

Kashmir Convener



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CM Omar meets Finance Minister Sitharaman

● Seeks support for additional central assistance and multi-lateral funding

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, today met Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi to discuss key financial matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking to microblogging site X, Nirmala Sitharaman's office shared: "Shri Omar Abdullah (@OmarAbdullah), Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, calls on Smt @nsitharaman." Chief Minister Omar Abdullah shared on Instagram- "Called on Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, smt.@nsitharaman ji. Our discussion centred around crucial economic matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir. I passionately advocated for much-needed support from the Union Finance Ministry for the region."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed optimism that collaborative efforts with the central government would enhance financial stability and promote



sustainable development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister sought support of the Union Finance Minister to avail the multi-lateral funding for development of new Tourism destinations in Jammu & Kashmir, aimed to decongest the existing

locations and to create well-planned and world-class infrastructure at these new identified locations. CM thanked Ministry of Finance for approving the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project

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CM's meetings in New Delhi for welfare of J&K: Advisor Wani

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani on Friday said that the newly elected government is putting every effort to make sure that the promises done with the people are fulfilled and that the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah holding back to back meetings in New Delhi are aimed at the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Chief Minister has met several people in New Delhi including the Finance Minister during which threadbare discussions were made for the wellbeing of J&K. No stone will be left unturned to fulfill the promises done with the people,"

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'Science' & 'Sanskar' Are Equally Important For Balanced Growth Of Humanity: LG



KC NEWS NETWORK

HARIDWAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said 'Science' & 'Sanskar', are equally important for balanced growth of humanity. Vedas taught us about the science, math, medicine and science ensured new inventions, innovations and findings, serving the cause of humanity.

The Lieutenant Governor made these remarks while addressing the 'All India Vedic Conference-2024' at Haridwar, Uttarakhand. The event was also graced by Param Pujya Mahamandeshwar Acharya Shri Swami

Vishveshvaranand Giri Ji Maharaj. In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the need to create fine balance between material advancement and developing a compassionate society, kind and noble human being. He emphasised the role of scientists and spiritualists in achieving the said goal. He said: "Spiritual odyssey lit our path in the process of self-realization while scientific quest gave us new technologies, health, food, means of communication, travel, quality of life and it ensured welfare of humankind".

>>>SEE ON P-7

Kharge Declares Article 370 Dead



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major policy shift that could stir controversy within the INDIA alliance, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge declared the issue of Article 370 as a "closed chapter" following its abrogation in Parliament.

Speaking at a press conference, Kharge sharply criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah

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Sajad Lone Demands Clarification from NC

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Sajad Lone, People's Conference President on Friday, has called on the National Conference (NC) to provide clarity regarding its stance on Article 370.

Lone's statement comes in the wake of remarks made by Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who recently clarified that his party has never discussed the restoration of Article 370, which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Lone expressed concern over the lack of transparency from the NC on this critical issue, questioning whether the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve any clarification from the party. He said, "Now even

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My aim has always been to protect interests of tribals: LG Sinha



KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI/ JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today joined the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations at Convention Centre Jammu.

Addressing the UT-level function through virtual mode, the Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to iconic freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda and recalled his contribution to the freedom movement and nation-building. He said the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas is dedicated to honour the tribal icon and celebrate the rich culture and glorious history of tribal communities.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the historic steps taken by the J&K Government in the past 4 years, under guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to change the lives of tribal communities.

"He said the IEC Campaign of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan will also ensure the effective implementation of the scheme in Jammu Kashmir which will help in saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, livelihood and ensure holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities."

He reiterated the commitment of the government to safeguard the rights of the tribal communities, promote and preserve their cultural & linguistic heritage and provide equal opportunities across the sectors.

"My aim has always been to protect the interests of tribals and improve welfare of women and youth from the community," the Lt Governor said. For the first time, the welfare of tribal communities, who were excluded from mainstream of development

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Need To Achieve The Goal Of Making Our Universities World Class: Sakeena Masood

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Masood today said "Our government is committed to enhance the quality of higher education and research in Universities of J&K."

"We all need to work in tandem to achieve the goal of making our Universities world class", she said while chairing a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat here in which she conducted comprehensive review of the performance and functioning of Universities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Higher Prof. Jawaid Iqbal; Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar,



Education, Dr. Rashmi Singh; Vice Chancellor Kashmir University, Prof. Nilofer Khan; Vice Chancellor, Jammu University, Prof. Umesh Rai; Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Ramshoo; Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Pragati Kumar; Vice Chancellor, BGSBU,

Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Vice Chancellor Cluster University Jammu, Prof. K.S Chandrashekar; Special Secretary Higher Education, Director Finance Higher Education, Director Planning Higher Education,

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Jammu to Get Separate Railway Division



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that Jammu will soon have a dedicated railway division, with the railway ministry approving

the proposal. In a series of posts on X, Singh stated, "Heartening news for #Jammu... Railways to set up exclusive Division Headquarter at Jammu." He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is personally overseeing the progress of railway infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. Singh emphasized Modi's dedication to strengthening Jammu's railway facilities, which will become an important junction when the Kashmir Valley connects with the rest of India by rail for the first time. "Modi is keen to reinforce the railway facility and railway administrative structure in Jammu,"

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MeT Predicts Dry Weather Till Nov 23

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: After the two-day improvement, the Valley's higher



reaches including the famous ski-resort—Gulmarg have once again witnessed a fresh snowfall, bringing down the mercury further across

Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. The details gathered by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveals that the snowfall

was witnessed at multiple places today including Gulmarg phase-2, upper areas of Kupwara, Zojila and Razdan Top.

It was learnt that Razdan Top recorded a snowfall of three inches till this evening.

Jammu and Kashmir is presently grappling with the serious issue of acute water scarcity amidst the decline in the water level in river Jhelum and other streams, but the situation is getting further worse as there is no major wet spell in sight which could have helped to fill the reservoirs again. The details accessed indicates that J&K after witnessing a deficit rainfall of 74% in the month of October, is once again leading to the another deficiency in this month—November as till the mid of this month, there is a shortage of 67% precipitation across the Union Territory during the present season, which began on October 01, 2024.

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Tragic road accidents spark urgent calls for stricter safety measures, parental accountability

● CM Omar for creating road sense, Mirwaiz stresses parental vigilance

Jahangir Sofi

SRINAGAR: The recent fatal road accidents in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir have sparked urgent calls for stricter road safety measures, heightened parental accountability and collective community action.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), expressed grief over the tragic road accident that claimed the lives of two young boys. In a social media post on X, Abdullah extended his condolences to the bereaved families, praying



for the departed souls. "My heart goes out to the families of the boys killed in this tragic accident. May Allah grant them place in Jannat,"

Abdullah tweeted, highlighting the irreversible loss suffered by the families.

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Tengpora horrific accident emerges as 'road race between 2 Thar cars'

Jahangir Sofi

SRINAGAR: A shocking disclosure has come to the fore regarding the Tengpora Bypass horrific road accident that claimed the lives of two minors. The City Traffic Police have revealed that the incident involved a high-speed illegal road race between two (Thar) vehicles. A top traffic police official part

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PM Modi ‘dividing’ society, will have no association with those allied with BJP: Sharad Pawar

PUNE: Senior opposition leader Sharad Pawar on Friday accused Narendra Modi of “dividing” the society as he slammed the Prime Minister’s campaign speeches and stressed that he will have no association with those allied with the BJP, when asked about the possibility of a post-poll reunion with his estranged nephew Ajit Pawar.

In an interview with PTI, Pawar, considered the architect of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra, said the ruling Mahayuti has been using a “tremendous amount of monitory strength”, including through cash transfer schemes, to influence the polls following its poor show in the state in the Lok Sabha polls.

But people will reject them, he said. The four-term former Maharashtra chief minister and ex-Union minister was blistering in his criticism of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, whose “batengain to katengain” slogan



has drawn criticism from even some BJP leaders and allies like Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

The Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president said, “He (Adityanath) is known for these communal expressions. Why give him importance? I don’t want to utter even one sentence about him. These

are the people who wear saffron clothes and perpetrate communalism. They are doing a disservice to the nation.”

Asked about Modi’s extensive campaign in which he accused the opposition of dividing the society on caste lines and sought people’s unity in favour of the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena-

Nationalist Congress Party alliance, Sharad Pawar hit back.

“He is the prime minister. He is saying certain things. What he says about our associates (allies) is very unfair. He himself is dividing the society. You can see his speeches over the past few days and the issues that he is raising for his political interests,” he said.

Pawar said he has witnessed a great amount of “unrest” among people during his extensive campaign.

The prime minister has accused the Congress-Shiv Sena (UBT)-NCP (SP) alliance of seeking to divide society and pursuing appeasement politics, and has called for unity with his call for “ek hain to safe hain”.

The Congress and former BJP ally the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) have been particularly at the receiving end of his withering criticism.

Spearheading the MVA campaign and also making determined efforts

Ehsaas Foundation Extends Aid To Kashmiri Pandit Families After Devastating Fire



SRINAGAR: In the quiet villages of Purkhoo and Mishriwala, tragedy awaited them as the gigantic fire razed several homes of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

To those families, who surveyed the smoldering remains and the charred remains of their homes, there was hope when it appeared through the Ehsaas Foundation-a charity dedicated to supporting everyone who faced crisis.

On hearing the news, members of the foundation, such as Malik Zahoor, Faheem Reshi, Tahir Peerzada, Burhan Nazir, Farash, Umer, and Harris Hameed, got into action to rush assistance to the families. Their action went beyond mere materialistic relief; it was a show of brotherliness-a renewed remembrance of a common bond that ties humankind together in turmoil.

