

Kashmir Convener

J&K to celebrate 76th Republic Day amid heightened security today

LG Sinha to take salute in Jammu, CM Omar will attend as Chief Guest

Dy CM to preside over main function in Srinagar;

Owais Gul

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR : Jammu and Kashmir regions are all set to celebrate 76th Republic Day on Sunday amid heightened security arrangements.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stringent security measures have been put in place in and around Moulana Azad Stadium, the main venue of the



function, in Jammu.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will preside over the main function in Jammu and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will be

the Chief Guest on the occasion. An official said, "The security wing of the Jammu

>>SEE ON P-7

Committed to speedy, sustained development: Dy CM

KC NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today conducted a comprehensive tour of Budgam district.

Member Parliament, Aga Syed Ruhullah and MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar accompanied them.

DC Budgam, Akshay Labroo, Chief Engineers and other senior officers of different departments were also present.

While addressing a huge gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the

government has undertaken a massive development programme with special focus on far flung and neglected areas." We have already directed for fast pacing



the initiatives meant for changing the socio-economic profile of people besides upgrading the basic infrastructure ", he added

>>SEE ON P-7

Trial run completed as Vande Bharat Express reaches Srinagar station

Umair Gull Ganie

SRINAGAR: The trial run of the first Vande Bharat Express train from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Railway Station Katra, to Budgam has been successfully completed, railway officials said.

Officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the trial run of the Vande Bharat Express train was completed on Saturday along Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL). They said the train arrived at Katra Railway Station on Friday, reached Srinagar on Saturday, and later returned back to Katra. Vande Bharat Express ICF rakes 49 and 80 have been nominated for commercial operation in the USBRL section. "These Vande Bharat Express trains are uniquely designed for cold conditions

>>SEE ON P-7

People's will in our country is an age-old concept: LG Sinha

Attends 15th National Voters' Day celebration at Jammu



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the 15th National Voters' Day Celebrations at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, today. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Chief Electoral Officer J&K and his team for the prestigious Best Performing State/UT Award from Election Commission of India.

>>SEE ON P-7

LG terms 2024 Lok Sabha, Assembly elections in J&K historic

Raja Syed Rather

JAMMU: Terming the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in J&K historic since independence, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that not a single bullet was fired, no stone was

>>SEE ON P-7

CS administers oath to Officers on National Voters' Day



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 25: On the eve of the 15th National Voters' Day today an oath-taking ceremony was held at Civil Secretariat here in which Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo

administered oath to the officers and officials including the Administrative Secretaries of the UT.

The officials vowed that they being citizens of India take oath on keeping firm

>>SEE ON P-7



J&K CM's office is now on X

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister has now got an official handle on popular microblogging website X, his office said on Saturday.

"Official announcement. We are delighted to share that the office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is now officially on X!" Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's office, using the handle

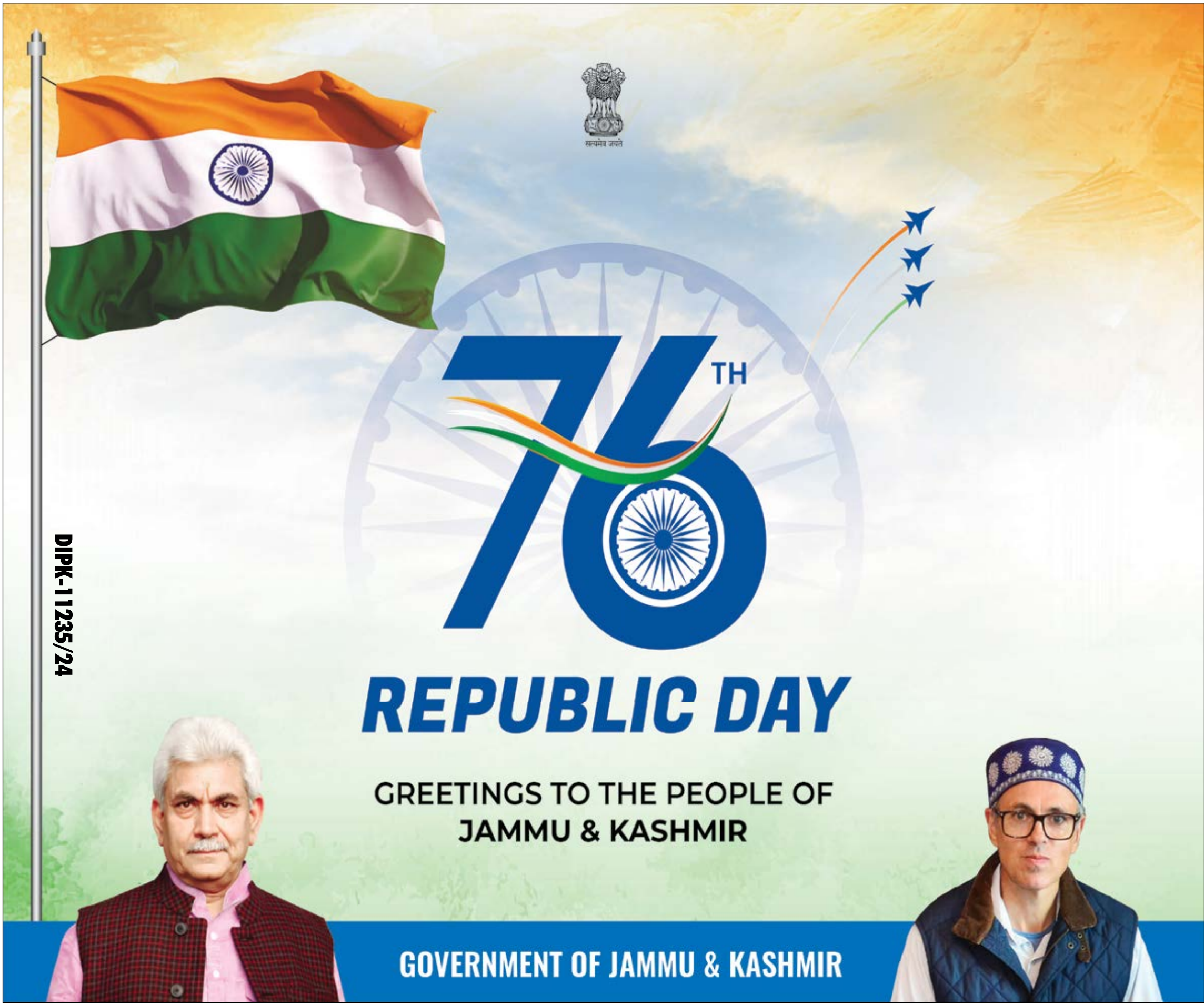
"@CM_JnK", said in its first post on X.

It asked social media users to follow the handle for "direct engagement and insights".

"Stay connected for updates on key initiatives, policies and developments, shaping our Jammu and Kashmir region," it added.

Abdullah, a tech-savvy person himself,

remains active on various social media platforms and has more than 30 lakh followers on his personal account on X.



EC’s Independence ‘Severely Compromised’ By PM-HM Duo: Congress

NEW DELHI: The Congress hit out at the Election Commission on Saturday, saying the “self-congratulation” on National Voters’ Day would not obscure the fact that the poll panel as it has been functioning makes a “mockery” of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves.

The opposition party also alleged that over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been “severely compromised” by the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The National Voters’ Day has been celebrated for the past 15 years to mark the inception of the Election Commission (EC) on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a republic.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, “There will be a lot of self-congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and



is an insult to the voters themselves.”

“Today has been celebrated as National Voters Day since 2011 to mark the day on which the Election Commission came into being 75 years ago on Jan 25th, 1950,” he noted.

The Election Commission is a Constitutional body and its first Chairman was the legendary Sukumar Sen whose

role in establishing the foundations of our electoral democracy was crucial, Ramesh said.

“He was the sole Chief Election Commissioner for eight years. His ‘Report on the First General Elections in India 1951-52’ is a classic. But the preparations of the draft electoral roll for the first elections had been completed before Sen took

over,” he said.

The story of this historic endeavour and of the people involved in it is narrated very finely by Omrit Shani in her definitive ‘How India Became Democratic’, Ramesh pointed out.

There have been other distinguished CECs, among whom TN Seshan stands tallest and whose contributions were seminal, he said.

“Sadly, over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been severely compromised by the PM-HM duo,” Ramesh alleged.

“Some of its decisions are now under challenge in the Supreme Court. Its stand on the concerns raised on the recent assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra has been shockingly partisan,” Ramesh said.

“There will be a lot of self-congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves,” he said.

UP Govt’s claim on economy unrealistic, BJP can only say a trillion lies: Yadav

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said the Uttar Pradesh government is only capable of “a trillion lies” and its claim of making the state’s economy reach the USD 1 trillion target in the next four years is “impossible”.

In a post on X, Yadav alleged the BJP government was plagued with corruption, and said there were no tangible investments that have left the farmers, traders, businessmen, and industrialists struggling.

“BJP can only make a record of saying 1 trillion lies and nothing else,” he said in a Hindi post.

“The UP BJP government is again throwing around the slogan that UP’s economy will reach USD1 trillion in the next four years. According to today’s ‘growth rate’,



this is impossible, that is why this is a “mahajhooth” (big lie),” Yadav said.

He said that unemployment was rising unabated in the state and farmers, industrialists and traders

were worried about their work.

“If people do not have money, how will purchasing power come; if workers are migrating where will labour resources come from?” the SP president said.

Lancet Study Estimates Three In Every Four Animal Bites In India Due To Dogs

NEW DELHI: Three in every four animal bites are due to dogs, with over

Researchers, including those from the Indian Council of Medical



5,700 deaths in humans estimated to occur each year due to rabies in India, according to a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-study conducted a nationwide community-based survey from March, 2022 to August, 2023, covering 60 districts in 15 states.

Over 78,800 households involving 3,37,808 individuals were interviewed about animal bites in the family, anti-rabies vaccination and deaths due to animal bite.

Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, found that three in every four animal bites was a dog bite. Over 2,000 of those surveyed reported a history of animal bite – 76.8 per cent of which (1,576) were dog bites.

Further, over six per thousand people might be experiencing an animal bite, “translating into 9.1 million bites nationally”, the authors said.

“We estimated 5,726 human rabies deaths occurring annually in India,” they wrote.

The estimates can help understand

whether the country is on track to meeting the global target of eliminating dog-mediated cases of rabies among humans by 2030, the authors said.

“Zero by 30” was launched in 2018 by the World Health Organization and collaborators.

However, reliable and recent estimates of deaths in humans due to rabies are not available in India, where a third of global cases occur, the researchers said.

