Minister for Surface Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

In preparation for the event, the Jammu and

Fourteen Administrative Secretaries will remain stationed at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar from January 10 to 13 to oversee various functions related to the event.

Built at a cost of Rs 2,680 crore, the Z-Morh tunnel is a state-of-the-art, 6.5-kilometre-long, two-lane road tunnel equipped with advanced features such as an escape tunnel, ventilation systems and culverts designed to withstand the harsh weather conditions of the region. The project is expected to boost winter tourism in Sonamarg and significantly improve connectivity to Ladakh.

Meanwhile, traffic on the Kargil-Srinagar highway, including the Zoji La Pass, will remain suspended from January 11 to January 14 due to icy road conditions and inclement weather.

Officials said that maintenance work will be carried out during this period, and traffic is expected to resume on January 14, subject to weather conditions. However, the suspension of traffic is also being interpreted as part of the security arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit. **JKRERA inspects**

Hajibagh Srinagar, Firdous colony Buchpora, Rose Hills Estate, Site at Exchange Road Srinagar, Site at Baghat Barzulla, IG Road Parraypora, Palm Spring apartments, Budgam and site at Kursoo Raj Bagh Srinagar.

It was informed that notices have been issued to the owners of these real estate projects, directing them to register themselves with JKRERA within 15 days. Besides, failure to comply in this regard will result in actions against them as warranted under the relevant sections of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

The inspection was conducted by a team of officers and officials from JKRERA including Chief Revenue Officer, Suhail Ahmed Chintsaz, Under Secretary JKRERA, Esha Chib and others. The move was aimed to verify whether the promoters/developers of the plotted colonies had registered their projects with RERA, as mandated by Section 3 of the Act.Chairperson JKRERA emphasised development of colonies in a planned manner, for which registration with JKRERA is mandatory. He stated that numerous colonies are sprouting up haphazardly without requisite approvals from the competent authorities and most of these unauthorised colonies lack basic amenities like roads, electricity and water supply posing a significant threat to planned development. He urged the developers and promoters to strictly adhere to the regulatory framework and obtain necessary approvals before commencing projects. JKRERA is committed to ensure planned development and protecting the interests of homebuyers, he added.

He further informed that non-registration of the project with JKRERA would invite penalty which may extend up to ten percent of the estimated cost of the real estate project. If the promoter or builder continues to violate the provisions of the Act and does not register the project with RERA, he would be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to three years or with fine which may extend up to a further ten percent of the estimated cost of the real estate project, or with both, he added.

Lok Sabha

Accountability through Questions in Legislature". He also gave details on other aspects including Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Short Notice Question (SNQ), Question to a Private Member, Notice and Examination of Question etc. Director, Lok Sabha, Partha Goswami, highlighted the objectives of Executive Accountability through Questions and other Devices in a legislatures. He also elaborated the role of Speaker during the proceedings.

Director, PRIDE Lok Sabha Secretariat, P K Mallick, gave lecture on Information Management in the Legislature. He also gave details and overview about Functions and Responsibilities of Information Management, Information Resources and Knowledge Management, Serving the Informational Needs of Parliamentarians etc.

The Legislators also raised their queries regarding Legislation and threadbare discussion was held during the session.

J&K gets special

community jetties for facilitating movement of local community, people, passengers etc

He also urged to provide vessels and construction of jetties at Mansar, Surisar, Dal and Wullar and establishment of passenger transport in river Jhelum, Chenab and Ravi.

Development, welfare

to assess the ground level development status of the area so that the planning is done accordingly. Locals raised several issues including regular

water supply, upgradation of roads in their locality, improvement in sanitation facilities besides other matters.

Responding to public grievances, the Minister instructed the concerned officers to address issues related to water supply, road improvements, rural infrastructure and other key public concerns.

He issued necessary instructions to the officers of Jal Shakti department to take immediate steps to resolve the water problems of the locals. He said that people should be provided regular and quality water supply and necessary directions be passed to the field staff.

ACB books

to their lawful known source of income & suspects were also living lavish & luxurious lives.

"Sajid Yousuf Bhat owns a commercial property at Rambagh Srinagar having actual price significantly higher than the value of sale deed paid by suspect, besides multiple bank accounts with suspicious transactions. In this way, the public servant namely Sajid Yousuf Bhat S/o Mohammad Yousuf Bhat R/o Namblabal Pampore, A/p Doulatabad Khanyar Srinagar, presently posted as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Srinagar Smart City Limited, has enriched himself illicitly by indulging in corrupt practices which attract commission of offence under section 13(1) (b) r/w 13(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 for possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of lawful income," the statement reads.

Accordingly, the statement reads that a case under FIR number 01/2025 has been registered in Police Station ACB Srinagar.