The Ehsaas Foundation volunteers arrived quickly, bringing everything from food to clothing and temporary shelters. But perhaps more momentous than the material support was the emotional respite they could offer. “We knew we needed to be here,” says Malik Zahoor, representing the team, “not just for material needs but for solidarity with our Kashmiri Pandit brothers, who have lost so much. This is a time of unity.”

This moving response struck a chord in the community that was ravaged. As one homeowner, Rajesh Koul, whose house caught fire said, “We felt lost and forgotten, but these young men coming to our aid restored our faith. They reminded us we are not alone.”

The Ehsaas Foundation, however, is a reflection of the extent of commitment much beyond social work; it resembles the spirit of Kashmiri brotherhood. Each volunteer formed an important part of the entire exercise whereby every attempt was done to

ensure that the instant needs were met with people whose homes and livelihoods were ravaged. Faheem Reshi particularly noted how personal this mission was for him: “This isn’t just about delivering aid; it’s about strengthening the bonds of our community, especially during times of crisis.”

Their outreach, in such a historical backdrop to the communal fabric of Kashmir, where decades of conflict have strained the relations between communities, is exceptionally meaningful as it presents initiatives which act as bridges to further strengthen the relationships and the empathetic ambience between the communities.

It has dealt with all immediate needs, but the far-reaching effects of this disaster will only be solved after long-term struggle. The Ehsaas Foundation is hopeful that it can continue to offer them support - not in a purely materialistic sense but by acting as a platform for them to rebuild their lives. Volunteers are consulting the local leaders in order to help these families attain stability and, slowly, normalcy.

For the house of hope, the future holds promise. It feels that it would inspire more organizations and individuals to raise their hands and come forward. The idea can start from one act of kindness and creates an impact which stirs up others into a crowd of solidarity. “We encourage others to come forward,” said Tahir Peerzada. “The spirit of brotherhood does not end there; it begins anew every time we decide to help each other.”

But in a paradox, the Ehsaas Foundation’s response to Purkhoo and Mishriwala fire-the authenticity of people’s unity is something that has been intact since times immemorial according to Burhan Nazir. It is more than charity; it is a way to show that, despite our differences, we are one community that stands together in times of need.

PM Modi wants to destroy constitution, alleges Rahul Gandhi

Bermo (Jharkhand: Congress this, it has contents. He says Rahul



leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of seeking to destroy the Constitution which is the “soul of the country”.

Addressing a poll rally at Jharkhand’s Bermo in Bokaro district, Gandhi also alleged that Modi works for the welfare of billionaires and not the poor.

“The Constitution is the soul of the country. Prime Minister Modi says it is blank inside. Look at

shows a red book; its content is important and not the colour,” he said, displaying a copy of the constitution. The BJP has been accusing the Congress leader of displaying a “fake” copy of the constitution with blank pages at an event in Maharashtra recently. “PM Modi wants to destroy the constitution, but no power can do it,” Gandhi said at the rally. He alleged that Modi worked for the welfare of billionaires in the

country and privatised institutions, colleges, industries, hospitals and ports.

“He handed over the country’s wealth to 25 capitalists. PM Modi waived Rs 16 lakh crore of debt of industrialists but did not do anything for the poor people, farmers and Dalits,” Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha said.

PM Modi rendered the country’s youths unemployed through GST and demonetisation, he alleged.

The Congress, if voted to power, will ensure caste census and removal of the 50 per cent cap on the reservation, Gandhi said.

“If we are voted to power in Jharkhand, we will raise the reservation of STs to 28 per cent from the present 26 per cent, SCs to 12 per cent from the 10 per cent at present and OBCs to 27 per cent from the existing 14 per cent,” he claimed.

MHA Approves First All-Women Battalion In CISF

CHANDIGARH: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the establishment of the first all-women battalion of CISF, aimed at enhancing women’s role in the central forces.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been a preferred choice for women who wish to serve the nation, constituting over seven per cent of the force at present.

The addition of a “Mahila Battalion” would encourage more aspiring young women across the country to join the force and serve the nation, a CISF official said on Friday. It will give a new identity to women in CISF. The CISF headquarters has started preparations for the early recruitment, training and selection of locations for the headquarters of the new Battalion.

BJP using money garnered from paper leaks to fund Jharkhand poll campaign, alleges Soren

RANCHI: Taking a dig at the central

investigative agencies, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday claimed that they were busy probing incidents like “chicken theft” while cases like the examination paper leaks in UP remain untouched at the behest of the BJP.

Soren alleged that the BJP was behind the paper leaks in the states it ruled, and the money it garnered from there was being used to fund its poll campaigns.

“The pomp and show that you are seeing from BJP in Jharkhand elections is all due to the money from paper leaks... ED, CBI, NIA which have started investigating even chicken theft cases these days did not probe paper leaks because it is the BJP that leaks these and with that money, it buys MLAs and MPs post elections,” Soren alleged in a post on X. “Exam papers were leaked in all BJP-

ruled states... MP Vyapam scam claimed several lives. In Jharkhand, we made tough law post one paper leak but BJP went to Raj Bhavan terming it a black law,” he alleged.

Soren claimed that had he not been “harassed” by the ED and CBI in “false” cases, he would have created several new posts in the government and ensured large-scale recruitments.

GRAP-III Restrictions In Delhi As Air Quality Remains ‘Severe’ For Third Consecutive Day

NEW DELHI: Delhi woke up to GRAP Stage III restrictions on Friday, as the city’s air quality remained in the “severe” category for the third consecutive day, prompting strict measures to curb pollution levels.

According to the Sameer aap , the Air Quality Index at 9 am was recorded in the ‘severe’ category (400 to 500), with a reading

of 411. The CAQM imposed GRAP Stage III as the national capital recorded the worst pollution levels in the country, with the air quality remaining in the “severe” category for two consecutive days. Prior to entering the “severe” category, Delhi’s air quality had been in the “very poor” range for 14 consecutive days.

It directed the authorities in Delhi-NCR to invoke curbs under stage III of the anti-pollution plan with immediate effect. The GRAP for Delhi-NCR is divided into four stages of air quality – Stage 1 for “poor” Air Quality Index (AQI) ranging between 201 and 300, Stage 2 for “very poor” AQI of 301-400, Stage 3 for “severe” AQI of 401-450 and Stage 4 for “severe plus” AQI more than 450.

SC Seeks Reasons For Denying Maternity Leave To Woman If Adopted Child Aged Above 3-Month

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to explain the rationale behind a provision which entitles only those women, who adopt a child below the age of three months, to seek maternity leave benefits.

The apex court was hearing a plea challenging the constitutional validity of a provision of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 which entitles only those women who are adopting a child below the age of three months to seek benefits of maternity leave for a period of 12 weeks.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Pankaj Mishra said the case put up by the petitioner in public interest prima facie was that the provision was a social welfare legislation and there was

no reasonable classification when it restricted the age of infant up to three months.

It said the Centre has filed its reply justifying the prescription of the age of three months but

particularly, as to what is the rationale in saying that it is only that woman who adopts a child below the age of three months would be entitled to seek maternity leave benefits otherwise not,”

the bench said. It said the reply be filed within three weeks.

The bench said a copy of the reply to be filed be served to the counsel for the petitioner well in advance and rejoinder, if any, be filed within a week thereafter.

It posted the matter for final disposal on December 17.

In October 2021, the apex court had sought response from the Centre on the plea which claimed section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 was discriminatory and arbitrary.



“In other words, if a woman adopts a child above the age of three months, she will not be entitled to any such maternity leave benefit as provided under the Amendment Act,” the bench noted in its November 12 order.

during the course of hearing, many issues have cropped up which require consideration.

“In such circumstances, we expect the Union of India to file a further reply on the issue discussed today, more

India, Philippines release joint logo to mark 75 years of diplomatic ties

The joint logo was unveiled here on Wednesday by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Ambassador of the Philippines Josef F. Ignacio, in the presence of Undersecretary (Vice-Minister) of Tourism



of the Republic of the Philippines, Maria Rica C. Bueno.

The joint logo symbolizes the enduring friendship, cultural bonds and shared values between the two countries, a statement said.

India and the Philippines share warm and friendly relations, which have provided a firm basis to our expanding bilateral co-operation ranging from political exchanges, trade and investment, defence and security, healthcare and medicine, agriculture, development partnership, engagement in new technologies to tourism, culture and

PM Paying ‘Lip Service’ To Adivasis’ Cause, Govt Denying Them Justice: Cong

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday accused the Centre of going “full throttle” on attempts to deny Adivasis justice and said the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) was a “full mockery” of the Forest Rights Act, illustrating the government’s hypocrisy.

The Opposition party also claimed that DAJGUA, in “typical Manuvadi fashion”, only sees these communities as forest-dwelling ‘anvasis’ who are ‘labhaartis’ (beneficiaries), rather than political and economic actors in their own right.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said today is the 150th birth anniversary of ‘Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda’, one of the greatest sons of India and a fierce advocate of self-governance and social justice.

“The non-biological PM is in Jamui, Bihar paying lip service to the cause of the Adivasis on this occasion, even as his Government goes full throttle on attempts to deny Adivasis justice,” Ramesh alleged



in a statement.

“The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) – named after Bhagwan Birsa Munda, but a full mockery of the Forest Rights Act-illustrates this hypocrisy,” he said.