They added that while cases of rabies deaths have declined over the past two decades, “India needs to fast-track its actions by adopting a focused one-health approach”.

“Integrating human and animal surveillance, ensuring timely administration of full course of post-exposure prophylaxis, and accelerating dog vaccination across the country are crucial steps towards this goal,” the authors wrote.

The authors also found that among the people who had been bitten by a dog (1,576), over a fifth did not receive an anti-rabies vaccination, while two-thirds (1,043) received at least three doses.

Nearly half of the 1,253 individuals who received one dose did not complete their full course of vaccination, the team said.

Kejriwal vows to resolve sewage issues across Delhi if AAP retains power

NEW DELHI: AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday vowed to address all sewer-related problems in Delhi on a priority basis if his party is re-elected in



the upcoming Assembly polls.

In a video message, the former Delhi chief minister highlighted the development work undertaken by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the city’s unauthorised colonies, stating that significant progress has been made in providing basic infrastructure in these areas.

“When we formed the government in Delhi, there was no development work in unauthorised colonies. No government worked for these colonies. We started the development work and today, almost all such colonies have sewer pipelines and other facilities,” he said.

Govt’s requisite support to India’s tourism and hospitality sector lacking: Kharge

NEW DELHI: Alleging that the Government’s requisite support to India’s tourism and hospitality sector is lacking, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday called for a collective effort to reform the sector, including filling the infrastructure gaps and aggressively

promoting inbound tourism.

On National Tourism Day, Kharge said the country boasts of a rich diversity of natural beauty, ancient monuments, multitude of culinary traditions and multi-faceted cultures, making it an ideal destination

for global travellers.

However, the true potential of India’s tourism industry is far from being fully realised and foreign tourist arrivals in the country have remained well below the pre-COVID-19 levels, he said, adding that this is “extremely worrying”.

UP a symbol of unlimited potential: Yogi

LUCKNOW : Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that Uttar Pradesh Diwas celebrates the state’s prosperity and pride.

During the event which was inaugurated by Vice President Jagdeep Shankar, the e-portal for the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan (M-YUVA) was launched. Loans and approval letters were also distributed to 25,000 young entrepreneurs to help them establish their enterprises. Besides, UP Gaurav Samman was conferred upon six distinguished individuals from the state.

In his address, the CM extended a warm welcome to the Vice President and conveyed his congratulations to the people of Uttar Pradesh on the state’s Foundation Day.

He highlighted the significance of this year, with the Maha Kumbh being held in the state. “Over the past 10 days, devotees from across India and abroad have taken a holy dip in the Ganges at Triveni Sangam, receiving blessings from revered saints and spreading the message of unity throughout the country,” he said.

Yogi emphasised the importance of this year, marking 75 years since the adoption of the Indian Constitution under the leadership of Dr BR Ambedkar. “The Constitution was handed to the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1950,” he said.

He said that UP was established on January 24, 1950, making this day a symbol of the state’s glorious journey.

The CM while discussing the historical evolution of UP traced its journey from 1775 to 1833, when the region was part of Fort William (Bengal). “In 1834, it was separated from Bengal, forming the Agra Presidency and by 1836, it was renamed the North Western Provinces,” he said.

He said, “In 1902, it became known as

‘North-Western Provinces and Awadh,’ in 1937, it was further renamed as the ‘United Provinces.’ Finally, on January 24, 1950, the state was officially named ‘Uttar Pradesh.’ Today, UP stands as a beacon of immense potential.”

Yogi highlighted that the first UP Diwas was celebrated in 2018 under the leadership of the then-Governor, Ram Naik. “This year



marks the seventh anniversary of the event. During this time, UP has launched several significant initiatives. The One District One Product (ODOP) scheme was introduced on the first foundation day, followed by the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana on the second foundation day, among other initiatives in subsequent years,” he said.

On this occasion, he announced the launch of the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan by the Vice President. “This scheme aims to offer opportunities for 1 lakh youth to become entrepreneurs every year. Interest-free loans will be available to individuals aged 21 to 40, with loans of up to Rs 5 lakh in the first phase and up to Rs 10 lakh in the second phase. 27,500 applications have been received, and Rs 254

crore in loans have been sanctioned,” he said.

The CM said that in 2016-17, UP’s economy stood at Rs 12 lakh crore, which has since grown to more than Rs 27 lakh crore. “In line with the Prime Minister’s vision, the state will become a trillion-dollar economy within four years,” he said.

He said, “Efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of government schemes across all sectors, including rural development and the welfare of people experiencing poverty, farmers, youth and women, are in full swing. The state has successfully achieved 100 percent saturation of benefits for tribal communities. UP is emerging as the country’s key development driver through improvements in law and order, infrastructure, investment, and tourism.”

Yogi announced that a survey is underway in UP to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s goal of ‘Zero Poverty’. He emphasised that the state’s efforts aim to ensure that by next year’s UP Diwas, every poor individual will have access to a roof over their head, land lease, Ayushman cards, pensions, and all essential facilities.

He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to securing the rights of every underprivileged person, rising above the barriers of caste, language, and region.

The CM highlighted that UP has emerged as the country’s leading tourism destination while preserving its rich spiritual heritage. “With significant improvements in law and order, the state has become an attractive hub for investment. Besides, it has transformed into the country’s food basket and is now one of the top states in expressways, Airports, and metro networks,” he said. He said that UP Diwas is a significant occasion to honour the state’s historical journey, cultural heritage, and achievements.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY, KASHMIR

E-mail- kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE.

No:- Dshk/Acctts/24-25/12126 Dt:- 24.01.2025

Reference:-

- E-Procurement Notice for Transportation of Texel Sheep (Livestock) From Delhi airport to Sheep Breeding Farm Khimber vide e-Nit No:-DSHK/ACCTTS/ 2024-25/11392-99, Dated: 07-01-2025
- Extension notice No. DSHK/Acctts/24-25/11842, Dated: 16.01.2025

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1	Bid submission end date	03-02-2025 (2.00pm)
2	Opening of Technical Bid (Online)	04-02-2025 (2.00pm)

The other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same.

Date: 25/01/2025

DIPK-11227/24

Sd/=Director
Sheep Husbandry Department
Kashmir. (Chairman DLPC)

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PW(R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Bohu, Awantipora, Pulwama – 192122
Email: rbddivisionawantipora@gmail.com
Dated: 23 / 01 / 2025

NO: T-1/EEA/ 9115-15

M/S Wani Associates,
Architects, Structural Engineers, Planners & Interior Decorates,

9/3 polo View,
Srinagar Kashmir 190001.

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: Subject: Providing Consultancy and other allied services with all working drawings (Digital Layout plan/BOQ, Structural, Architectural Design) incld. Technical vetting of drawings from DIQC/NIT/ IIT and conducting of all required soil investigations for construction of Government Degree College Awantipora and addressing of observations thereof .

Reference:


- Principal Govt. Degree College Awantipora’s Letter No’s DCA/A/24/397 Dated: 26/09/2024 and DCA/24/458-462 Dated: 13-11-2024.
- This office Allotment No. T-1/EEA/2365-66 Dated: 12-07-2024.
- This office Letter No. T-1/EEA/5780-82 Dated: 24-10-2024 and E-8/EEA/8805-08 Dated: 15-01-2025 and T-1/EEA/8837-40 Dated: 16-01-2025
- Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Awantipora’s Letter No’s DCA/A/872 Dated: 15-01-2025 , DCA/A/884 Dated: 16-01-2025 and DCA/A/898 Dated: 23-01-2025

Refer to the captioned subject and series of communications particularly the communication vide this office letter No T-1 /EEA/8145-47 Dated: 26-12-2024 in response to which you sought 10 days for finalization of the DPR for the subject work in all respects. However as reported by AEE Awantipora it is astonishing to know that you have submitted the instant DPR which is lacking basic details like column lay out and structural drawings. Further the electrical estimate has been submitted without duly vetted by third party . It clearly depicts that you are wasting the time of this department as the project being a very urgent in nature has got hampered due to your sluggish behavior and delay tactics. Given the afore mentioned circumstances and the urgency desired by the intending department you are hereby directed to finalize the DPR in all respects within 2 days positively, failing which your contract shall be terminated without any further notice. Besides action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you. The matter shall be merited as top priority

Date: 24/01/2025

DIPK-11193/24

Sd/ Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism Kashmir

E-mail: ddtreq123@gmail.com.

Sub:- Application for change of title of House Boat “New Alexandra Palace” moored in Dal Lake , Srinagar.

Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Mohammad Amin Karnai S/o Haji Mohammad Sidiq Karnai R/o Dal Lake, Srinagar has approached this office for change of title of House Boat under the name and style “New Alexandra Palace” to “Surror” moored in Dal Lake, Srinagar;

Whereas, the House Boat is presently registered in the name of Mr. Mohammad Amin Karnai S/o Haji Mohammad Sidiq Karnai R/o Dal Lake, Srinagar with this Department since 15.09.1982 vide Registration No. Reg/CS/1720-1800/CT/178/11/1/L1-11 dated 15.09.1982 with moose No. 375 and the registration certificate is renewed upto 31.03.2020;

Whereas, MR. Mohammad Amin Karnai S/o Haji Mohammad Sidiq Karnai R/o Dal Lake, Srinagar has submitted the NOC from bank and the other related documents;

Whereas, change of title is purely for the purpose of running operation management of the said house boat and do not confer any right of ownership of the house boat;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978 before change of the title of houseboat House Boat under the name and style “New Alexandra Palace” to “Surror” moored in Dal Lake, Srinagar is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules after submission of all requisite documents.

No: Reg/Dlx/164/Dal/DTK/66
Dated: 24.11.2025

Date: 24/01/2025

DIPK-11197/24

SD/-
Assistant Director Tourism,
Registration

Marathon, Pledge and Celebrations Mark National Voters' Day in Bandipora

BANDIPORA : The National Voters' Day-2025 was today celebrated with great zeal at the Auditorium N.M. Higher Secondary School Kaloosa.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and witnessed the participation of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Zaffar Husson Shawl, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Shabir Ahmad Wani, District Information Officer (DIO), Aadil Manzoor Wani, Nodal Officer SVEEP, Youth, students and other district and sectoral officials.

Padmashree Faisal Ali Dar and Nazir Ahmad, Brand Ambassadors for SVEEP activities, also marked their presence at the event.

The programme commenced with the administration of the National Voters' Day pledge, which was taken by all attendees to reaffirm their commitment to democratic principles.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri emphasized the importance of democracy and the empowerment of new voters. He welcomed first-time voters and appreciated the tireless efforts of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Anganwadi workers, and other officials who ensured the smooth conduct of



elections.

