

Carse replaces Atkinson in England's playing XI; Smith added to squad

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NRLM makes Rajouri lady job provider, earns praise

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Sincere efforts, policy interventions turning J&K into vibrant startup hub: LG Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, JAN 24

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the sincere efforts and policy interventions of the government have turned J&K into a vibrant startup hub.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of 'BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Run-up Event' at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency highlighted the transformative initiatives of the gov-



ernment through the Department of Industries & Commerce that have redefined innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and empowering youth of the UT.

INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEM WITNESSED UNPRECEDENTED SURGE

"In the past few years J&K's Industrial ecosystem has witnessed an unprecedented surge, supporting the culture of innovation, research & development and scientific advancements. I want to

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Sigh of relief: Patients from Badhaal recovering as investigation progresses

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

After nearly 50 days of uncertainty and fear, positive news is emerging from the Badhaal area of Rajouri district as patients admitted to various hospitals are showing signs of recovery.

According to officials who spoke to the news agency, 14 patients from the affected village are under medical care in different hospitals, and all are reported to be recovering. Meanwhile, other residents of the village remain under strict observation as authorities continue efforts to address the mysterious health crisis.

Principal of GMC Rajouri, Dr Amarjeet Singh Bhatia told KNO that 11 patients from Badhaal are currently admitted to the hospital, 10 of whom belong to three already-affected families. Among these, two patients are in the ICU, while the remaining nine are under close observation. "The good news is that all of them are recovering," Dr Bhatia said.

"This is a fight against an invisible enemy, and we are implementing various measures to manage the situation. People should not panic," he added.

Dr Bhatia said recent adjustments to the patients' medications have shown positive results,

and all patients are now stable. He urged the residents of Rajouri to visit the people of Badhaal, who remain under surveillance, and to boost their morale.

"These residents have been living in forests and are used to moving freely day and night. The restrictions on their movement could affect their mental well-being. It is our duty to support them emotionally," he said. "Be assured, this is not a virus or influenza—you can interact with them safely."

Principal of GMC Jammu, Dr Ashutosh Gupta said three siblings admitted to the hospital are

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Whole world knows who promotes terrorism: MEA to Pak

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), on Friday said that Pakistan is responsible for promoting cross-border terrorism and the international community is fully aware of it.

MEA spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal while addressing a news conference in New Delhi, according to the news agency, said, "The whole world knows who is promoting terrorism. In India, when we face ter-



ror-related attacks, the source is clear, and we all understand the genesis of cross-border terrorism."

His remarks came in response to Pakistan's Inter-Services

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Kashmir's Vande Bharat Express arrives in Jammu Tawi station

HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, JAN 24

Ahead of formal operations in Kashmir, the rake of the specially designed Vande Bharat Express train arrived at Jammu Tawi railway station, drawing a large crowd eager to witness the historic moment.

According to the news agency, the train, arriving at platform number 1 of the stations, is set to commence operations between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station and Kashmir, offering seamless, all-weather travel options to passengers.

As the train arrived, the Jammu Tawi railway

station echoed with a unique announcement: "Yatrigan kripya dhyam dein, Vande Bharat train sankhya 244027 Kashmir jane ke liye platform number ek par khadi hai."

This train, compared to the other 136 Vande Bharat Express trains operating nationwide, features climate-specific enhancements to address operational challenges and passengers' needs in Jammu and Kashmir's extreme weather conditions.

Key features include advanced heating systems to prevent freezing of water and

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The Vande Bharat Train which will conduct a trial run on Katra-Srinagar Rail Line reached Jammu railway station on Friday. UNI PHOTO

Republic Day Celebrations in New Delhi

190 achievers from J&K, Ladakh invited as special guests

HT NEWS NETWORK
NEW DELHI, JAN 24

Around 120 achievers from Jammu and Kashmir and 70 from Ladakh have been invited as special guests to be a part of the 76th Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path in New Delhi.

According to the details accessed by the news agency, these achievers have been drawn from various fields of life and include students, artisans, best performing PM-Vishwakarma Yojana ben-

eficiaries, beneficiaries of PM Surya Ghar Yojana, construction workers, residents of Vibrant Villages and best performing Water Warriors among others.

"Each of these invitees represents a story of courage and determination and serves as an embodiment of the spirit of contributing towards the cause of nation building," said an official.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have time and again demonstrated that if one is

committed and dedicated towards their cause, no obstacles can stop them from achieving what they want to," he said, adding that the government has made special arrangements for accommodation and other logistical support for these special invitees and no stone is being left unturned to ensure a memorable and comfortable experience for them.

The official said that around 10,000 special guests from

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JK sees 3rd highest dropout rate in North India

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

With a dropout rate of more than 13 percent at secondary school level, Jammu and Kashmir is grappling with worst 'abandonment' student rate in north India

The recent official figures further reveal that the dropout rate at secondary level in Ladakh was 19.84 which is highest in states across the northern region of India.

According to the news agency, "The dropout

rate at Secondary level in Jammu and Kashmir is 13.42 while the Ladakh territory was staggering at 19.84 percent."

The official figures also said that the dropout rate at Primary Level in Jammu and Kashmir was 1.6 percent and 4.3 percent in Ladakh.

It also reveals that the dropout rate at Upper Primary level in Jammu and Kashmir was 3.2 percent and the Ladakh territory was facing a dropout rate of 5.8 percent.

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Proper, secure arrangements put in place for Republic Day functions across Kashmir: IGP Birdi

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

Inspector General of Police Kashmir, V K Birdi, on Friday said that multi-tier security arrangements, including drones and spotters, have been put in place to ensure a smooth conduct of the Republic-Day functions in the Valley.

IGP Birdi, who attended the full-dress rehearsal of Republic Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium here while talking to the reporters said, "Proper



that multi-tier security arrangements are in place and surveillance is being maintained to ensure that function passes off peacefully. "Surveillance in the form of drones or spotters and very deep and intricate security arrangements have been made," he said.

The IGP Kashmir appealed to people to participate in the January 26 programmes in large numbers.

He said surveillance is also being maintained

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Snowfall melting comes to rescue amid deficit rainfall in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

Amid an ongoing deficit in rainfall and declining water levels in the river Jhelum and its tributaries, the melting of snow in higher altitudes has provided a much-needed lifeline for the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) to maintain drinking water supplies.

According to data obtained by the news agency, the water level in the Jhelum River has slightly increased but remains low overall. At Sangam, the Jhelum is currently flowing at -0.91 feet, while at Ram Munshi Bagh, it is at 3.56 feet, and at Asham, it measures 0.78 feet.

The situation has been exacerbated by a rainfall deficit. From January 1 to January 22,



Jammu and Kashmir recorded only 11.4 mm of precipitation, compared to the average of 60.5 mm for the period—a shortfall of 81%.

Despite the deficit rainfall, the melting of snow in the upper reaches, spurred by a rise in temperatures, has eased the crisis.

Chief Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department, Brahmajyoti Sharma, confirmed that snowmelt has played a crucial role in maintaining the water supply.

"There is no shortage of drinking water as the melting of snow has helped ensure adequate supply to consumers," Sharma told KNO.

He added that while the rainfall deficit persists, the melting of recent snowfall has mitigated its impact. KNO

NRLM makes Rajouri lady job provider, earns praise

HT NEWS NETWORK
RAJOURI, JAN 24

A woman from Rajouri district of Jammu division has become a job provider from job seeker by starting a spices factory in her locality.

Qamar-un-Nisa, a resident of Rehtal area in Rajouri district, started her spice factory in 2022 and currently around 26 local women are working at her factory where they are earning their livelihood.

Speaking to the news

agency, Nisa said that they were struggling to manage their life due to financial issues as there was no earning hand in their family.

"We were planning to start a business but the financial issues played spoilsport for a long time," she said. "In 2022, I came to know about the Self Help Groups of NRLM department and instantly joined it and after some time availed a loan where guarantor isn't required," she added.

After getting a loan,

Nisa said that she purchased a machine for spices so as to pack spices and sell them in the market. "We worked hard and started packing different spices and selling them in the market and our current income is more than 3 lakh," she said.

"Around 26 local women are associated with us who too are earning their livelihood very well," she said, adding that whatever they are today is only because of the NRLM department.

Police arrest 7 drug peddlers in Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Friday said to have arrested 7 drug peddlers and recovered contraband/psychotropic substances from their possession.

In Anantnag, a Police team from Police Station Bijbehara, at a checkpoint established at Bonpora Urahal, intercepted an auto-rickshaw bearing registration number JK01K-2485 with three persons on board, a police spokesman said

in a statement issued to the news agency. They have been identified as Zubair Ahmad Dar son of Nazir Ahmad Dar resident of Khanabal Batan-goo, Muzafar Ahmad Dar son of Mohammad Yousuf Dar resident of Urahal and Umar Majeed Ganie son of Abdul Majeed resident of Chee Anantnag. During the search, 2.8 Kgs of Charas Powder-like substance was recovered from their possession.

Additionally, a Police party from Police Station Srigufwara intercepted a suspicious individual carrying a bag while approaching from

Chek Poshkreeri towards Poshkreeri. The individual attempted to escape upon spotting the naka party but was swiftly apprehended. He has been identified as Mohd Shafi Ganie son of Late Gh Ahmad Ganie resident of Chek Poshkreeri. During the search, 1.458 Kgs of Cannabis Powder was recovered from his possession, police said.

Meanwhile, in Sopore, a police team of PS Bomai during patrolling at Tujjer Shareef Sopore, arrested a drug peddler identified as Abdul Hameed Lone son of Mohammad Ramzan Lone resident

of Tujjer Shareef Sopore. During the search, 20 grams of Heroin-like substance from his possession. Similarly, at a checkpoint established at Behrampora Drusoo Rafiabad by a team of Police Post Watergam arrested a drug peddler identified as Shabir Ahmad Ganie son of Mohammad Yousuf Ganie resident of Behrampora. During the search, 1200 grams of Charas-like substance from his possession, police added.

