

Kashmir Convener

CLAT UG 2025:
SC to hear Consortium
of NLU's' pleas over
case transfer from HCs

P-02



Maha Kumbh Begins In
UP's Prayagraj, Nearly
60 Lakh Devotees
Take Holy Dip

P-02



Pained that no one
has claimed wad
of cash found in RS
chamber: Dhankhar

P-02



“I am Modi, I keep promises”



KC NEWS NETWORK

SONMARG: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he will keep the promises he made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and right things will happen at the right time.

Modi was addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the strategically important Z-Morh tunnel here. His remarks shortly came after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah sought restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir during his speech at the event.

“You have to believe that this is Modi and he keeps his promises. There is a right time for everything and right things will happen at the right time,” Modi said without mentioning the demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

The prime minister further said that Jammu and Kashmir is the crown of the country and he wants it to be beautiful and prosperous.

“There is an atmosphere of peace in Jammu and Kashmir and we have seen its effect on tourism. Kashmir is writing a new saga of development today,” he said.

He said the Kashmir valley will soon be connected by train and there is enthusiasm among people about it.

Modi also paid tributes to the seven people who were killed in a terror attack near the Z-Morh tunnel here in October last year.

After inaugurating the Rs 2,700 crore project, the prime minister went inside the tunnel and interacted with the project officials.

He also met the construction workers who worked meticulously amid harsh conditions to complete the tunnel.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Abdullah were also present at the inauguration.

This is Modi's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the assembly elections in September-October last year.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Z-Morh Tunnel



KC NEWS NETWORK

SONMARG: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sonamarg tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir today. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he thanked the labourers who have worked hard and also put their lives at stake for the development of Jammu and Kashmir and India.

Modi remarked “Despite the challenges, our resolve did not waver”.

He lauded the labourers for their resolve and commitment and for tackling all the obstacles to complete the work. He also condoled the demise of 7 labourers.

Hailing the beautiful snow-covered mountains and the delightful weather, Modi said that his eagerness to visit Jammu & Kashmir increased after seeing the recent pictures shared by the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir on

social media.

The Prime Minister reminisced about his earlier days when he frequently visited the region while working for his party. He mentioned spending considerable time in areas like Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Ganderbal, and Baramulla, often walking for hours and covering several kilometers.

He added that despite the heavy snowfall, the warmth of the people of Jammu and Kashmir made the cold unnoticeable, according to the Associated News Bureau.

Acknowledging that today was a special day, the Prime Minister remarked that there was a festive atmosphere across the country. He remarked on the commencement of the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, where millions are gathering for the holy bath.

>>>SEE ON P-7

My Heart says PM will soon fulfil statehood promise: CM Omar



KC NEWS NETWORK

Sonamarg: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts in bridging the gap between “Dil (heart) and Delhi” and holding assembly polls in the Union Territory while

exuding confidence that the statehood restoration promise would soon be fulfilled.

Addressing a gathering after the prime minister inaugurated the 6.5-km Z-Morh tunnel renamed ‘Sonamarg Tunnel’ in the Ganderbal district, the chief minister began his speech

by paying tributes to the seven people who died in a terrorist attack near the tunnel site on October 20 last year.

He said terrorism will be defeated to ensure peace and development besides safeguarding democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

“Prime minister, when you came to Srinagar for a programme after getting a third term (in office), people started believing your words. You talked about three important things which included your efforts to bridge ‘Dil ki duri aur Delhi se duri’, and you

>>>SEE ON P-7

PM Modi fulfilling dreams, aspirations of J&K: LG Sinha



KC NEWS NETWORK

SONMARG: Calling Sonamarg tunnel inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as “Bhagya Rekha” (lifeline) for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the new project would prove to be a game-changer in the region.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the strategic tunnel here in Central Kashmir, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, “This tunnel will enable year-round connectivity to the picturesque Sonamarg. It will be a game-changer for the local economy, winter tourism and also create new avenues of livelihood and trade in the region.”

He said that with the opening of Sonamarg Tunnel, a new chapter has begun in the history of J&K. “I am grateful to PM Modi

>>>SEE ON P-7

J-K becoming hub of tunnels, bridges and ropeways”: PM Modi

KC NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of tunnels, bridges and ropeways, adding that the world's highest tunnel, railroad bridge and rail lines are being built here.

PM Modi said that there's a time for everything, and all things will happen in its designated time.

The Prime Minister was speaking after inaugurating the newly constructed Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg located in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister said that the world is in awe after witnessing the marvellous engineering of the Chenab Bridge.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Sonamarg Tunnel, PM Modi said, “Our Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of tunnels, bridges and ropeways. The highest

tunnel in the world is being built here. The highest railroad bridge in the world is being built here. The highest rail lines in the world are being built here. The world is in awe after seeing the engineering of the Chenab Bridge.”

PM Modi said that there's a time for everything, and all things will happen in its designated time. As PM Modi inaugurated the Sonamarg Tunnel today, he said that he has come here as ‘sevak’

“Today I came here as ‘sevak’ in between you. A few days ago I got the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of your own railway division in Jammu. This was your very old demand. Today I have got the opportunity to hand over the Sonamarg Tunnel to the country. One more long pending has been fulfilled. This is Modi, ‘wada karta hai to nibhata hai’. There's a time for everything, and all things will happen in due course. When I speak about Sonamarg Tunnel, this will ease the life of people of Kargil and Leh. This tunnel will reduce the hardships of the people of J-K and Ladakh,” the Prime Minister said.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Violence In J&K Being Orchestrated From Pak: Army Chief

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Pakistan is the “epicentre” of terrorism and the cycle of violence in Jammu and Kashmir is being “orchestrated” from that country, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Monday



even as he described the overall situation in the Union Territory as “firmly” under control. Gen Dwivedi, addressing a press conference ahead of the Army Day, also said that the “theme” of terrorism to tourism is gradually taking shape in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Army has also been given go ahead for emergency procurement for counter-terror operations, he said.

The Chief of Army Staff said that the 2021

“ceasefire” with the Pakistan military is holding up along the Line of Control (LoC) but infiltration attempts from the Pakistani side are continuing.

In a significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian and Pakistani armies on February 25, 2021 announced that they would cease firing across the LoC while recommitting themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

The violence level in Jammu and Kashmir is being “orchestrated” by the “epicentre of terrorism that is Pakistan”, Gen Dwivedi said.

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a series of terror attacks in the last few months.

“Last year, 60 per cent of the terrorists eliminated were of Pakistan origin. As of today, whatever is a remnant in the (Kashmir) Valley and Jammu area, we feel that around 80 per cent or more are of Pakistan origin,” the Army chief said.

Gen Dwivedi asserted that the situation in the Union Territory is “firmly under control”.

He said the terror infrastructure on the Pakistani side remains “intact”. “In recent months, increased terrorist activities were seen in North Kashmir and Doda-Kishtwar belt,” he said, adding the “overall violence parameters” are under control. “We witnessed more than five lakh pilgrims during Amarnath Yatra this time and the

>>>SEE ON P-7

33 tunnels coming up in J&K: Nitin Gadkari



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of Road, Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a total of 33 tunnels are coming up in Jammu and Kashmir while 15 amongst them have been already completed.

Addressing a gathering in Sonamarg after the inauguration of Z-Morh tunnel, Gadkari stated

that the good roads lead to the progressive nation and thus the Prime Minister has been keen to develop the roads in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the progress of the nation and achieve the goal of ‘Viksit Bharat’.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he added that many of the projects presently going on in Jammu and Kashmir including the Srinagar Ring Road, four corridors in J&K and others

are expected to be completed and inaugurated by the end of this year.

Gadkari further stated that the tunnel inaugurated today will end up the misères of the people, who had to pile up essential stocks ahead of the winters, adding that another Zojila tunnel, which was earlier coming up at the cost of Rs 12,000 crore, is now being constructed at the cost of only Rs 6800 crore, thereby saving a whopping Rs 5000 crore.

He added that this tunnel will ensure round-the-year passage to the travelers from Srinagar-Leh, adding that the tunnel will reduce the travel time by 3 and a half hours.

Gadkari thanked the Prime Minister for his mission of boosting the infrastructure and also congratulated the people for witnessing the developments like Sonamarg tunnel, which according to him has come up at the cost of Rs 2,717 crore.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Govt constitutes committee to regulate quality, pricing of diagnostic tests

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Health & Medical Education Department has constituted a committee for regulating and standardising the quality and rates of diagnostic tests and pathological examinations



done in private laboratories across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per an order issued by H&ME Department, Principal GMC Srinagar will be the chairperson of

>>>SEE ON P-7

Maha Kumbh Begins In UP’s Prayagraj, Nearly 60 Lakh Devotees Take Holy Dip

Mahakumbh Nagar (UP), Jan 13: A thick blanket of fog could not blur their vision, the cold breeze failed to reduce their energy levels and the bone-chilling water of river Ganga in Sangam area could not dampen their excitement, as lakhs of devotees from different walks of life took the holy dip on the occasion of 'Paush Purnima' on Monday.

The Maha Kumbh 2025 commenced here amid chants of bhajans and slogans.

The excitement was clearly visible in the Sangam area as the pilgrims and devotees — mostly in groups — walked towards river Ganga and took a holy dip chanting 'Jai Ganga Maiyya'.

"Till 9.30am, around 60 lakh pilgrims had taken dip," the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.

The state government also said that a large number of devotees from India and abroad were seen at the Sangam Ghat.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended his greetings on the occasion of 'Paush Purnima'.

"Where there is a confluence of cultures, there is also a confluence of faith and harmony. Maha Kumbh-2025 is giving the message of 'unity in diversity', Prayagraj is providing an encounter with Sanatan along with the welfare of humanity," he



said on X.

26-year-old Arjun Tripathi, a resident of Prayagraj, was among the devotees, who had turned up early to take a dip.

"I have come here with my wife Ranjana to take the dip. I have been visiting the Kumbh Mela and the Magh Mela on a regular basis since my childhood days. I feel completely satisfied and contented after taking the dip," he told PTI.

Tripathi, who stays barely 7 kilometres from Sangam area, also said that he had asked his friends to accompany him and enjoy the first major 'snaan' of the Maha Kumbh but "they did not turn up probably

due to cold weather".

Manjeet, a resident of Haryana's Rohtak, said that it was a "good experience".

"The water is good and taking a dip was a good experience. I will also be taking a dip on the occasion of Makar Sankranti and will be staying here for a week," he said.

Lucknow resident Rajendra Prasad Tripathi, who came here with his wife Urmila, said that he "felt very nice after taking the dip". "May Maa Ganga bless all of us," he added.

Appreciating the arrangements made for the devotees, Kailash Narayan Shukla and Arvind Rajput from Rath in Hamirpur said that "good arrangements were made for the pilgrims and we had no problems in taking the holy dip".