Ramesh said the Forest Rights Act (FRA 2006) passed by the Manmohan Singh’s government was a revolutionary law and it transferred power and authority over forests from the forest department to the gram sabha.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISIONREGAL LANE LAL CHOWK SRINAGAR

Email: - eerrwdsmc@gmail.com

SHORT TERM

NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER No. 14of 2024-2025

Dated: 11.11.2024

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Commission, e-tenders are invited on a percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned works.

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	E/ Money (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc	Class of contractor	Time of Completion	Head of Account	TS Order No	Date of TS
01.	Construction and upgradation of lane and drain near house of Manzoor Ah,ad Dar Muhammad Maqbool Dar Abdul Ahad. Dar Ali Muhammad Dar and others at Dar Mohalla Soura Sgr	4.87	9740	200	DEE	4 WEEKS	Internal Resources	233	08.11.2024

Position of AAA: Accorded, Technical Sanction: Accorded
The NlEt consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the date schedule given below:-

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1.	Date of publication of e-portal	11.11.2024
2.	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NlEt	11.11.2024 from 04:00 PM
3.	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	11.11.2024 from 05:00 PM
4.	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	20.11.2024 at 06:00 PM
5.	Date of Bid opening	21.11.2024 at 11:00 AM
6.	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including Bid Security (CDR/FDR), Tender document fee.	22.11.2024 up to 04:00 PM

Note: - (The Date of EMD/Challan must be from the date of start of bid upto Bid Submission End date, TERMS AND CONDITIONS
1. The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained.
2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned and Division name Viz RRRWD) and Earnest Money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F./A/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-
Name of the Bank: - Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: - Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account No: - 0216010200000007
IFSC code: - JAKA0GARDEN
MICR CODE: 190051008
No: SMC/EERRWD/ 2096-2100
Dated:- 14-11-2024

Sd/-Executive Engineer

Right River Works Division

Srinagar Municipal Corporation

DIPK-NB-2374/24

Encroached Roads, Choked Footpaths Worsen Woes for Bandipora Commuters, Pedestrian

SHEEBA HAJI

BANDIPORA: Footpaths in key areas of Bandipora Market have been overtaken by street vendors, creating traffic and safety issues for the locals while Municipal Council allow vendors to occupy roads around Gulshan Chowk adding to the miseries of the people.

The vendors, selling everything from food items to fruits, have left little room for pedestrians, making it difficult for people to walk safely through these busy areas while equally making the commute difficult for those travelling in cars and public transport.

"Few Years ago the District administration allocated a space for vendors in the Old Bus Stand and marked their spaces also while the Municipal Council Bandipora (MCB) registered them. However, the number of vendors increased again manifold and MCB is charging them 800 per month and giving them impunity to erect their stall anywhere," said Mohammad Abdullah, a resident of Bandipora told Kashmir Convener.

"Walking on the streets has become a challenge because of the vendors occupying the footpaths while lack of parking spaces added to the miseries. "It's not just inconvenient, it's also a safety risk for



pedestrians," locals added.

In heavily trafficked spots like Gulshan Chowk and Khadim Market, the situation is particularly dire.

With vendors occupying onto the footpaths, and lack of civic sense in parking cars, pedestrians are forced to walk on the roads, often in close proximity to moving vehicles, which increases the risk of accidents.

Locals said the frequent stops of Matadors in the main Market has also added to the miseries of the people. "From New Bus Stand Nusu upto Nowpora Chowk, Matadors stopover at a dozen locations adding more mess to the traffic".

"It takes far too long to get anywhere because of the congestion caused by these vendors and illegal and hazardous car parking," one local fumed.

Locals said the many shopkeepers have also added to the misery of the people by occupying footpaths in Main market and Khadim Market that

has also hindered the traffic and pedestrian movement.

"Footpaths are meant for walking, not for storing goods. In places like Gulshan Chowk or Khadim market. "There's no space left to walk. It's frustrating, and something needs to be done," said a student, urging authorities to take action".

Local resident Tanveer Ahmad echoed similar concerns, pointing out that shopkeepers also contribute to the problem by placing their goods outside.

"Sidewalks are completely blocked in many areas, leaving people with no choice but to walk on the road," he said.

Despite repeated attempts to contact the Executive Officer of the Municipal Committee Bandipora, no response has been received. Kashmir Convener Will Update Story in digital format whenever MCB responds.

Residents are now calling for stricter enforcement and fines to ensure footpaths and roads are cleared, allowing pedestrians and traffic to move freely and safely.

JKASW organises cultural exchange programme at Hajin

GOWHAR MAQBOOL

HAJIN: The Jammu and Kashmir association of social workers (JKASW) on Friday organised a cultural exchange program at Town Hall MC Hajin.

Around 200 adolescent girls and their parents from different villages of Hajin block and intervention areas of JKASW's took an active part in the event.



JKASW works for providing safe spaces for adolescents girls through community based adolescent girls resource centres, who belong to marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

Its outreach programs are designed to provide meaningful interaction and help those adolescent girls who need it most.

The event was designed and hosted to provide an opportunity for adolescent girls to display their hidden talents.

The highlight of the event was adolescent girls showcased their talents through skits, Ladisha, songs, riddles, Mushaira and Pahadi songs, and cultural activities highlighting adolescent specific issues, views, expressions, opinions, dreams and triumphs.

Project Manager Dr.Kulsum Bhat on the occasion stressed on preserving and promoting cultural traditions and to revive our forgotten rich culture.

Children's Day: Indian Army Organises Picnic for Pine Wood School Students

RAJOURI: The Indian Army organized a special Children's Day picnic for students of Pine Wood School, Sabra, at Thandikassi in Rajouri.

An Official Spokesperson said the event, held to honor the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, provided a day of fun, learning, and interaction in the picturesque setting of Sabra.

Students participated in outdoor games, sports, and engaging activities, fostering a sense of teamwork and discipline. They also had the

unique opportunity to interact with Army personnel, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect.

Teachers and students expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for making Children's Day memorable. The initiative not only celebrated the spirit of childhood but also reinforced the values of unity and community.

The picnic highlighted the Army's ongoing efforts to support the well-being and happiness of the younger generation, leaving the students with lasting memories of joy and learning.

Indian Army Launches Volleyball Coaching For Girls in Pir Panjal

JAMMU: The Indian Army has launched a volleyball coaching program for girls, that according to the officials have produced remarkable results.

Defence Spokesperson in Jammu said this initiative aims to promote sports, build confidence, and foster leadership skills among young girls



from Rajouri and Poonch.

The program, which began on August 29, 2024, involved 30 enthusiastic participants who underwent rigorous training under experienced coaches from J&K sports authorities and physiotherapists. The curriculum focused on volleyball fundamentals, game strategies, and physical fitness.

Out of the initial batch, 19 girls represented their zone at district-level tournaments across three age categories—U-19, U-17, and U-14. Following this, 15 girls qualified for Jammu Division-level trials, and eight were selected to represent Jammu Division at the state (UT) level.

The program's success culminated in the selection of seven girls to represent Jammu and Kashmir at national-level volleyball tournaments. This includes three girls in the U-19 category, one in U-17, and three in U-14.

Beyond sports, the initiative is fostering a cultural shift in societal attitudes toward women and sports in the region. By empowering these girls, the Indian Army has not only enhanced their athletic potential but also equipped them with essential life skills.

This volleyball coaching program underscores the Army's commitment to community development and gender equality, showcasing the transformative power of sports in driving social change in underdeveloped areas.

DC Bandipora kick-starts Inter-district UT level Rugby Competitions at S.K. Stadium Bandipora

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Harmeet Singh



Mehta on Friday kick-started the Inter-district UT Level Rugby Competitions at SK Stadium Bandipora organized by department of Youth Services and Sports Bandipora.

Athletes from seven districts of J&K UT, including Jammu, Baramulla, Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, Kupwara, and Bandipora, are participating in the competition.

A total of 480 players are taking part including 216 girls and 264 boys representing their respective districts.

The event features 40 teams across all three categories, underscoring the presence of a broad and skilled bunch of competitors within the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC expressed great pleasure in noting that the sports infrastructure in Bandipora district has been developed to such an extent that it is now capable of hosting the UT-level championship.

He said that further efforts are needed for infrastructure development and assured full support from the district administration.

While interacting with the players, M.A Qadri expressed satisfaction with the youth of Bandipora excelling in sports, noting that they have demonstrated their talent at various UT, national, and even international platforms.

"Drivers and passengers are requested to stay updated by contacting the district control room or PCR Bandipora at 9596767430 or 7006526985," he said—(KNO)



Bandipora-Gurez road closed after fresh snowfall at Razdan Top

BANDIPORA: Bandipora-Gurez road has been temporarily closed due to fresh snowfall at Razdan Top, officials said on Friday.

An official said that due to adverse weather conditions, drivers and passengers have been advised to avoid traveling on the road.

He said that snowfall began on Razdan Top early this morning, and in order to ensure safety of travellers the road has been temporarily closed.

Distt. Admin B'la Celebrates Janjati Gaurav Diwas at Uri

BARAMULLA: The District Administration of Baramulla today celebrated Janjati Gaurav Diwas with great enthusiasm to honor the 150th birth anniversary of the revered tribal



leader and freedom fighter, Birs Munda in a mega event organized at Government Degree College Uri.

The mega event also saw the launch of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) campaign which aims to fill gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 intervention schemes implemented by 17 Central Ministries and the Departments.

The proceedings of the event were presided by the Member Legislative Assembly from Uri Constituency, Sajad Shafi and the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga

Sherpa. The event also saw the participation of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Uri, Javed Ahmad Rather, senior officers from various departments and hundreds of local residents.