He highlighted that National Voters' Day is a celebration of democracy and an opportunity to

inspire citizens, especially the youth, to actively participate in the electoral process.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner M.A.Qadri acknowledged the dedication of election workers, including BLOs and Anganwadi workers, whose tireless efforts ensure the smooth conduct of elections and reiterated the importance of National Voters' Day as a platform to educate and inspire citizens, particularly the youth, about the value of their vote in fostering a strong and vibrant democracy.

On the occasion, a multilingual National Voters' Day song was showcased to raise awareness about the importance of voting besides EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Cards) were distributed among newly registered voters.

First-time voters also shared their experiences and stressed the significance of voting as a tool to shape the nation's future. The programme also witnessed distribution of mementos among BLOs and officers in

recognition of their commendable work during the General Elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner along with other senior officers released coffee table book which highlighted the various election related activities carried out in District.

Earlier in his welcome address, Dy CEO Dr.G.M.Pujoo underlined the essence of National Voters' Day and its role in strengthening democracy. ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors for making the event a success.

Following the National Voters' Day celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, flagged off a marathon to promote voter awareness aimed to inspire citizens, especially the youth, to understand the power of their vote.

The marathon, which started from N.M. Higher Secondary School Kaloosa, concluded at S.K. Stadium Bandipora.

The National Voters' Day pledge was also administered across all government offices in Bandipora, ensuring comprehensive participation in the celebration of this significant day.

District Hospital Bandipora Performs 'First-Ever Advanced Dental Surgery'

BANDIPORA: District Hospital Bandipora performed its first-ever disimpaction surgery under the Ayushman Bharat-Sehat scheme, marking a significant milestone in the hospital's healthcare services,

surgery performed at our hospital. We are proud of our team and urge locals to utilize our enhanced healthcare services," Dr. Wani stated.

He assured the public of the hospital's commitment to providing accessible, high-quality medical care to the residents of Bandipora and surrounding areas.

Patients and their attendants expressed relief and gratitude for the service, noting that such procedures previously required travel to Srinagar or private clinics, causing both financial and logistical burdens.

Spokesperson said a patient's family member remarked, "This is a great initiative by the hospital authorities. Such services save us time, money, and the inconvenience of traveling long distances."

The successful procedure has been widely lauded by the local community, who praised the efforts of the Hospital administration in introducing advanced healthcare services. Many locals have expressed optimism that the hospital's expanding capabilities will reduce dependency on private clinics and urban hospitals.

The administration at DH Bandipora has urged the public to trust and rely on their services, emphasizing their availability to handle a wide range of medical and dental procedures. "The landmark surgery underlines the hospital's evolving role in bridging healthcare gaps in rural regions".

Pertinent to mention here that Dental Unit of District Hospital Bandipora is working 24*7.

Bandipora Police Busts Major Drug Trafficking Network, Arrests 8 Traffickers in January

BANDIPORA: Continuing its stringent crackdown on the drug menace, Bandipora Police has arrested Eight hard-core drug traffickers involved in the trafficking of drugs and narcotic substances in the district and recovered substantial quantities of contraband substances from their possession during the current month of January this year.

An official spokesperson said on January 20, during naka checking at Palpora near the Bridge team of Police Post Sumlar apprehended a lady drug trafficker (name withheld) R/o Sumlar Bandipora and recovered contraband substance Charas from her possession.

Similarly, on January 19, a police team of PS Pethkote, during Naka checking near Lal Qila Mode Pethkote, apprehended a drug peddler and recovered 13 Bottles of Codeine Phosphate from his possession. He has been identified as Reyaz Ahmad Sheikh S/o Nazir Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kaloosa Bandipora.

On January 18, a team of PS Bandipora, during Naka checking near Panzigam Grid Station & apprehended one person along with 14 Codeine Phosphate bottles near Panzigam Grid Station. He has been identified as Tawqeer Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohmad Arif Bhat R/o Naz Colony Bandipora.

On January 16, a team of PP Alooosa apprehended a notorious drug trafficker during naka checking at Magnipora Bala and recovered 14 Bottles of Codeine Phosphate from his possession. He has been identified as Muzafer Ahmad Lone S/o Abdul Majeed Lone

R/o Nusso Bandipora.

On January 15, a team of Police Post Sumlar, during checking near Sumlar bridge, arrested another notorious drug trafficker and recovered 93 Strips of Sposnoproxyn capsules from his possession. He has been identified as Waseem Ahmad Mir S/o Late Farooq Ahmad Mir R/o Magnipora Bandipora.

Also, on January 11, a team of Police Post Alooosa, during naka checking at Kema Alooosa, arrested one drug trafficker and recovered 13 bottles of Codeine Phosphate from his possession. He has been identified as Bilal Ahmad Sheikh S/o Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh R/o Nowpora Bandipora.

On January 08-, a Police party of Police Station Sumbal intercepted a suspicious individual near Wangipora Middle School and recovered 16 Bottles of contraband Narcotic substance Ascodex-CD Plus & 05 Grams of Charas from his possession. The said person has been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Wani S/o Gh Nabi Wani R/o Bazar Sumbal.

Moreover, on January 6, a Police team from Police Post Nowgam, at a checkpoint established near Harinara Mill Stop, apprehended one person and recovered 1 kg & 38 Grams of Bhang powder from his possession. He has been identified as Ishfaq Hussain Rather S/o Gh Mohd Rather R/o Harinara Nowgam Sumbal.

In this regard, Case FIR under relevant sections of laws has been registered in concerned police stations, and further Investigation has been taken up.

National Voters' Day Celebrated in Sumbal

GOWHAR MAQBOOL

SUMBAL: The 15th National Voters' Day was observed on Saturday at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The occasion was marked by a grand function, with Returning Officer Murtaza Sheikh serving as the chief guest. Several dignitaries attended the event, including the SDPO Sumbal, BDO Naidkhai, BDO Hajin, Tehsildar Hajin, Tehsildar Sumbal, Principal GDC Sumbal, and the former Municipal Committee Chairman Hajin. Newly enrolled voters were also present at the program.

Addressing the gathering, Returning Officer Murtaza Sheikh emphasized the importance of achieving a 100% EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) ratio in the Sonawari constituency. He highlighted National Voters' Day as a platform to educate citizens about their right to vote and its vital role in strengthening democracy.

SDM further stressed the need for transparent and foolproof electoral registration in the district, emphasizing that increased voter participation is key to a robust democratic process.

Several speakers at the event underscored the day's theme, focusing on the right to vote as a fundamental entitlement for every citizen aged 18 and above.

On the occasion cultural programs, poetry sessions, and quiz competitions were organized to raise awareness among voters about the importance of voting.

During the event, voter identity cards were distributed to newly registered voters.



National Road Safety Month 2025: Signature Campaign Held at Bus Stand Bandipora

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month, the Motor Vehicles Department, Bandipora, on Saturday organized a signature campaign at the Trial Ground, Bandipora, aimed at raising awareness about road safety and encouraging the public to adopt responsible road practices.

The event witnessed active participation from local residents, and transporters who pledged their commitment to ensuring safer roads.

The signature campaign encouraged participants to sign a banner in support of road safety initiatives and to make commitment to follow traffic rules to help reduce accidents on the roads.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Anis Ahmed, emphasized the significance of such awareness campaigns in promoting road safety. He urged the public, especially young drivers, to adhere to traffic rules and practice caution while driving.

ARTO Anis Ahmad highlighted that the active participation of the public in such initiatives plays a crucial role in reducing road accidents and ensuring public safety on the roads.

He also emphasized the importance of collective efforts to promote road safety and the role each individual plays in ensuring the safety of all road users.

ARTO emphasized the need to drive responsibly, wear seatbelts, avoid distractions, and adhere to speed limits to make roads safer for everyone.

DLSA Bandipora Organizes Legal Awareness Programme on National Voters' Day

BANDIPORA: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora marked National Voters' Day with a legal awareness program in collaboration with Career Edge Coaching Institute Sumbal.

The event was held under the guidance of Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Secretary DLSA Bandipora, and the chairmanship of Mr. Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Bandipora.

This year's National Voters' Day theme, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure', emphasizes the importance of active voter participation and underscores the power of individual votes in shaping the nation's future.

Speaking at the event, Tasleema Jan, a panel lawyer with the TLSC Sumbal, elaborated on the significance of the day.

She highlighted that National Voters' Day, observed annually on January 25, coincides with the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, established on January 25, 1950.

She emphasized the event's purpose to raise electoral awareness and encourage citizens to actively engage in the democratic process.

The program witnessed participation from Panel Lawyers, PLVs, staff members, students of Career Edge Coaching Institute, and other community members, fostering a spirit of civic responsibility and awareness.



Army Public School Damana organizes an Awareness session on Rabies

JAMMU : Army Public School Damana organized a highly effective and educative session on 'Rabies: its Causes and Management' for the students of

sible pet care to combat this preventable disease. The facilitator explained that rabies is a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals, including



Govt Middle School Parwah on Saturday.

An official spokesperson said the session was taken by Mrs Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana under Vidy-anjali- a School Volunteer Programme and Vigyan Setu Foundation which aimed to illuminate community about the Pathogenesis, Transmission and Prophylaxis of Rabies—a virulent zoonotic disease.

The session highlighted various causes, early detection, vaccination and respon-

humans. It is primarily transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal, typically through bites or scratches by the stray animals.

The session underscored the paramount importance of preventive measures and prompt interventions. The attendees were also apprised of the hallmark symptoms in humans such as Hydrophobia, Anxiety, Neurological Agitation juxtaposed with behavioural aberrations observed in rabid animals.

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana emphasized on the significance of such sessions in creating a safer and healthier environment for all. She encouraged students to become proactive ambassadors of health awareness within their families and communities.

The keen audience i.e. the students of Class V from APS Damana and Govt Middle School Parwah actively participated in the session and asked various doubts and queries about the spread of the disease.

Mrs Anurita Koul, Headmistress APS Damana, Ms Preeti Sambyal, Sr CCA Incharge and Mr Nitish Kumar, Computer Lab Technician also attended the session.

A dynamic Question-Answer session facilitated clarification of prevalent misconceptions surrounding rabies.

The event was well-received and left a lasting impact on the audience. Mrs Kirti Gupta, Master GMS Parwah appreciated the efforts of the school management for organizing the session on such an important topic.