Banda resident Ram Naresh Mishra, who accompanied them, said the "policemen were also present near the bathing area and we did not face any problem".

Neela Chatterjee, a resident of Kolkata, was initially a bit reluctant to take the dip, but she "felt happy and satisfied" after taking the dip. She said that she would be going to Varanasi from Prayagraj.

'Jai Shri Ram', 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Jai Ganga Maiyya' chants could be regularly heard as the pilgrims moved towards the bathing area in groups.

A group of women from Uttar Pradesh's Siddharth Nagar were busy singing folk songs before taking a dip on the occasion of 'Paush Purnima'. The policemen were also seen guiding the pilgrims towards the bathing area.

A team of YouTubers from South Korea was seen capturing various shots of the Maha Kumbh on their cameras, while the tourists from Japan were seen taking information from local guides on witnessing the huge crowd here.

Sanatani devotees from various European countries, including Russia and

the United States, not only witnessed this great festival of faith and unity but also took a holy dip.

Christina from Spain was one among them. She praised this wonderful moment wholeheartedly on seeing the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh, the statement added.

A huge crowd from Prayagraj, and from other states like Bihar, Haryana, Bengal, Odisha, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh was seen at various ghats of Prayagraj, including Sangam, the statement said.

The people selling puja items and applying tilak to the devotees on the ghats near Sangam Mela area in Maha Kumbh Nagar appeared extremely busy.

Pradeep Upadhyay, who was seen applying tilak to the devotees, said that he did this work during the Kumbh in 2019 as well but people are more enthusiastic this time.

Echoing similar sentiments, Phulpur resident Santoshi Devi, who is running a retail shop of puja items in the Sangam area, said the Ganga Jal storage cans are in great demand.

The present edition of the Kumbh is being held after 12 years, though seers claim the celestial permutations and combinations for the event are taking place after 144 years, making the occasion even more auspicious.

Pained that no one has claimed wad of cash found in RS chamber: Dhankhar

NEW DELHI: Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed pain on Monday over the fact that no member of Parliament has come forward to claim a wad of currency notes found in the Rajya Sabha chamber last month, saying it is a collective challenge to our ethical standards.

A wad of Rs 500 notes found from the seat allotted to Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi in the Rajya Sabha on December 6, during the winter session of Parliament, had rocked the Upper House, with the opposition and ruling alliance members trading charges and Singhvi demanding a probe into the "security lapse".

The Congress leader had also suggested that glass enclosures should be erected to prevent anyone



from planting "ganja" on seats in an MP's absence.

"Just imagine my pain. Only a month back or so, we found on a particular seat in the Rajya Sabha, the Council of States, a wad of notes, Rs 500 in denomination. What has really pained me is that no one has come to claim it," Dhankhar said at a book launch here.

He described it as a "very serious issue".

"You can carry notes, maybe out of necessity, but then no one has claimed, that is a collective challenge to our ethical standards," he said.

Dhankhar pointed out that for a long time, there was no committee on ethics. It was only in the late 1990s that the Rajya Sabha for the first time came to have a committee on ethics, which is functional.

"As the chairman, Rajya Sabha, I can tell you ladies and gentlemen, anyone who is there in the Rajya Sabha as a member is a human resource to reckon with brilliant credentials, great exposure and experience, but when it comes to action, they are guided by someone else," he lamented.

He was apparently referring to MPs following party lines while raking up issues in the House. In the past, Dhankhar had said that though most MPs are against it, they cause House disruptions as their respective parties direct them to do so.

Delhi polls: BJP focuses on intensive outreach in 30 Dalit-dominated seats

NEW DELHI: The BJP is hopeful of "markedly improving" its performance in Dalit-dominated constituencies of the city on the basis of a sustained and focussed outreach campaign spread over months



ahead of the February 5 assembly polls, party leaders said.

The party failed to win even one of the 12 SC (scheduled castes) reserved constituencies in the assembly polls held in 2015 and 2020. In previous elections too, the BJP never won more than two-three of these seats.

There are 30 assembly constituencies in Delhi, including 12 reserved for SC candidates, in which the Dalit community voters range from 17 to 45 per cent, according to Delhi BJP leaders.

Apart from the 12 reserved constituencies, there are 18 other seats with up to 25 percent SC community votes, including Rajender Nagar, Chandni Chowk, Adarsh Nagar, Shahdara, Tughlaqabad, Bijwasan, where the BJP and its SC Morcha worked in the past several months, they said.

An elaborate outreach campaign through SC workers was conducted in the slums and unauthorised colonies of these 30 constituencies in the last few months.

Delhi BJP SC Morcha president Mohan Lal Gihara said senior SC workers were deputised as "Vistarak" (expanders) in all these 30 constituencies for a focused outreach among the community members.

The "Vistarak" further deputised 10 Dalit youth on each of the polling booths for person-to-person contact in various localities and residential areas in these constituencies, he said.

The party has identified more than 5,600 such polling booth out of which special focus was paid on over 1,900 booths.

The entire exercise of interacting with voters and explaining them works done for the community by the Modi government and "failures" of AAP in its 10 year rule involved a network of over 18,000 active workers, party leaders said.

In the second level of outreach, the party roped in 55 big Dalit leaders of the party, including former Union ministers and MPs from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, MP and Haryana. Marathon round of meetings were held in these constituencies, they said.

Further, around 3,500 prominent community leaders, identified as key voters having political influence in their neighbourhoods, were contacted to deepen the outreach.

The party started holding "SCSwabhimann Sammelan" in these constituencies to felicitate the political influencers, professionals, achievers and prominent locals of the community, starting from December.

"So far 15 such conventions have been held and in each a senior BJP leader is present. A lot of support of the community was visible in these large meetings that were attended by 1,500-2,500 common members of the Dalit community," Gihara said.

Each of these participants were sent personal invitations to join these meetings, in a bid to strengthen their feeling of "self-respect" and bond with the party, he said.

Voting for 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi will be held on February 5. Results will be declared after counting of votes on February 8.

CLAT UG 2025: SC to hear Consortium of NLUs' pleas over case transfer from HCs

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court would on January 15 hear pleas of the Consortium of National Law Universities seeking transfer of pleas against the results of the common law admission test 2025, from various high courts to the apex court.

According to the SC website, a bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar listed two separate petitions of the Consortium of National Law Universities (CNLU), relating to the results of the common law admission test (CLAT), 2025, for an authoritative pronouncement and avoiding any multiplicity of litigations filed by candidates in various high courts.

The CNLU filed the plea through advocate Pritha Srikumar Iyer.



An aspirant recently informed a Delhi High Court division bench that several petitions were pending in different high courts and the transfer pleas would be moved before the top court.

The high court then posted the pleas, filed against the order of a single judge bench, for hearing on January 30.

On December 20, 2024, a Delhi High Court single judge directed the

consortium to revise the result of CLAT-2025 over errors in the answer key. The single judge's verdict, which came on the plea of a CLAT aspirant, ruled the answers to two questions in the entrance test were wrong.

The plea had challenged the answer key published by the consortium on December 7, 2024 while seeking a direction to declare correct answers to certain questions.

The single judge said the errors were "demonstrably clear" and "shutting a blind eye to them" would amount to injustice.

While the aspirant challenged the single judge's order which refused his prayer over the other two questions, the consortium moved against the single judge's decision.

Congress govt in Karnataka united, says AICC general secy Surjewala

BENGALURU: Trying to downplay the power tussle within the ruling Congress amid speculation about a change of guard in Karnataka,

AICC general secretary in-charge of the state, Randeep Singh Surjewala, said on Monday that the party's government was united and accused the opposition of manufacturing stories to attack it.

Claiming that there were differences within the BJP and its alliance with the JD(S), he also attempted to portray the alleged political power struggle within the Congress as a media creation.

"A select group of news channels, instead of questioning a fractured BJP, which is on a fratricidal path and tearing itself apart, are questioning a united government that is solidly executing a direct benefit transfer to every Kannadiga family, with a cumulative total of Rs 58,000 crore," Surjewala told reporters here, in response to a question.

The Karnataka Congress government's guarantee scheme is the biggest welfare initiative in India, and



naturally, the BJP is perturbed by it, he said, and highlighted the differences within the saffron party in the state and even claimed that the BJP and its alliance partner, the JD(S), are engaged in a "fratricidal war".

No alliance can succeed if dialogue stops: Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI: Days after the Shiv Sena (UBT) announced to go solo in the local body polls in Maharashtra, party leader Sanjay Raut on Monday said no alliance can succeed if dialogue among its partners ceases.

To maintain communication among partners, "responsible leaders" need to be appointed, and the Congress, which is the largest constituent of the opposition INDIA bloc, must take on this role, Raut told reporters here.

He also said there was nothing wrong in contesting elections against coalition partners, but in such cases, no party should dub their former or potential future allies as "traitors".

On Saturday, Raut cited the lack of opportunities for workers of respective parties in an alliance and the right to organisational growth as the major considerations for contesting solo, which raised a question mark over the opposition bloc's unity.



The Rajya Sabha member on Sunday asserted his party wants to go solo in the local bodies polls to strengthen its base and has never called for dissolution of the opposition INDIA bloc or the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which include the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena.

In a first, all-girl NCC contingent, robotic mules to take part in Army Day Parade

NEW DELHI: The Army Day Parade this year will see participation of an all-girl marching contingent from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and showcasing of four thematic tableaux, including one based on the force's Mission Olympics Wing.

An all-women Agniveer contingent from the Corps of Military Police (CMP), Centre and School at Bengaluru, and a set of marching 'robotic mules' will also register their presence at the prestigious annual parade for the first time, defence sources said.

The Army Day Parade will take place at Bombay Engineering Group (BEG) and Centre in Maharashtra's Pune on January 15 which comes under the Army's Southern Command.

In the evening, a programme called 'Gaurav Gatha' is planned to be held showcasing the evolution of welfare from ancient period to the contemporary era. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to grace this event, the sources said.

The theme for the 77th Army Day celebrations is 'Samarth Bharat, Saksham Sena', and the focus this time is to demonstrate the capabilities of the Army contributing to a stronger nation.



Some of the platforms that will be showcased during the parade include all-women Agniveer contingent from the Corps of Military Police centre in Bengaluru and both will be taking part in the Army Day Parade for the first time," a defence source said.

Besides, "12 robotic mules" standing in two equal rows followed by their handlers will also be taking part in the parade for the very first time.

These mules were inducted last year and represent the Army's steps towards modernisation of the force. These nimble-

footed machines can carry loads, go to inaccessible areas and engage militants also, they said.

"While marching, when they reach in front of the dais, the robotic mules will salute the dignitaries before carrying forward in the parade," the source added.