On the occasion, stalls were set up by various departments, including Health, Education, ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services), Agriculture, and others. These stalls provided comprehensive information to the attendees DAJGUA through audio-visuals, Pamphlets and hoardings and other means of demonstration.

The chief guests, officers, and local community members jointly participated in the national celebration of Janjati Gaurav Diwas through a virtual mode and listened to the Prime Minister about the scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajad Shafi paid tribute to Birs Munda, emphasizing his remarkable contributions to India's freedom

struggle and his enduring legacy as a symbol of tribal empowerment. He affirmed the government's commitment to the holistic development of the tribal community.

The DC highlighted the objective of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan as a vital initiative for the economic empowerment of tribal areas and communities. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to taking every possible measure to achieve this goal.

The DC further emphasized the need to improve basic infrastructure, nutrition, and healthcare in tribal areas. He stated that through the visionary DAJGUA scheme, efforts would be made wholeheartedly to enhance these essential services and make them accessible to the tribal population.

Meanwhile, the DC encouraged the local population to take advantage of the numerous schemes provided by the Government of India specifically for the tribal community, urging everyone to explore and utilize these opportunities for their own benefit.

Later, the MLA Uri and the DC distributed ST certificates, land passbooks, sanction letters, engagement orders to anganwadi helpers, abha cards and other certificates among the eligible beneficiaries.

Bandipora Admin Launches Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora on Friday organized a mega launch ceremony of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan to mark the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birs Munda, a revered tribal leader and freedom fighter.



The programme, aimed at promoting the socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities, was attended by Chairman District Development Council Ab Gani Bhat, MLA Bandipora Nizam u Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, SSP Harmeet Singh, Vice Chairperson District Development Council, Kousar Shafiq, DDC Members, district officers from various departments, students, and a large gathering of the general public.

The launch ceremony commenced with a welcome address by ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, who outlined the objectives of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, focused on addressing critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihoods for tribal communities.

In his address, MLA Nizam u Din Bhat appreciated the efforts of the District Administration for organizing such a significant awareness programme. He highlighted the lasting legacy of Bhagwan Birs Munda, whose contributions to the tribal commu-

nity and India's freedom struggle continue to inspire generations.

He also highlighted the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan's role in the cultural and economic empowerment of tribal communities, reinforcing the Government's commitment to improving their living standards.

Chairman District Development Council, Ab Gani Bhat, while addressing the gathering expressed his gratitude for the occasion and the opportunity to honour the legacy of Bhagwan Birs Munda.

He emphasized that the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan is a crucial step toward empowering the tribal communities.

The event also featured a vibrant cultural programme, speeches, role plays, and interactive activities aimed at showcasing the mission of the Abhiyaan—to bridge critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood, ensuring holistic and sustainable development for tribal areas.

A key highlight of the launch ceremony was the distribution of solar lighting systems to the residents of the Chandaji area. Chairman DDC, MLA, along with Vice Chairperson, and Deputy Commissioner, handed over the solar lighting systems to beneficiaries, with a total of 80 households in the area set to benefit from this initiative.

Earlier in the day, the dignitaries visited various stalls set up by different departments, where MLA Bhat emphasized the importance of supporting and handholding of youth through employment-driven initiatives.

At the conclusion of the programme, Programme Officer ICDS Yaar Ali Khan delivered the vote of thanks, reflecting on Bhagwan Birs Munda's significant contributions to India's freedom struggle and expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers for making the event a success.

REC Limited receives Adam Smith Awards ASIA 2024 for Best Funding Solution

Singapore – REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honored with the Adam Smith Awards ASIA 2024 in the "Best Funding Solution" category. The award was presented at a ceremony held in Singapore by Ms. Sophie Jackson, Joint Publisher at Treasury Today Group. Sh.



Hemant Kumar, Chief Compliance Officer, and Sh. Koshal Puri, Sr. General Manager (Finance) received the award on behalf of REC.

The Adam Smith Awards ASIA is regarded as a benchmark in Corporate Treasury and acknowledges organizations that exemplify innovation, efficiency, and strategic expertise in financial management. The award highlights REC Limited's commitment to implementing forward-thinking funding solutions that align with India's sustainable development goals.

As a key enabler of India's energy sector, REC continues to support the nation's growth trajectory by providing financial assistance for vital projects in generation, transmission, and distribution.

One Moment of Thrill: A Lifetime of Sorrow

SYED HIDAYAT BUKHARI

The scenic roads of Jammu and Kashmir, winding through breathtaking landscapes, have unfortunately become the backdrop for a rise in road accidents involving young, unlicensed drivers. These minors, often motivated by the thrill of speed and peer pressure, overlook the irreversible impact their actions can have. Misuse of vehicles by underage drivers is a growing issue that devastates families, communities, and the lives of innocent bystanders.

The Harsh Reality of Road Accidents

Accidents involving minors have become alarmingly frequent. Families who allow their children occasional access to vehicles, whether to satisfy curiosity or encourage responsibility, are left facing unimaginable grief when these moments of leniency turn tragic. The outcomes are often fatal or result in severe injuries that change lives forever.

Specific Statistics in Jammu and Kashmir

The data on road accidents in Jammu and Kashmir underscores the seriousness of this crisis:

2010–2022: Over a 12-year period, the region recorded 76,942 accidents, resulting in 12,429 deaths and more than 104,983 injuries. These numbers reveal the scale of the issue, with accidents affecting not just drivers but pedestrians and passengers as well.

2022: The Union Territory saw 6,092 road accidents with 805 fatalities. This was an increase from the previous year and highlighted the challenges faced by road safety officials.

2024 (First Nine Months): Recent statistics reveal that in just the first nine months of 2024, 4,457 accidents occurred, resulting in 621 deaths and 6,122 injuries. The month of May alone accounted for 98 fatalities, showing the significant risk of high-traffic periods.

These numbers represent real lives, real families torn apart, and futures lost due to moments of negligence or thrill-seeking behavior.

National Perspective

India faces similar concerns on a larger scale. In 2021, the country recorded over 4,12,432 road accidents, with approximately 10,311 involving drivers without valid licenses, many of whom were minors. Additionally, India ranks among the highest globally in road fatalities, accounting for a staggering 11% of global road deaths despite having only 1% of the world's vehicles.

Families Left in Devastation

The impact of these accidents goes beyond numbers; it affects the very fabric of families. In many cases, road accidents rob families of their sole breadwinners or only children. Losing a primary earner is devastating, plunging households into financial instability and emotional distress. Studies show that:

40% of rural households report at least one death after a road crash, compared to 12% in urban areas.

Low-income families are twice as likely to lose a family member to a road crash compared to wealthier families, underscoring the socioeconomic ripple effects of these tragic incidents.

For families that lose a sole breadwinner, the consequences are particularly severe. Beyond the immediate emotional loss, these families face the burden of economic

hardships, often lacking the resources or social safety nets to recover fully. In regions like Jammu and Kashmir, where economic resources can be limited, the loss of a breadwinner or only child due to a preventable accident places an immense burden on the family, affecting not only their immediate well-being but also their long-term stability.

Role of Indian Laws on Rash and Underage Driving

Indian laws have become increasingly stringent to curb rash driving and prevent underage individuals from operating vehicles, yet the challenge remains significant. Motor Vehicles Act, 1988: This foundational law governs all motor vehicle operations in India and stipulates



clear rules about licensing. It prohibits individuals below 18 from driving motor vehicles, with an exception allowing 16-year-olds to operate two-wheelers under 50cc with parental consent. Driving without a license is an offense punishable by fines and imprisonment.

Amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act, 2019: In response to rising road accidents, India introduced harsher penalties: Underage Driving: Parents or guardians allowing their underage children to drive can face fines up to 25,000, imprisonment of up to three years, and their vehicle registration may be canceled.

Rash Driving: Section 279 of the Indian Penal Code classifies rash and negligent driving as a criminal offense. The offense carries a jail term of up to six months or a fine, which the 2019 amendment raised to 5,000 for first offenses.

Dangerous Driving: Dangerous or reckless driving that endangers the safety of others is punishable by up to a year of imprisonment and increased fines of up to 10,000.

Juvenile Justice Act, 2015: Under this act, minors involved in serious offenses, including fatal accidents, can be tried as adults if they are above 16 years. This provision is aimed at deterring underage drivers from engaging in reckless behavior.

While these laws are designed to prevent accidents and instill accountability, enforcement challenges, combined

with a lack of awareness, mean they often fall short of achieving the desired impact.

The Role of Jammu and Kashmir Police and Parental Responsibility

Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with other government agencies, actively work to curb road accidents by conducting regular enforcement checks, implementing speed restrictions, and running road safety awareness campaigns. However, while these efforts are vital, the main responsibility also rests with parents. It is crucial that parents educate their children about the legal and moral consequences of driving without a license, especially how one impulsive decision can shatter other families and ruin their own future.

Parents play a pivotal role in instilling awareness in their children. By emphasizing the seriousness of road safety and the potential devastation of reckless driving, parents can encourage responsible behavior from a young age. Understanding the ripple effect their actions have on others is essential; young drivers must realize that their decisions can lead to tragedies, creating permanent voids in families and, in many cases, casting a shadow over their own future.

A Proposed Addition to Indian Laws to Curb Fatal Accidents

Given the serious impact of underage and rash driving, Indian laws could adopt an additional measure inspired by international practices. One effective approach could be to introduce mandatory driving education and certification programs in schools, focusing on the legal, ethical, and practical aspects of safe driving.

Mandatory Driving Education: A compulsory road safety curriculum for students aged 15–18 could be established in schools. This program would educate young people about:

The legal consequences of underage and reckless driving.