Indian Army and RGNIYD Launch Crewel Crafting Course in Gurez Valley

GUREZ VALLEY: In a significant step towards preserving traditional Kashmiri art and empowering women in remote areas, the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), has launched a three-month crewel crafting course for underprivileged women from Wampora and nearby villages of Gurez Valley.



By fostering self-reliance and creating livelihood opportunities, the program seeks to promote socio-economic development in the region.

The course is expected to not only preserve cultural heritage but also open avenues for participants to engage with broader markets, enhancing their financial independence and contributing to the overall upliftment of the community. This collaborative effort underscores the commitment to sustainable development in remote areas like Gurez.

The program has garnered positive feedback from local residents, with many expressing gratitude for the initiative, which they see as a step towards a brighter future for women in the valley.

Agricultural Reforms For Developed India

DR. MRITTUNJOY GUHA MAJUMDAR

India's agricultural reforms have changed dramatically, from the MSP system of 1965, which guaranteed price stability, to today's tackling of the complex problems of market integration, sustainability, and welfare. Recent discussions about changes

ies in 1966, India launched the Green Revolution, which relied on guaranteed MSPs for rice and wheat. Political pressures eventually led to the MSP being expanded to cover more crops, resulting in regional imbalances.

MSP and free electricity have forced Punjab and Haryana to focus heavily on rice, harming the environment and depleting

environment and degraded soils. Free electricity for tubewells in Punjab has led to an alarming decline in groundwater levels. Direct cash transfers and digital beneficiary records are two examples of recent reforms that emphasize digitization to increase efficiency. The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi eliminates middlemen and ensures targeted benefit delivery by providing

water-intensive paddy cultivation. Price deficiency payment schemes should be used in place of MSP to ensure farmers get fair prices and discourage overproduction of particular crops. In Madhya Pradesh, farmers get compensation for market price losses through the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana, which maintains income stability without changing market dynamics. Rationalize fertilizer and electricity subsidies to promote the use of eco-friendly technologies like drip irrigation and organic farming. The PM-KUSUM program encourages solar-powered irrigation pumps, which reduce dependence on government-subsidized electricity and groundwater extraction.

Provide farmers with the latest information on crop selection, soil health, and water use to maximize resources in a sustainable way. Using drones to spray pesticides in Tamil Nadu reduces wastage while guaranteeing effectiveness and environmental safety. Build effective cold storage facilities and value chains to reduce post-harvest losses and guarantee equitable pricing for perishables. By establishing robust supply and storage networks, Operation Greens seeks to stabilize the prices of potatoes, tomatoes, and onions. Direct benefit transfers to farmers should replace input subsidies to ensure equitable distribution and reduce wastage of resources. Preventing DBT diversion in fertilizer distribution guarantees that subsidies are effectively distributed to deserving farmers. Allow open, regulated land leasing to small farmers and sharecroppers to promote investment in productivity-enhancing practices.

Andhra Pradesh's land leasing policy provides security to tenant farmers, making it easier for them to access benefits and institutional credit.

Boost public spending on storage facilities, irrigation systems, and rural roads to increase market access and reduce wastage. In dry areas, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has improved irrigation coverage and water use efficiency. Support agroforestry and the development of drought-resistant varieties to tackle climate change and increase productivity. By encouraging farmers to plant trees, Punjab's agroforestry policy enhances biodiversity and reduces carbon footprint. Boost agricultural R&D spending to create sustainable farming practices and guarantee information sharing through extension services. Zero-tillage farming is promoted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research because it reduces costs and improves soil health.

To achieve Developed India 2047, a comprehensive approach to agricultural reforms is necessary that combines welfare measures with market-driven mechanisms. India can guarantee an agricultural sector that is inclusive, resilient, and environmentally sustainable; empower farmers; and safeguard the country's future by adopting technology-driven solutions, encouraging sustainable practices, and promoting public-private partnerships.

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in the MSP and programs such as PM-KISAN reflect efforts to strike a balance between welfare and economics. Still, pursuing sustainable agriculture is essential to achieving a developed India in 2047. The MSP system was introduced to reduce food shortages by providing incentives for the production of rice and wheat. For example, by importing Mexican wheat variet-

groundwater. For rice and wheat in particular, the system shifted to open procurement, leading to inefficiencies and surplus inventory. The Food Corporation of India has rice stocks almost three times higher than buffer requirements, leading to wastage and storage problems. The introduction of power, fertilizer, and irrigation subsidies reduced farmers' costs but harmed the

direct income support to farmers.

To improve soil health and reduce groundwater depletion, encourage farmers to grow pulses, oilseeds, and millets from water-intensive crops like wheat and rice. The Odisha Millet Mission encourages the production of millets, which improve soil quality and incomes while reducing the use of

...ECCE and NEP 2020 Laying The Foundation For Lifelong Learning

By Zahoor Ahmad Lone

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of India emphasizes the importance of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as the foundation of lifelong learning and development. Recognizing the critical importance of early years, the policy outlines a comprehensive framework for ECCE, aimed at fostering holistic development, learning, and well-being in children between the ages of 3 to 6 years. This essay delves into the significance, principles, and implementation strategies for ECCE as envisioned by NEP 2020.

Significance of ECCE

The first six years of life are widely recognized as the most crucial period for a child's cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. Research indicates that 85% of a child's brain development occurs by the age of six, making early interventions essential. Quality ECCE lays a strong foundation for lifelong learning, helps reduce dropouts, and bridges learning gaps that often emerge during primary education. NEP 2020 aims to universalize ECCE and ensure that every child has access to a strong early education system.

Vision of ECCE in NEP 2020

The NEP 2020 envisions achieving universal access to quality ECCE by 2030. The policy emphasizes the integration of play-based, activity-based, and discovery-based pedagogies. It seeks to promote age-appropriate cognitive, emotional, and physical stimulation through a flexible curriculum. NEP 2020 highlights the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that ECCE services are accessible to children from disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

The policy underscores the importance of preparing children for Grade 1 by ensuring the development of foundational literacy and numeracy skills, along with a focus on social and emotional learning. Additionally, ECCE is envisioned as a holistic approach, integrating health, nutrition, and well-being alongside education.

Key Principles of ECCE under NEP 2020

- Holistic Development:** ECCE focuses on the overall development of children, including cognitive, linguistic, emotional, social, and physical growth.
- Play-based Learning:** The policy promotes the use of play, storytelling, songs, and art to make learning enjoyable

health check-ups.

Implementation Strategies

To achieve the goals of ECCE, NEP 2020 outlines the

- Integration with Primary Education:** ECCE will be integrated into the school education system by adding a foundational stage covering children from 3 to 8 years, comprising three years of pre-primary education and Grades 1 and 2.
- Community Engagement:** Parents and communities will be actively involved in ECCE programs to ensure a supportive home environment for learning.

Challenges in Implementation

While the NEP 2020 presents a progressive vision for ECCE, implementing its objectives poses several challenges:

- Infrastructure:** Many rural and underprivileged areas lack adequate facilities and resources to deliver quality ECCE.
- Trained Workforce:** There is a shortage of professionally trained ECCE educators, and continuous professional development is needed.
- Funding:** Effective implementation requires substantial investment in training, infrastructure, and resources.
- Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing robust mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the quality of ECCE programs is critical.

Conclusion

ECCE, as outlined in NEP 2020, represents a transformative approach to early childhood education in India. By emphasizing holistic development, inclusivity, and play-based learning, the policy aims to provide every child with a strong foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. However, the successful implementation of these ambitious goals requires a concerted effort from policymakers, educators, communities, and stakeholders. Overcoming challenges such as infrastructure gaps, workforce training, and resource allocation will be key to achieving universal and equitable access to quality ECCE by 2030. If implemented effectively, the ECCE framework under NEP 2020 has the potential to transform India's educational landscape and pave the way for a brighter future for its youngest citizens.

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and engaging for young learners.

- Inclusivity:** Ensuring access to ECCE for children from all sections of society, including those from economically weaker sections, tribal communities, and differently-abled groups.
- Multilingualism:** NEP 2020 encourages the use of the child's home language or mother tongue as the medium of instruction to enhance comprehension and learning outcomes.

- Integration of Health and Nutrition:** Recognizing the role of health and nutrition in early development, ECCE is aligned with initiatives like mid-day meals and

following strategies:

- Anganwadi and Pre-school Strengthening:** Anganwadi centers will be upgraded with better infrastructure, trained teachers, and educational resources to align with ECCE standards.
- National Curricular Framework for ECCE (NCFECCE):** A dedicated framework will be developed to ensure age-appropriate and activity-based learning.
- Teacher Training:** NEP 2020 emphasizes the need for professionally trained ECCE educators. Specialized training programs and qualifications, such as diplomas or certifications in ECCE, will be introduced.

15th National Voters Day celebrated at Srinagar

Div Com, DC Srinagar felicitate ROs, AROs, Nodal Officers and others for ensuring smooth Lok Sabha & Assembly elections-2024

Participants administered pledge regarding National Voters Day

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of 15th National Voters Day, a grand function was organized by the District Election Office, Srinagar here to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, established on 25th January 1950.

The function was presided over by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, while Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat who is also the District Election Officer attended the function as Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said that the National voters Day serves as a reminder to all the eligible voters of their responsibilities to participate in the electoral process, to strengthen the democratic setup. He also expressed appreciation for the hard work of the BLO, Electoral Registration Officers, the Election Department staff, Election icons, and all the stakeholders for their unwavering dedication in keeping our democracy vibrant and thriving.

The Div Com also highlighted the contribution of Election machinery and all the stakeholders who exhibited commendable capability in ensuring successful Lok Sabha and J&K Assembly Elections in 2024 with a remarkable increase in voter turnout in both the Elections. He stressed on responsibility to vote besides the right to vote to strengthen the democratic setup.

He said responsible voting is the key in the development of any nation and urged the

participants, particularly youngsters, to become an active part of the electorate process.

DC/DEO Srinagar in his inaugural address said

their newly acquired power to select the right representatives to fulfil their demands besides address their developmental issues.



Revision-2024, the District Election Office has worked hard to widen the ambit of electoral literacy by holding awareness programmes in City Schools and Colleges and other prominent public places.

During the programme message of Chief Election Commissioner of India, Rajiv Kumar was telecast through virtual mode.

On the occasion, participants were administered pledge regarding National Voters Day.

Later, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar handed over Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) among newly enrolled voters.

They also felicitated Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Election Nodal Officers, Officials, BLOs and Election Icons for ensuring smooth elections process for Lok Sabha and J&K Assembly Elections in 2024.