"Also, in line with the theme of the parade, four tableaux akin to the ones seen at the Republic Day Parade will also be showcased depicting the Indian Army's prowess, green initiatives, the value of the veterans and the force's role in fostering the Olympic spirit to produce winners," the source told PTI.

As per the plan, the tableau depicting the Army's Mission Olympics Wing will be the leading tableau and one themed on technology absorption in the last one decade will be the last in the series, an official said.

The Indian Army's Mission Olympics Wing was established in 2001 under which a large number of sportspersons are training at various different sports nodes in the country.

Besides, there are total of many Boys Sports companies and Girls Sports companies for nurturing the talent from

young age (9-16 years).

Additionally, a Paralympic Node was earlier established to motivate and train soldiers with any disability for paralympic sports.

"The Mission Olympics tableau will show moving depiction of athletes doing fencing, wrestling aboard it and some paralympic athletes who have brought laurels for the country, while some members of the Army Sports Institute, Pune, will be walking on ground alongside the tableau," the source said.

The next in line will be the veterans' tableau depicting their contribution to nation-building even after they have hung their boots.

Paralympic athlete and Army veteran Murlikant Petkar, who had earned a gold medal in swimming (in 1972) and on whose life the film 'Chandu Champion' was based, will also be part of the parade through the tableau, he added.

Another tableau will portray the Army's efforts in adopting green measures to contribute towards achieving net-zero emission, including the achievement by Pune's College of Military Engineering in this field, officials said.

DC Bandipora Finalizes Annual Implementation Plan 2025-26 under SBM

BANDIPORA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qa-

coming year, with an emphasis on achieving specific goals related to sanitation and cleanliness.

their usage.

He highlighted the need for increased awareness about SBM assets and encouraged the concerned officers to ensure proper and efficient use.

The DDC also directed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to work closely with Tehsildars to identify suitable land for the creation of additional SBM assets.

He also emphasized the need for BDOs to upload geo-tagged photos of completed community compost pits promptly to ensure transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the meeting reviewed the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for both rural (PMAY-G) and urban (PMAY-U) areas. The DDC underscored the importance of raising awareness about the scheme and urged officials to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered.

M.A. Qadri emphasized to enhance the pace of the allotted works and to ensure timely completion of all targeted projects.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Irfan Bahadur, CPO Mohammad Maqbool Lone and other concerned officers from various departments.



dri Monday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat to discuss and finalize the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for the year 2025-26 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). During the meeting, the targets and achievements under the Annual Implementation Plan for 2024-25 were reviewed.

The focus of the discussion was on setting targets for the up-

The targets for 2025-26 under SBM include the construction of 755 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), 80 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs), 91 Community Compost Pits (SWM), and 106 Community Soak Pits (GWM).

On the occasion, DDC M.A. Qadri reviewed the utilization of existing SBM assets and stressed the importance of maximizing

ADDC Bandipora chairs SOP committee meeting for verification of Structural Damages

Bandipora: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, on Monday, chaired a meeting of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Committee to discuss the verification process for structural damage cases in the district.

During the meeting, out of 09 cases, 06 relief cases from various areas of Bandipora were evaluated and forwarded to the Relief Section for payment disbursement according to government guidelines, whereas 02 cases were rejected and one case was forwarded for re-evaluation.

During the meeting, the ADC proposed conducting a joint inspection to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the matters at hand. Additionally, all cases were thoroughly reviewed and presented before the committee for informed discussion and decision-making.

Speaking on the occasion, al Magistrate (SDM) Gurez, promoting more efficient and coordinated processing of cases.

the ADC urged the tehsildars of Sub-Division Gurez to submit their jurisdictional damage case files through the Sub-Division-

ing that relief is promptly delivered to affected individuals. He urged the committee to adopt simplified procedures for file



Certificate of Completion Issued for Clubfoot Treatment in DH Bandipora.

BANDIPORA: In a heartwarming development, the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital (DH) Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, on Monday, issued a certificate of completion of treatment for a clubfoot patient. The patient was born at DH Bandipora four months ago and diagnosed with clubfoot during screening by the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC) at DH Bandipora.

Following her diagnosis, the newborn was referred to Dr. Nadeem Ali, Consultant Orthopedician at DH Bandipora, who initiated her treatment. After a series of follow-up sessions and dedicated care, her treatment has been successfully completed, marking a significant milestone for the patient and her family.

The DEIC at DH Bandipora has been instrumental in facilitating such treatments. Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) scheme of the National Health Mission (NHM) Jammu and Kashmir, financial assistance of 84,000 has been provided to

12 patients in the current financial year.

Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani also appealed to the general public to visit the hospital if they know of or have anyone around with conditions such as cleft lip and palate, congenital heart defects (CHD), clubfoot, or any other disabilities or disorders in children under the "4Ds" category. He encouraged families to bring such children to the DEIC section of the hospital, where they can access free benefits, treatment, and referral support.

He commended the efforts of the DEIC team and Dr. Nadeem Ali for their commitment to ensuring quality healthcare for children with special needs. The MS emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, highlighting the hospital's continued dedication to providing affordable and accessible healthcare to all.

This achievement reflects the collaborative efforts of DH Bandipora and NHM J&K in transforming lives and reinforcing their commitment to community health.



Tiger Division Organises Mega Veterans Outreach Programme at Miran Sahib



Miran Sahib, Jan 13: The Tiger Division of the Indian Army organised a Mega Veterans Outreach Programme at Miran Sahib Military Station, Kulian Ground, on January 13, 2025. The event witnessed the participation of over 500 veterans, including Veer Naris and Veer Matas, in a heartfelt tribute to their selfless service and sacrifices.

The outreach programme aimed to strengthen the camaraderie within the Armed Forces community and address key welfare concerns of veterans. Stalls and help desks from various welfare agencies, including ECHS, AWPO, Record Offices, SPARSH, and CSD, were set up to resolve pension and entitlement-related issues faced by veterans.

The event primarily catered to ex-servicemen, war veterans, disabled soldiers, and war widows, reiterating their integral role in the Armed Forces fraternity even after retirement. Senior officers, including Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat AVSM, VSM, General Officer Commanding 9 Corps, and other civil dignitaries, attended the rally to express solidarity.

During the programme, veterans, Veer Naris, and Veer Matas were provided with heaters, sweaters, shawls, caps, wheelchairs, and walking sticks for specially-abled individuals. A medical camp was also

organised, where specialist doctors offered healthcare services to ex-servicemen.

Help desks from the Handicrafts and Industries Departments of the J&K Government and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) were set up, receiving appreciation from attendees.

The event proved to be a resounding success, providing a platform to address issues related to pensions, medical care, re-employment, and grievance redressal. It reinforced the support for ex-servicemen and ensured their concerns were acknowledged and addressed effectively.

perintending Engineer PWD (R&B), resident of Hygam Baramulla has amassed huge assets, by indulging in corrupt practices.

The verification revealed that the suspect public servant during service period has acquired properties in shape of immovable/movable at Hygam, Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi and has also made huge investments/expenditures which are disproportionate to his known sources of income. It was found during probe that the accused public servant has intentionally enriched himself illicitly during the period of his office & the expenditures incurred and the value of assets acquired/raised by the accused during service period have been found prima facie disproportionate to

Director AHD Kashmir reviews physical, financial targets achieved under various schemes

SRINAGAR: Director Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Dr Parvinder Sudan today reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under various schemes including CAPEX (Capital Expenditure), Holistic Agricultural Development Programme, Central Sector Schemes and NAB-ARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) during the current financial year.

The meeting aimed to evaluate the implementation status of these programs and ensure that objectives are being met effectively.

The meeting holds the importance in view of last quarter of current financial year and aimed to target the loopholes and remove bottlenecks.

The deliberations were augmented by the view points presented by various officers and officials.

The Director reiterated his stand on focussing and analysing the progress reports submitted by various wings of the department and strategizing future actions to enhance productivity and efficiency in animal husbandry Sector across Kashmir.

The meeting underscored the commitment of the Animal Husbandry Department towards improving livestock management and ensuring sustainable development in the region.

Joint Director, Poultry/ LPP Hari Parbat, Deputy Director Poultry, Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, Superintendent Central Veterinary Hospital, Assistant Director Planning and Technical Officers and Poultry Development Officers attended the meeting.

Indian Army Organises Veterans Outreach Programme at Kathua

KATHUA: Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to veterans and their families, the Gurj Division, under the aegis of the Rising Star Corps, organised a Veteran's Outreach Programme and Ex-Servicemen Felicitation



Ceremony at Janglot, Kathua, on Monday, January 13. The event paid a heartfelt tribute to the selfless sacrifices and invaluable contributions of Army veterans in service to the nation.

The ceremony was graced by 25 distinguished veterans, including two revered war veterans from the 1965 and 1971 conflicts, and 11 Veer Naris. This gathering offered a unique platform for veterans to share their inspiring experiences with younger military personnel, fostering a meaningful dialogue between generations.

The programme also aimed to educate attendees about the latest initiatives introduced by the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare under the Ministry of Defence, New Delhi. Participants were informed about various government and military welfare schemes designed to benefit ex-servicemen and their families.

This noble initiative underscores the Indian Army's steadfast dedication to honouring its veterans and fallen heroes. It reflects the Army's ongoing efforts to provide support and recognition to those who have served the nation with valour.

The outreach programme ensured the legacy of the nation's veterans is celebrated and safeguarded, inspiring future generations to uphold the values of service, sacrifice, and patriotism.

Two arrested with heroin-like substance in Pantha Chowk

Srinagar: Police in Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar arrested two individuals and recovered a heroin-like substance during a routine naka (checkpoint) at Zaffron Colony, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a team from Panthachowk Police Station stopped two individuals coming from Balhama towards Zaffron Colony late Sunday night.

He said that upon searching them, the police recovered 10 grams of a heroin-like substance from their possession.

He identified them as Furqan Majeed Khan alias Kanda, son of Abdul Majeed, a resident of Kanipora Nowgam, and Sameer Hussain Dar, son of late Gh Mohammad Dar, a resident of Chatregam Nowgam.

ACB Registers Disproportionate Assets Case Against Retired SE

Srinagar : Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau on Monday said that it have booked a retired Superintendent engineer of PWD (R&B) for amassing huge assets in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In a handout to GNS, the ACB said that it conducted a verification into the allegation that Riyaz Ahmad Parray, retired Su-

perintending Engineer PWD (R&B), resident of Hygam Baramulla has amassed huge assets, by indulging in corrupt practices. The verification revealed that the suspect public servant during service period has acquired properties in shape of immovable/movable at Hygam, Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi and has also made huge investments/expenditures which are disproportionate to his known sources of income. It was found during probe that the accused public servant has intentionally enriched himself illicitly during the period of his office & the expenditures incurred and the value of assets acquired/raised by the accused during service period have been found prima facie disproportionate to

his known sources of income. Accordingly, a Case FIR No. 01/2025 under section 13 (1) (b) r/w 13 (2) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (As amended in 2018) was registered at PS ACB Baramulla against the accused Riyaz Ahmad Parrey, retired Superintendent Engineer, PWD (R&B) and the investigation of the case was initiated. During the course of investigation search warrants were obtained from Hon'ble court and searches were conducted at all locations inside as well as outside UT of J&K at Delhi, Jammu, during which various incriminating documents related to property acquisition were collected and seized in presence of independent witnesses.