Meanwhile in Kupwara, a police team of PS Trehgam at a checkpoint near Sumo Stand, Trehgam, arrested a drug peddler

identified as Ashiq Ahmad Mochi son of Mohd Sultan Mochi resident of Mochi Mohalla, Trehgam. During search, 55 grams of Charas-like substance was recovered from his possession, police added.

"J&K Police reaffirm their commitment to eradicating the drug menace from society and ensuring the safety and well-being of its citizens. The public is urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities or individuals to the nearest police station. Together, we can work towards a drug-free society," the statement reads. KNO

E-Rickshaw operators in Jammu oppose new fare rates, stage protest

HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, JAN 24

The e-rickshaw operators Friday staged a massive protest in Jammu over the recently notified fare rates set by the government, calling them "unrealistic and unsustainable."

The drivers, who gathered at busy Bikram Chowk, demanded an immediate revision of the fares, citing huge operational costs including electricity bills, maintenance costs, and

financial hardships.

As per the news agency, the e-rickshaw operators led by its union assembled at Bikram Chowk and tried to march towards Raj Bhawan to protest the Transport Department's latest fare notification.

The union argued that the new rates fail to account for the operational challenges they face and warned of continued protests if their concerns are not addressed.

However, the heavy deployment of police forces

in Jammu foiled the march and detained union leader Gourav Kapoor along with his supporters which led to the massive protest.

"The fares fixed by the government are too low for us to sustain our livelihoods. We have families to feed, and the cost of vehicle maintenance, electricity charging, and spare parts is increasing every day. How are we supposed to survive?" said Jaswinder, an e-rickshaw driver from Chhath-Jammu.

Waqf Amendment Bill

Mirwaiz led MMU delegation meets JPC chairman

HT NEWS NETWORK
NEW DELHI, JAN 24

A delegation of the Muta-hida Majlis Ulema (MMU)—representative body of all major Islamic/Muslim organisations, Ulema and Muslim educational institutions of J&K—led by its chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq met Jagdambika Pal, chairman Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

on Waqf Amendment Bill in New Delhi on Friday.

According to the details available with the news agency, the MMU delegation presented a detailed memorandum to the JPC about its stand on the proposed amendments.

After meeting the JPC chairperson, MMU chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq while talking to the reporters said, "We met

the panel and apprised it about our concerns and what the people of J&K are thinking about these amendments. It will be unfortunate if the panel announces its decision without further consultations with the stakeholders."

"We briefed the committee about our concerns and the issues that need to be addressed."

Ready to tackle any eventuality: Div Com on NDMA warning

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

Reacting to the seven-day alert issued by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Friday said the public need to exercise caution during outdoor activities like trekking and that the government is ready to tackle any eventuality.

Addressing the media persons in Srinagar, Bidhuri as per the news agency said, "While we have seen some snowfall, the dry spell persists, and a seven-day alert has been issued. Everyone must remain cautious and take necessary precautions."

He said trekkers must be particularly careful, not only regarding fire hazards but also other dangers as well. "People venturing outdoors for trekking should stay alert to wildlife, unpredictable water flow, and other risks. Being vigilant can prevent avoidable incidents," he said.

Similarly, the Divisional Commissioner also pointed out that dry patches in areas like Shankaracharya are prone to fire and emphasized the importance of being cautious in such regions. He noted the administration is on high alert and ready to address any eventuality during this period.

Pertinently, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued a 'very high forest fire risk' alert for forested areas in Jammu & Kashmir over the next seven days. "Very High Forest Fire Risk is likely to occur over forest areas in J&K, in the next 7 days. In case of emergency dial 112," reads the advisory on the NDMA Sachet web portal. KNO

Clinic sealed in Srinagar's Harwan, medicine samples taken for probe

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 24

The authorities on Friday seized a clinic in the Dara Harwan area of Srinagar over reports of quackery, officials said.

An official told news agency that samples of the medicines were also taken for investigation.

The department of Paediatrics at government medical college Srinagar has raised concerns over rising cases of Acute Liver Failure (ALF) linked to unproven treatments by some quacks.

The head of the department had urged principal GMC to take strong measures against the practice of quackery. KNO

Residential house gutted in Bagtore, Gurez blaze

HT NEWS NETWORK
BANDIPORA, JAN 24

A residential house was damaged in a massive fire incident at Bagtore village of Gurez area in Bandipora on Friday evening.

Local residents told the news agency that the fire broke out and damaged the wooden house in Gurez village.

The house belongs to Abid Ahmad Lone, son of Mohd Ramzan Lone, a resident of Bagtore, Gurez. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, police teams have also reached the spot and helping in dousing the flames. KNO

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Sincere efforts, policy...

see our youth among top-notch entrepreneurs of the country, contributing to its growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Referring to the industrial revolution taking place in Jammu Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor said the result of the Central Sector Industrial Development Scheme is now visible in J&K.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized on the role of educational institutions and youth in developing India as knowledge economy and realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

"Over the past few years numerous industries have been established, with many more in the pipeline," he said, adding, "Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented industrial boom. The government is committed to ensuring that the youth of J&K emerge as top-notch entrepreneurs, contributing significantly to India's economy."

COLLABORATION BETWEEN ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY MUST

He stressed the critical need for collaboration between academia and industry to drive technological advancements. "The synergy between educational institutions and industries is essential to foster innovation and develop cutting-edge technologies that will propel India further on the global stage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared the key initiatives including Mission Yuva to develop a business support ecosystem for the enterprising youth of J&K. He said, reforms are being made in the education sector with a dedicated focus on skilling the youth in the technology of Industry 4.0. "We continue to focus on policies to promote incubation centres and to provide better resources and support to set up new startups. I want our youth to dream, dedicate and develop dynamic J&K and propel its growth trajectory to new heights," he said.

He said the Youth entrepreneurship mission today is important not only for India but the entire world and the countries from both Global North and Global South are looking at their massive demographic dividend to meet the biggest developmental challenges of 21st century.

RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUTH TO TAKE COUNTRY TO NEW HEIGHTS

He said, "India was known as a global knowledge hub in the past and now it's the responsibility of the youth to take country to the new heights."

LG Sinha hailed the New Education Policy by terming it as a revolutionary roadmap to shape India's educational and technological future. "The NEP is our guide and will play a pivotal role in aligning our education system with global standards," he remarked.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC), IIM Jammu and all other associate departments for providing a dynamic platform for innovators, aspiring entrepreneurs, youth leaders to showcase innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Prof. BS Sahay, Director IIM Jammu shared the vision of IIM Jammu to develop the youth as business leaders and entrepreneurs.

A detailed presentation highlighting the key objectives of Mission Yuva was also presented on the occasion.

J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, former DGP J&K SP Vaid; Heads of Departments, senior officials, members of Global Counter Terrorism Council, young entrepreneurs, innovators, youth leaders and industry experts

were present on the occasion—(KNO)

Sigh of relief: Patients...

showing improvement, including one patient who had been on a ventilator but has now been extubated and is stable.

Dr Gupta confirmed that a patient sent to PGI Chandigarh is also recovering, and senior doctors there are collaborating with their counterparts in Jammu to monitor the situation.

"We are 100% certain this is not caused by any virus or influenza," he said. "Whether toxins or poison are involved is a matter of investigation and time. National agencies are involved in this case, and reaching a conclusion requires patience."

Dr Gupta called for upgrading diagnostic infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. "Facilities like metagenomics, RT-PCR, next-generation sequencing, and other modern diagnostic tools are essential," he said, adding that these are being established at GMC Jammu to facilitate better patient care.

The Jammu & Kashmir Police have formed an 11-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the mysterious illness. Investigations at multiple levels are ongoing, with all departments on high alert and working around the clock to handle the situation.

Authorities have also implemented measures to "break the food chain" in the affected village by providing residents with monitored food and water supplies.

While the cause of the mysterious illness remains unknown, the recovery of patients offers hope for the people of Badhaal. Authorities, along with national health agencies, are working tirelessly to identify the root cause and prevent further incidents. KNO

Whole world...

Public Relations (ISPR) statement, which accused the Indian Army of politicization after the Army Chief linked terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan.

Jaiswal while dismissing the accusations of politicization levelled by Pakistan as irrelevant, said that the global community is well aware of the countries responsible for fostering such activities.

He reiterated India's position that Pakistan has consistently failed to dismantle terror networks operating from its territory. "Everybody knows there are people and countries responsible for cross-border terrorism, and we call upon Pakistan to take strict action to stop it," he added. KNO

Kashmir's Vande...

bio-toilet tanks, warm air for vacuum systems, and optimized air-brake functionality for smooth operations in sub-zero temperatures. Embedded heating elements in the windshield ensure clear visibility by defrosting the driver's front lookout glass during harsh winters.

Additionally, the train boasts all standard Vande Bharat amenities, such as fully air-conditioned coaches, automatic plug doors, and mobile charging sockets.

By linking the Kashmir Valley to the national railway network, this train underscores India's commitment to bridging geographical and economic gaps, while promising a world-class travel experience on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. Operated by the Northern Railway zone, this is the third Vande Bharat train for the region, following two successful routes connecting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra with Delhi.

Route and launch details

Sporting an orange-and-grey colour scheme, the ultra-modern train will operate between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar. Commercial services are expected to begin in February 2025, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to flag off the inaugural journey in the first week of the month. The Railway Board is yet to finalize the exact date and time.

Train timings

Covering over 150 km in just 2 hours and 30 minutes, the Vande Bharat Express is set to revolutionize travel in Kashmir with its cutting-edge features and reduced travel time. The train's design and speed have been developed by the Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF).