"Zahoor Ahmad Dar owns lavish multi-storied house at Lane NO. 5, Galibabad, Shalteng Srinagar, one Sedan car, suspicious bank transactions in personal accounts & accounts of his spouse, acquisition of Benami properties & huge assets in form of FDRs. In this way, the public servant namely Zahoor Ahmad Dar, S/o Ab. Razak Dar R/o Takinwaripora Srinagar A/p Galibabad Lane No. 5 Shalteng, Srinagar, presently posted as Executive Engineer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, has enriched himself illicitly by indulging in corrupt practices which prima-facie attract commission of offence under section 13(1)(b) r/w 13(2) Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 for possession of assets which are prima-facie disproportionate to his known sources of lawful income," the ACB said. Accordingly, the statement added that a case

under FIR number 02/2025 has been registered in Police Station ACB Srinagar.

"Search warrants were obtained from the Hon'ble Court of law and searches are underway at different locations associated with these cases and investigation is in progress," the statement added.

SC Junks

after the RBI said petitioner Satish Bhardwaj was fired from the RBI and he had suppressed the fact before the court.

"He appears to be a disgraced employee of a bank," the bench told senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, representing the RBI. Gupta submitted there was no basis for Bhardwaj's claim.

Bhardwaj, appearing in person, referred to a newspaper report on the issue and said the RBI was denying the allegations five years after the PIL was filed.Justice Surya Kant told the petitioner he was the one who concealed the relevant facts in his petition.After Bhardwaj admitted he was dismissed by the bank, the bench said, "We are not inclined to entertain this writ petition purportedly filed in public interest. The same is accordingly dismissed. However, the issues, if required to be adjudicated, shall be gone into in an appropriate case." On January 7, 2020, the top court asked the Centre to look into the PIL saying "the issue may be of national importance".

Bhardwaj alleged in 2013 the Jammu branch of the RBI exchanged the currency notes which belonged to a separatist group called "Kashmir Graffitti". He said he had approached the CBI to probe the matter but nothing came of it.

"Act of Jammu branch of Reserve Bank of India to exchange the defaced/imperfect Indian currency notes worth Rs 30 crore that too which was done by a separatist group of Kashmir with the main aim of destabilising peace and harmony in the region of Jammu and Kashmir and to create an environment of tension and terror in the minds of common residents of the region is illegal and worth of interference of this court," his plea alleged.

MeT Dept

the mercury settled at minus 4.3 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a low of minus 8.1 degrees Celsius.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled at minus 7.6 degree Celsius while Kupwara and Kokernag recorded a low of minus 5.6 and 5.7 degree Celsius respectively.Moreover, the MeT has issued an advisory, predicting cold wave at isolated places and advising the tourists, travellers and transporters to follow administration and traffic advisory.

NOTICE

Thisis an information for general public that i have lost my Canteen Card Somewhere, Now i want to apply for its duplicate and also want to Submit missing report in police station, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

> Showkat Ahmad Wani. S/O Fazal Kreem Wani. R/O Mader Bandipora. 9149708716.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No: JK-0520080006550, my name has been Mistakenly written as Zaid Hussain Malik, While as my Actual and correct name is Zahid Hussain Malik, 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.

Zahid Hussain Malik. S/O Ali Mohd Malik. R/O Nowpora Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is for the information of all the concerned that I want to change the name of my son Musaib Ahmad Ganaie's mother from Aasiya Jan to Asiya Begum in the school records. If anybody has any objection regarding the same, he/she may contact the authorities concerned within a period of seven day. Thereafter no objection shall be entertained.

Altaf Hussain Ganaie R/o: Muslim Abad, Bandipora



I have lost both number plates of vehicle Alto LXi bearing registration no.JK15A 9729 somewhere. Now I want to apply for its duplicate.If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Assistant Regional Transport Officer Bandipora within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

> Showkat Hussain Dar Son of Mohd Yousuf Dar Address : Shilvat sonawari District bandipora

NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that my name according to school records and is Simrat Saif while as on aadhar card it has been mistakenly been registered as Simran Jan. Now i want to rectify the same. In this regard if anyone has objections they may file the same in the office of Aadhar Centre Sumbal within seven days from the date of publication of this notching. After the lapse considered period of time no objections shall be entertained.

Simrat Saif D/O : Saif Ud-Din Khan

Kashmir government has issued directives to ensure uninterrupted administrative functioning.