Data centres in space: Can this be the new reality?

DOMENICO VICINANZA

Data centres are the backbone of our digital infrastructure, supporting everything from social media platforms to online shopping and streaming services. With the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and the internet of things, the amount of data generated and processed daily is extremely

Even so, it's still going to be a major challenge to roll out enough capacity. Data centres require substantial physical space and infrastructure, making expansion both difficult and costly.

A new frontier?

This is why US companies like Lumen Orbit and

steps in reducing the cost and increasing the reliability of space launches. This may greatly limit how quickly space data centres could be launched.

There's also the fact that the latency in communication between Earth and space affects data transmission speeds. Another Musk company, Starlink, has been making inroads into this issue with its burgeoning satellite network, which Musk



large, and the demand for data centres is constantly growing.

Data centres, unfortunately, are massively energy hungry – among a host of other environmental drawbacks. One possible solution is to build them in space, and several companies are working on making this a reality. So how would this work, and is it really going to happen?

Worldwide data centre demand is expected to rise at around 20% a year over the next few years. In the UK alone, Google, Microsoft and various other US companies are collectively spending £20 billion to ramp up data-centre capacity for AI up and down the country.

Yet data centres built for high-performance computing and AI require much more power than a standard facility. This generates a lot more heat, which entails a further substantial increase in power demands for liquid cooling facilities.

According to the International Energy Agency, data centres accounted for about 1 to 1.5% of global energy use in 2023, and this figure is expected to rise significantly in the years ahead. Additionally, cooling systems can exacerbate water shortages in some regions, while the growing e-waste generated from outdated equipment is also a big problem.

To try and address the energy issue, data-centre firms have been investing in renewable energy sources like wind, solar and nuclear to reduce their carbon emissions. They're also using advanced cooling technologies to make their data centres more energy efficient.

the EU's Ascend project are looking to space instead. Data centres beyond Earth's atmosphere would have access to continuous solar energy and could be naturally cooled by the vacuum of space. Away from terrestrial issues like planning permission, such facilities could be rapidly deployed and expanded as the demand for more data keeps increasing.

It may sound like something from a sci-fi novel, but this concept has been gaining more attention as space technology has advanced and the need for sustainable and scalable data centres has become apparent.

Lumen, which is based in Washington, recently raised US\$11 million (£8.9 million) in seed funding that will be used to build a full-scale prototype in 2025. This facility will be geared towards taking huge amounts of raw data from other satellites, then using AI to crunch it down for transmission to Earth, taking up much less bandwidth than would otherwise be required.

Meanwhile, Ascend completed an 18-month study last summer that found that space data centres are economically viable and environmentally feasible, provided the carbon emissions from launchers can be reduced by about tenfold. Backed by French defence giant Thales, it aims to launch a gigawatt of capacity into space over the next 25 years.

As with all too-good-to-be-true ideas, we should certainly be in no doubt about the challenges involved in these kinds of projects. It's still hugely expensive to launch payloads into orbit, even if companies like Elon Musk's SpaceX have been making significant

claims will be as fast as fibre broadband in the years ahead.

Maintaining space data centres poses a major challenge. Space weather, such as solar flares could disrupt operations, while collisions with debris are a major worry – rather offsetting the fact that space-based data centres don't have to fear earthquakes or floods. Advanced shielding could protect against things like radiation and micrometeoroids, but it will probably only do so much – particularly as Earth's orbit becomes ever more crowded.

To fix damaged facilities, advances in robotics and automation will of course help, but remote maintenance may not be able to address all issues. Sending repair crews remains a very complex and costly affair, and though the falling cost of space launches will again help here, it is still likely to be a huge burden for a few decades to come. In addition, disposing of data centre waste takes on a whole new level of complexity off-planet.

So while there is certainly great excitement around this potential answer to our need for ever more data centres, it's clearly as complex as it is compelling. Hopefully, with serious effort into research and development – as well as global collaboration – this will eventually revolutionise the way we manage and process data. Until then, with apologies, we'll just have to watch this space.

(The author is an Associate Professor of Intelligent Systems and Data Science, Anglia Ruskin University-The Conversation)

Masjid, a fundamental Institution in Islam

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo

The mosque has always been the heart of a Muslim community, serving as a sanctuary of unity, learning, and spiritual rejuvenation. From the humble structures of early Islam to the grand masjids of today, the essence remains unchanged: drawing humanity closer to Allah.

The first mosque in the world, Masjid al-Haram, holds unparalleled sanctity. Allama Iqbal beautifully encapsulates its significance in his couplet:

“Duniya ke but ka don mein, pehla woh gharr Khudaka,
Hum us ke pas baan hain, woh pas baan hamara.”

(Among the idol houses of the world, the first is the house of Allah al-Haram,
We are its guardians, and it is our protector.)

This profound verse highlights the reciprocal relationship between believers and the mosque. It reminds us of our role as custodians, emphasizing that protecting and honoring this sacred trust safeguards our faith and identity.

A Space of Unity and Equality

Mosques are sacred spaces where worldly distinctions dissolve, and believers stand shoulder to shoulder in devotion to Allah. Allama Iqbal eloquently reflects this egalitarian spirit in his couplet:

“Ek hi saf mein kharay hogaye Mahmood o Ayaz,
Na koi bandaraha aarna koi bandanawaz.
Banda o sahib o mohtaj o ghaniek hue,
Teri sarkar mein pohanche to sabhi ek hue.”

(Sultan Mahmood and his servant Ayaz stood together in the same row.
No servant remained, nor did any master.

The servant, the king, the needy, and the wealthy became one.
When they came into Your presence, all became equal.)

This imagery underscores Islam's emphasis on equality, where the only distinction in Allah's sight is righteousness, as stated in the Quran:

“Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you.” (Surah Al-Hujurat: 13).

The Rights of the Mosque

Yet, an important question arises: Are we, as believers, fulfilling the rights of our mosques and valuing their sacred role?

While the mosque provides us with tranquility and ease—clean water for ablution, lights for clarity, and carpets for comfort and during winters hot water while masjid hamaam provides comfort, warmth (A Hamam in Kashmiri refers to a heated room with limestone slabs over a hollowed floor, warmed by a fire beneath,

traditionally used in mosques and shrines for warmth and ablution in winters.)

These blessings come with the obligation to ensure their sustenance.—how often do we consider our responsibilities toward it?

A mosque is not anyone's personal property; it is our collective heritage. Its protection, maintenance, and cleanliness are responsibilities that rest upon all of us.



Here are key areas where believers can contribute:

Financial Support:

Every worshiper should contribute a fixed monthly amount to the mosque, no matter how small. Consistent donations collectively ensure the mosque's upkeep.

Maintenance and Cleanliness:

Participating in cleaning and maintaining the mosque is as important as monetary contributions.

Support for the Mosque Team:

Those who dedicate their time to administrative and fundraising efforts deserve the community's wholehearted support.

Just as we budget for household expenses like electricity, internet, and school fees, the mosque should be part of our financial priorities. The services we enjoy—water, electricity, and cleanliness—require resources. It is our shared duty to provide them.

A Call to Action

A mosque is not merely a place of worship but the foundation for strengthening community and society. It serves as a spiritual haven, a center of learning, and a hub for unity and support. However, its upkeep often goes unnoticed, depending entirely on the contributions of the faithful.

Supporting the mosque is not limited to financial contributions.

Volunteering time and skills, organizing community events, and teaching younger generations the value of the mosque are equally important. Together, these efforts ensure that the mosque continues to enrich the lives of future generations.

The mosque's True Beauty

Despite all these efforts, the true adornment of a mosque lies in the establishment of prayer, as emphasized by our beloved Prophet (PBUH) in the hadith: “The beauty of a mosque is through prayer, not its structure.”

Salah is undeniably the cornerstone of faith, establishing a direct and unbroken connection between a believer and Allah. It is described as the defining characteristic of a believer, where deliberately neglecting it equates to an act of disbelief (kufr). The importance of Salah is profoundly emphasized in the Hadith:

Sunan al-Tirmidhi (Hadith 2620):

“The covenant that distinguishes between us and them (disbelievers) is prayer; whoever neglects it has committed disbelief.” Sunan Ibn Majah (Hadith 1079):

“Between a person and disbelief is abandoning the prayer.”

The detachment of Muslims from their mosques signifies a distance from Allah's mercy. This estrangement is one of the reasons why oppressor nations have gained dominance over us. Reflecting on the condition of Muslims and their relationship with mosques, Allama Iqbal poignantly remarked:

‘Masjid to bana di shabbhar mein imaanki hararat walon ne,
Mann apna puranapapihai, barson mein namazi ban nasaka.’

“Though the mosque was built overnight by the passionate believers, Their hearts, tainted by old sins, could not become devout even after years.”

This verse captures the irony of building magnificent mosques while neglecting the spiritual transformation that true devotion and prayer bring.”

May Allah Almighty grant us the understanding that the mosque is not just a building but an integral part of our spiritual and communal life.

May He guide us to fulfill this sacred responsibility with sincerity, enabling us to prioritize Salah, revive the essence of mosques in our daily lives, and strive for spiritual and moral transformation? Only through such efforts can we hope to regain the honor and dignity that Allah has promised to those who adhere steadfastly to His commandments.

May He guide us to take this responsibility seriously and enable us to serve the mosque in every possible way?

(The author is a Columnist and a Motivational Speaker)

J&K lacks robotic surgical systems, forcing patients to seek advanced treatment elsewhere

Need of the hour to have robotic surgery systems in place, say doctors

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar: Amid a revolution in healthcare facilities worldwide, Jammu and Kashmir continues to lack a robotic surgical system, forcing patients to seek advanced treatment outside the Union Territory.

Robot-assisted surgery uses specialised technology that enhances a surgeon's capabilities by enabling precise movements, improved magnification and access to hard-to-reach areas through small incisions.

Several doctors, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said robotic surgical systems are urgently needed at tertiary care health facilities in J&K.

They said that advanced procedures such as heart surgery, gastrointestinal surgery, general surgery, gynecologic surgery, thoracic surgery, urologic surgery and others could benefit from this technology.

Doctors suggested that establishing robotic surgical systems at institutions such as SKIMS, GMC Srinagar and other tertiary care hospitals would eliminate the need for patients to travel outside J&K for treatment.