The commissioner of Railway Safety has approved the train's operation on the Katra-Baramulla section, with the Railways completing the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. This development is expected to boost connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar, enhance tourism, and provide a more convenient travel experience.

USBRL inauguration

The USBRL section is set to be inaugurated in February 2025. Ahead of the launch, Northern Railways' North circle directed its Firozpur division to move USBRL Vande Bharat rakes for trials between SVDK and Baramulla on January 24 and 25, 2025.

Over the past month, Indian Railways has conducted six trial runs on the USBRL section, which includes engineering marvels such as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, Anji Khad Bridge, and the iconic Chenab River arch bridge.

The Anji Khad Bridge, a critical part of the USBRL project, features a 331-metre-high single pylon, making it one of the world's two highest railway bridges alongside the Chenab Bridge at Kauri, the latter standing 359 metres above the river bed and 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris. KNO

190 achievers from...

different regions of the country have been invited to witness the Republic Day Parade. These guests are achievers and best performers in their respective areas and are the architects of Swarnim Bharat. KNO

JK sees 3rd highest...

Earlier this month, KNO reported that 12 percent learners at senior secondary level quit studies midway.

The official figures had revealed that "The retention rate at Primary level in Jammu and Kashmir was 82.70 and 88.42 at senior secondary level."

The official documents however state that, "About 46,000 Out of School Children (OoSC) have been mainstreamed."

The document has further stated that a notable shift of thousands of students from private to government schools has been recorded.

"There has been impressive enrolment of 217,890 students in 2022-23, marking a 17.87 percent increase in total enrolment," it reads. It also said that the department introduced vocational education in 804 schools, and expanded to 1,067 schools in 2023-24—thus benefiting 1.25 lakh students. KNO

Proper, secure...

on "bad elements", including surrendered militants. "Police have their own SOP (Standard Operating Procedure). There is a way to keep surveillance on bad

elements and we are undertaking these actions as per the law," he said.

Replying to a query on allegations of some big fishes involved in the narcotics trade escaping the clutches of the law, Birdi said while these are a subject matter of investigations, habitual offenders cannot escape the law and action will be taken against them.

Meanwhile, the full-dress rehearsal was also attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bidhuri.

"This is a festival of the people and we want more and more people to participate in it. We chose the Bakshi Stadium as the venue so that people can come in large numbers," Bidhuri told reporters.

He said the arrangements this year are better than last year. "I request the people to come in large numbers. Just have an I-card along with you and there is no need for a special pass etc. Anyone can come to attend the functions," he added. KNO



Deputy Chief Minister visits Hazratbal Shrine; reviews arrangements for Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW)

Asks administration for ensuring hassle free observance of festivities

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24: In view of the ensuing observance of Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW), Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today visited the Hazratbal Shrine to review and finalise arrangements being made by various departments to ensure smooth and hassle-free conduct of the auspicious religious occasion.

The Dy CM was accompanied by Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to Chief Minister; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC, Srinagar; VC LCMA; Chief Engineer PDD; Chief Engineer PHE, Kashmir; Joint Director Information; RTO, Kashmir; ADC, Srinagar and senior officers and officials of various departments. While reviewing the arrangements, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the preparations for essential services including sanitation, water supply, electricity and transportation. He also evaluated crowd management plans and measures to ensure public safety, given the large number of devotees expected to visit the shrine.



While stressing for close coordination among all departments to deliver seamless services to the devotees, Surinder Choudhary asked the officials to adopt a proactive approach to address any potential challenges, particularly focusing on maintaining cleanliness, ensuring uninterrupted basic amenities and creating

a conducive environment for devotees. The Deputy Chief Minister also engaged with the shrine management and local representatives to ensure that the arrangements align with the expectations of the devotees. He sought feedback and suggestions to further enhance the experience of visitors and uphold the sanctity of the religious occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy

Chief Minister said "Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) holds immense religious significance for the people, and we are committed towards ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate devotees in offering their prayers and participating in the observances peacefully and comfortably."

Special arrangements have been made to ensure smooth traffic management, sufficient public transport services and availability of medical facilities, the meeting was informed.

The Advisor to Chief Minister asked the officials to remain vigilant and responsive throughout the event to ensure uninterrupted services.

The shrine authorities and devotees expressed their gratitude to the administration for its proactive efforts and dedication towards ensuring a spiritually uplifting experience during this revered occasion.

Later, Surinder Choudhary accompanied by Advisor to Chief Minister paid obeisance at the Hazratbal shrine. He prayed for peace and prosperity for the mankind and Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

125 MACT, Bank Recovery cases settled amicably in Special Lok Adalat

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24: Under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, the first Special Lok Adalat of this calendar year was organized today throughout the UT of J&K with special emphasis on amicable settlement of MACT and Bank Recovery Cases that were pending disposal before various tribunals and courts in UT of J&K.

As per the data received from various District Legal Services Authorities across the UT of J&K, a total of 505 cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 125 MACT & Bank Recovery cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of Rs.2,46,68,953/- giving a huge relief to the litigants.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, while talking to media persons informed that this was the 1st Special Lok Adalat of the current calendar year and the next Special Lok Adalat shall be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 focusing on the settlement of Traffic Challans & Electricity Bill disputes. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

IICT offers contemporary designs to handicraft stakeholders

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24: With an eye to further strengthen foothold in country and overseas markets, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today urged stakeholders associated with craft sector to gain access to new and contemporary designs created in the Design Studio of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) here. Apart from hand-knotted rugs, the Design Studio is also offering new designs for Kani and Sozni-embroidered Pashmina Shawls and Stoles, which are in tune with the buyers' demand in the international market. In a press handout issued here today, Director IICT, Zubair Ahmad, said that the Design Studio in the Institute is well-equipped with the latest software and expert designers for creating new and contemporary designs, catering to the prevalent demand at the global level. "The software has made creation of contemporary carpet and shawl designs easier, as compared to the traditional and archaic way of design development that used to consume months together for a group of persons," he explained.

Offering contemporary designs on nominal charges, Director IICT advised the concerned stakeholders to visit IICT premises at Nowshera, for a firsthand exposure experience. "Recently, we have sold new Kani shawl and carpet designs to various business houses, which will surely boost sale of their products in overseas market. Zubair further stated that as many as 2,687 carpet and 473 Kani shawl designs have been developed by IICT so far. "Most of these designs have been provided to the handicraft stakeholders in the form of computerised design scripts, locally known as Taleem, on nominal charges," he added.

Special Lok Adalat on MACT and Bank Recovery Cases held at Sgr, B'gam, Pul & Gbl

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24: The District Legal Services Authorities of Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama and Ganderbal under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority today organized a Special Lok Adalat on MACT and Bank Recovery Cases.

This initiative provided a platform for justice to the parties involved and highlighted the advantages of settling disputes through Lok Adalats. The Lok Adalat witnessed active participation from the legal fraternity, Officers & officials of Banks and litigants alike.

At Srinagar, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar. The Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Bank



cases, was held under the direction of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-judge/ Secretary DLSA Srinagar. To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, one bench was constituted for the said Special Lok Adalat,

which settled maximum number of cases, marking a significant achievement in promoting peaceful and quick resolutions for Bank matters.

Overall 148 cases were taken up for settlement out of which 42 cases were amicably settled and Rs.5991379 was awarded as settlement amount in Bank Recovery Cases.

At Budgam, a Special Lok

Adalat was today organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam at District Court Complex Budgam and at TLSC Magam and Beerwah.

The said Lok Adalat was organized under the Chairmanship of Om Prakash Bhagat, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Budgam and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

Each Court had identified cases for the said Lok Adalat before hand and same were placed before three different benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for their settlement in the said Lok Adalat.

A total number of 43 MACT and Bank Recovery Cases were taken for their amicable settlement, out of which 17 cases were settled with a settled amount of Rs.26,55,065.

Nearly 200 Buses Deployed in Kashmir for R- Day Celebrations

HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 24. : The Road Transport Corporation has announced the deployment of nearly 200 buses across the Kashmir Valley to facilitate smooth transportation for people attending Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

According to an official, a total of 197 vehicles, including Smart City buses, have been allocated for this purpose. These buses will operate across various parts of the valley, ensuring hassle-free commutes for attendees.

"The deployment includes buses and other vehicles that will be in service from the evening of January 25," the official stated.

Additionally, 16 buses from the Department of School Education have been pressed into service to supplement the transport arrangements.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: National Girl Child Day-2025 celebrated at Sgr, Bla, Gbl, Spn & B'pora

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 24: To raise awareness about the importance of empowering girls and creating an environment where they can thrive without the barriers of gender discrimination, 'National Girl Child Day' was today observed at Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian and Bandipora districts.

At Srinagar, in connection with celebration of National Girl Child Day-2025, a programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was held here at Government College of Education, M.A Road with an aim to sensitize masses about significance of Birth of Girl Child and to create awareness about programmes for women empowerment and emancipation.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was the chief guest at the event, organized jointly by the District Administration Srinagar and District Social Welfare Office.

Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the importance of birth of Girl Child and emphasized end to gender stereotypes to empower Girls and protecting their rights at society/ domestic level. He said the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative has been launched to address concerns of gender discrimination and women empowerment.

Dr Bilal stressed on building a positive environment that values the girl child and prevent gender-bias, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child.

He also highlighted the initiatives of the Government launched for empowerment and overall development of girl child to educate and empower them, ensuring they are at par with boys in every respect, besides providing avenues to foster their economic, social and political growth and securing the financial future of the girls.

The DC also urged organizers to conduct sensitization programmes for boys/males in order to counsel



them regarding gender-bias and importance of the girl child to bring a transformational shift in the way our society looks at the girl child.

Later, the DC felicitated the young women achievers who have performed in different fields of life including Education, Sports, Anganwari, Health, entrepreneurship, Art etc.