Notably, the Election Commission of India has chosen the theme "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure" for this year's National Voters' Day reflecting the core philosophy of universal adult suffrage and the empowerment that comes with exercising the right to vote in a democratic society.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Sheikh Ghulam Hassan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Nodal Principal Colleges, Seema Naaz, Deputy District Election Officer, Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Election Nodal Officers, Officials of District Election Office, Srinagar BLOs, newly registered voters, Election Icons and other concerned Officials were present on the occasion.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to CM visit Budgam

Committed to speedy, sustained development: Dy CM



BUDGAM: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today conducted a comprehensive tour of Budgam district.

Member Parliament, Aga Syed Ruhullah and MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar accompanied them.

DC Budgam, Akshay Labroo, Chief Engineers and other senior officers of different departments were also present.

While addressing a huge gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government has undertaken a massive development programme with special focus on far flung and neglected areas.

"We have already directed for fast pacing the initiatives meant for changing the socio- economic profile of people besides upgrading the basic infrastructure ", he added

"We are committed to fast paced and sustained development with regular monitoring for ensuring quality works. This has been done in accordance with the local needs and area specific development ", he maintained.

Responding to public demands, the Deputy CM announced the provision of 4 lane roads to Budgam.

He also directed for conducting a survey of road from DC office to Humhama besides preparation of DPR for 4 lane widening of road from DC office to New bus Adda in phase -1.

Advisor to Chief Minister, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted various developmental initiatives undertaken by the present government since its formation.

He said that a holistic developmental agenda is underway which would ensure transformation of Jammu and Kashmir.

MP Aga Ruhallah also enumerated various initiatives undertaken and assured for furthering the developmental agenda of the present dispensation.

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a comprehensive tour of district and inspected several development works as well.

While interacting with scores of deputations, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that the issues projected by them would be redressed within the shortest possible time.

DC Kulgam distributes Fishing equipment among beneficiaries

Stresses on need to uplift the marginal community

KULGAM: In order to boost the morale of fishing community, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today distributed incentives in the form of fishing equipments including Handle Nets, Covering Nets, Weighing Balances etc among 11 beneficiaries covered under HADP for the year 2024-25. The event held in the lawns of Mini-Secretariat witnessed participation by a number of beneficiaries.

Interacting with the beneficiaries, the DC emphasized on the importance of generation of employment avenues in the Fisheries sector by way of adopting fish culture practices to achieve gainful employment.

The concerned officials of the Department were directed to increase the awareness among the masses to create such employment generation units and proper utilization of water resources in the District.

Besides, 02 three wheeler vehicles for the transportation of fish stocks were also distributed to the beneficiaries covered under PMMSY during this year. The provision aims to boost fish cultural practices and transportation of livestock procured from the wild.

It is worth to mention that during 2024-25, 21 fish rearing tanks for culture of Trout stand were established while, 01 Trout Hatchery was also provided to entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector during 2024-25 under PMMSY & HADP.

Being the downtrodden community, under Nutritional and livelihood support a sub component of PMMSY 550 registered fishermen were benefited and Rs 3000 each were transferred through DBT mode, he added.

The cultural fish production, both in private and government farms stands at 220MTs from 160 units in the district. These units in the private sector have provided employment to 480 families directly or indirectly.

Govt urges artisans, weavers to avail subsidized loans under Credit Card Scheme

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming its commitment to safeguard the interests and welfare of the highly-skilled craftsmen, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today urged the registered artisans and weavers to apply online for availing the soft loans under its Credit Card Scheme, which offers interest subvention of 7% for a five-year payback period, on a loan of Rs.2.00 lakh.

Nearly 97,000 artisans and weavers have already availed the loan facility to meet their credit requirements of both investment and working capital in a flexible and cost-effective manner. The department has borne an expenditure of Rs.5.62 Cr as interest subvention, payable to the banks and other financial institutions, in a bid to support the artisans and weavers to set up independent units.

Highlighting the main takeaways of the

scheme, an official spokesperson from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, stated



that the beneficiary's contribution against a loan of .200 lakh shall only be .20,000 and no collateral security is required to be deposited in the financial institution. "The selection of the beneficiary artisan and weaver is made by a

District-level Committee, headed by the concerned General Manager of the District Industries Centre," he said, adding that the beneficiary shall be issued a Photo Card indicating therein the sanctioned limit and validity period of the credit facility.

Seeking support from the banks and financial institutions in the saturation of artisans and weavers under the subsidized scheme, the spokesman called for real-time sanction and disbursement of the beneficiary cases, after they are sponsored as per targets fixed by the Government.

The spokesman further stated that the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, monitors the implementation of the Credit Card Scheme and puts on notice those beneficiaries who become NPAs and fail to pay their monthly instalments on time, in coordination with the financial institutions.

...15th National Voters Day

DC/DEO Srinagar flags off Shikara Race at Nehru Park

Says Greater Electoral participation pivotal for strengthening roots of democracy and socio-economic development of people

SRINAGAR: As a part of National Voters Day being celebrated to create awareness of the significance of every vote, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) today flagged off a Shikara Race (Canoeing and Kayaking event) here at the Sports Centre, Nehru Park.

The DC/DEO also presided over the pledge taking ceremony regarding National Voters Day-2025 where hundreds of students and athletes took the pledge for strengthening the democratic institutions.

The event organized by District Election Authority Srinagar saw participation of around 200 athletes associated with the Department of Youth Services and Sports with an objective of mobilization and awareness regarding voting registration, voting awareness and participation in the democratic activities.

The theme of this year's National Voters Day is "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Shine".

Addressing the gathering of participants at the event, the DC/DEO emphasized on the need to understand the value of participating in the electoral process and one's voting rights. He said it is imperative for every citizen who has attained 18 years of age to get included in the



voter list to exercise franchise in every election as part of discharging their democratic duty.

He highlighted the efforts of the Electoral Registration Officers,

Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, BLO and all the stakeholders who put in their commendable efforts during Special Summary Revisions-2024 that paved the way in ensuring successful Lok Sabha and J&K Assembly Elections with a remarkable increase in voter turnout in both the Elections. He stressed on responsibility to vote besides the right to vote to strengthen the democratic setup.

The DC/DEO urged the participants to carry forward the message regarding power of voting and spread awareness about the importance of voting in a democracy. He said National Voters Day also educates people about their voting rights and encourages youngsters to participate in the electoral process.

The DC/DEO added that greater electoral participation helps in making good welfare and developmental plans/policies which in turn make the roots of democracy stronger. He stressed on responsibility to vote besides the right to vote to strengthen the democratic setup.

Deputy District Election Officer, Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz-Ul Aziz, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers of Zadibal, Umar Gulzar, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid, other Officers/Officials of the District Election Authority were present on the occasion.

Jal Shakti Minister chairs public outreach camp at Udhampur

Meets scores of public delegations, takes stock of their issues

UDHAMPUR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today presided over a public outreach programme at Udhampur to take stock of grievances and demands of people besides reviewing development scenario of the district.

The public meeting witnessed overwhelming response from all sections of the society during which the participants apprised the Minister of issues being faced by them and sought his intervention for redressing them.



Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West, Pawan Kumar Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai; Senior Superintendent of Police; Additional District Development Commissioner; Additional Deputy Commissioner and other district officers besides large number of general public participated in the public outreach programme.

Addressing the gathering, Javed Rana emphasised on unity among the people saying that the people need to remain vigilant against

the divisive forces for the public good. He emphasized the collective responsibility of working towards welfare of the people and making India Vishwaguru. He sought cooperation from all stakeholders for successful implementation of various government schemes.

With the growing challenges of climate change, Javed Rana said the need for efficient water conservation methods has become paramount. He said that focus should be laid on water channel, check dams and other conservation strategies.

While speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the public meetings are a platform to obtain first hand appraisal from the gross root level besides reducing the communication gap between the public and the government. A delegation from Dudu raised the issue of upgradation of educational infrastructure in their area and complained about the shortage of staff in Dudu. Another delegation of individuals raised the demand for upgradation of road from Ramnagar to Khenad.

A delegation of individuals raised the demand for establishment of library in Gujjar and Bakerwal hostel in Udhampur. They also demanded resolution of Ladda dhar Gujjar Bakerwal issues.

Likewise, several delegations and individuals met the Minister and projected scores of demands and issues like installation of hand pumps, scarcity of drinking water, construction of forest guest house in Udhampur, girls hostel in Udhampur, construction of bridge at Benni Sangam and construction of mobile schools buildings. Javed Rana, while interacting with the deputations, remarked that all their demands and issues shall be taken up with the concerned departments for timely redressal. He appreciated the efforts of the Deputy Commissioner and other district officers and directed all departments to foster a public-friendly environment in the district. He directed the officers to conduct awareness programs on water conservation.

Pre-Republic Day-2025 celebrations: SMC concludes Swachhtantra activities successfully

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has triumphantly wrapped up a series of Swachhtantra-themed initiatives as part of the lead-up to Republic Day 2025, fostering a spirit of community engagement and environmental responsibility.

From January 21 to January 24, the campaign, aptly titled 'Swachhtantra - Gantantra Ki Shaan, Swachhta Se Bane Mahaan', focused on highlighting the importance of cleanliness in nurturing national pride and social progress.

Throughout the four-day event, a variety of dynamic activities were organized, engaging citizens of all ages in the pursuit of a cleaner Srinagar.

Key highlights of the campaign included Plogging Run, Swachhtantra Pledge, Nukkad Natak, Quiz Competition and Painting Competition.

The innovative fitness and cleanliness initiative of 'Plogging Run' encouraged participants to jog along the picturesque Jehlum River Front at Raj Bagh while simultaneously collecting litter. It besides promoting physical fitness also fostered a sense of civic duty among the participants.

Similarly under Swachhtantra Pledge, citizens and local officials gathered to take pledge, committing themselves to uphold cleanliness in their surroundings.

This collective vow reinforced community solidarity and the shared goal of a cleaner environment.

Through Nukkad Natak, local artists captivated audiences with street performances at the renowned Ghanta Ghar Lal Chowk,



using the medium of theatre to communicate the critical message of waste management and community responsibility. These dramatizations effectively engaged the public in conversations about environmental issues.

Quiz Competition proved to be another attractive activity in which students from various coaching centers showcased their knowledge and enthusiasm for environmental issues through a competitive quiz focused

on the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and related topics. This activity served to educate and inspire the younger generation about the importance of cleanliness.

Also through Painting Competition, young artists capitalized the opportunity to express their creative visions of a cleaner and greener India through an art competition. Their imaginative works underscored the role of creativity in advocating for environmental awareness.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from local citizens, students, and various organizations, reflecting a strong community commitment to cleanliness and sustainability.