Noted urologist Dr Sajad said robotic surgical systems offer numerous benefits, including precision, miniaturisation, small incisions, reduced blood loss,



are highly effective for urological, gynaecological, colorectal, neurosurgical and cardiothoracic procedures, delivering excellent results. "Even

"Robots enable surgeons to perform more accurate and precise surgeries, focusing on patient care with greater efficiency. For instance, a surgeon can perform an eight-hour robotic-assisted surgery without experiencing fatigue," he said.

Dr Showkat from GMC Srinagar highlighted the role of artificial intelligence in robotic-assisted surgery, saying it supports better patient outcomes and enhances surgical efficiency.

"These advanced technologies lead to quicker recoveries, minimal complications, shorter hospital stays, and affordable treatment options for patients in J&K," he said.

Several doctors revealed that their departments have repeatedly requested the government to procure robotic surgical systems for J&K. Notably, SKIMS, GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu virtually trained surgeons for robotic-assisted surgeries last year; however, the facilities are yet to be implemented.

Meanwhile, a senior official told KNO that tenders for procuring robotic surgical systems at GMC were floated a few years ago but did not materialise. "Efforts are underway to bring these advanced facilities to J&K at the earliest," he said—(KNO)

less pain and quicker healing times. "It is the need of the hour to have such a system in place at the earliest because it is the future of surgery, without which surgeons will become obsolete," he said.

Dr Sajad added that robotic surgical systems

kidney transplants and open-heart surgeries are performed with superior outcomes using robotic systems," he added.

Dr Sushil, a surgeon, said robotic-assisted surgery is revolutionising healthcare globally.

Custom Hiring Centre established at Imam Sahib Shopian: DC inaugurates Unit

Says, initiative aimed at enhancing farm & cooperative efficiency

SHOPIAN: In a first of its kind initiative by the Cooperative Department, a Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) was established at Imam Sahib tehsil of Shopian district.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar inaugurated the Custom Hiring Centre under Cooperative Sector, established by the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS).

While praising the initiative and the efforts of the Department, the DC highlighted the need for such initiatives where modern farm machinery shall be made available to farmers on rental basis at nominal rates.

This initiative is a significant step towards



promoting agriculture and horticulture development and empowering farmers in the region, Shahid Saleem said. This initiative, he said, will make farm machinery accessible to locals,

enabling them towards efforts in enhancing their productivity and efficiency.

Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Shopian explained that Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) shall address the challenges faced by small and marginal farmers of the area who may not have the resources to purchase expensive farm machinery.

Today's initiative is in line with the cooperative spirit of achieving sustainable and equitable development. The event was also attended by ADDC, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr.Zakir Hussain Faaz; Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Muzaffar Ahmad, Assistant Registrar and other officials of the department.

Director Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir reviews physical, financial targets achieved under various schemes

SRINAGAR: Director Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Dr Parvinder Sudan reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under various schemes including CAPEX (Capital Expenditure), Holistic Agricultural Development Programme, Central Sector Schemes and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) during the current financial year.

The meeting aimed to evaluate the implementation status of these programs and ensure that objectives are being met effectively.

The meeting holds the importance in view of last quarter of current financial year and aimed to target the loopholes and remove bottlenecks.

The deliberations were augmented by the view points presented by various officers and officials.

The Director reiterated his stand on focussing and analysing the progress reports submitted by various wings of the department and strategizing future actions to enhance productivity and efficiency in animal husbandry Sector across Kashmir.

The meeting underscored the commitment of the Animal Husbandry Department towards improving livestock management and ensuring sustainable development in the region.

Joint Director, Poultry/ LPP Hari Parbat, Deputy Director Poultry, Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, Superintendent Central Veterinary Hospital, Assistant Director Planning and Technical Officers and Poultry Development Officers attended the meeting.



Omar Doing Everything To Normalise Article 370 Revocation That Broke Up J&K Mehbooba MUFTI

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of doing "everything" to normalise the Centre's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

In a post on X, Mehbooba said Abdullah's conduct has been so different from that of her father's, late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a former chief minister.

"Difference between a shortsighted politician & a true statesman.

In 2003 then BJP PM Vajpayee during his visit to Srinagar showed great faith in Mufti sahab's vision of peace with dignity even though PDP had mere 16 MLAs. "Today our CM despite 50 MLAs did everything to appease & normalise Delhi's unilateral actions in August 2019 that cleaved & robbed J&K of its special status," Mehbooba said in the post.



SRINAGAR: Registration Department Jammu and Kashmir Monday organized a one day orientation program on the registration processes in Jammu and Kashmir at TRC Srinagar.

The training programme was attended by AIGR Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Sub Registrars of Kashmir Division along-with their staff, experts from SDU NIC Pune and Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd, Stamp vendors, Deed writers etc.

During the orientation program, detailed discussions were held regarding existing system of document registration in J&K.

It was revealed that within a short span of time, the Registration Department has made remarkable progress and emerged as vital revenue generating institution.

Annually around 700 crores of rupees is generated by the department to the state exchequer.

The sessions covered the use of advanced digital tools, e-documentation, e-signatures, and secure online platforms designed for efficient property and document registration.

Special focus was placed on the power of attorney module for document registration, with discussions highlighting the importance

of empowering authorized representatives for ease of transaction.

Speaking on the occasion, Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Additional Inspector



General of Registration, Kashmir highlighted the significance of transitioning

to a paperless registration system, stating, "This is a landmark step towards digitization, reducing paperwork and delays while enhancing service quality and environmental sustainability."

He also threw light on the initiatives which have either been taken or are in the pipeline for a more transparent and citizen friendly registration.

The technical experts from SCHIL (Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited) also participated and gave detailed presentation on the steps involved in operation/ usage of e-stamping system, do's and don'ts of the processes involved to enhance transparency.

The department also provided hands-on training on handling digital registrations, troubleshooting common issues, and maintaining data security to instill confidence among the staff in adopting the new system.

The program witnessed active participation and enthusiasm from attendees, who expressed their readiness to implement the learnings in their respective offices.

This training marks a significant step in the department's journey toward achieving a fully digital, eco-friendly, and citizen-centric registration process.

Mercury drops across Kashmir as cloud cover vanishes



Srinagar: Minimum temperatures dropped across Kashmir as the skies cleared up with Pahalgam being the coldest place in the valley at minus 8.4 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said on Monday.

The valley is likely to witness mainly dry weather over the next few days, it said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 5.1 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, down from the previous night's minus 3 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department.

North Kashmir's tourist resort of Gulmarg, known for skiing, recorded a minimum

temperature of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 5.6 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 8.4 degrees Celsius, down from minus 6.2 degrees Celsius the night before.

The minimum temperature was minus 6.4 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 5.5 degrees Celsius in Konibal in Pampore town, minus 5.5 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and minus 3.4 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

The weather in the valley will be mostly cloudy but dry till January 18 with a possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches on January 15 and 16, the meteorological department said.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the harshest period of winter. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', which began on December 21.

the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably. 'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30, followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold), and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold),

National Aerobic Gymnastics Championship concludes

J&K Emerges as 2nd Runner-Up

JAMMU: The National Aerobic Gymnastics Championship 2024-25 concluded today at the New Indoor Stadium, M.A. Stadium Jammu, with Maharashtra securing the championship title, followed by Gujarat in second place and the host team, Jammu & Kashmir, finishing as the 2nd runner-up.

The championship, organized by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with the Gymnastics Federation of India and the Gymnastics Association of Jammu & Kashmir, witnessed participation from over 500 athletes and officials representing 20 states, union territories, and boards.

The event also brought significant recognition to J&K as two of its gymnasts, Rudraksh Khanna and Riya Sharma, were selected for the prestigious FIG Suzuki World Cup, a testament to their exceptional talent and dedication.

Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez expressed pride in the

achievements of the J&K team and the successful hosting of the championship.



"This event has not only showcased talent but also fostered a spirit of sportsmanship and unity," he remarked.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, while distributing the awards, praised the

performance of J&K athletes and their coaches and said that these kinds of national championships provide athletes a platform to prove their mettle. She further assured that more such events will be organized and hosted by the J&K Sports Council throughout the year.

Kiran Wattal, Vice President of GFI and President of the Gymnastics Association of J&K, thanked the J&K Sports Council for its unwavering support during the tournament and said that J&K is one of the top preferences of GFI to host training camps and national championships.

The championship, part of the 'My Youth My Pride' and 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiatives, concluded in an atmosphere of celebration and inspiration as hundreds of athletes and spectators gathered to witness the grand finale. The event has once again positioned J&K as a key destination for national sports activities.

MLA Shopian expresses solidarity with fire victims of Saidpora Payen, assures support

SHOPIAN: In a heartfelt gesture of solidarity, the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Advocate Shabir Ahmad Kullay visited the fire-affected families in Saidpora Payen, Shopian.

The tragic incident caused severe damage to the house of Bashir Ahmad Lone and the cow sheds belonging to Bashir Ahmad Lone and Mohammad Yousuf Mir, leaving the

families in distress.

During his visit, the MLA assured the affected families of full support and assured of necessary assistance to be provided to help them recover from this unfortunate event.

The visit underscores his commitment to standing by the people of Shopian in their times of need.



Study shows how the brain regulates growth and age at puberty

Through a recent study, scientists have explained how humans have been growing taller and reaching sexual maturity earlier over the past century. Scientists have discovered how a receptor in the brain, called MC3R, detects the nutritional state of the body and regulates the timing of puberty and rate of growth in children and increases lean muscle mass. The findings were published in the journal Nature. Over the 20th century, the average height increased by about 10 cm in the UK and up to 20 cm in other countries. While scientists have long suggested that this phenomenon could be related to more reliable access to food for pregnant women and children, until now, precisely how the body senses its state of nutrition and turns that information into growth and sexual maturation had not been understood. It was already known that signals reach the brain to indicate the body's nutritional state, such as the hormones leptin, produced in adipose (fat) cells, and insulin, produced in response to increases in blood sugar levels. In a part of the brain called the hypothalamus, these hormones act on a small group of neurons that produce signals called melanocortins. The melanocortins act on a variety of receptors, two of which are present in the brain. One of these, the melanocortin 4 receptor (MC4R) has previously been shown to regulate appetite and lack of MC4R results in obesity; however, the MC4R system does not control the effect of nutrition on the growth and timing of puberty. Now, a study, led by researchers from the

MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit and the MRC Epidemiology Unit (both part of the Wellcome-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science) at the University of Cambridge, with collaborators from the Queen Mary University of London, University of Bristol, University of Michigan and Vanderbilt University, has discovered a role for the brain's other melanocortin receptor, which is known as the melanocortin 3 receptor (MC3R). They found that in response to nutritional signals the MC3R system controls the release of key hormones regulating growth and sexual maturation. To show the link in humans, the scientists searched amongst the half a million volunteers in UK Biobank for people with naturally occurring genetic mutations that disrupt the function of the MC3R. They identified a few thousand people who carried various mutations in the gene for MC3R and found these people were on average shorter and went into puberty later than those with no mutation. For example, they identified 812 women who had the same mutation in one of their two copies of the MC3R gene. This mutation only partly reduced the ability of the receptor to work. Despite this subtle effect, women who carried this were on average 4.7 months older at puberty than those without the mutation. People with mutations that reduced the function of MC3R were also shorter and had lower amounts of lean tissue, such as muscle, but it had no influence on how much fat they carried. To confirm these findings in children, they studied almost 6,000 participants from



the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) and identified six children with mutations in MC3R. The six children were shorter and had lower lean mass and weight throughout childhood, showing that this effect starts very early in life. All the people identified in these studies had a mutation in only one of the two copies of the gene. Finding mutations in both copies of the gene is vanishingly rare, but in another cohort, the researchers were able to identify an individual in the Genes and Health study with a very damaging mutation in both copies of the gene. This person was very short and went into puberty after the age of 20. This same phenomenon linking adequate nutritional body stores to reproductive maturity is seen right across the animal kingdom, so the

researchers conducted studies in mice to confirm that the MC3R pathway operates across species. Work in the laboratory of Dr Roger Cone at the University of Michigan, who had previously demonstrated a role for the MC3R in the control of growth and lean mass in mice, showed that while normal mice shut off their reproductive cycle when they underwent a period of food deprivation, mice engineered to lack the MC3R did not. This confirmed that MC3R is a necessary part of how the nutritional state controls sex hormone production. Professor Sir Stephen O'Rahilly, a senior author on the study and Director of the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit at the University of Cambridge, said: "This discovery shows how the brain can sense nutrients and interpret this to make subconscious decisions that influence our growth and sexual

development. Identifying the pathway in the brain whereby nutrition turns into growth and puberty explains a global phenomenon of increasing height and decreasing age at puberty that has puzzled scientists for a century. "Our findings have immediate practical implications for the testing of children with serious delays in growth and pubertal development for mutations in the MC3R. "This research may have wider implications beyond child development and reproductive health. Many chronic diseases are associated with the loss of lean mass, including muscle, with resultant frailty. This responds poorly to simple nutritional supplements such as protein-rich drinks. The finding that the activity of the MC3R pathway influences the amount of lean mass carried by a person suggests that future research should investigate if drugs that selectively activate the MC3R might help redirect calories into muscle and other lean tissues with the prospect of improving the physical function of such patients." Professor John Perry, a senior author on the study from the MRC Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge, said: "This is such an exciting time for human genetics. By analysing the genetic sequences of large numbers of research participants, we can now understand fundamental biological processes that have remained elusive until now. By combining these studies with experiments in cellular and animal models, we will continue to uncover new insights and understand the mechanisms behind human growth and metabolic disease."

Nutrition, healthy diet may affect risk and severity of COVID-19: Study

WASHINGTON: In a recent study led by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and published in Gut, people whose diets were based on healthy plant-based foods had lower risks on both counts. The beneficial effects of diet on COVID-19 risk seemed especially relevant in individuals living in areas of high socioeconomic deprivation. Although metabolic conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes have been linked to an increased risk of COVID-19, as well as an



increased risk of experiencing serious symptoms once infected, the impact of diet on these risks is unknown.

Signs and Symptoms of Anxiety Disorders

Anxiety can appear so abruptly and with such intensity that it makes you feel as if you are being attacked by an outside force. To better understand and demystify this emotion, let's have a closer look at the neurophysiological pathway to learn how anxiety is created. Triggers Anxiety can get stimulated by something "scary" you notice in your environment, such as a loud noise at night, an unexpected bill or an angry boss. The emotion can also get sparked internally by a dream, a negative thought or a body sensation. Sometimes these external or internal stressors can be so sudden and fleeting that you are not even able to consciously compute them, although they have been registered by your nervous system. All you notice is that you are anxious for no apparent reason. Brain Response The anxiety triggers activate the amygdala, an almond-shape group of cells that are part of the brain's limbic system and play a significant role in emotional responses and long-term memory. The amygdala, which has also been called "the anxiety switch," evaluates whether the information it receives could be related to any dangerous or threatening events from the past. The more memories

that are associated with fear and anxiety, the more readily the amygdala will raise alarm. Stress Hormone Release As soon as your brain considers a situation potentially perilous, the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland stimulate the release of stress hormones, such as adrenaline and cortisol, to prepare your body for an appropriate flight, flight or freeze response. Physiological Responses Stress hormones increase your heart rate, breathing, blood sugar level, perspiration and blood circulation to the muscles. As a result you feel hot, sweaty and tense; your heart is pounding and you are breathing faster; you may start trembling, shaking or even experiencing chest pain. These physiological reactions can be so sudden, uncomfortable and overwhelming that they themselves can trigger additional anxiety. This is the reason people can become more afraid of their own anxiety compared to perceived

external threats. This neurophysiological pathway is designed by nature to protect you from danger and keep you safe. In other words, anxiety is a normal feeling with an important purpose. However, when even the smallest triggers cause the anxiety pathway to overreact regularly, you are dealing with an anxiety disorder. The distinguishing factors between a normal level of anxiety or an anxiety disorder are whether your feelings cause you suffering or dysfunctional behavior or interferes with your daily life. Typical Symptoms of Anxiety Disorders Excessive worrying and racing thoughts - Overwhelmed and difficulty concentrating - Overanalyzing past or present challenges and ruminating about the worst-case scenario - Hypervigilance and trying to micromanage others and your outside circumstances - Feelings of powerlessness and inability to make decisions - Growing difficulties with work and relationships due to insecurity, doubt and fear - Seeking distractions in addictive behaviors, such as gambling, eating, sex or work - Self-medicating with alcohol, nicotine or other drugs - Trouble falling asleep or waking up in the middle of the night feeling wired and unable to relax again - Physical symptoms like high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, chronic pain, and weight fluctuation.



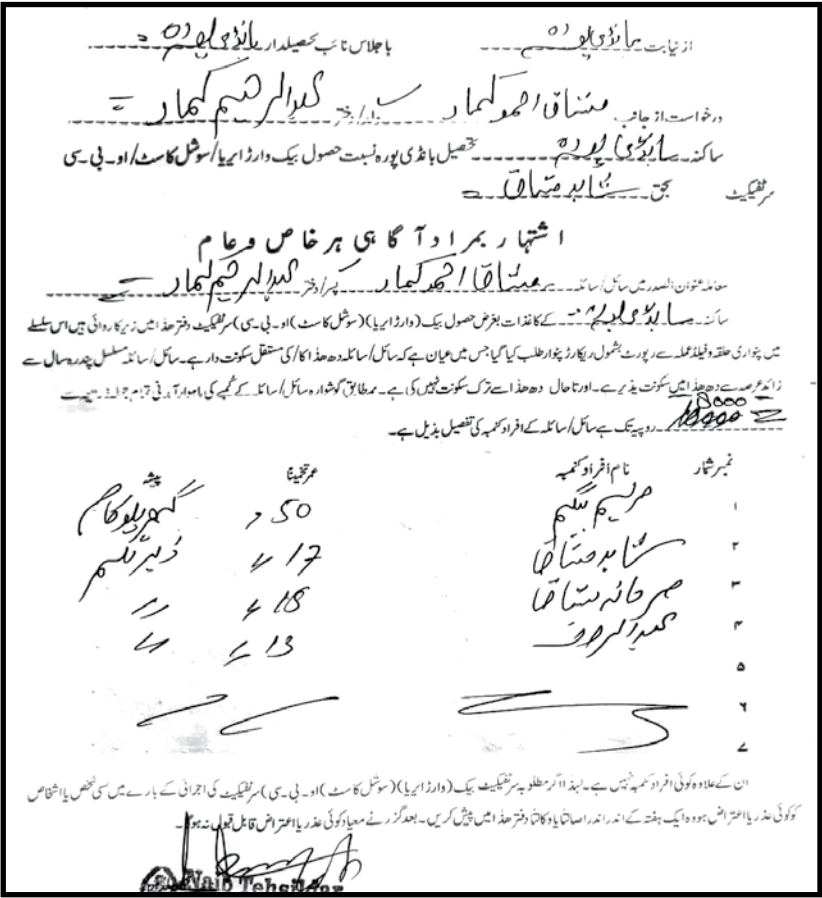
People between 30-40, who do not exercise daily, at higher risk of heart diseases

When we speak of heart health, we often picture older people. Studies, unfortunately, show that Indians are at risk of heart disease at least a decade earlier than western counterparts. This means there is an increasing prevalence of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in people as young as 30. India already accounts for one-fifth of deaths worldwide, caused by cardiovascular diseases. And this reflects in the younger population as well, with an age-standardized death rate of 272 per 1,00,000 population as compared to the global average of 235. This increased risk of heart disease in young Indians is due to a combination of inherited genes as well as environmental factors. Unfortunately, these environmental factors have only worsened the risk over time. Working long hours, often in stressful jobs and sleeping less has become the new normal in our lives. Modern work setups involve sitting a lot and not exercising and this can nearly double the risk of poor heart health. A study conducted by Saffolalife in 2019 states that 58 percent of people in top cities, between ages 30 to 40, who do not exercise regularly, are at greater risk of heart disease. Despite this 92 percent of them do not consider lack of exercise among the top 3 risk factors for heart disease. This lack of awareness further exacerbates the issue. Among younger people, we do see an increasing awareness about the importance



of food in maintaining good health. But the reality also is that after a long and tiring day, it has often become easier to order in and give in to unhealthy food urges. With less exercise and eating junk food frequently, there is an increased chance of belly fat, which is another major risk factor for heart disease. Thankfully, there is good news. Caring for your heart is not difficult. Once you are aware of the risk factors, you can take the right steps to reduce their impact. Making simple changes to your diet and lifestyle can really make a difference. The most important thing, however, is to be proactive; changes we make in our 30s and 40s can go a long way in keeping our heart healthy. In your 30s, it is a good idea to assess your

blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and general health every year. This can let you be aware of symptoms earlier and corrective action can be taken immediately. Develop healthy lifestyle habits like brisk walking for about twenty minutes a day, at least thrice a week. Try to take breaks between work hours for deep breathing exercises. Control stress with exercise and yoga, rather than emotional/stress eating or staying up late and binge-watching. Make simple and easy changes to your diet, like eating one portion of raw fruits and vegetables during snack-time every day. Try to include heart-healthy ingredients like nuts, green leafy vegetables, avocados and oats. Using heart-healthy oil can also be a great and easy change you can make.



Continued From P1...