Nodal Principal Colleges, Prof. Seema Naaz presented the keynote address and underscored the significance of this day.

Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Deputy Chief Education Officer, other Officers of District Social Welfare Office, Staff and Students of the College, Anagnwari/Asha workers and other participants attended the programme.

At Shopian, Under the flagship initiative of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Department of Social Welfare through Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Shopian today celebrated National Girl Child Day with a felicitation event and awareness camp at ANMT School at Shopian.

The programme focused on raising awareness about the importance of valuing and empowering the girl child to ensure an inclusive and progressive society.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar.

On the occasion, the DC distributed baby care kits to mothers of newborn girls, delivering a powerful and positive message through this thoughtful gesture. The distribution served as a symbol of the administration's dedication to celebrating the birth of girl children and promoting gender equality.

The event concluded with a pledge to work toward a society that values and empowers every girl child, ensuring they thrive and contribute to the nation's progress.

The programme witnessed active participation from MS, District Hospital, Shopian, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), and Block Medical

Officers (BMOs), healthcare professionals, NRLM members and other stakeholders.

At Baramulla, a grand event was organized by the Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Information Department Baramulla, at Dak Bungalow, here under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Addressing a large gathering, he emphasized the critical role of educating and empowering the girl child in shaping a progressive society. He urged collective efforts to break gender barriers and provide equal opportunities to girls in all aspects of life.

The event saw participation from dignitaries, including District Social Welfare Officer Sajad Ahmad, District Information Officer Iftakhar Naseem and Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, who delivered impactful speeches highlighting the achievements of women in diverse fields and the need for their empowerment.

EDITORIAL

Valley residents eagerly waiting for train to chug between Srinagar and Katra

The people of Kashmir valley are eagerly waiting for the day when the valley will be connected with the rest of the country through a rail network. Even though no final date has been set in this regard, there are high chances that the rail service between Srinagar and Katra in Jammu division would start in the first week of February. It will be a dream come true for the people of Kashmir once the rail service gets operational.

For decades together the valley residents have been waiting for the day when the train service will start and they could easily go to any part of the country and that too at an affordable price. As on date the Kashmir valley is connected with the rest of the country through road network and air traffic. The operation of train service will add yet another dimension to the connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country.

It has been observed that the air fare from Srinagar to different parts of the country shoots up during the peak tourist season and also when the weather is inclement. As soon as the Srinagar-Jammu national highway gets closed in winter due to heavy snowfall the rates of air tickets go up many times. At times it gets very difficult for the people belonging to middle and lower classes to travel to Srinagar via an aeroplane. This problem will come to an end once the train chugs from Srinagar to Jammu and onwards.

Even though the people of Kashmir are somewhat disappointed that there is no direct train between Srinagar and New Delhi as on date, they are happy that at least the Kashmir valley has been connected with the rest of India via train. People are immensely happy over this great development and they are too eager to hear the sound of a train running from Katra to Srinagar and vice-versa.

One can hope that industrial activities will also receive a shot in the arm with the operation of rail service. There is an old saying that well begun is half done and this seems to be appropriate with respect to operation of rail service between Srinagar and the rest of the country. Even though the initial service of the train will be between Srinagar and Katra, the day is not far when a direct train will run from Srinagar to New Delhi and other important destinations of the country.

“A Blueprint for Growth: Youth Development Initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir”*“From Government Jobs to Holistic Growth Through Youth Development Strategies”*DILSHADA PRAVEEN
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Youth development in Jammu and Kashmir (UT) has become a cornerstone for the region's socio-economic progress, especially given its unique challenges, including geographical isolation, economic disparities, and socio-political issues. Recognizing the potential of its young population, the region is transitioning from a dependency on government jobs towards a broader and more inclusive framework. This strategy emphasizes skill development, entrepreneurship, education, mental well-being, and community involvement, creating a pathway for holistic growth and empowerment. By addressing the diverse needs of the youth, this comprehensive approach aims to equip them with the tools and opportunities necessary to contribute meaningfully to the region's development. Key Initiatives and Programs Skill development is essential for improving employability and fostering entrepreneurship among the youth. With initiatives like Mission Youth, the government has introduced several programs aimed at equipping young individuals with industry-relevant skills. One notable scheme is the Mumkin Scheme, which provides unemployed youth with financial assistance to acquire small commercial vehicles. By enabling them to establish sustainable livelihoods in the transport sector, this program has emerged as a practical solution to combat unemployment while promoting economic self-reliance. Entrepreneurship Programs Entrepreneurship is seen as a catalyst for economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir, and several initiatives have been launched to encourage young people to pursue entrepreneurial ventures. The Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative under Mission Youth offers financial support to budding entrepreneurs and fosters innovation through structured programs like business plan competitions, mentorship, and capacity-building workshops. These initiatives not only aim to create new employment opportunities but also foster a culture of innovation and self-reliance among the youth. Higher Education Assistance Higher education is a key driver of personal growth and professional success. To ensure that marginalized youth have access to advanced education, the government has



introduced the Higher Education Sponsorship Program. This initiative provides financial aid to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, enabling them to pursue higher studies. By breaking the cycle of poverty, this program empowers young individuals to achieve their academic and professional aspirations, which, in turn, contributes to the overall socio-economic upliftment of the region. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) Self-help groups (SHGs) play a pivotal role in fostering financial independence and community collaboration among the youth. These groups enable young people to pool their resources, skills, and ideas to tackle common challenges and generate income. Through SHGs, youth can monetize their skills, access financial assistance, and build a sense of solidarity within their communities. This initiative is instrumental in promoting collective growth and creating a strong support network across the region. Programs for Women Empowerment Recognizing the importance of empowering young women, programs like Tejaswani focus on enhancing their financial independence and social status. Targeted at women aged 18 to 35 who have completed at least 10th-grade education, this initiative provides financial aid to support self-employment ventures. By encouraging women to establish their own businesses, Tejaswani

not only helps them achieve financial independence but also contributes to the larger goal of gender equality in the region. Community Entrepreneurship Initiatives Community-driven initiatives like Rise Together are designed to promote local entrepreneurship while fostering inclusive socio-economic development. These programs focus on creating enterprises that cater to the unique needs of the local population. By generating employment opportunities and encouraging community participation, such initiatives serve as a powerful tool for economic and social transformation in the region. Tourism and Hospitality Development Jammu and Kashmir's breathtaking landscapes and cultural heritage present immense opportunities for tourism-driven employment. Programs like Reimagining and Rediscovering the Paradise are focused on developing rural tourism circuits, promoting local hospitality, and fostering eco-friendly tourism practices. By leveraging the region's natural beauty and cultural assets, this initiative not only boosts tourism but also creates a wide range of employment opportunities for the youth in areas such as hospitality, transportation, and local handicrafts. Counseling and Rehabilitation Support For vulnerable youth facing challenges such as unemployment, addiction, or social exclusion, initiatives like SAHYTA

provide crucial support. This program offers financial assistance to help them establish self-employment units and reintegrate into society. By addressing their immediate needs and fostering long-term self-reliance, such initiatives play a vital role in ensuring the holistic development of the youth. Policy Framework for Youth Empowerment The government has introduced a comprehensive Youth Empowerment Policy that integrates multiple aspects of youth development, including education, employment, mental health, and leadership training. This policy seeks to ensure active youth representation in decision-making processes while promoting collaboration between public and private sectors to enhance the effectiveness and reach of developmental programs. Embracing Technology and Digital Inclusion In today's digital age, technology plays a crucial role in bridging gaps and empowering communities. The government is committed to promoting digital literacy among the youth, especially in remote and underserved areas. Through community-based programs, efforts are being made to expand internet access and equip young people with the skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world. Incentives are also being provided to encourage the development of tech-based solutions that address local challenges and improve the quality of life in the

region. Mental Health and Well-being Programs Mental health is an integral component of youth development. To address this critical area, the government plans to establish counseling centers in schools and colleges across the region. Regular awareness programs will also be conducted to train educators and community leaders in identifying and addressing mental health issues. By prioritizing mental well-being, these initiatives aim to create a supportive environment that enables the youth to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. Implementation Roadmap To ensure the effective execution of these initiatives, a phased implementation roadmap has been outlined: Research and Planning (0-6 Months): Conducting needs assessments and identifying priority areas for intervention. Pilot Programs (6-12 Months): Launching small-scale projects in key sectors such as tourism, technology, and entrepreneurship. Scaling Up (1-3 Years): Expanding successful pilot initiatives to cover a larger population across the region. Sustainability and Monitoring (Ongoing): Developing monitoring frameworks to track progress, evaluate impact, and ensure long-term sustainability. Conclusion Jammu and Kashmir's youth development initiatives represent a significant shift from traditional employment-focused approaches to a multi-dimensional framework that emphasizes skill enhancement, entrepreneurship, education, and well-being. By fostering innovation, inclusivity, and resilience, these programs empower the youth to play an active role in shaping the region's socio-economic future. Through continued investment and collaborative efforts, Jammu and Kashmir can unlock the full potential of its young population and pave the way for a prosperous and sustainable tomorrow.

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Difficulties in deciphering the script of the Indus Valley Civilization

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The script of the Indus Valley Civilization, which consists of more than 4,000 seals and inscriptions, makes this highly developed Bronze Age society (2500-1900 B.C.) difficult to understand. According to UNESCO estimates, the script contains 400-600 distinct symbols. It is difficult to interpret because of its brief inscriptions, lack of bilingual texts, and disagreement over linguistic lineage. Very few script samples exist, and the script of the Indus

Valley Civilization is still incomprehensible. Since the inscriptions are often brief—containing only four to five symbols—it is challenging to determine grammar, syntax, or language structure. The Rosetta Stone contained extensive text for deciphering, while most of the Indus seals are only 1-2 inches tall and contain small symbols. Unlike the Rosetta Stone, no bilingual texts that compare and decode the Indus script have been discovered. There are similarities between cuneiform and other ancient languages in Mesopotamian inscriptions, but not in the Indus seals.