Real-life stories of the devastating effects of irrespon-

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The impact of these accidents goes beyond numbers; it affects the very fabric of families. In many cases, road accidents rob families of their sole breadwinners or only children. Losing a primary earner is devastating, plunging households into financial instability and emotional distress. Studies show that:

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sible driving.

The skills required for responsible vehicle operation, even as a passenger.

This structured early education would instill a respect for road laws and create a strong foundation for safe driving habits. Students who complete the program would receive a provisional certificate, valid only as a prerequisite for applying for a full driver's license upon reaching legal age. This practice would ensure that they understand their responsibilities before they are legally able to drive.

Implementing Vision Zero Principles in India

Sweden's Vision Zero principles could serve as a road-map for enhancing road safety in India. While adapting this model may require phased implementation, several elements are well-suited to addressing India's unique challenges:

Introduce "2+1" Road Designs: High-speed and accident-prone areas could benefit from "2+1" lanes with median barriers to prevent fatal head-on collisions.

Focus on License Verification and Youth Education: Stricter enforcement of age and licensing regulations, paired with enhanced driver training and ethical education for young drivers, could build a foundation for safer driving habits.

Safety for Vulnerable Road Users: Creating dedicated lanes for pedestrians and cyclists, and improving crossings, would enhance the safety of these groups.

Community Engagement and Awareness: Comprehensive campaigns that emphasize the consequences of reckless driving can be more effective when involving schools, local authorities, and media. The societal buy-in that contributed to Sweden's success is key for long-term impact in India.

Data-Driven Policies: Collecting and analyzing data on accidents, particularly those involving minors, allows for informed decisions on enforcement and policy adjustments. Data transparency can also help communities understand the scale of the problem and the importance of preventive measures.

A Unified Call to Action

The tragic accidents involving minors in Jammu and Kashmir and across India call for immediate, concerted action. The Jammu and Kashmir Police and local agencies continue to work on curbing this issue through enforcement and education, but parents have a critical role in this effort. It is vital that parents educate their children on the consequences of reckless driving, emphasizing that one impulsive choice can leave lifelong scars on others and cast a shadow on their own future.

The thrill of driving should not come at the cost of lives, and a moment's excitement must never be allowed to end in a lifetime of sorrow. For a family, the loss of a sole child or breadwinner is an irreplaceable tragedy, and each incident serves as a stark reminder of the need for road safety reform. Adopting elements of Sweden's Vision Zero model and strengthening Indian laws with mandatory driving education could be a turning point, making roads safer and giving families reassurance that they won't lose loved ones to preventable accidents.

Syed Hidayat Bukhari works as a consultant with a US-based software company. He is also pursuing his PhD in Artificial Intelligence and is engaged in various social activities.).

How Using Social Media Affects Teenagers

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The impact of social media on adolescents has raised serious concerns globally, with debates over whether age restrictions can effectively address its potential harms or lead to unintended consequences.

Facilitates interaction and community building with peers and aids social skill development. Pew Research (2023) found that 71% of teens feel more connected through social media. Provides a platform for young people to explore identity and express themselves freely. Social media is a term for internet sites and apps that you can use to share content you create. Social media also allows you to respond to content posted by others. This may include photos, text, reactions or comments posted by others, and links to information.

Online sharing within social media sites helps many people keep in touch with friends or connect with new people, and this may be more important to teens than other age groups. Friendships help teens feel supported and play a role in forming their identity. So, it's natural to think about how social media use may affect teens. Social media is a big part of many teens' daily lives. How big? A clue comes from a survey conducted in 2024 of 13- to 17-year-olds. Based on nearly 1,300 responses, the survey found that 35% of teens use at least one of five social media platforms more than several times a day. The five social media platforms are: YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. Social media does not affect all teens the same way. Social media use is associated with healthy and unhealthy effects on mental health. These effects vary from one teen to another. The effect of social media on mental health depends on a number of factors.

A UNICEF report (2022) shows that social media promotes self-identity in 62% of adolescents. Enables access to vast educational resources and enhances digital literacy and skills. LinkedIn and Facebook pro-

vide workshops on digital skills for youth. Creates safe spaces for marginalized groups to find support and understanding. WHO (2022) reports a 20% reduction in



mental health risks in youth with limited social media exposure. Limits exposure to inappropriate or dangerous content, reducing risks of negative influences. The American Psychological Association (2023) found that

social media use increases the risk of cyberbullying by 30%. It helps reduce the risks of predatory behavior and exploitation targeting young users. The National

Center for Missing and Exploited Children's 2023 report highlights a 15% increase in cases of online exploitation involving youth. Controls excessive screen time and supports better health and offline engagement. South

Korea's regulations on digital media (2021) limit screen addiction among minors.

The unintended consequences of age restrictions are that age verification systems such as age verification are often circumvented, making restrictions difficult to enforce. A U.K. study (2022) shows that 30% of teens bypass age checks with minimal effort. Age restrictions can limit digital education, leaving young people unprepared for responsible online interactions. Restricting access can isolate teens, preventing them from engaging in important social conversations. UNICEF (2023) found that social media helps with inclusivity, especially for marginalized groups. Restrictions on major platforms can push young people to sites that are less regulated and potentially more harmful. In countries with restrictions, teens have turned to niche platforms with fewer security controls, increasing exposure. Promote digital literacy and awareness. Launch comprehensive digital literacy programs in schools to educate young people about safe online practices.

Finland's Media Literacy Week trains students in digital safety and critical thinking. Provide resources to help parents monitor and guide their children's social media use. The 2017 Child Online Protection Framework emphasizes parents' role in digital guidance. Focus on restricting harmful content rather than age restrictions, allowing for safe and moderate use. France's 2022 selective restrictions on content such as gambling and violence protect young people without a complete ban. While age restrictions on social media can provide protection, a balanced approach that combines digital education, parental involvement, and targeted content regulation is more practical for protecting teens while allowing them to benefit from social media responsibly.

Author is a TV panelist

Sakeena Masood inaugurates Shaheed Wali Mohd Itoo Memorial Bridge at Aadigen Kulgam

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 15: In a major step towards bolstering local infrastructure, Minister for Health, Education, and Social Welfare, Sakeena Masood today inaugurated newly constructed Shaheed Wali Mohd Itoo Memorial Bridge at Aadigen in Kulgam district.

The truss girder bridge, built at an estimated cost of 1.43 crore, marks long-awaited development of the area aimed at enhancing connectivity, improving road safety and fostering economic growth.

Speaking after the inauguration of the bridge, the Minister underscored the Omar Abdullah led government's steadfast

commitment to holistic development, emphasizing that improved transportation infrastructure is key to enhancing the quality of life for residents.

She added that this bridge is expected to significantly ease travel and transportation challenges for residents, reducing commute times and providing better access.

"Government is working towards sustainable progress and inclusive development of J&K", Sakeena Masood said.

The Minister reiterated the government's inclusive approach to development, encouraging active public participation in ongoing and future initiatives



aimed at modernizing infrastructure and promoting economic well-being.

"Our efforts extend beyond infrastructure. They are about addressing the diverse needs of every individual in our region and ensuring a brighter future for all," she said.

The event concluded with the Minister reaffirming the Omar Abdullah led government's resolve to prioritize people-centric projects, fostering growth and progress across Jammu & Kashmir.

SE R&B Kulgam, SDMD, H Pora, Executive Engineers, other concerned officers and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

71th All India Cooperative week celebrated at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 15: To mark the celebrations of 71st All India Cooperative week, an impressive function was organized today by the Department of Cooperatives District Ganderbal at the Town Hall.

The function was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Gulzar Ahmad, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Kashmir, Altaf Ahmad Khan, Joint Registrar Special Kashmir, Bilkees Jan, Joint Registrar Audit Kashmir, Mir Nasrool Hilal Jeri, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Ganderbal, Assistant Director Fisheries Ganderbal, Representatives of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Department, Assistant Registrar Hqr Cooperative Societies Ganderbal, Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Block Lar, members and stakeholders of Cooperative Societies of the district also participated in the said programme.

In his address, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal praised the role played by the cooperative sector Ganderbal in serving the general masses.

He stressed the need to organize awareness camps at various levels, so that essence of doing business on a cooperative based economic model is disseminated far and wide. He also complimented Cooperative Department Ganderbal for organizing an impressive and fruitful programme.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Ganderbal highlighted the pioneering role played by the cooperative institutions in strengthening the national economy by bridging the rural-urban divide and creating opportunities for income generations.

He stressed upon the need to prepare a workforce that will assume new responsibilities and adopt latest technologies. He laid stress for enrolment of maximum number of educated unemployed youths, women and weaker sections of the society and to bring them in the fold of cooperatives, so that they earn for themselves and become the source of earning for others.

He emphasised for creation of maximum employment avenues by registering maximum number of FPOs, Cooperative Societies, and Cooperatives in diversified fields, establishing Mini Food processing units in the district.

The Assistant Registrar Hqr Cooperative Societies Ganderbal highlighted the achievements with regard to assigned deliverables. The Joint Registrar Audit Kashmir and Joint Registrar Special Kashmir highlighted the importance of Cooperative Sector.

Similarly, the Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Kashmir emphasized the importance of interventions of ICT and good governance in the Cooperative sector.

Mission Vatsalya conducted drive against Child Labour in Kulgam

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 15 The District Child Protection Officer Muzaffar Ahmad Malik, Mission Vatsalya Kulgam along with Labour Department conducted a massive Anti Child Labour and Child Begging drive under PAN India Rescue and Rehabilitation of children in street situation (CISS).