“I am Modi,
The 6.5-km-long two-lane bi-directional road tunnel between Gagangir and Sonamarg in central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district is equipped with a parallel 7.5-metre escape passage for emergencies.
Situating at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, the tunnel will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg en route to Leh, bypassing routes prone to landslides and avalanches.
It will also promote tourism by ensuring year-round connectivity to Sonamarg.

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister also mentioned the celebration of Lohri in Punjab and other parts of North India, as well as festivals like Uttarayan, Makar Sankranti, and Pongal.
He extended his best wishes to everyone celebrating these festivals. The Prime Minister acknowledged the challenging 40-day period of Chillaikalan in the valley and praised the resilience of the people.
He highlighted that this season brings new opportunities for tourist destinations like Sonamarg, attracting visitors from across the country who enjoy the hospitality of the people of Kashmir.
The Prime Minister announced a significant gift for the people, highlighting the recent foundation stone laying of the Jammu Rail Division.
He remarked that this was a long-standing demand of the people. Announcing the inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel and fulfilling a long-standing demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Modi highlighted that this tunnel will significantly ease the lives of people in Sonamarg, Kargil, and Leh.
The Prime Minister remarked that the tunnel will reduce the difficulties faced during avalanches, heavy snowfall and landslides, which often led to road closures. He emphasized that the tunnel will improve access to major hospitals and ensure the availability of essential supplies, thereby reducing the challenges faced by the residents.

The Prime Minister noted that the actual construction of the Sonamarg Tunnel began in 2015 after their Government came into power.
He was pleased that the tunnel’s construction was completed under their administration. He remarked that the tunnel will maintain connectivity to Sonamarg during the winter season and boost tourism in the entire region.
He emphasized that numerous road and rail connectivity projects are set to be completed in Jammu and Kashmir in the coming days. The Prime Minister mentioned another major connectivity project underway nearby and noted the excitement surrounding the upcoming rail connection to the Kashmir Valley.
He highlighted the development of new roads, railways, hospitals, and colleges as part of the new J&K. The Prime Minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to everyone for the tunnel and the new era of development.

Acknowledging that it was truly the new era of Jammu and Kashmir, Modi mentioned the recent international cricket league held in the region after forty years and car racing scenes around the beautiful Dal Lake.
He said that Gulmarg was becoming the winter games capital of India, having hosted four Khelo India Winter Games, with the fifth edition starting next month.

Over the past two years, the Prime Minister noted that 2,500 athletes from across the country have participated in various sports tournaments in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the establishment of over 90 Khelo India Centers in the region, providing training to 4,500 local youth.
The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, Union Ministers of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Ajay Tamta were present among other dignitaries at the event.

My Heart

have proved it by your work.
“This is your second function in Jammu and Kashmir within 15 days after inaugurating (virtually from Delhi) the separate Jammu Railway Division (on January 6),” Abdullah said.
In the presence of PM Modi, the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said, “You also promised (assembly) elections within four months and you stayed true to your words. People got an opportunity to take part in the voting and today I am participating in this programme as chief minister.”
Referring to Modi’s speech during his visit to Srinagar on International Yoga Day last year, the chief minister said, “My heart says that very soon, you will fulfil your third promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir which is the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.”
The chief minister’s statehood remark in the presence of the prime minister was welcomed by the audience with a round of applause.
This was Prime Minister Modi’s first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the formation of the Omar Abdullah-led government nearly three months ago.
Abdullah said the inauguration of projects like the ‘Sonamarg Tunnel’ tunnel would definitely bridge the gap between Jammu and Kashmir’s “dil (heart)” and Delhi.

He said the biggest positive of the election was that there was no complaint of rigging, misuse of official machinery or repoll anywhere and “the credit for it goes to you, your team and the Election Commission of India”.

The chief minister said people, including his colleagues, ask him about statehood restoration. “I tell them that the prime minister kept his promise of elections and so my heart says that very soon, you will fulfil your third promise as well and Jammu and Kashmir will once again get the status of a state.”
Abdullah read out the names of the seven victims in last year’s terror attack near the tunnel and said they sacrificed their lives for this project and the development of Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

“I belong to a political regime whose thousands of leaders and workers have been killed in the last 35 years because we were... not ready to see the country being divided,” the chief minister said.
He said the prime minister’s presence in the tunnel inauguration programme is a testament to the fact that those who carried out the attack do not want the development of this region and the country.
“They do not want a peaceful atmosphere and democracy. But they can never be successful. They will always have to face defeat here and we will never allow them to cause any harm to democracy,” he said.
Abdullah said there were many challenges in building the tunnel and the work on the project was also halted.
“The people of Jammu and Kashmir have been waiting for this tunnel for a very long time. Because of this tunnel, the people will not have to come to the lower parts. We will be able to develop Sonamarg as a tourist destination and this tunnel will also facilitate speedy work on the under-construction Zojila tunnel (to provide all-weather connectivity to Ladakh),” he said.
He thanked Prime Minister Modi for visiting Kashmir in the cold weather and said, “We hope that you will come again and again, and join in our happiness.”

The two-lane bi-directional road tunnel between Gagangir and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district in central Kashmir has been built at a cost of over Rs 2,700 crore. It is equipped with a parallel 7.5-metre-wide escape passage for emergencies.
Situating at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, the tunnel will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg en route to Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche spots.

PM Modi fulfilling

for fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of the people of UT and creating an environment which is enabling common man to flourish and live a dignified life,” LG Sinha said.
He said that the Prime Minister has taken t J&K on a path of progress & prosperity from agony.
“From darkness he (PM) has brought light of hope in the lives of people, J&K has been mentioned as heaven in books, he has made it a reality. Today instead of terrorism, tourism is being discussed.”
He said, “Ek ek kar ke, aapke khwabon ko saakar karne ka kaam PM Modi ne kiya hai (One by one, PM Modi has turned your (people’s) dreams into reality).”
He said, “The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wiped out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir and has turned it into a real paradise. Peace, progress, and prosperity have become the hallmarks of his regime.”

LG Sinha said, “Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has achieved new heights of development and prosperity.”
“The Sonamarg Tunnel is a testament to the Government’s commitment to rapid and inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir,” he added.
Recalling the Gagangir terror attack, LG Sinha said, “I pay my homage to workers of the Sonamarg Tunnel project martyred in the attack.”
“Today, we have also taken a big leap from a strategic point of view and have provided a strong infrastructure support to facilitate the movement of our armed forces,” he said, adding,
“The under-construction Zojila tunnel, likely to be completed by 2026, will also ensure connectivity to Ladakh throughout the year and uninterrupted essential services to remote areas.”
“The unprecedented expansion of infrastructure, new industrial revolution, large network of highways, strengthening of democracy at the grassroots level, new revolution in agriculture and horticulture sector, rejuvenation of socio-economic sectors and upliftment of deprived sections have laid a strong foundation for a developed, self-reliant Jammu Kashmir,” LG Sinha added.

He said that peace and stability have transformed the tourism sector. “The number of foreign tourists has increased by 300 %. J&K has recorded 2.35 crore tourist visits in 2024, while 2.11 lakh tourists visited Jammu Kashmir in 2023.”
“Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, we are witnessing an unprecedented road and tunnel infrastructure development,” the LG said.
He said, “Around Rs 1.5 lakh crores worth Road and Highways projects are underway in Jammu Kashmir. Work is going on at a fast pace on the Delhi- Amritsar- Katra Expressway.
Baramulla-Kupwara-Trehgam National Highway, Baramulla-Uri Highway, Pattan Bypass, Baramulla Bypass and many other projects are aimed at strengthening the road connectivity in the UT.”
“The construction work of 8 tunnel projects is going on at a rapid pace and is likely to be completed by December 2025. Work on Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnel and Singhpora-Velu Tunnel is being started.
Around 144 road and bridge projects have been started under NABARD.

We have succeeded in connecting more than 99% of the villages of Jammu Kashmir with roads under PMGSY and connectivity will be established soon to the remaining 09 villages and they will be connected to the mainstream of socio-economic development,” he added.

LG Sinha said that the dream of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari through railway network will soon become a reality. “The opening of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link will usher in a new era of socio-economic development and national integration.”

J-K becoming hub

PM Modi reminisced his old days stating that he used to come to Kashmir valley as BJP worker and used to travel several kilometres on foot for hours.
He said, “Two days ago, our CM has shared some pictures, after seeing those pictures, I was excited to come between you people.
When I worked as BJP worker, I had to come frequently. I have spent a lot of time here, whether Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Baramulla or Ganderbal, we used to travel several kilometres on foot for hours and the

snowfall used to be very heavy even then. But the warmth of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is such that we did not feel the cold. Today is a very special day, as every corner of state is in a festive mood. From today, Maha Kumbh has started in Prayagraj, crores of people will have come for holy dip. The whole India is celebrating Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Magh Bihu. I wish for all success of all.”
Highlighting that this weather is called ‘Chilla-i-Kalan’ in the valley, the Prime Minister stated that this weather brings new opportunities for tourist destinations like Sonamarg, as tourists from all over the country are flocking here.
PM Modi said, “This time of the year is of Chilla-i-Kalan here in the valley. This weather brings new opportunities for tourist destinations like Sonamarg. Tourists from all over the country are coming here. The work of this tunnel was actually started in 2015 only, when our party came into government. I am happy that this tunnel is completed in our government. This tunnel will bring various tourism opportunities in Sonamarg.”

“Now, Kashmir is being connected with railways. People are happy with the developmental works. Schools and colleges are being constructed. This is the new Jammu and Kashmir. The whole nation is engaged into making India a developed nation. It is possible when no any part of family is not left in the race of development. For this, our government with resolution of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is working,” he added.

The Sonamarg Tunnel project, around 12 km long, has been constructed at a cost of over Rs 2,700 crore. It comprises of the Sonamarg main tunnel of 6.4 km in length, an egress tunnel and approach roads. Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, it will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute to Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche routes and ensuring safer and uninterrupted access to the strategically critical Ladakh region.

The newly inaugurated Sonamarg tunnel will also promote tourism by transforming Sonamarg into a year-round destination, boosting winter tourism, adventure sports, and local livelihoods.
Along with the Zojila Tunnel, set for completion by 2028, it will reduce the route length from 49 km to 43 km and boost

vehicle speed from 30 km/hr to 70 km/hr, ensuring seamless NH-1 connectivity between Srinagar Valley and Ladakh.

This enhanced connectivity will boost defence logistics, and drive economic growth and socio-cultural integration across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Violence In J&K

peaceful conduct of elections is an indicator of a positive change,” he said.
“The theme of terrorism to tourism is gradually taking shape,” he added.
The Army inducted 15,000 additional troops in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024 and that has helped in bringing down the violence level, Gen Dwivedi said.
“The parliamentary elections and the state assembly elections both had nearly 60 per cent voting. It means that the local population is going with peace,” he said.