It is a matter of debate among academics whether the script is a writing system or administrative or symbolic signs with no linguistic basis. Rather than

being a full-fledged writing system, Western scholars argue that the Indus symbols are more like tokens of early trade systems. Many seals and symbols have been discovered outside their original archaeological context, leading to conjectural interpretations. At Mohenjo-Daro, seals were often found in layers of debris during excavations, with no obvious association with artifacts or urban functions. The destruction of many sites due to urban development and neglect has resulted in a reduced amount of decipherable artifacts. Due to encroachment, access to inscriptions and archaeological layers at sites such as Kalibangan has been restricted. The script is difficult to decode due to inaccessible databases. Lack of full digitization and restrictive

deciphering policies often prevent researchers from having full access to Indus inscriptions.

Many seal databases are still unannotated, hindering researchers' ability to perform systematic linguistic or computational analysis. Politicians often oppose and debate interpretations that link the script to particular linguistic or cultural groups. Opponents of the "Aryan" interpretation challenge claims of a "Dravidian" connection, making objective research more difficult. Because of political and logistical differences, South Asian countries have not coordinated well on joint research. Few joint archaeological programs exist between India and Pakistan, two important IVC heritage stakeholders. Advances in AI and computational linguistics have

still not been fully utilized for pattern recognition in script. While Mayan symbols were decoded by AI, there is not enough annotated data for comparable machine-learning applications on Indus seals. Existing sites and inscriptions may be even more destroyed by floods and climate change.

In 2022, floods severely damaged Mohenjo-daro, worsening the loss of its distinctive artifacts. Providing open access to databases is one way to encourage collaborative research. Digitize and centralize all information about seals and artifacts to ensure worldwide access in the proper archaeological context. Successful heritage data digitization is modeled by platforms such as Europeana, which could serve as a guide for simi-

lar initiatives on the Indus. Encourage collaboration between international universities and South Asian countries for politically neutral, multidisciplinary research. Mesopotamian artifact projects coordinated by UNESCO show successful international collaboration. Investigate script patterns and linguistic possibilities using artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and computational models.

The Voynich Manuscript was decoded using machine-learning algorithms that were trained on well-known medieval scripts. Emphasize how important the Indus script is to understanding ancient history to generate interest and funding. Tamil Nadu's prize initiative is an example of how financial incentives can rekindle interest

in cultural and linguistic mysteries. More regulation is needed to prevent natural disasters or urbanization from destroying archaeological sites. For example, the preservation of Egypt's Valley of the Kings provides insights on how to protect cultural heritage from human interference. Archaeologists, linguists, and AI researchers should work together across different disciplines to decipher the script. Global funding for AI-based pattern recognition and UNESCO's digital collections programs are two examples of initiatives that can bridge the gap.

A committed international research consortium can foster innovations to help reconstruct the socio-cultural and economic aspects of this mysterious civilization.

For nature lovers, all the seasons are endowed and charming



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It's winter; every corner looks whitish, and the surface of the earth looks crispy and spongy and looks like a white carpet is laid down for the visitor. The Kashmir Valley looks so sensuous, endowed, and mesmerizing, charming throughout the year. All four seasons have importance, and visitors from corners of the globe visit and catch unforgettable memories in their minds and cameras.

Winters too shall pass; we will witness the charming vibes of summers again in Kashmir.

Today in this article I am going to share with you my experiences when I made a visit to Labkhal Bahak, in the upper reaches of the Doodhpathri, in District Budgam, Kashmir.

Doodhpathri has great and immense potential for trekkers. One should explore the lavishing beauty of Budgam.

During the summer, the mountains and meadows of the Pir Panjal range in the Kashmir Valley get opened. Peaks that looked like "a bird's eye view" during the winter now look vivid in the summer. From kilometers away, the peaks of the lofty mountains look brownish and green, and trees are upright on the shoulders of the colossal mountains of the Pir Panjal Forests. For me, all the seasons are pleasant and sensuous in the Kashmir Valley. There are people who like summer the most. Summer attracts trekkers to lofty mountains. We feel scared in the winter due to the accumulation of snow. During the summer, a huge number of trekkers and tourists enjoy the eminent mountains. Kashmir Valley has vast diversity in the tourism sector. Every corner of the valley attracts you due to its mesmerizing beauty and calls you throughout the year. Tourist destinations like Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, and Tosamaidan witness a huge rush of trekkers from June to September, as such places have various known trekking places, like in Doodhpathri, where the trekking places are Diskhal, Ashtaar, Daani deer, Marg, and many more one can explore.

Today in this article, I am going to explore the beauty of Labkhal. Birds sound like someone making a tune on a guitar, cattle graze like someone has kept them there in such a winsome position, mud-like structures like the artists are living inside them, and the clear, crystal, and tasty water of springs looks like the best quality water is there.

Labkhal is like a lavishing, sensuous, mesmerizing, and endowed Bahak area in the Pir Panjal range. The Labkhal meadows are covered with luscious, dense forest that looks so natural and feels like a piece of heaven. Labkhal is in the direction of the south from the famous Shaliganag River, passing through Doodhpathri. When you cross the Shaliganag River, then take a left; it will take one and a half hours to reach there through the dense forests. One can reach it via Pal Maidan. Triken Bahak and Labkhal.

The Kashmir Valley has a vast diversity of different cultures, like the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, which are some of the loveliest and kindest people. The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities describe and add laurels to the beauty in the cultures of Kashmir. In the upper areas of the Kashmir Valley, the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities reside for a short period of time, from June to September, for the grazing purposes of their cattle. It includes cows, buffaloes, sheep, and goats; in the Bahak area, we can see hens and cocks as well. Gujjar and Bakarwal communities reside in tents, or kothas. Kotha (a muddy, small, and temporary house).

What is Bahak?

An area where only those people are allowed to graze their cattle whose Bahak are registered in the revenue records. Bahak means an area in the forest where we can see muddy-like structures like tents for the purpose of cattle grazing.

The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities protect the environment.

Gujjar and Bakarwal communities show their presence during the summer in dense forest areas, where they protect the forests from smugglers, inform the forest department in case any forest tree is chopped down or lain down due to strong winds, and maintain the bond with forest officials regarding environment-related issues.

What are the needs of the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in the Bahaks?

The water of the lofty glaciers of the Pir Panjal range is so cold that one may not bathe in it.

They need some mobile latrines to avoid outbreaks of diseases. Need solar panels so that they can care for their cattle during the night hours? As we know, the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities are hard workers and play an important role in the economy of the nation.

Suggestions

Bahak should be provided with all the facilities that trekkers can use, and it will be a livelihood for the community during the summer.

Gujjar, Bakarwal and Pahadi communities are companions of the trekkers and guide them to know more places.



MOOL RAJ

Every word that comes out of the human mouth has its own existence. If the words are full of hateful thorns, then they tear the one in front of them and the words of gentleness, compassion and love create a world of love in which the wind of peace and harmony continues to blow.

Words have so much power that if you want to eliminate the ability from within a person, on the basis of which he is climbing the ladder of success, then hit him with bad, neg-

ative, hateful words, gradually destroy his abilities. Self-confidence will die its own death, that person will always be hesitant and then one day he will hide in a corner with his confused and depressed personality.

Words, behaviour play an important role in improving and destroying the personality of a person. Words have a mood of their own, life runs in their veins. They destroy lives as well as settle them. When poisonous words are poured into an ear, their poison attacks the feelings of a person.

Dr. Bruce Lipton in his book "The Biology of Belief" writes about human behavior affecting human, animal and plant life that if the wild people of the Solomon Islands, also known as the Solomon Islands, were to cut trees. So many people

gather around the trees and start badmouthing them.

They abuse the trees and this process continues for several weeks and then all the trees automatically break and fall to the ground. The effect of words is not only on the trees, but water is also injured by their blows. Even words effects on water. It also happens I conducted an experiment in a laboratory in which I collected different types of water samples in white glass bottles to form crystals. On the bottle of distilled water i.e. pure water I wrote you fool while on the bottle of tap water I wrote thank you. And placed the two bottles in different corners of the laboratory, and asked the employees to utter disdainful words whenever they passed a bottle of distilled water and a bottle of tap

water. If you go through it, put love and love in your tone, say loving words. This process continued for 10 days and after 10 days, amazing results were seen.

After tenth days, the two waters were subjected to the process of making ice, the distilled water (pure water) with the word "you fool" on it became very ugly crystals and the tap water with the word "love" on it. The crystals were very beautiful. Similarly, I put the same crop of same quality rice in bottles and wrote words of hate, contempt and love and repeated the same process for 10 days. On the contrary, the rice bottle on which hateful words were written, the rice spoiled and lost its nutrition.

The words that come out of the mouth, whose purpose is to make the person in front of them

vulgar, humiliated, worthless, worthless, their effect turns the sweet waters bitter, tears the livers of the mountains, and the flesh is turned into a poppy. How can one avoid attacks, how can a person tolerate harsh words. The words that cause the destruction and defeat of the human being are just like someone takes out fire from the mouth and burns everything. By the way, words are lifeless, but their use can take someone's life if they want to. So put life into someone.

The words we say make a house for us in which we live. If we speak words full of love and increase love, then we will live in a house made of love and kindness. If we make bricks of kindness and generosity, then this is Bricks will make a house of generosity for us. Or if we become farmers of soft words and gentle atti-

tudes and sow the seeds of kindness, we will reap the harvest of peace, kindness and gratitude.