R/O Asham Sumbal

Ex-Servicemen rally will be held at Bla on Jan 14

In an effort to reach out to Veterans and Veer Naris residing in areas under the jurisdiction of Dagger Division, an Ex-Servicemen rally will be organized at Baramulla on 14 Jan 2025. The Ex-Servicemen Rally will be organized for Baramulla District of Jammu & Kashmir. Various functions will be organized at Baramulla to mark our solidarity towards the Veterans and Next of Kin of our brave hearts as a mark of their selfless duty and sacrifices towards the Nation. The event will be graced by senior mil officers & senior civil dignitaries. As the rally is expected to be attended by a large number of Veterans, Veer Naris & their dependents, this is also seen as an opportunity for the Armed Forces to guide, educate our Veterans and their Next of Kin in their day to day problems. The event is likely to be attended by approximately 350 Ex-Servicemen. The Rally will be aimed at providing assistance to Veterans and Veer Naris



regarding relevant post retirement beneficial information, facilitate redressal of grievances and overcome documentation anomalies in co-ordination with representatives of various Record Offices & Bank Officials. Representatives of agencies involved in welfare of ex-servicemen such as SPARSH Service Centre. This is an information for general public that the Mother's name of my Son has been Mistakenly written in his school records as Halal Akhter, While as his Actual and correct Mother's name is Hilala Akhter. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Principal Blooming Buds Computer School Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted. **Mohmmad Ayoub khan.**

F/O Mohmmad Tahir Khan. R/O Ward NO: 06, Bandipora.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL MISSION KNOWLEDGE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE GULSHANABAD RAKH I HAJIN

S.NO	CLASS	TUITION FEE
1.	5TH	550
2.	4TH	550
3.	3RD	500
4.	2ND	500
5.	1ST	450
6.	UKG	430
7.	L.K.G	430
08.	NURSERY	400
SD/ PRIN	CIPAL MISSION KNOW	LEDGE EDUCATIONAL INSTITU

OFFICE OF THE ZOUN ISLAMIC SCHOOL BAHARABAD HAJIN BANDIPORA -193501 FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026 S.NO. CLASS. TUTION FEE

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01.	NURSERY	400
02.	LKG	400
03.	UKG	400
04.	1ST	400
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06.	3RD	450
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09.	6TH.	500
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11.	8TH.	600
12.	9TH.	800
13.	10TH.	800

SD/ PRINCIPAL ZOUN ISLAMIC SCHOOL BAHARABAD



سے، لریرو سین کے سے صلاحہ جاریہ ین کر سے ہیں۔اپنی کواین کو حق بن کو جن کر جیب دیں کا لدوہ کی اپنا حصہ ان کا کر ج کیونکہ ہیدرسہ مستورات کے لئے مخصوص ہے۔ایک کمرے کی لاگت ساڑھے پانچ لاکھروپے ہےجتی تو فیق ہو کمروں میں یا جیپت میں حصہ لیں۔اللہ قبول فرمائے۔

اہم گذارش ہیہے کہ بنک کھا تدمیں رقم ڈالنے کے بعد فون نمبر 9419089250 یا 8899101091 چر سکرین شاٹ ڈال دیں یا دانسا پ سیج کے ذریعہ یا فون پر اطلاع کریں نیز اپنا نا م اورا مڈرس روانہ کریں تا کہ رسید بیھیجے میں سہولت ہو کیونکہ اب سے تفصیلات بنک سے دستیاب نہیں ہوتیں۔

> محمب ردحمت اللب کت میری ناظم دارالعب لوم رحیمیه بانڈی یورہ کشمیر

Tamim Iqbal Announces Retirement From International Cricket

Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket. This is the second time he has called time on his career, having previously retired in July 2023 in an emotionally charged press conference, only to reverse the decision within 24 hours after intervention from Bangladesh's then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Tamim informed the Bangladesh selectors of his decision in Sylhet on Wednesday. The Gazi Ashraf Hossain-led selection panel asked him to return to the Bangladesh team for the Champions Trophy. Tamim had reportedly told them then that he would stick to his decision to retire, but after a few Bangladesh players, including captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, had requested him to reconsider, he took a day longer.

"I have been away from international cricket for a long time," he wrote on Facebook. "That distance will remain. My chapter in international cricket is over. I have been thinking about this for a long time. Now that a big event like the Champions Trophy is coming up, I do not want to be the focus of anyone's attention, which could lead to the team losing their focus. Of course, I did not want this to happen before, too

"Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto sincerely asked me to return to the team. There were discussions with the selection committee too. I am grateful to them for

have listened to my own heart." The deadline for announcing the Chamstill considering me in the team. However, I pions Trophy squads is January 12, and the



BCB was willing to wait till the last minute to see if Tamim wants to play. Tamim remained in contention for his domestic form and fitness. He has not played an international game since then but continued to play domestic cricket, including winning the 2024 BPL with the Barishal franchise and finishing as the Player of the Tournament. He did well in the Dhaka Premier League, and then followed it up with more runs in the domestic NCL T20s and this BPL season too, he has been among the runs.

Tamim said BCB waiting for his reply was "unnecessary" considering he opted out of central contracts for 2024 to keep himself out of Bangladesh reckoning.

"I removed myself from the BCB central contract a long time ago because I did not want to return to international cricket," he wrote. "Many have said that I have left the matter hanging. Why would anyone discuss a cricketer who is no longer in BCB's contracted list? I voluntarily stepped down more than a year ago.