This initiative is a part of broader Pan -India campaign focused on identifying and supporting children in street situations (CISS) and rescuing children engaged in labour areas across vulnerable areas within the kulgam District.

During the drive hotspots including business establishments, bakery shops, hotels, restaurants and automobile service stations were checked in order to find Child labourers involvement within their business establishments.

In addition to this the rescue team counselled the owners of business establishments and others not to engage any child in labour activities who is below the age of 18 years as it is violation of Juvenile justice and Child Labour Act.

Satish Sharma pays obeisance at Gurudwara Dashmesh Darbar Dyaran

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15: Minister for Information Technology, Satish Sharma, today visited Gurudwara Shri Dashmesh Darbar Dyaran and paid obeisance on the occasion of 555th Parkash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Provincial President of National Conference, Rattan Lal Gupta besides President of management committee, Sukhjot Singh, Chairman Rajinder Singh, Vice President Mahinder Singh, General Secretary Gurdev Singh along with other members of Gurudwara Prabandhan Committee were present on the occasion.

Extending his greetings, the Minister said that the Parkash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji is being celebrated throughout the world with religious enthusiasm and fervor.

The Minister said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji has shown people the path of

spirituality and taught them how to build a society based on truth, ideals and build a harmonious and egalitarian society.



contentment, kindness and love. He exhorted that it is the people's collective responsibility to adopt his

The Minister also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Kupwara visits Gurdwara sahib Maidan Chogal, Greets Sikh Sangat on the occasion of Guru Purab

KUPWARA, NOV 15: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Friday paid visit to Gurdwara Sahib Maidan Chogal and Deedarpora to extend warm greetings to the members of Sikh community on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purab, the Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner interacted with the local Sikh community, offering prayers and extending warm wishes to the devotees.

DC was accompanied by ACR Kupwara, Tehsildar Handwara and other officers.

The Gurudwara authorities expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and conveyed their greetings on the auspicious occasion, the DC expressed hope that this event would contribute towards

strengthening brotherhood, unity, harmony and would be a harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity.



Director Agriculture Kashmir "Model Hi-tech poly houses" at Bijbehara

Anantnag, November 15: Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited "Model Hi-tech poly houses" at Bijbehara Anantnag. On his visit to these highly modern hi-tech poly houses, director agriculture said that these are one of the best in the entire Kashmir division.

Speaking to the Agri entrepreneurs, Director Agriculture underscored the importance of vertical expansion in vegetable cultivation. He said under holistic agriculture development program HADP, department is working on a

special project for round the year cultivation of different vegetable crops.

He said the vegetables cultivated in these hi-tech poly houses these days is one such step in this direction. He said to achieve this goal department has established hi tech poly houses in all the districts of Kashmir division.

Director highlighted the importance of conducive agro-climatic conditions of the valley and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations viz a viz crops, varieties. He said these hi-tech poly

houses would add new dimensions to the agriculture scenario in the region. He asked educated youth to come forward and avail benefits of modern technologies in the field of agriculture.

He asked the farmers that the department would provide all the technical assistance to them in comprehensively performing their agriculture activities.

Chowdhury said, we have huge potential so far as the vegetable sector is concerned that needs to be explored for the overall economic development of the region.

Transport Department Warns Parents Against Allowing Minors to Drive

MARIUM FAYAZ

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Transport Department has issued a stern advisory cautioning parents against allowing their minor children to drive two-wheelers or four-wheelers.

The department highlighted that such actions pose significant risks to public safety and are punishable under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

According to the advisory, guardians or vehicle owners will be held accountable if a juvenile is found driving without a licence. Under Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, violators can face up to three years of imprisonment, a fine of 25,000, and cancellation of the vehicle's registration for 12 months. Additionally, juveniles involved in such offences will be ineligible for a driving licence until the age of 25. The advisory further noted that custodial

sentences for juveniles would be handled under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.



The Transport Department urged parents to act responsibly and ensure minors do not drive, stressing that the safety of children and the general public is paramount.

This advisory comes a day after two minors died in a road rage near Tengpora in Srinagar city.

Justice BR Gavai Appointed Executive Chairman NALSA, Justice Surya Kant is Chairman SCLSC

New Delhi: Justice B.R Gavai has been appointed as Executive Chairman National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) while Justice Surya Kant has been appointed as Chairman Supreme Court's Legal Service Committee.

An official statement stated that NALSA announced the nomination of Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the new Executive Chairman of NALSA.

The nomination was made by the President of India Droupadi Murmu, under the powers granted by Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

An official statement said the appointment is effective from

November 11, 2024, with an official notification published by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, on November 8, 2024.

Justice Gavai's appointment follows the convention that the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court occupies this position. He succeeds Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who was previously the Executive Chairman of NALSA.

Before being appointed as Executive Chairman, Justice Gavai served as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC). In his new role, Justice Gavai will lead NALSA's efforts in advancing access to justice and providing legal aid to marginalized and underprivileged

communities across India. Meanwhile the National Legal



Services Authority (NALSA) has also announced the nomination of Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC)

with immediate effect.

The appointment was made by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Chief Justice of India, and was officially notified in the Gazette on November 12, 2024. Justice Surya Kant takes over the role from Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, who has recently been appointed as the Executive Chairman of NALSA. Justice Gavai's new role follows the convention of the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court taking charge of NALSA.

The SCLSC plays a pivotal role in providing access to justice, particularly to marginalized and underprivileged sections of society who may face financial or social barriers in accessing the highest court in the country.

DLSA Budgam Organizes Awareness Programme on National Children's Day

Budgam, November 14: Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Chadoora, in collaboration with the Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Forum and Banaat Educational Institute, organized an awareness programme in celebration of National Children's Day today at Banaat Educational Institute, Gopalpora, Chadoora. The event aimed to raise awareness about the rights, welfare and empowerment of children in the

community, the importance of education and need for a safe & supportive environment.

The programme was held under the directions of Om Prakash Bhagat, Chairman District Legal Services Authority Budgam and Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam and Iqbal Rafiq Vakil Chairman Tehsil Legal Service Committee Chadoora.

The event was attended by Adv.

A.R. Hanjura, Adv. Nazir Ahmad, Mr. Mohammad Siddiq Paul Principal Banaat Educational Institute, Panel Lawyers, PLV, Teachers, School Management, and a vibrant gathering of students.

Samir Ahmad Resray District President Budgam Human Rights & Anti Corruption Forum, HQ Delhi & Aijaz Bashir Secretary Education Wing (J&K UT) Human Rights & Anti Corruption Forum, HQ Delhi also



attended the event. During his address Adv. AR Hanjura

emphasized the immense responsibility we have toward our children. "They are not only the future of our nation but also the torchbearers of justice and compassion", he said.

Adv. Nazir Ahmad reminded the audience of the need for vigilance in protecting children's rights, stating, Children's Day is a day to recognize not only their potential but also our duty to shield them from harm.

Other speakers also highlighted

the significance of the day for safety & protection of children.

On the occasion, students performed skits, delivered speeches, and participated in activities that highlighted children's rights, education, and the importance of a supportive community.

At the end of the event, certificates of appreciation were awarded to the guests and students for their participation & contributions.

STROKE: THE DRINK

that increases your risk by 35 per cent

New Delhi: A brain stroke refers to a state wherein blood circulation to the brain gets disrupted. A potentially fatal condition, experts and studies for a long time have ruled diet, physical activity, smoking and alcoholism as key factors that impact stroke risk. Although a condition uncommon amongst people younger than 40 years of age, stroke is often triggered by abnormally high blood pressure levels. Although most risk factors are modifiable, there is one that significantly increases risk.

The drink that increases stroke risk significantly
Light or moderate, alcohol intake increases blood pressure and overtime spikes stroke risk as per a genetic study published in The Lancet. Researchers from UK and China followed 500,000 Chinese people for a 10-years period for this study. At present, 16 per cent male and 20 per cent female population in UK suffer a stroke at least once in their lifetime. Therefore, if even a small group of 100 non-drinking people started to enjoy a drink or two per day, the risk increases by two strokes.

As per an expert from the University of Cambridge, every half a bottle of wine consumed in a day increases stroke risk by 38 per cent.

Alcohol intake and stroke risk: The link explained
Alcohol intake is strongly linked to stroke risk of a person; and according to a recent study, it was discovered that one or two drinks in a day can increase stroke risk by 10 to 15 per cent. And for those drinking over four servings of alcohol, stroke risk hypes to 35 per cent.

Alcohol, besides stroke risk, is also linked to an increase risk of the following:

- **Obesity**

- **Liver damage**
- **Hypertension**
- **Atrial fibrillation**
- **Diabetes**

Furthermore, experts found no concrete link between lowered stroke risks even upon limited alcohol intake. According to a University of Oxford professor, claims that wine and beer can have protective effects against stroke are not borne out. Instead, the more a person drinks, the higher is their risk of stroke. Studies and research have additionally blamed moderate quantities of alcohol for increased stroke risk and reveal that there is no safe amount of alcohol to consume when it comes to lowering stroke risk.

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While some people are lucky enough to doze off as soon as they hit their bed, some might have to go through a plethora of emotions and experiences before they can finally fall asleep. Sleep problems are not uncommon and could be caused due to a variety of reasons. Some common problems may include insomnia, digestive discomfort, sleep apnea, and more. It must be kept in mind that if the sleep problems persist, make sure that you consult a doctor immediately as it could be a sign of any underlying health condition. However, some problems can be overcome by making certain alterations to the diet, environment, and lifestyle.