On the contrary, our negative and derisive behavior, conspiratorial words make a house of hatred for us, in which the feelings of every resident are hurt all the time. The arrows of poisonous words do not pierce the chest of anyone, but each one of us is living miraculously with a bleeding heart and a wounded soul with bitter, stinging words, because in the present age, Bads words have more courage and less death. Yes, contempt is more and love is less, detachment is more and attachment is less. I wish each of us would become a sponsor of our own words before speaking.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

A comprehensive approach in agricultural reforms is necessary for a developed India in 2047



PRIYANKA SAURABHI

India's agricultural reforms have changed dramatically, from the MSP system of 1965, which guaranteed price stability, to today's tackling of the complex problems of market integration, sustainability, and welfare. Recent discussions about changes in the MSP and programs such as PM-KISAN reflect efforts to strike a balance between welfare and economics. Still, pursuing sustainable agriculture is essential to achieving a developed India in 2047. The MSP system was introduced to reduce food shortages by providing incentives for the production of rice and wheat. For example, by importing Mexican wheat varieties in 1966, India launched the Green Revolution, which relied on guaranteed MSPs for rice and wheat. Political pressures eventually led to the MSP being expanded to cover more crops, result-

ing in regional imbalances. MSP and free electricity have forced Punjab and Haryana to focus heavily on rice, harming the environment and depleting groundwater. For rice and wheat in particular, the system shifted to open procurement, leading to inefficiencies and surplus inventory. The Food Corporation of India has rice stocks almost three times higher than buffer requirements, leading to wastage and storage problems. The introduction of power, fertilizer, and irrigation subsidies reduced farmers' costs but harmed the environment and degraded soils. Free electricity for tubewells in Punjab has led to an alarming decline in groundwater levels. Direct cash transfers and digital beneficiary records are two examples of recent reforms that emphasize digitization to increase efficiency. The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi eliminates middlemen and ensures targeted benefit delivery by providing direct income support to farmers.

To improve soil health and reduce groundwater depletion, encourage farmers to grow pulses, oilseeds, and millets from water-intensive crops like wheat and rice. The Odisha Millet Mission

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



government-subsidized electricity and groundwater extraction.

Provide farmers with the latest information on crop selection, soil health, and water use to maximize resources in a sustainable way. Using drones to spray pesticides in Tamil Nadu reduces wastage while guaranteeing effectiveness and environmental safety. Build effective cold storage facilities and value chains to reduce post-harvest losses and guarantee equitable pricing for perishables. By establishing robust supply and storage networks, Operation Greens seeks to stabilize the prices of potatoes, tomatoes, and onions. The Direct benefit transfers to farmers should replace input subsidies to ensure equitable distribution and

reduce wastage of resources. Preventing DBT diversion in fertilizer distribution guarantees that subsidies are effectively distributed to deserving farmers. Allow open, regulated land leasing to small farmers and sharecroppers to promote investment in productivity-enhancing practices.

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

Boost public spending on storage facilities, irrigation systems, and rural roads to increase market access and reduce wastage. In dry areas, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has improved irrigation coverage and water use efficiency. Sup-

port agroforestry and the development of drought-resistant varieties to tackle climate change and increase productivity. By encouraging farmers to plant trees, Punjab's agroforestry policy enhances biodiversity and reduces carbon footprint. Boost agricultural R&D spending to create sustainable farming practices and guarantee information sharing through extension services. Zero-tillage farming is promoted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research because it reduces costs and improves soil health.

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

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Where Do These People Come From? Police crack down on drug peddler's



BY GULAM BARJI
HARWAN SRINAGAR

As the drug peddling business is spreading in the valley the crackdown of the Jammu and Kashmir police is also getting tougher against these drug peddler's. We all are well aware that the number of drug addicted youth is increasing day by day in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the valley, which is not good for the society although there are reports that young of these drug addicted youth

are Age and young girls are included. We are also aware of how many homes have been destroyed by this scourge of drugs, while many youths have killed their own parents and many youths have succumbed to this scourge of drugs. People lost their lives Many cases of looting have occurred. They broke into the houses of many senior citizens and attacked and looted these senior citizens. If the parents had monitored their children on time maybe this heresy would not have been known in the society today. Every parent should be rich whether or not the poor wish that their children live their lives as good citizens and support their parents. But by making

empty wishes here their children cannot become good citizens nor can they become their support but with good education and training, good upbringing and good care their wish can be fulfilled. It is the duty of parents to they should keep an eye on their children where their children go, with whom they go, with whom they have more contact on the mobile phone and investigate in their own way. It has also been seen that if in your neighborhood or neighborhood There is a young person who is addicted to drugs when someone complains about this to the parents there are some parents who rebuke the complainants, saying "You are

my child." Defamation and such behavior of these parents gives encouragement to this drug addicted youth due to which he deteriorates instead of improving and ruins the lives of many other youth along with him. How nice it would be if a parent of a child who receives such a complaint about their child would pay attention to their child and investigate the complaint thoroughly instead of messing with the complainant. Their child's life would have been saved and the lives of the young people in the neighborhood would also have been saved. Now the second aspect is that WHERE DO THESE DRUG PEDDLER'S COME FROM? Have these drug peddler's taken the contract to

destroy the society? Who is backing them? Although the Jammu and Kashmir Police is tightening its grip against these drug peddler's day by day on the other hand we are getting to hear and read the news every day that the police have arrested so many drug peddler's from such and such a place today although these drug peddler's Women are also in the forefront and many women have been put behind bars by the police. However in order to eradicate this drug-like innovation from the society, the police also seized the properties of many notorious drug peddler's under the NDPS Act and froze around 100 bank accounts which is a commendable step towards rooting

out this drug innovation. There is an initiative, but still these kind of unscrupulous people will not stop in our society until the public exposes those who support these drug peddler's. Therefore the public has a great responsibility to keep the society clean and free from this innovation. We should not ignore the fact that the brave police of Jammu and Kashmir are working day and night to keep our society clean and free from this innovation of drugs. Salute to the brave police but if you really want to keep your society clean from this menace of drugs then let us all come together and extend our support to Jammu and Kashmir Police to root out this innovation.

CS for developing Jambu Zoo at par with international standards More attractions for visitors to be added soon

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the Jambu Zoo to take first hand appraisal about the works being executed there besides assessing the facilities being extended to the visitors.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, Sarvesh Rai; Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Jyotsana; Additional Director, Jambu Zoo, Anil Atri and other senior officers of the department.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary inspected various animal enclosures, visitor's facilities and reviewed the ongoing developmental works at the zoo.

The Chief Secretary expressed his vision for Jambu Zoo to achieve recognition at par with other prominent zoos of the country and of the international standards. He emphasised the need for devising a comprehensive developmental plan for future expansion of the zoo including creation of other educational, recreational



and animal welfare facilities and enhancement of overall appeal of the zoo.

To ensure that Jambu Zoo meets global standards, the Chief Secretary suggested deputed zoo officers to prominent national and international zoos for training and exposure for advanced management practices and technology intervention. This will enable them to contribute significantly towards achieving excellence in zoo's development and management, he added.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the importance of increasing the Zoo's footfall through innovative strategies and public engagement programs in addition to animal collection in the zoo.

During the interaction, the Chief Secretary was

apprised by the zoo management regarding the need to further augment the field staff there supported by a dedicated engineering team too. It was added that enhancing battery operated vehicle fleet and veterinary expert team for the zoo would increase the appeal of this facility manifold.

The Chief Secretary assured his support in addressing these issues and instructed the concerned authorities to complete the

new animal collection process including completion of species specific infrastructure at the earliest.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary was briefed by the Chief Wildlife Warden about the existing 17 enclosures in which different species of wild animals like tiger, lion, leopard, himalayan black bear, black buck, snake chambers and crocodile have been kept for public display. He was also informed that 13 different animal enclosures have been undertaken for construction during 2024-25. The prominent species to be housed in these enclosures will be hippopotamus, ostrich, indian gaur, hyena, wolf, fishing cat etc. A walk through aviary is also in the construction stage where number of beautiful native as well as exotic species of birds shall be kept.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohammad Latif Paul Son of Mohammad Yousuf paul Resident of Ganji bagh Tehsil Chadoora district Budgam have my B class card now I want to upgrade it and apply for A class card. if any body have any objection he/she may contact the jammu and kashmir power development corporation Srinagar within in seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....MOHAMMAD LATIF PAUL

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Application for change in location of the excursion agency under the name and style "Jiya travels" located at Maisuma Lal chowk, Srinagar.

Public Notice.