Commissioner of SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all participants during his closing remarks. He emphasized the corporation's ongoing dedication to making Srinagar a model city for cleanliness and environmental consciousness.

These Swachhta activities not only enriched the Republic Day celebrations but also served as a poignant reminder that a clean and healthy environment is the foundation to the prosperity and independence of our nation.

LG Manoj Sinha’s Address to the people of J&K on the eve of the 76th Republic Day

My dear brothers, sisters and lovable children,

1. On the eve of the 76th Republic Day of our great nation, I extend my heartfelt greetings to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. This day reminds us of the enduring values enshrined in the Constitution of India. It is a day of pride, reflection, and reaffirmation of our commitment to democracy, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. Let us honor our freedom fighters and martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice to protect and preserve our motherland. I extend my deepest tribute to the valiant soldiers of the Indian Army, Para Military Forces, and Jammu and Kashmir Police, whose relentless dedication and sacrifices ensure the unity, integrity, and security of our nation. Beyond safeguarding our borders, they stand as pillars of peace and stability for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Their extraordinary valor and service inspire us to work towards a united, secure, and prosperous India.

2. On this momentous occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to every individual contributing to the progress of our Union Territory - farmers, artisans, teachers, healthcare workers, security forces, sportspersons and government officials. Your dedication and hard work are the cornerstone of our collective success. Jammu and Kashmir has always been a land of unity in diversity. We take immense pride in our composite culture and centuries-old traditions of brotherhood. It is our collective responsibility to maintain peace and harmony, ensuring that the dreams of our youth are not hindered by divisive forces. Our journey has been one of resilience and determination, marked by unparalleled achievements in every sphere. Jammu and Kashmir, with its rich heritage, natural beauty, and vibrant culture, has always been a vital part of this journey.

3. The successful conduct of Assembly Elections underscores the positive change and this achievement is credited to all the citizens who participated in this democratic exercise, demonstrating their faith in our democratic values and future of Jammu and Kashmir. The people now look to the Government with renewed expectations, aspiring for an environment that promotes meaningful employment, sustainable development, social inclusivity, and robust economic growth - paving the way for an enhanced quality of life for all. For further strengthening and ensuring peoples' participation at a broader level, elections for Local Bodies will be conducted for establishing 3-Tier Governance structure.

4. Good governance is the cornerstone for a prosperous and harmonious future and is pivotal to fostering peace, development, and inclusivity in the region. By focusing on transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric policies, the government has prioritized empowering local communities through participatory decision-making and equitable resource distribution. Initiatives like digital governance, streamlining public services, and promoting socio-economic programs aim to bridge developmental gaps and strengthen public trust.

5. J&K has taken lead in making 1,166 online public services available on e-Unnat portal and 501 e-services have been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS). 387 services are covered under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), and 104 Government services have been integrated with DigiLocker for enhanced document security and accessibility. J&K is targeting to achieve 100% compliance of reforms for ease of doing business. Jammu and Kashmir has created JK SAMADHAN platform, for online redressal of public grievances. About 300 grievances are processed per day. Another initiative launched by the Government, Raabta, is a landmark program aimed at fostering stronger connections between the government and the people.

6. Jammu and Kashmir's economy has recorded a growth rate of 9.5% which is driven by sustained government initiatives and strategic policy measures. GSDP of J&K is estimated at 2.45 lakh crore for 2023-24, up from 2.20 lakh crore in 2022-23. This positive trajectory highlights the effectiveness of ongoing economic development strategies, infrastructure advancements, and business-friendly policies.

7. We have made remarkable strides in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation and rank 2nd among UTs in the SDG India Index 2023-24. Specific policy interventions by the Government have enabled to improve the overall score and ranking of Jammu and Kashmir. Data-driven monitoring and policy intervention ensures effective resource allocation and decision making. Alignment of SDGs with the budget and facilitating Outcome-Based Monitoring is being planned as a next phase.

8. For enhancing legal and judicial consistency and for establishment of robust and unified criminal justice system, ensuring fairness, equality, and the rule of law, three criminal laws have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. The implementation of these Criminal Laws are backed by technological upgradation, capacity building of investigators/prosecutors, data analysis, evidence collection, cyber security and procurement of new technological devices for giving effect to various provisions of the new criminal laws.

9. Our Union Territory has witnessed remarkable progress in various sectors of development. From infrastructure development to social welfare, from education reforms to healthcare advancements, our administration has been relentless in its pursuit of growth and equity.

10. Significant strides have been made in road connectivity. Work on Jammu-Akhnor-Poonch National Highway, Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri National Highway and Chenani-Sudhmahadev-Khellani-Kishtwar-Khanabal National Highway is under progress. Work on Banihal bypass on Srinagar-Jammu NH has recently been completed and opened for traffic. Work on Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway is under progress, which will reduce the distance between Delhi and Katra to 6 hours only. Srinagar and Jammu Ring Roads are in advanced stages of completion. Z-Morh tunnel has been completed and is being dedicated to the nation soon. Construction of Zojila tunnel is also under progress.

11. Works on development of Baramulla-Kupwara-

Trehgam National Highway, Baramulla Uri NH, Pattan Bypass and Baramulla Bypass have been started. 8 tunnel projects are in the advanced stages and are likely to be completed by December 2025. SudhmahadevDranga tunnel and SinghporeVailoo tunnel are being taken up.Unconnected habitations having population more than 250 as per 2011 census are being taken up under the newly launched PMGSY-IV programme.144 Road and Bridge projects are being taken up under NABARD.

12. In a historic stride towards progress, the Railway is set to connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the nation, heralding a new era of development, economic growth, and unity.

13. J&K is witnessing rapid development in hydro-power generation. Mega hydro projects like PakalDul, Kiru,



and Ratle shall be ready by 2026 and Kwar by December 2027 collectively adding 3,014 MWs generation capacity. Another four hydropower projects having 1818 MWs generation capacity (Dulhasti-II, Kirthai-I, Kirthai-II and Uri-II) are in pipeline. Sawalkote HEP is in the techno economic study phase which is being conducted by NHPC. In the transmission sector, a total capacity addition of 310 MVA has been achieved at 220 kV & 132 kV voltage level. In the distribution sector also, 28 No. of Receiving Stations and 503 Sub-stations with capacity addition of 211.44 MVA have been created/augmented. Holy shrine of Shri Amarnathji Baba shall be provided Grid connected uninterrupted power supply through underground cabling during this year.

14. 3266 water supply schemes are under execution under Jal Jeevan Mission with the objective of providing 100% piped water connections to each and every rural household. 81% households have already been covered with household tap water connections and the remaining 19% (3.71 lakh) households shall be covered during the mission period. Work on ShahpurKandi Dam Project is in advanced stage and J&K is likely to add irrigation potential of more than 32,000 hectares which will benefit catchment areas of Samba and Kathua Districts. Work on Tawi Barrage (Artificial Lake) conceived for tourism purpose in the heart of the Jammu city, is expected to be commissioned this year.

15. Major steps have been taken to improve and strengthen agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir, focusing on creating a sustainable and strong farming economy. The government has introduced the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), an ambitious initiative aimed at mitigating the challenges faced by our farmers and creating a robust and diversified agricultural economy. This comprehensive program covers all key aspects of agriculture, including horticulture, livestock, fisheries, sericulture, and medicinal & aromatic plants, among others. A significant development in the agriculture sector is the notable boost in investment and credit flow. Government will also implement JK Competitiveness of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project (JKCIAP) focusing on four key components: Climate-smart and market-led production, Agri-business ecosystem development support, Support to vulnerable communities, and Project Management. This initiative will benefit about 3 lakh Households.

16. The KisanKhidmatGhars (KKGs) is empowering our farmers, boosting productivity, and laying the foundation for sustainable agricultural growth. More than 2 lakh farmers are part of this growing ecosystem, benefiting from seamless access to services, schemes, and expert advisories. This initiative is further being carried forward to bring more farmers under the ambit. Under DAKSH KISAN, 93 thousand farmers have enrolled in skilling courses across agriculture and allied sectors. A major milestone was achieved with the implementation of the PM FasalBimaYojana which covers important crops such as paddy, maize, wheat, and oilseeds, ensuring financial security and resilience against crop losses. Over 1.45 lakh farmers have been registered under this scheme, covering 60,200 hectares, providing much-needed protection to our farmers in times of adversity.

17. For the preservation and promotion of region-specific agricultural heritage, G.I. tags have been secured for 07 agricultural products, including Solai Honey from Ramban, Rajma from Bhadarwah, Kalari from Ramnagar, Anardana from Ramban, Basmati from Jammu, Muskbudji and Saffron from Kashmir. 64 patents have also been registered

over the past four years by the Agriculture Universities.

18. Under the Horticulture sector, the government aims to enhance the coverage under high-density, a project that will significantly increase the production and productivity of fruit crops. With this initiative, Government aims to raise yields from 10 metric tons per hectare to an impressive 60 metric tons per hectare, setting a new benchmark for horticultural output in the region.

19. Jammu and Kashmir has made significant strides in industrial development, investment, and employment generation in recent years. New policies, including the J&K Export Policy, J&K Logistic Policy, and J&K Procurement Preferences Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), are under preparation to further boost economic growth. The Government of India launched a New Central Sector

to transform our entire economy, as it plays a pivotal role in generating employment and boosting local businesses. This year, J&K has witnessed a record-breaking 2.36 crore tourist visits till November, 2024. Gulmarg Gondola has witnessed 7.68 lakhs tourists and earned a revenue of Rs. 103 Crore during 2024.

25. To further build on this momentum and enhance the tourism experience, several significant projects are underway. A state-of-the-art water park is being constructed at Dwara Village, near the Sidhra Golf Course, under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Basohli is also being developed as an adventure tourism hotspot. A vertical lift project is being installed to connect Peerkho to the Mubarak Mandi Complex, enhancing accessibility and making it easier for tourists to visit this historic site.

26. Our winter sports infrastructure has also seen significant improvements. Drag lifts are now operational in Sonamarg and Gulmarg, two of our premier winter sports destinations. In line with our vision to distribute tourist traffic more evenly across the region and ensure sustainable tourism growth, the Government is working to secure Multilateral funding under the Sustainable Promotion of Emerging Alternate Destination (SPREAD) initiative to develop alternate tourism destinations across J&K, adhering to international standards and easing the pressure on our most popular locations.