Herbal teas for better sleep

Here are some teas that can help you get a good night's sleep:

Chamomile tea: This is one of the common sleep-friendly teas out there. Studies have shown the benefits of chamomile tea in easing anxiety and calming the body thereby improving sleep quality.

Passionflower tea: Made from dry leaves of Passionflower, this herbal tea can help tackle

insomnia, anxiety, and sleep problems by calming the mind. The benefits of this tea have also been associated with treating liver problems, stomachach issues, and wounds.

Ashwagandha tea: Ashwagandha has been being used as an adaptogen for quite some time now. The benefits of this plant have been recognised in India and Ayurveda since ancient times. Its ability to calm the nerves and relax the body can help induce better sleep at night.

Turmeric tea: Turmeric has been widely used for its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. You must have heard about the healing effects of golden milk, also known as turmeric milk or haldi ka doodh. Consumption of turmeric tea can also have therapeutic effects on the body and can relax muscles, soothe pain, and calm the body thereby helping with sleep.

Lavender tea: The application of lavender in aromatherapy is widely acknowledged but it's time to bring the amazing health benefits of lavender tea into the spotlight. Known for its calming effect, lavender tea can reduce night-time wakings and fatigue, thereby improving sleep quality.

HAVING TROUBLE
going to bed?
These herbal teas
can help



Ashwagandha tea:
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Continued From P1...

CM Omar

(JKCIP) for Jammu & Kashmir to rejuvenate agriculture sector which entails financing of 100 million USD through International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) over the next 7 years.

In this regard CM requested Ministry of Finance to treat J&K at par with North Eastern States for availing incentives in respect of Externally Aided Project (EAP) loans and making J&K eligible for special lending arrangement under the EAP loans.

He requested the Finance Minister to consider Jammu & Kashmir for funding through the “Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment” scheme under which 50-year interest free loan would be provided to states for capital expenditure.

CM also informed the Finance Minister about the difficult fiscal situation being faced by J&K and requested the Ministry to provide additional central assistance of Rs 6000 crore to bridge the resource gap in the UT budget for FY 2024-25. Over the past few days, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has held several important meetings with senior leaders and officials of the Government of India to address critical issues affecting Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister during his current visit called on President of India Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar and attended Power Ministers’ conference chaired by UniMinister of Power to discuss J&K’s priorities and challenges in the power sector.

These recent dialogues, culminating in today’s meeting with the Finance Minister, reinforces the commitment to advancing the welfare and development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

During his stay in New Delhi, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also held a series of meetings at his official residence with Government of India officials and industry leaders to explore opportunities for collaboration and development. Among those he met were Arjun Dhawan, Executive Vice Chairman of Hindustan Construction Company Limited, who discussed infrastructure development projects in Jammu and Kashmir; Abhijit Basu, Founder and CEO of Smartex Cognitive Pvt Ltd, XCED, APAC, CEDMA, California, USA, who shared innovative solutions in technology and smart governance; and Avinash Pawar, DM of Small Scale Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) under the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (GoI).

The Chief Minister also met Aaley Mohammad Iqbal, Deputy Mayor of Delhi Municipal Corporation, to discuss pressing issues regarding the urban areas and identified common areas for collaboration.

CM’s meetings

Wani told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Pertinently, Chief Minister, who is presently in New Delhi called on Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar at the Vice-President’s Enclave on November 13. He also met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on November 14. Today, the Chief Minister called on the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.

Meanwhile, Wani stated that the elected government has just taken over in J&K, only a month has elapsed since then. “The government is putting the efforts to fulfill the promises done with the people,” he said, adding that a lot has to be done to come up to the expectations of the masses. “Not even a single promise will be forgotten. The government has promised and will deliver it on the ground as well,” he said.

“Since the new government assumed office, there is a feel-good factor in the atmosphere. The people are at ease and hey know their own government has taken over,” Wani said

‘Science’ & ‘Sanskar’

“Vedas gave us the true meaning of life and continue to guide us towards a noble path. Timeless wisdom of Vedas nurturing minds and hearts of young generation. I truly believe Vedic ethics and values will ensure we prosper materially and also follow the path of righteousness and Dharma,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The conference was convened under the auspices of the Maharishi Sandipani Ved Vidya Pratisthan and Vedasthali Shodh Sansthan, Suratgiri Ashram.

Kharge Declares

for suggesting that Congress would work to restore the revoked article, asking, “When did Congress say that?” He accused the BJP of continuously raising the issue to keep it alive for political purposes.

This marks the first time a senior Congress leader, let alone the party president, has made such a clear statement on the matter, ending the party’s previous ambiguity regarding Article 370.

Kharge also lashed out at the BJP for shifting industries to Gujarat, which he claimed was causing significant economic losses and growing unemployment in Maharashtra. He questioned the BJP’s “double-engine government” narrative, pointing out that Maharashtra contributes substantially to the national economy yet faces discrimination from the central government.

On issues of law and order, Kharge noted that public safety had worsened under BJP rule, citing incidents such as the delayed registration of a rape case in Badlapur. He also decried the alleged corruption in projects like the Pune Ring Road, which saw its cost balloon from Rs 16,618 crore to Rs 42,170 crore.

Kharge further highlighted the rising cost of living, particularly the 11% inflation over the past 14 months, and accused the central and state BJP governments of undermining reservations for SCs, STs, and OBCs by closing down public sector units and halting government recruitment. He also criticized the “lateral entry” system for allegedly enabling the induction of RSS-affiliated individuals into top administrative positions.

In a pointed remark aimed at Prime Minister Modi’s “Congress Mukht Bharat” rhetoric, Kharge noted that while the BJP aimed for 400-plus seats, it had now become reliant on “two crutches.” He also responded to Modi’s accusations against Congress, reminding him of the party’s sacrifices for the nation and criticizing the glorification of Mahatma Gandhi’s assassin, Nathuram Godse, by some BJP supporters. Additionally, Kharge drew attention to the government’s failure to address the 2.5 lakh vacant positions, exacerbating the state’s unemployment crisis.

Sajad Lone

the All India President of Congress, Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge, has clarified that they never talked about getting Article 370 back. Do the people of Jammu and Kashmir not deserve even a clarification from the National Conference? “ (

Don’t misinterpret

Mallikarjun Kharge and J&K Pradesh Congress Committee President Tariq Karra’s remarks that the demand for restoration of Article 370 was not raised in the resolution passed by the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly.

The NC-Congress fought the Assembly election in alliance and won 49 out of the 90 seats in J&K. However, Congress stayed out of the government.

“No INC president or JKPC president has a right to misinterpret the resolution passed by the J&K Legislative Assembly in the last session. The purpose of that resolution is to express the people’s disapproval of all the amendments and unconstitutional abrogation

of the guaranteed (Special) Status of J&K from the year 1953 to 2019,” Ruhullah said in a post on X.

He reiterated that the resolution unequivocally calls for the return of all guarantees in their original form.

“This resolution calls for the return or all the guarantees in their original shape and form as was operational before 1953 including Art 370 and 35A. Let alone JKPC or any other entity. Even if anyone from within @JKNC_ tries to misinterpret the resolution otherwise and against the wishes of the people, will be rejected and pushed by the people to a corner of irrelevance as the allies of BJP were in the last election.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly last week in the first Session, passed a resolution on special status, seeking a “dialogue” with the Union Territory’s elected representatives for restoration of the same as well as constitutional guarantees, “and to work out constitutional mechanisms for restoring these provisions”

My aim

for several decades, have been kept at the centre of government’s development agenda, he added.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act; Pradhan Mantri Van-Dhan Vikas Yojana; Van Dhan Self Help Groups, Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana, allotment of 5 marla land to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (G) eligible landless tribal beneficiaries, new tribal hostels, smart schools, special scholarships and many more such initiatives are paving the way for the brighter future of the tribal population, the Lt Governor further added.

He said the IEC Campaign of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan will also ensure the effective implementation of the scheme in Jammu Kashmir which will help in saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, livelihood and ensure holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities.

Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister, Tribal Affairs; Jugul Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, senior officers and members of Tribal communities and youth were present at Convention Centre.

Need To Achieve

Director Colleges J&K and other concerned officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister took comprehensive assessment of several critical aspects of Universities like infrastructure, faculty performance, student satisfaction, research output as well as the overall administrative framework.

In her remarks, Sakeena Masood highlighted the importance of academic excellence and innovation in higher education sector. She emphasized on the need for universities to enhance the quality of education and research in order to compete with global standards of education.

She urged the Vice Chancellors to prioritize academic rigor and improve curriculum design to ensure that students receive a high-quality education. She called for a closer alignment between University curriculum and industry needs, especially in emerging fields like Artificial intelligence, digital technology, healthcare, tourism and entrepreneurship in order to prepare students for the emerging job market.

During the meeting, the Minister while having university wise review, called upon the Vice Chancellors to streamline the process of admissions so that maximum students are attracted towards varsities. She asked them to create awareness among the students, especially in far off areas using traditional media like radio, so that they can take desired courses in colleges and universities.

She also asked them to fix the issues and concerns which are hindering the admissions of foreign students in our Universities, especially Kashmir University.

The Minister also asked the VCs to complete the works on all ongoing projects in their respective universities timely, so that they can be dedicated for the use of students.

She asked the VC of Kashmir University to operationalise the newly constructed girls hostel at the earliest. She also asked the VC to maintain the offsite campuses of University so that the students are provided quality education.

During the meeting, the Minister commended the Vice Chancellors for their commitment to development of higher education sector in J&K. She assured them all possible support from the government.

Jammu to

he stated according to KNS correspondent.