Whereas, proprietor of excursion agency "Jiya travels" has approached this office for change in location of his excursion agency from Maisuma Lal chowk Srinagar to "Nawab Bazar, Srinagar" as per Section 39 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/2011; Whereas, the said excursion agency is registered with this department under the name and style "Jiya travels" in the name of Ms. Uzma Nabi D/o Ghulam Nabi Shora R/o Maisuma Lalchowk, Srinagar bearing online registration No. JKEA00001790 and the same is valid upto 31.12.2024;

Whereas, applicant has submitted submitted Rent deed (Notarized) dated: 03.01.2025 alongwith supportive affidavit dated 03/1/2025 duly authenticated by Judicial Magistrate, NOC from HDFC Bank Branch Unit Karan Nagar, Srinagar issued vide dated 07.10.2025, photocopy of Registration Certificate and affidavit dated 03.1.2025 for change in location duly authenticated by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/2011/2012, before the request of the applicant for change in location of his Excursion Agency "Jiya Travels" from "Maisuma Lal chowk Srinagar" to "Nawab Bazar, Srinagar" is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

DIPK-11198/24
Date: Jan 24 2025

SD
Assistant Director Tourism,
Registration

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No:- 109/10331-40/2024-25/RnB/BlA Dated 20.01.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. on JKPWDOMS with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest money. (In Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Project Authority	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1.	Construction of science Block at Govt Women's College Baramulla Phase 2nd Finishing / Balance work	198.02	396040/-	2600/-	365days	AAV	Hr. Educaiton	Principal GDCW Baramulla	Accorded	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	20.01.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 21.01.2025 to 10.02.2025 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	27.01.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	10.02.2025 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	11.02.2025 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG (between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award in the form of CDR/FDR/BG (The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP), strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process If:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

DIPK-11185/24
Dated 24.01.2025

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

اطلاع عام

علی سے ادھار کاڈ 2806 20184236 میر سے بیٹے کا نام ارمان مستاق اور تاریخ پیدائش 11/01/2016 راج ہوا ہے جب کہ میر سے بیٹے کا اصل نام مطابق سکول رکاڈ آرموس اور تاریخ پیدائش 24/08/2019 ہے اب اس کی دنگی کرانی مطلوب ہے کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو ورسات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر ہزار امین پیش کرے بعد از معاد کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستھر

مستاق احمد دوی والد ابو موس
ساکن من انت ناک کسمیر

اطلاع عام

مجھے ٹورسٹن نام Snow Sky Vacations کی رہنمائی محکمہ رازم پہلاگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں کوئی عذر ہو تو ورسات یوم کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیوٹری فورا زم پہلاگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد از معاد کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستھر

فرحت عباس ملک ولامحمد عباس ملک
ساکن بنہ کوٹ پہلاگام

ازدفتر نائب تحصیلدار اچھل انت ناگ

درخواست منجانب عرفان منظور وغیر منظور پسران منظور احمد پٹر ساکنہ کوارٹم اچھل برآمد حصول RBA سر تقیبت بحق پسر

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں درخواست سال دفتر پرائم زیر کاروانی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری علق سے پورٹ بشمول مطبہ تقوالا ریکارڈ مطب کے جس سے عیال ہوتا ہے سال موضع سال کوارٹم اچھل میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ بذیل افراد متعلق ہے

1.. منظور احمد ولامحمد 56 سال دوکان داری

2.. شیمیزو منظور احمد 45 سال گھر پہلاگام

3.. عرفان منظور پسر 30 سال زیر تعلیم

4... پٹواری زویہ عرفان 28 سال گھر پہلاگام

5.. ازما عرفان دختر عرفان / سال شیرخوار

6.. عبید منظور پسر 25 سال سرکاری ملازم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتوایا گیا ہے کسی کی سالانہ آمدنی مطابق سر تقیبت زیر بحث کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کرے معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

Name.....MOHAMMAD LATIF PAUL

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of HAJRA BEGUM W/O ABDUL SAMAD MIR R/O KALANTRA BALA Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/10/1957 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR WAGOORA (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD MAVIYABANDY S/O MOHAMMAD ALTAF R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 24/05/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class WAGOORA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR PAHALGAM (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PAHALGAM) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of QUBRA JAN D/O FAYAZ AHMAD WANIB R/O GANISHBAL PAHALGAM Tehsil PAHALGAM Distt. ANANTNAG with verified the date of Birth, as 29/04/2007 and event has been to be occurred at Home. In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of said registration shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class PAHALGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for issuance of pesticides License in this connection if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his .her objection in the office of concerned PLANT PROTECTION OFFICER LAL MANDI SRINAGAR (PPO) within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..... SNOBAR MUSHTAQ
D/OMUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR
R/OKREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR WAGOORA (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of AZIZI BEGUM W/O ABDUL SAMAD NAJAR R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 17/12/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class WAGOORA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AANISA MUSHTAQ D/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD LONE R/O THINDIMA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/04/2007 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Husband's name AB AHAD TANTRAY S/L GH RASOOL MAGRAY R/O VIZER .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002690 wants to be registered on my name HAJRA BEGUM D/O GH RASOOL MAGRAY R/O VIZER .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....HAJRA BEGUM
D/OGHULAM RASOOL MAGRAY
R/O VIZER

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR WAGOORA (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of ABDUL SAMAD NAJAR S/O GH RASOOL NAJAR R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 08/06/2019 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class WAGOORA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABIROO S/O GH MOHAMMAD SHAH R/O TAPPAR WARIPORA Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/04/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I, Umer Ahad Bhat, intend to apply for a Fertilizer Licence for "Bhat Fertilizers" situated at Kalantra Payean, Kreeri. The application will be submitted to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla.

Any person having any objection in this regard he/she may file their objections in writing to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received after this period will not be entertained.

UMER AHAD BHAT
Son of AB AHAD BHAT
Residen Of Kalantra Payean, Kreeri, Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I, Shaheen Ahmad Lone, intend to apply for a Fertilizer Licence for "Lone Fertilizers" situated at Harnow Kawchak, Kreeri. The application will be submitted to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla.

Any person having any objection in this regard he/she may file their objections in writing to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received after this period will not be entertained.

Name: Shaheen Ahmad Lone
Son of Gh. Mohd. Lone
Resident of Harnow Kawchak, Kreeri, Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for issuance of FERTILIZER License in this connection if anybody has any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of CHEIF AGRICULTURE OFFICER BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME.....ZAHOR AHMAD LONE
S/O.....LATE AB AHAD LONE
R/O THINDIMA KREERI
DISTT..... BARAMULLA
Contact..... 962272264

Shab-i-Meraj preparations reviewed at Budgam

DC stresses on ensuring provision of all arrangements for smooth observance

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, JANUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting to finalize arrangements for the ensuing auspicious occasion of Meraj-ul-Alam in district Budgam.

The meeting discussed threadbare preparations to be made for the celebrations of Shab-i-Meraj and responsibilities were assigned to different departments.

At the outset, the DC directed District police to ensure proper security at the religious places including Peth Makhama, Charar-i-Sharif and Pak-

herpora shrine and other major shrines of the district during the celebrations of the festival.

Further, he directed KPDC Budgam for uninterrupted power supply and ensuring functioning of street lights at all significant places.

He instructed EOs of concerned Municipal Committees to carry out special cleanliness drives and proactive measures for proper sanitation in all areas.

Health authorities were instructed to ensure availability of staff and ambulances at all sub centers and ensure medical assistance at all designated places.

With regard to availability of ration,



the DC directed AD FCS&CA to ensure timely supply and distribution of food

grains, besides ensuring availability of essential commodities to the general public.

The DC also directed the ARTO to ensure hassle free availability of transport facility on the auspicious days and directed him to coordinate with the traffic department so that bottlenecks in smooth flow of traffic are removed.

During the meeting, the DC directed the Department of PHE to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. They were also directed to provide additional water tankers at identified locations to augment the capacity.

To check illegal profiteering and hoarding in the markets, the DC

directed SDMs to constitute squads which will monitor and conduct market checking drives to ensure sale of quality food items and check any hoarding or overpricing.

Besides, ADC Budgam, CPO, SDMs, DFO, CMO, Executive Engineer PDD, PHE, AD FCS&CA, AD Fisheries, DSP HQ, Budgam, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Cooperatives and EOs of Municipal Committees were present in the meeting. During the meeting, the DC directed the Department of PHE to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. They were also directed to provide additional water tankers at identified locations to augment the capacity.

DLRC meeting held at Kupwara

DDC emphasizes on mass awareness of schemes, financial inclusion & employment generation

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 24: The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today, chaired the meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the performance of line departments and banks with regard to saturation of different government schemes in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DDC emphasized the concerned officers and bankers for financial inclusion and saturation of various centrally sponsored schemes so that the people especially marginalized sections of the community get benefited at large.

She directed all the banks and the sponsoring



agencies to work with greater coordination and cohesion to achieve the goals and targets of financial

inclusion, besides, generation of employment for unemployed youth of the district.

The DDC further directed banks for early disposal of financial assistance cases and instructed line departments to sponsor cases to respective bank branches strictly as per service area, within the stipulated time frame.

Ayushi stressed the need for grassroots awareness of financial and social security schemes sponsored by the Government and directed the departments to hold awareness camps for the people in coordination with respective MLAs.

She directed the bankers and line departments to maximize the coverage of social security schemes in the district and enroll Asha Workers, Anganwadi Workers, MGNREGA and other marginalized workers so that they can be benefitted in large.

Shab-e-Meraj: DC Bandipora visits Ahamshareef Shrine, reviews arrangements

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Friday visited Ahamshareef Shrine to review and finalise the preparations for the upcoming observance of Shab-e-Meraj. During the visit, the DC assessed various aspects of the arrangements and steps taken up to accommodate devotees during the auspicious occasion. He emphasised the significance of seamless coordination among departments to ensure a smooth, peaceful, and spiritually enriching observance of Shab-e-Meraj. While reviewing the

arrangements, the DC underscored the need for all stakeholders to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing the requirements of devotees, urging them to ensure that all necessary amenities are in place for their convenience and comfort. The DC also interacted with representatives of the Auqaf Committee and local residents to listen to their concerns, feedback and suggestions regarding the arrangements for the observance of Shab-e-Meraj. He directed the concerned to address any highlighted issues promptly. Among others, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for celebration of auspicious Shab-e-Meraj

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 24: In connection with celebration of upcoming Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of Officers at DC Office Complex here, to finalize the arrangements being made by all line Departments for smooth conduct of the auspicious religious occasion.

Ayushi sought feedback from concerned Officers regarding the arrangements of electricity, water supply, cleanliness, fire service, transport, parking and medical facilities being put in place for celebration of the Shab-e-Meraj.

The DC directed the Officers of all line departments to ensure special arrangements for smooth observance of the auspicious occasion at the shrine of Muqam Shahwali and other prominent religious places for the devotees particularly during the intervening night (Shab) and on Friday following.

With regard to adequate supply of water, the DC directed the PHE Department to ensure adequate water supply at the prominent religious places so that devotees do not face any inconvenience. Similarly, Executive Engineers of PDD were directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the auspicious occasion.