"Even after that, there has been unnecessary discussion. The decision to retire or continue playing is the right of a cricketer or any professional sportsman. I have given myself time. Now I feel that the time has come.'

TATA BLUESCOPE

STEEL

"I have been away from international cricket for a long time," he wrote on Facebook. "That distance will remain. My chapter in international cricket is over. I have been thinking about this for a long time. Now that a big event like the Champions Trophy is coming up, I do not want to be the focus of anyone's attention, which could lead to the team losing their focus.

TIME TO SHINE WITH

Kate Cross in



KC NEWS NETWORK

Kate Cross says she is doing all she can to be fit for Sunday's opening Ashes fixture in Sydney as she continues her return from a back injury.

Cross, England's hugely experienced and reliable seamer, broke down with back spasms during the third ODI in South Africa last month and missed the subsequent Test. Further scans upon returning home revealed a slightly bulging disc and she sat out of the sole Ashes warm-up, against a Governor General's XI, which was washed out in the 29th over on Thursday, to continue building up to

Mickey Arthur takes 'hands-off' role as Northern **Superchargers** director of cricket

Mickey Arthur, Derbyshire's head of cricket, is set to combine his duties at the club with a new role as director of cricket at Northern Superchargers.

Derbyshire finished rock-bottom of the County Championship in 2024, with one win in 14 matches in Division Two, and failed to reach the knock-outs in either the T20 Blast or the Metro Bank One-Day Cup.

However, Arthur's managerial experience, which includes a recent stint as Pakistan's team director, has proven attractive to Superchargers, where he will work alongside the men's and women's head coaches. Andrew Flintoff and Lisa Keightley.

He will advise the Hundred teams on recruitment and offer support to the head coaches, but Derbyshire insist his role at Superchargers will be "largely hands-off". He will remain with the county during the Metro Bank One-Day Cup which runs concurrently to the Hundred.

"Derbyshire remains my primary focus and I'm committed to achieving our goals of bringing success to the club," Arthur said. "We encourage all of our players and coaches to develop their skills in new environments and this is another example of that.

"As a club, our personnel are in demand and that's a testament to the work being done behind the scenes, and we are confident results will soon come on-field."

Ryan Duckett, Derbyshire's chief executive, added: "Mickey remains fully committed to Derbyshire, he lives and breathes the club and we hope that he can use this opportunity to showcase the quality Derbyshire has.

"It's been a positive winter, with Mickey, Wayne [Madsen] and Zak [Chappell] lifting silverware overseas, while Harry Moore and Pat Brown have represented us within the England setup recently.



a return to play.

"It's been a bit of a frustrating one and I'm the kind of person that's not used to having injuries," Cross told ESPNcricinfo when asked how her recovery was progressing, and whether she was on track to play the first ODI at North Sydney Oval.

"!t's been a bit of a tough period but it's just one of them. I've just got to take it day by day, taking each day as it comes really, and seeing what I can and can't do. But obviously the Ashes is such a huge series, I'm desperate to play a part in it, so just working really hard."

 $Cross \, is \, one \, a \, handful \, of \, players \, remaining \, from \, the \, England \, squad \, which \, last$ won the Ashes on Australian soil in 2014 alongside Danni Wyatt-Hodge, captain Heather Knight, Nat Sciver-Brunt and Amy Jones.

As such, she can provide a wealth of advice to England's younger players but she would obviously rather help out on the field. Making her Test debut at Perth during the 2013-14 series, she played a key role by taking three wickets in each innings, including three for none in seven balls in Australia's fourth innings, as they ultimately fell 61 runs short of their 185-run target.

Cross who is part of the ODI and Test squads for this series, bowled in the nets at Cricket Central in Sydney on Thursday and Jon Lewis, England Women's head coach, expected some clarity on her fitness to play in the coming days.

"I had another scan when I got back to the UK and there was a tiny, tiny, tiny little disc bulge in my back and a little bit of fluid in there," Cross said. "I had an epidural over the Christmas period to try and settle it all down. Back injuries can be a little bit unpredictable so I'm just working through it all each day.

"It's always frustrating to have an injury and especially an injury that that stops me doing my job. When it's something that physically keeps you from bowling, then that's what I've found a little bit more difficult.

"I'm still really lucky that we've got the best science and medicine team available and I'm out in Australia working really hard to try and get as fit as possible as quickly as possible. If I get to play some cricket, brilliant. If I don't, then I'm hopefully still able to contribute off the pitch as well and help what is quite a youngish bowling attack."

A key part of that young attack is quick Lauren Filer, who endured a difficult outing during the warm-up game at a soggy North Sydney Oval, losing her footing multiple times in delivery. But Cross was confident the problem was more about the conditions than Filer's rhythm or action.