27. To preserve and promote the rich cultural legacy of Jammu & Kashmir, "Writers & Artists Welfare Fund" has been created with a seed money allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs, aimed at reaching out to artists and their dependant family members who find themselves in distress. For preservation of cultural heritage, new archival repository is being operationalized and a fresh survey of heritage monuments and sites will be conducted. Modernization of the SRS Library in Jammu and the construction of the Library-cum-Café building and Dogra Art Museum in the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex are in the final stages of completion. SPS Museum will be made fully functional, adding to the region's cultural offerings. Moreover, the Sufiyana School in Srinagar and the Culture Centre in Kathua are both set to be completed soon, further enhancing our cultural and artistic infrastructure.

28. 1.50 crore saplings have been planted this year under the scheme "Maakenaamekped". 36 Nagar Vans are being established. 5 KMs of critically silted Wular Lake has been restored. Second phase of Jambu Zoo is under progress which will have more enclosures enriching the wildlife experience for visitors.

29. Dear brothers and sisters, there has been remarkable progress in strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. AIIMS Jammu is now providing services to the people, and work on AIIMS Kashmir is progressing rapidly. Seven new medical colleges and two cancer hospitals have been established. A Bone and Joint Hospital in Jammu and a 500-bed Pediatric Hospital in Srinagar have been inaugurated. The number of MBBS seats has increased from 500 to 1,300. Additionally, 297 PG seats, 344 DNB seats, 143 M.Sc. Nursing seats, 1,485 B.Sc. Nursing seats, and 1,660 B.Sc. Paramedical seats have been added. Furthermore, 26 new B.Sc. Nursing Colleges and 19 B.Sc. Paramedical Colleges have been started. To provide financial assistance to needy patients for terminal surgeries, the MukhyamantriSwasthya Trust will be established.

30. Government will focus on increasing MBBS, PG and Nursing seats and will add new tertiary care services and advanced courses for strengthening the health care facilities at tertiary level. Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening initiatives shall be further strengthened for early detection and treatment of diseases. 10 districts are expected to be TB free by the end of year 2025.

31. The Government of India is implementing a Whole of Government Approach to eliminate co-terror networks and drug syndicates, ensuring that future generations are freed from the vicious cycle of drug addiction. For this purpose, the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) and the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan have been implemented. To make J&K NashaMukt, various initiatives are being taken up through monitoring and counselling to combat drug menace which includes Aadhaar-based dispensing systems, enhance surveillance, and ensure strict enforcement to prevent misuse of medicinal preparations in coordination with NGOs & other stakeholders. Drug De-addiction infrastructure has been created in all 20 districts with availability of anti-drug treatment facilities. 377 Pan-chayats have been made NashaMukt. Drug awareness camps are being organized in villages, schools and colleges. Strict action is being taken against drug peddlers and contraband substances are being seized, FIRs registered and property of peddlers seized.

32. Recognizing Telemedicine as a solution to geographical challenge, Government aims to integrate Telemedicine services across various medical specialties, enhancing health care access for residents. Government will create a Chief Minister's Medical Trust for providing financial assistance to the needy for terminal diseases.

33. Under the School Education, the government is promoting collaboration for research and quality education by embracing technology and digitization. Key initiatives include the establishment of smart classrooms, tinkering labs and the integration of digital resources to enhance the learning experience. To improve teaching standards and educational outcomes, there is a strong focus on capacity building for teaching faculty. The "School Complex" System will be implemented across 746 schools, fostering collaboration and better resource sharing.

34. Under the PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme, 396 schools have been approved for upgradation, aimed at enhancing educational infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir. 45 Tinkering Labs and 159 STEM Labs are nearing completion. 600 ICT Labs, 2000 Smart Classrooms, and 500 Atal Tinkering Labs are being further set up to enhance the educational ecosystem and promoting innovation.

Leaves of doctors, paramedics cancelled to deal with mysterious deaths in Rajouri



Rajouri/Jammu, Jan 25: Authorities have cancelled all leaves of doctors and paramedics in the wake of a medical alert following the deaths of 17 people from Badhaal village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district due to a mysterious illness.

The number of people sent to quarantine has risen to 230.

Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh said the initial investigation conducted by the toxicology laboratory in Lucknow concluded that the cause was not any

infection, virus or bacteria but a toxin.

Principal of Rajouri Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital, Dr Amaarjeet Singh Bhatia, on Friday addressed a press conference in Rajouri and announced that all leaves of doctors and paramedic staff have been cancelled.

"The winter vacations have also been cancelled to deal with the medical alert situation after 17 people from three families died under mysterious conditions in the last one-and-a-half months," he said.

He further said the Jammu and Kashmir government has deputed 10 additional medical students to GMC Rajouri to aid the medical setup amid the ongoing health situation.

The health condition of three persons undergoing treatment at GMC Hospital in Jammu and PGI Chandigarh is being monitored, officials said.

Four people, including three sisters, were shifted to hospitals, with three airlifted to a hospital in Jammu on Wednesday.

More persons, including relatives who had come in contact with the victim families, were sent on Friday to quarantine as a precautionary measure.

As a precaution, more individuals, including close relatives of the deceased, have been relocated to the Nursing College quarantine centre in Rajouri, increasing the number to 230, the officials said.

Strict security has been put in place at the Nursing College quarantine centre in Rajouri, which has been heavily secured

NHRC admits petition on mysterious deaths in Rajouri

NEW DELHI: The NHRC has admitted a petition filed by a Jammu-based RTI activist over the mysterious deaths of 17 people from three Scheduled Tribe families in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district during the past one-and-a-half months.

In his petition to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Raman Sharma sought the statutory body's intervention to ensure "justice, relief and proactive measures to safeguard the rights and dignity of citizens in vulnerable areas".

Seventeen people, including 13 children, died under mysterious circumstances in Badhaal village between December 7 and January 19.

15 gallantry medals among 27 awards for J&K Police on R-Day



Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Police personnel have been honored with 27 awards on the occasion of Republic Day 2025, including 15 Gallantry Medals, two President's Medals for Distinguished Service, and 10 Medals for Meritorious Service.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), among the recipients are Anand Jain, Additional Director General; Nitish Kumar,

CID chief and former IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar and former SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal

The honors include 15 Medals for Gallantry (GM), 2 President's Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM), and 10 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM).

The awardees for the Medal for Gallantry (GM) on the occasion of Republic Day 2025 are including Azhar Rashid, Deputy Superintendent of Police.

J&K bags two Padma Vibhushan awards

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday announced two Padma Vibhushan awards for Jammu and Kashmir in the fields of Art and Literature & Education, ahead of Republic Day 2025.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Farooq Ahmad Mir has been recognized in the field of Art, and Lalit Kumar Mangotra in the field of Literature and Education.

The Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian honors in India, are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order, and Padma for distinguished service in any field.

These awards cover various disciplines, including art, social work, public affairs, science, medicine, sports, literature, and civil service.

Continued From P1...

J&K to celebrate

and Kashmir Police have taken control of the stadium and sanitisation of the main venue and its surrounding areas has been completed."

He said that the top police officers are monitoring the security arrangements personally to ensure incident-free Republic Day celebrations. "Security force personnel have intensified frisking and checking of vehicles across the Jammu region, particularly in border areas. Vigil has been heightened along the International Border (IB), Line of Control (LoC), and in sensitive hinterland areas of various hilly and border districts in Jammu region," the official said, adding, "Army and BSF are keeping a close watch on IB and LoC to foil any infiltration attempts."

KASHMIR

In Kashmir region high level security arrangements are in place to ensure that Republic Day celebrations pass off peacefully.

Barricades have been erected at both the gates of Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, main venue of the Republic Day function in J&K's summer capital, where Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary will take the salute.

J&K Policemen and personnel of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have been deployed in Srinagar city, including the City Centre Lal Chowk, to prevent any untoward incident.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri has extended an open invitation to the public to attend the Republic Day celebrations in Srinagar. "The Republic Day is the function of people. Entry is free for all. No passes are required. Anyone can come and be a part of the event."

Referring to the enthusiasm shown by people during last year's Republic Day function held at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, Div Com Bidhuri had said, "Preparations have been made to ensure that spirits of participants remain high."

DRONES, SPOTTERS PART OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

According to the officials drones and spotters have been made a part of the elaborate security arrangements put in place across the ten districts in Kashmir. "Proper and secure arrangements have been made for those who want to participate in the function. Surveillance is being maintained to ensure that function passes off peacefully," IGP Kashmir V K Birdi had told reporters.

Meanwhile, four cabinet ministers Javid Ahmad Dar, Sakina Ito, Satish Sharma, and Javed Rana will take the salute at functions in Baramulla, Anantnag, Kathua, and Udhampur districts, respectively, as per an order which was issued by the General Administration Department earlier this week.

People's will in

He expressed his deep gratitude to the people of J&K, officials of the National Election Commission and Election department, Police & security forces, officials and all the stakeholders for the fair, transparent and successful conduct of Lok Sabha and J&K Legislative Assembly elections.

"Historic voter turnout in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections reflects strong faith of people of J&K in democratic values and a renewed spirit of civic participation and hope for a new era wherein democracy is taking root more profoundly than ever before, driven by the will of people," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Highlighting the valuable contribution of the Election Commission, the Lieutenant Governor said the meticulous planning and constant vigil by the election commission and their officers have ensured that the J&K elections this time have been smooth and streamlined, with no repolls.

All political parties unanimously accepted that this was the most fair, transparent, peaceful and spectacular elections in Jammu Kashmir, he added.

"Our cultural ethos focuses on democratic values of freedom, equality and inclusiveness and gives its common citizens an opportunity to live a quality and dignified life. Will of the people in our country is an age-old concept and that's why India is called the 'Mother of Democracy,'" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the theme for this year's National Voters' Day "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure" underlines

the power of every vote and emphasizes that voting transcends all barriers, reflecting the true spirit of voting rights.

"Indian democracy is truly a festive proclamation of cooperation, collaboration, peace and collective strength of the people. India is among the select few countries where democratic ideals are strongest and foremost. I am proud that today many countries in the Global North and Global South are learning from India the ways of conducting fair and transparent elections," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the efforts of the Chief Electoral Office for successful summary revision of electoral rolls, after delimitation and preparing the voters list of 89 lakh voters and ensuring that transparent and fair voting took place at all 11,838 polling stations.

He said the significant increase in the voter turnout during these elections is testament to the dedicated efforts of the election machinery of the Union Territory.

He further emphasised that awareness campaigns should continue to make all sections of the society aware of the power of their vote. He said the biggest objective of the celebration of National Voters' Day is to motivate the eligible youth to participate in the voting process.

The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Doda and PD Nitya, SSP Pulwama who have been awarded for best electoral practices.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the National Voters' Day pledge to the officials and the people.