The decision follows a proposal by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its president, Arun Gupta. After discussions with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Singh shared, “The matter was taken up with Railways Minister Sh @ AshwiniVaishnaw ji. I am glad to share the update that the Railway Ministry has accepted the proposal and initiated the process for the same.”

MeT Predicts

As per the details, Shopian district has once again topped the list where 96% deficit rainfall was recorded till the mid of November month. In the month of October, the district had recorded 100% shortage.

Shopian is followed by Kulgam with 94% and Poonch with 92% deficiency during the period. The details further reveal that Srinagar has recorded a deficit rainfall of 76% during the period.

Meanwhile, as per an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, under the influence of a Western Disturbance, light to moderate rain and snow showers are expected in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

“Snowfall is expected over Sadhna Top, Razdan Top, Gurez higher reaches, Machil, Phase 1 & 2 in Gulmarg, Zojila Pass, Sinthan Top, Margan Top, Peer Ki Gali, etc. Light snowfall in Sonamarg & Gulmarg can’t be ruled out,” he said.

A spell of rainfall can occur in some plains as well. However, no major spell is expected, he said, adding that a sharp dip in night temperatures is expected during the next week, with some parts recording the first sub-zero temperatures of the season.

A local Meteorological department (MeT) has predicted generally cloudy weather with the possibility of light rain and snow over higher reaches at many places of Kashmir & few places of Jammu division till tomorrow afternoon.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhatar Ahmad in a detailed forecast has stated that the weather conditions would improve across J&K from Saturday afternoon.

He added that there is a possibility of generally dry weather from November 17th to 23rd. He also said that amidst cloudy weather, the light rain and snow over higher reaches at isolated places are expected on November 24.

Furthermore, the MeT has issued an advisory, saying that temporary disruption of surface transportation due to light snowfall over Zojila, Razdan Pass, Sadhna Pass, Sinthan Top and Mughal Road is expected during November 15th.

The advisory also advised the tourists, trekkers and travelers to plan accordingly

Tragic road

Abdullah stressed the importance of road safety, warning that while vehicles have become faster and roads have improved, road sense remains alarmingly inadequate.

“Speed thrills but it kills with no remorse,” he wrote, urging citizens to follow traffic rules designed to ensure safety.

Mirwaiz calls for stricter enforcement

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq while delivering the Friday sermon at Jamia Masjid in Srinagar voiced grave concerns over the alarming rise in road accidents across Kashmir. He appealed to parents, authorities and the youth to take immediate measures to curb the growing menace, which has claimed numerous lives and caused widespread distress.

Stressing the importance of accountability, Mirwaiz called upon the government to implement stricter regulations against speeding and reckless driving. “The authorities must ensure that speed limits are adhered to, helmets are used, and vehicles are inspected for safety compliance,” he said, urging law enforcement to impose fines and take other corrective actions against traffic violations.

He expressed condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for their strength and resilience. “We ask Allah, the Almighty, to grant patience to the bereaved families and to guide us toward better practices to prevent such tragedies,” he added.

Traffic Police: Parental negligence in spotlight

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Srinagar, Muzaffar Shah urged parents and society at large to take greater responsibility for monitoring and guiding underage drivers.

Speaking to the media persons, SSP traffic highlighted the growing issue of minors driving vehicles without proper training or licensing. “Traffic violations come in many forms, but the involvement of minors in such cases is particularly concerning,” he said. “This is not just a legal issue but a societal one, which requires the attention and cooperation of parents.”

The SSP said that a focused campaign against minor drivers was underway, with vehicle seizures and on-the-spot actions being enforced. He highlighted the importance of parental vigilance, stating, “If we take care of our children, they will be safe, and so will society.”

Appealing to parents, schools and the community to work together to ensure that minors were not allowed to drive unsafely or without proper licenses, the city traffic police chief said, “Accidents like these serve as a stark reminder of our collective responsibility. If we neglect these duties, we jeopardize the future of our children and society.”

Among the recent road accidents include a tragic accident at Tengpora bypass in Srinagar on Thursday that claimed the lives of two minors.

Earlier, a 15-year-old boy too lost his life in a horrific road accident near Lawaypora highway, on the outskirts of Srinagar.

RTO Kashmir: Legal & societal responsibility

Reacting to the tragic accidents that claimed multiple lives in road accidents, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir said he has recommended invoking Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, which prescribes up to 3 years of imprisonment for parents or guardians who allow minors to drive.

“This incident highlights a gap in both parenting and schooling, which play pivotal roles in shaping responsible behaviour,” the RTO said. He called for collective efforts from parents, schools, and authorities to instill a culture of road safety and respect for laws.

“While we at RTO will invoke the compoundable Sections of

law like we have done in all such cases in past, this case will be recommended for invoking Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act which prescribes imprisonment of erring parents up to three years, awarded by judicial courts,” the officer added.

The RTO stressed that beyond legal enforcement, parents must play a proactive role in ensuring minors do not access vehicles, while schools should inculcate a deeper respect for laws among students.

“We call upon parents to prevent minors from accessing vehicles and commit to intensifying enforcement to avoid such devastating incidents in the future. Let us work together to protect our children and uphold road safety for all,” the RTO Kashmir appealed.

Tengpora horrific

of the investigation told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that yesterday’s accident at Tengpora Bypass surfaced as an ‘illegal car race’ between two Thar vehicles, of which one was a modified, stating the investigation has been pressed into the particular case, with questioning on to the owner of the other vehicle.

“It surfaced as a car race between two Thar vehicles. One that met with an accident was driven by minors, and unfortunately 2 died while one of the injured recovered from the vehicle was summoned and counselled along with his parents many times,” the top officer said.

According to the officer, one of the vehicles involved was found to be modified. The owner of the vehicle which managed to avoid the crash has been summoned for carrying out the investigations.

“The matter is under investigation,” the officer said. “We are exploring whether minors were involved and whether the vehicle involved in the accident had prior violations or modifications that contributed to the incident.”

The officer added that the incident has brought attention to rising cases of reckless driving and over speeding among minors. “This issue requires a multi-dimensional effort,” the officer said. “Parents, schools, and the community must work together to instill discipline and safety awareness among youth.”

The top traffic police cop said they were planning a joint meeting involving stakeholders like district administration, educational institutions, and coaching centers, with an aim to curb such incidents through collective efforts and targeted interventions

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216010062761, which is Registered in the name of Bashir Ahmad Sofi S/O Mohd Ramzan Sofi, R/O Qamarwari Srinagar. Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Zahid Hussain Malik S/O Ali Mohd Malik R/O Nowpora Bandipora. In this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

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


Principal Secretary APD Reviews Functioning Of A&SH Departments

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production, Shailendra Kumar, today had a comprehensive review of functioning of Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments in Jammu division.

The Principal Secretary assessed progress on major schemes/programmes of both the departments during a meeting held at Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Agriculture Production Department including Mission Director HADP/JKCIP, J&K, Rahul Yadav, Director Planning, Hemkant Parashar, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Waheeda Parveen, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Syed Moin-Ul-Haq, the district officers of Animal/Sheep Husbandry of Jammu division as well as the technical Officers of the department (ASH&F and HADP).

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary reviewed the physical and financial progress on several important schemes including the UT flagship Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) besides Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) such as Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Livestock Mission, Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD), status of earliest. He further asked the officers to duly submit all the credit linked subsidy cases of beneficiaries lying in banks to be taken up during forthcoming meeting



Absence of Employees at District Hospital Shopian Mistakenly Linked to Pulwama Hospital by Several Urdu Dailies

Locals in Pulwama thrown into confusion, MS District Hospital Pulwama says error seems unintentional

Mushtaq ul Islam

PULWAMA : After around 181 employees found absent at the District Hospital Shopian during a surprise inspection by concerned Additional Deputy Commissioner, several local urdu dailies have mistakenly written name of District Hospital Pulwama instead of Shopian health facility, thereby causing confusion among people. The news agency CNS learnt that people in Pulwama were astonished after several local urdu newspapers had linked the absence of employees at District Hospital Shopian to District Hospital Pulwama. “We had almost lost our trust reposed in the medical and para-medical staff of District Hospital Pulwama when we got to know from some urdu newspapers that the over 90% staff was absent at the health facility. However, it turned out to be not true later on as the staff was found absent at District Hospital Shopian,” said locals in Pulwama. They said that the seemingly inadvertent mistake of erroneously linking the issue to District Hospital Pulwama had created confusion among the people, whose trust had started to erode in the health facility. Meanwhile, 181 employees among a total of 198 were found absent by Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian at District Hospital Shopian during his surprise inspection on 13th November’s morning. Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Pulwama, Dr. Ab Gani Dar expressed regret over the misreporting in some urdu dailies and called it unfortunate. He also said that the error must have occurred unintentionally.



Govt to install around 350 MWs of SRT plants over govt buildings

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today while chairing a meeting to assess the progress made on implementation of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG-MBY) here impresses upon Discoms of PDD to make more efforts regarding creation of awareness and reaching out to public for achieving target under this central scheme.

Those present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, PDD; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, PD&MD; MD, JPDC/L/KPDC/L; CEO, JAKEDA; Chief Engineer, KPDC/L, Representatives from NHPC/REC besides other concerned officers either physically or virtually through video conferencing.

Dulloo while going through the implementation of this scheme here through discoms urged them to make people aware about the benefits they can reap under this scheme. He observed that this scheme has a greater scope here as people can get free electricity by taking part in it. He advised the Department to reach out to public through different media platforms including sending bulk SMS or inscribing the information over their monthly electricity bills which would directly improve its traction among consumers. He asked them to specifically target the consumers whose electricity bills run in several thousand rupees each month.