33 tunnels

Terming the inauguration of the tunnel as the historic day for J&K, the Union Minister stated that the tunnel has been completed after hectic efforts.
He also said that infrastructure plays a crucial role in the country’s development, saying that augmenting the infrastructure plays a key role to make the country developed. He further added that water, energy, transport and communication are the four major things to promote industry, tourism and trade in the country.
The Union Minister also said that the Prime Minister has given them a responsibility to augment the infrastructural development to make Jammu and Kashmir progressive alongside the country.
He also said that the Prime Minister’s promise of ending the gap between Delhi and Kashmir ‘Delhi se Kashmir ki Doori’ is almost at the verge of completion as the new way coming up will reduce the travel time by 8 to 8 and a half hours in next few years.
Meanwhile, Gadkari said his ministry is building four corridors in the Union Territory at the cost of Rs 50,000 crore. Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar corridor, which is 250 km long, will be built at a cost of Rs 16,000 crores. We are trying to finish the project by the end of this year.
The second corridor is Jammu-Chenani-Anantnag, which is 202 km long and is being built at Rs 14,000 crore. It will be completed by December 2025, the minister said.
Five tunnels in this project will reduce the distance by 68 km, he added.
The third corridor is the Surankote-Shopian-Baramulla-Uri, which is 303 km long, being constructed at the cost of Rs 10,000 crore and will be completed by 2027, Gadkari said.
The fourth one is the Jammu-Akhnoor-Surankote-Poonch corridor, which is 203 km, and the project cost is Rs 5,000 crore. The DPR process has been started, he said, adding that all these corridors will be the lifeline of J-K.

He also announced that the DPR process has been started for another important corridor—Kathua-Basohli-Bhaderwah-Doda

Govt constitutes

the committee.
The members of the committee include HOD Pathology GMC, Srinagar, HOD Pathology, GMC, Jammu, HOD Microbiology GMC, Jammu, HOD Biochemistry, (JVC Medical College), Bemina, HOD Radiology, GMC Udhampur and Director Health Services, Kashmir.
“The committee shall have the mandate to frame pricing of diagnostic tests/pathological examinations by way of measuring the impact of the cost of medical equipment, instruments and patent procurements to make these examinations affordable and accessible,” the order states. The committee shall be serviced by Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) and shall submit its recommendation to the Administrative Department within a month from the date of issuance of this order

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Aadhaar card bearing Registration No: 6060 3038 9849, my name has been Mistakenly written as Saima Bano, while as my Actual and correct name is Sima Bano. 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 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.

Sima Bano.
D/O Ab Khaliq Lone.
R/O Aloosa District Bandipora jammu and kashmir .

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20200004713, my name has been Mistakenly written as Ahsan Haq, While as my Actual and correct name is Ahsa Nul Haq. 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.

Ahsa Nul Haq.
S/O Bashir Ahmad Malik.
R/O Pазalpora Mantrigam Bandipora, jammu and kashmir.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20190001494, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly written as Javid Iqbal Lone, S/O Mohd Munwar Lone, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Jaweed Iqbal Lone, S/O Mohd Munwar Lone. 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.

Jaweed Iqbal Lone.
S/O Mohd Munwar Lone.
R/O Badwan Wanpora Gurez District Bandipora.

NOTICE

Whereas, I, Isfan Rafiq D/o Rafiq Ahmad Ahanger R/o Mansoor Colony Parimpora Srinagar Kashmir Intend to apply in the Deptt. Of Tourism for Registration of my proposed travel Unit under the Name & style " Al-Juwairakashmir tour and travels" situated at BEMINA, IQBAL ABAD, LANE NO 1 , Under tourist trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012. Whereas, I will Submit State subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years) Character certificate (Police Depptt) Bank statement (minimum Balance Rs. 10,000.00) Site plan Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Latter Head/Visiting Card, Photograp of the unit (Indoor & outdoor) and two passport size photographs to the department of tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of My Unit as an Excursion Agency / Adventure tour operator. Now as per J&k Registration of Tourist trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, Before my case is processed for Registration by the competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public / financial institutions / Bank/Organisation, Etc For objection, If any & the same should reach to the Dy. Director Tourism Registration , TRC Sgr, kmr. (email id. ddtreg123@gmail. com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/Newspaper of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days Shall be entertained & the case Shall be processed under rules.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Daughter's Aadhaar card bearing Registration No: 5118 2839 5915, her name has been Mistakenly written as Midhat Manzoor, While as her actual and correct name is Lone Zakiya. 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 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.
Manzoor Ahmad Lone.
F/O Lone Zakiya.
R/O Mangnipora Tehsil Aloosa District Bandipora.

مدرسۃ البنات دارالعلوم رحیمہ بانڈی پورہ

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

عمرات کی چھت کی حیثیت سرپوش کی ہوتی ہے جو سارے کام کی ستر پوشی اور ساری کرتا ہے۔ لہذا انہیں اور مستورات کے اس ادارے کی سرپوشی اور ساری کا انتظام کرنا اللہ تعالیٰ کی جانب سے رحمت اور ساریہ نصیب ہونے کا ذریعہ بنے گا۔ ان شاء اللہ تعالیٰ۔ اس کا رخیہ میں حصہ لینے کے لئے مدرسۃ البنات کا یا کاؤٹ نمبر متعین کیا گیا ہے:

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

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

ام گزرا ش یہ ہے کہ بیک کھانہ میں رقم ڈالنے کے بعد فون نمبر 9419089250 یا 8899101091 پر سرکریں شاٹ ڈال دیں یا وائسپا پیج کے ذریعہ یا فون پر اطلاع کریں نیز اپنا نام اور ایڈریس روانہ کریں تاکہ رسید بھیجے میں سہولت ہو کیونکہ اب یہ تفصیلات بیک سے دستیاب نہیں ہوتیں۔

محمد رحمت اللہ کشمیری
نظم دارالعلوم رحیمہ بانڈی پورہ شیہر

Nortje, Ngidi return to South Africa's ODI squad for the Champions Trophy

Fast bowlers Anrich Nortje and Lungi Ngidi have been selected in South Africa's ODI squad for the 2025 Champions Trophy after missing the entire home international season with injuries.

Nortje was due to play in the white-ball matches against Pakistan but missed out with a broken toe, while Ngidi was ruled out ahead of the summer with a groin injury. Ngidi has since made his return at the SA20 for Paarl Royals while Nortje is due to play for Pretoria Capitals in the coming weeks and both are fully fit ahead of a busy 2025. The Champions Trophy will be their first international cricket in seven and four months respectively.

The 15-member squad will be led by Temba Bavuma and includes ten players who were part of the group that qualified for the semi-finals of the 2023 ODI World Cup in India. Of the newcomers, Wiaan Mulder, Tony de Zorzi and Ryan Rickelton will be playing their first senior ICC event while Nortje returns in place of the most notable omission Gerald Coetzee, who has also struggled with injuries.

Coetzee was put on a 12-week conditioning block after last year's Major League Cricket (MLC) and returned at the start of the season before suffering a groin injury in the Durban Test against Sri Lanka. He has not returned to play but is part of the Joburg Super Kings squad at the SA20 and was in contention for a Champions Trophy spot, after finishing as South Africa's leading bowler at the 2023 ODI World Cup.

White-ball coach Rob Walter explained

the selection was a straight shootout between Nortje and Coetzee. "They both offer high pace but Anrich has a little bit more experience and potentially some attributes that will

order to manage his workload, will remain fit for the upcoming months. "When he came back into the short format squads to play against Pakistan, he was bowling really quickly and

ultimate professional. He looks after himself, takes care of his conditioning. From my side, I trust him and trust that he'll be ready to go."

South Africa will have five frontline quicks in Nortje, Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen and Wiaan Mulder at their disposal - with no room for Andile Phehlukwayo - and two specialist spinners, along with Aiden Markram's offspin. Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi have kept their places but left-arm spinner Bjorn Fortuin misses out because South Africa "just didn't feel the need for an extra spinner".

A more interesting selection conundrum could come in their top order, where South Africa will be without Quinton de Kock at an ICC event for the first time since 2014. De Kock retired from ODIs after the 2023 ODI World Cup and South Africa have not really settled on a partner for Bavuma in his absence but Walter gave some indication of what they are considering.

"Temba and Tony have been at the top of the order and both done a really good job. There's a potential for a few changes at the top of the order to give us a different balance of our side, which we may look into as we get closer to the tournament. A guy like Aidan Markram can be considered there in those two top spots. And obviously Rassie [van der Dussen] has been a stalwart at No.3. So we're hesitant to change his position given the way he's contributed there."



stand us in good stead in Pakistan," Walter said from his home in New Zealand. "Gerald was a tough one because he's ultimately done nothing wrong to not be selected."

Walter is also confident that Nortje, who has had a string of injuries over the last three years and opted out of a national contract in

was very excited to be back on the international stage," Walter said. "Then, unfortunately, Dave Miller produced one of his best yorkers and hit him on the toe. Outside of that, he was super fit and super energised to be playing for South Africa again. And this was just one of those unfortunate circumstances. He's an

RKFC to face Sreenidi Deccan FC on Tuesday

SRINAGAR: After a gap of over a month, the I-League matches are once again being played in Kashmir, with Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) set to face Sreenidi Deccan FC on Tuesday at the TRC Ground in Srinagar.

The RKFC last played on their home ground on December 9, after which the team competed in three matches across various parts of the country.

Now, the team is excited to return to their home turf and take on Sreenidi Deccan FC on Tuesday.

Addressing a pre-match press conference on Monday, RKFC head coach Ishfaq Ahmad expressed enthusiasm about playing in front of the home crowd.

"Fans are our strength. We hope people will come in large numbers to support their home team. We aim not to disappoint them," he said.

Regarding the upcoming match, he stated that the team is prepared to face Sreenidi Deccan FC.

"Sreenidi Deccan is a strong team. Although we didn't get much time to prepare as we returned to Kashmir just a day ago, adapting to the colder weather is a challenge. However, as professional footballers, we must face and overcome these challenges," he said.

When asked about the team's struggles in the recent away matches, he explained, "Unfortunately, we lost two matches, and one ended in a draw. We dominated these games but couldn't convert our chances into goals."

RKFC player Lalram Sanga also spoke to the media, expressing his excitement about being part of the team.

RKFC is the only club from Jammu and Kashmir participating in the I-League and is owned by Arshad Shawl.

Sreenidi Deccan FC assistant coach Ishant Singh and player Mohammad Sajid Dhot also addressed the press.



South Africa will have five frontline quicks in Nortje, Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen and Wiaan Mulder at their disposal - with no room for Andile Phehlukwayo - and two specialist spinners, along with Aiden Markram's offspin. Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi have kept their places but left-arm spinner Bjorn Fortuin misses out because South Africa "just didn't feel the need for an extra spinner".



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