LG terms 2024

pelted, and repolling wasn't required even at a single polling booth across the Union Territory.

Speaking at an event organized to celebrate National Voters' Day in Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Coordinated efforts between the administration and security forces led to an unprecedented voter turnout in 2024, the highest in 35 years."

"This record participation by the people sent a resounding message that they are equal stakeholders in peace and democracy. Remarkably, not a single bullet was fired, no stone was pelted, and repolling wasn't required even at a single polling booth," he added.

He congratulated the Election Commission of India (ECI) for holding impartial and spectacular polls and praised the efforts of officials who managed a massive voter list of 89 lakh people, which was revised after delimitation. "This included 4,27,000 first-time voters. The administration ensured seamless operations across 11,838 polling stations, and not a single instance of repolling was recorded," he said.

The LG also congratulated Jammu and Kashmir for receiving the "Best Performing State/UT Award" from the ECI. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of officers and the people of J&K who participated in the democratic process in record numbers," he said.

LG Sinha paid rich tributes to the framers of the Constitution who empowered the Commission to hold free and fair elections. "The ECI has played a pivotal role in establishing democracy in India, which is proudly known as the 'mother of democracy.' Its ability to declare results on the same day as counting is unparalleled," he noted.

LG Sinha highlighted that India's election model has become a global benchmark, with countries from both the Global North and South learning from its practices. "The ECI, which has issued 97 crore voter ID cards, continues to uphold democratic values across the country, ensuring smooth and credible elections," he said.

National Voters' Day, he said, holds immense significance in India's democratic journey. "It's a day to celebrate the power of the vote, which empowers every citizen and strengthens the foundation of our democracy," LG Sinha added

CS administers

faith on democracy and strive for the independent, impartial and peaceful election and will cast their votes fearlessly irrespective of religion, community

and language.

This Year's Theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure" is similar to last year. It highlights the significance of voters to participate in the electoral process independently without any fear or favour on the basis of religion, race or language.

Moreover, 25th January is the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI) which came into existence in 1950 and 2025 marks the 75th year of its existence. This day was first celebrated in 2011 to encourage young voters to take part in the electoral process

Trial run completed

during the winter season with feature advanced technologies to ensure comfort, safety, and reliability," an official said.

Chief Area Manager of Srinagar Northern Railways, Saqib Yousuf, said the Prime Minister's dream of connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country has come true. Vande Bharat train has reached the Kashmir valley.

"This train has been designed in such a way that it can run even in mountainous and snowy conditions," he said, adding, "eating ducts have been installed in the toilets. Silicon heating tabs have been installed in the pipes and tanks so that the water does not freeze. This is a very modern train."

Committed to

"We are committed to fast paced and sustained development with regular monitoring for ensuring quality works. This has been done in accordance with the local needs and area specific development ", he maintained.

Responding to public demands, the Deputy CM announced the provision of 4 lane roads to Budgam. He also directed for conducting a survey of road from DC office to Humhama besides preparation of DPR for 4 lane widening of road from DC office to New bus Adda in phase -1.

Advisor to Chief Minister, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted various developmental initiatives undertaken by the present government since its formation. He said that a holistic developmental agenda is underway which would ensure transformation of Jammu and Kashmir.

MP Aga Ruhallah also enumerated various initiatives undertaken and assured for furthering the developmental agenda of the present dispensation.

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a comprehensive tour of district and inspected several development works as well.

While interacting with scores of deputations, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that the issues projected by them would be redressed within the shortest possible time.

NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my Vehicle (Auto) bearing number JK15B 7504. Now i want to apply for the duplicate of the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of ARTO Bandipora within seven days from the day of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Sajid Manzoor Wani

Manzoor Wani

R/O Ward-06 Bandipora

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Saba Manzoor to Sabha Manzoor. In future I will be known as Sabha Manzoor. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport office, Srinagar within a period of 7 days. After that days no objection will be accepted.

Arise Hyundai Launches Hyundai CRETA Electric in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Arise Hyundai has launched the Creta Electric at Tengpora Bypass Srinagar. The electric SUV has been introduced

to Indian customers.

Carrying forward the name of the brand's most popular model in the market, it is also the most



at a startling introductory price of Rs 17.99 lakh only.

Hyundai CRETA Electric promises a paradigm shift in the electric SUV segment with its bold design, cutting-edge technology, electrifying performance, and all-around safety. The Undisputed, Ultimate CRETA electric is a testament to HML's commitment to offering technologically advanced products

affordable electric vehicle in the brand's current lineup.

Various dignitaries were present on the unveiling ceremony from Hyundai Motor India Limited including Mr. Bedabrata Sharma Bordoilo (Zonal Business Head), Mr. YB Hwang (Zonal Business Coordinator), Mr. Sujit Kumar (Regional Business Head), Mr. Puneet Mehta (Area Sales Head), Mr. Akshay Jamwal (Territory Sales

Manager)

Adding to the occasion Directors of Sheyrub Agencies Mr. Mohammad Ismaiel Beigh, Mr. Altaf Beigh, Mr. Shakeel Beigh were present during the unveiling ceremony.

Speaking at the launch of Hyundai CRETA Electric, Mr. Omar Beigh, Managing Director, Arise Hyundai said, "CRETA Electric marks a defining moment in HML's journey of electrification and reflects our commitment to the government's 'Make in India' vision, as it is our first indigenous EV SUV in India.

With over a decade of global expertise in electric mobility, Hyundai Motor Company has established itself as a pioneer in EV innovation. Now, the same innovations and expertise are being brought to India, enhancing our country's EV landscape. Hyundai CRETA Electric is a testament to our vision of 'Progress for Humanity' and Hyundai's commitment to making India a global hub for advanced mobility solutions.

Madrasatul-Banat

Darul-Uloom Raheemiyyah Bandipora

Offers a Timeless Opportunity

for Everlasting Charity (Sadaqah Jariyah)

By the immense grace of Almighty Allah, the construction of the "Madrasatul-Banat" is advancing steadily, with the final floor nearing completion. The important stage was the construction of roof. According to the engineers, the total cost for labour and material was estimated at around 40 lakh rupees. Now, it is near completion **Alhamdulillah**.

The roof of a building acts as a cover and shade to the entire work. So, arranging cover and shade for this institution of girls will be a means of receiving mercy and shade from Allah Almighty, **Insha Allah**.

In the past, many fortunate and generous individuals have seized the opportunity to contribute to this noble cause, either by funding the construction of rooms or by sharing in the expenses.

Now, once again, Allah Ta'ala offers us this blessed opportunity to participate in this virtuous work, allowing us to secure Sadaqah Jariyah for ourselves, our parents, and our loved ones. We urge you to encourage the women in your families to contribute, as this madrasah is dedicated solely to the education of women. May Allah bless and accept our efforts. Aameen!

To take part in this righteous endeavour, donations can be made to the designated account for Madrasatul-Banat:

ACC NO.: 072701010000200
JK BANK BRANCH NISHAT PARK BANDIPORA KASHMIR
IFSC CODE: JAKAONIPARK

Note/Request: After depositing your contribution into the bank account, kindly send a screenshot or notify us via WhatsApp message or phone call to 9419089250 or 8899101091. Please also provide your name and address to facilitate the issuance of a receipt.

Your well wisher:

Maulana Muhammad Rahmatullah Kashmiri
Nazim, Darul Uloom Raheemiyyah Bandipora, Kashmir

RKFC to lock horns with Dempo SC Goa in Sunday's I-League match



SRINAGAR: After delivering an excellent performance against Sporting Club Bengaluru in their previous game, Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) is set to face Dempo Sports Club Goa in an I-League match on Sunday (January 26) at the TRC Ground, Srinagar.

The match is scheduled to start at 2 PM, with adequate arrangements made by the team management, police, and other administrative departments.

Speaking at a pre-match press conference on Saturday, RKFC head coach Ishfaq Ahmad acknowledged Dempo Sports Club's strong record in away games. "They have a good side. We are well-prepared to face them in Sunday's match and are hopeful for a favorable result," he said.

Reflecting on the team's recent performances, Ishfaq stated the importance of maintaining consistency.

Commenting on the addition of Gnohere Krizo to the squad, he said, "Krizo's signing is a significant boost for the team."

The RKFC head coach also expressed hope that more football grounds like the TRC Ground would be developed to allow young players to showcase their skills.

RKFC owner Arshad Shawl has urged local fans to come out in large numbers to support the team. "The presence of our fans motivates the players, and we hope for a strong turnout on Sunday," he said.

Meanwhile, Dempo Sports Club Goa head coach Samir Naik and player Ashish Sibi also addressed the media, stating that playing against RKFC on their home ground would be a challenging task.

RKFC is the only I-League club representing Jammu and Kashmir, with a squad that includes players from across India, including local talent from Kashmir, as well as international players.

Warner 'still the best by a country mile' as he leads Thunder to BBL final

In unpacking how Sydney Thunder transformed from BBL laughing stock to finals force, it is impossible to overstate the influence of the "ball of energy" that is David Warner.

Thunder didn't just collect the wooden spoon in the previous season, they snatched it with eagle-like precision in a miserable one-win campaign.

On Monday night, they tackle Hobart Hurricanes with a golden chance to add to the club's one title that was won by



Jacques Kallis, Shane Watson and Michael Hussey in 2016.

Warner was on Thunder's books the past two seasons, memorably arriving for an SCG derby via helicopter after his brother's wedding in the Hunter Valley, but a bit-part player because of national-team commitments. This summer, the 38-year-old has been the face of the franchise and the BBL.

Warner has captained Thunder, after Cricket Australia overturned his leadership ban emanating from the ball-tampering scandal, scored a league-best 357 runs and looked a man on a mission at every turn.

"He puts bums on seats and I'm convinced he is still the best player in the tournament by a country mile," Thunder star Sam Billings said. "This is coming from an Englishman, but you can see why he's been one of the best players in the last 15 years in this format. He is incredible."

"Unbelievable talent. But the way he thinks about the game as well. And his attitude with getting in the game and that energy, it's infectious ... everyone who steps out onto the field with him, you're a foot taller."

The return of Billings, who produced a match-winning knock in Friday night's derby Challenger final, and other roster rejigs from new general manager Trent Copeland have helped fuel the turnaround.

But Warner's passion and words of wisdom, and the knock-on effects throughout Thunder's squad, have been profound during an injury crisis.

Speaking at a pre-match press conference on Saturday, RKFC head coach Ishfaq Ahmad acknowledged Dempo Sports Club's strong record in away games. "They have a good side. We are well-prepared to face them in Sunday's match and are hopeful for a favorable result," he said.



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