The MC officials were directed to ensure proper cleanliness around the mosques and shrines falling in Municipal areas of Kupwara and Handwara. Similarly, BDOs will ensure cleanliness in rural areas where large congregations of devotees are expected. Concerned DFOs were directed to arrange sufficient firewood for heating requirements.

The Tehsildars were directed to intensify market checking in all major markets of the district to ensure no illegal hoardings and overcharging is done.

The CMO Kupwara was asked to keep ambulances standby at main sites where large congregations are expected as per past practice. ADC Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman; ACR, CMO, Executive Engineers of PDD/PHE, EOs of Municipalities, Tehsildars and other concerned officers attended the meeting.



DDC Shopian reviews sector wise works of District Capex

■ Farooq Rather

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 24: To review the physical and financial progress of developmental projects and works under the District Capex Plan for the ongoing year (2024-25) in the district, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today chaired a meeting of officers at Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The DDC took review of physical and financial progress of ongoing development projects and works under execution in the district pertaining to various departments.

During the meeting, Shahid Saleem emphasized the need for efficiency in the project lifecycle, urging officers to expedite the execution process and improve the financial progress immediately.



Different development projects including roads, bridges, water supply & power augmentation works, drainage networks, playgrounds & recreation facilities, irrigation works, street lights and other infrastructure development works in schools, health centers & rural development works, etc are under execution in the district under the District Capex.

The review meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone and various district/sectoral officers/ block officers.

Shab-e-Meraj: DC Bandipora visits Ahamshareef Shrine, reviews arrangements

■ HT News Network

Budgam, January 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Friday visited Ahamshareef Shrine to review and finalise the preparations for the upcoming observance of Shab-e-Meraj.

During the visit, the DC assessed various aspects of the arrangements and steps taken up to accommodate devotees during the auspicious occasion.

He emphasised the significance of seamless coordination among departments to ensure a smooth, peaceful, and spiritually



enriching observance of Shab-e-Meraj.

While reviewing the arrangements, the DC underscored the need for all stakeholders to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing the requirements of devotees, urging them to ensure that all

necessary amenities are in place for their convenience and comfort.

The DC also interacted with representatives of the Auqaf Committee and local residents to listen to their concerns, feedback and suggestions regarding the arrangements for the

observance of Shab-e-Meraj. He directed the concerned to address any highlighted issues promptly.

Among others, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora and Tehsildar. While reviewing the arrangements, the DC underscored the need for all stakeholders to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing the requirements of devotees, urging them to ensure that all necessary amenities are in place for their convenience and comfort.

DC Kulgam inaugurates District Level Exhibition under INSPIRE Awards MANAK.

■ Farooq Rather.

KULGAM, January 24: A District Level Exhibition and Project Competition under INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) was inaugurated at DIET Kulgam, today, where the students from various schools exhibited more than 100 models prepared by them.

The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan (IAS) inaugurated the exhibition and also took overview of these projects besides interacting with the students.

Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of school children who displayed their innovative ideas by models. He further added that such exhibitions adds the scientific temperament & team spirit among the young innovators.

Principal DIET Kulgam Rifat Sarosh, CEO Kulgam, Officers from SCERT and



other Officers of Education Department also attended the programme. The students explained their innovations and communicated their inherent merit to all visitors and jury members. The innovations reflected a realization of national priorities like technologies for making digital India, for cleanliness and sanitation as well as local and day to day necessities like picking fruits and road safety innovations to avoid accidents,

minimizing pollution etc. About 102 models/Projects were displayed by the students and evaluated by a panel of experts including experts from National Innovative Foundation of India. Out of the 102 models displayed by District Kulgam, 11 best models were selected for UT Level competition at Srinagar. It was informed by DNO that Innovation in science pursuit for inspired research (INSPIRE) scheme

is one of the flagship programmes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Government of India.

At the conclusion of Exhibition the participants & awardee were felicitated by worthy Pricipal DIET. It worth to mention that inspire awards-MANAK being executed by DST with National Innovation foundation-India (NIF) an autonomous body of DST aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6th to 10th. The objective of the scheme is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and society applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children. The scheme also supports disbursement of inspire awards of 10,000 rupees into the bank accounts of short listed students through direct-benefit transfer scheme.

Lamberdars, Chowkidars have vital role in strengthening unity, foiling intolerance: Sadhotra

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 24: Senior National Conference (NC) leader and additional general secretary, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Thursday urged Lamberdars and village Chowkidars to play an active role in fostering communal harmony by unleashing machinations comical to brotherhood and peace.

Speaking at a conference of Lamberdars and Chowkidars at village Mana, Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency, Sadhotra highlighted the importance of grassroots workers in promoting unity and maintaining peace in society, saying they enjoy mass contact in their areas.

"Lamberdars and Chowkidars are a bridge between the government and the common people," he said.

The NC leader called for collective efforts to counter the dangerous trend of intolerance and hate that is threatening the social fabric of the nation. "Our country is confronted with a serious challenge of division and hatred, which must be met with unity and peace. Lamberdars and village Chowkidars,



being conscious keepers at the grassroots level, have a crucial responsibility to engage with every section of society and ensure that harmony prevails," he said.

The former minister urged these community representatives to reach out to the last person in the social hierarchy and work towards creating an inclusive and harmonious society. He acknowledged the vital role grassroots workers play in society and assured them that their concerns are being prioritized by the National Conference.

"The Omar Abdullah government recognises the significance of grassroots-level workers and remains committed to their welfare. We will take up their issues with the concerned authorities to ensure that their grievances are redressed promptly," he added.

DDC Kulgam chairs DLTC meeting for approval of Scale of finance for 2025-26

■ Farooq Rather.

Kulgam January 24: A meeting of District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, IAS to finalize the Scale of Finance for the year 2025-26 for Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, Fisheries, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Floriculture at mini-secretariat here.

The participants deliberated on various factors like input prices and market prices of commodities for assessing the Scale of Finance for providing short term loans to the farmers in the shape of Working Capital for various field



crops. Information was shared with the attendees on the prices of various sub items such as fodder, fertilizer, pesticides, labour value addition and manure etc for growing the crops and maintenance of dairy animals.

Keeping in view the inflation rate and the cost of inputs, the scale of finance for each crop was decided.

The Convenor DLTC Kul-

gam briefed the meeting that the rates finalised by the worthy Chairman Committee will be forwarded to the State Level Technical Committee for approval. Chairman Committee (DDC) while speaking on the occasion said that agriculture and allied sectors are the backbone of sustenance and an important economic activity and the credit facility to the farmers will be instrumental in

boosting the sector. He directed the banks to be liberal in lending these small loans to farmers without any delays. DC emphasized the line departments to send the revised work sheet feedback to Convenor DLTC at the earliest so that it can be forwarded to SLTC on time. The meeting was convened by Nodal Officer ACC Bank Anantnag/Kulgam and attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Floriculture Officer, Cluster Bank JKB, AD Fisheries, Manager SBI, Manager EDB, DDM NABARD, KVK Pombay among others.

Bandipora gears up for Wullar Festival Deputy Commissioner reviews preparations

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the upcoming Wullar Festival, scheduled to be held at Wullar Vantage Park, Bandipora in the month of February.

During the meeting threadbare discussions were held on various measures to ensure the successful organization of the festival, aimed at promoting tourism in the District.

DC emphasized the importance of showcasing local cultural heritage and involving various departments and locals to create a vibrant and inclusive event.



It was decided that stalls highlighting cultural heritage and tourism promotion will be set up by various departments including WUCMA, Horticulture, Agriculture, Handicrafts, Handloom, ICDS, Tourism, Fisheries, KVIB, NRLM, DIC, besides local communities and conservation groups.

The meeting also discussed measures to orga-

nise various activities including Wullar Angling Competition, Shikara Race, Cycle Race, Painting Competition besides other recreational and cultural activities.

The concerned officers from the Department of Education and Tourism were directed to organize cultural programmes involving performances

such as Kashmiri folk songs, Gojri songs, and Shina songs involving local communities to ensure an inclusive and engaging experience for all attendees. Addressing the officers, Qadri urged all concerned departments to ensure that preparations are completed in advance for the successful conduct of the event. He called for meticulous coordination among departments to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event besides highlighted the festival as an opportunity to boost the local economy and create a platform for tourism promotion.

The meeting was attended by DPO, CPO, Coordinator WUCMA, District officers from various departments, and other stakeholders.

BJP Appoints Three Leaders from J&K to National Council

■ MUSHTAQ ULISLAM

Pulwama, January 24: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced the nomination of three prominent leaders from Jammu & Kashmir—Shri Arif Raja, Shri Anwar Khan, and Smt. Sunita Raina—as members of the party's prestigious National Council. The appointment is being hailed as a significant step in recognizing the dedication and contributions of regional leaders at the national level.

Mohd Lateef Bhat, BJP District President of Pulwama, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed council members. He praised their unwavering commitment to the party's growth and vision, emphasizing that



their leadership would bring pride to the region.

"This nomination reflects your hard work, loyalty, and dedication to strengthening the BJP. Your representation at the national level will inspire many and contribute to the betterment of society. I wish you immense success in this new role," said Mohd Lateef Bhat. The nominations have sparked celebrations among BJP workers and supporters across Jammu & Kashmir. Party

members have lauded Shri Arif Raja Ji, Shri Anwar Khan Ji, and Smt. Sunita Raina Ji for their exemplary service, tireless efforts, and commitment to the party's mission.

The BJP leadership highlighted that this decision underscores the party's commitment to promoting capable leaders who represent regional aspirations on national platforms. The move also aligns with the BJP's ongoing efforts to strengthen its organizational framework by empowering grassroots leaders. Expressing their gratitude, the newly appointed council members pledged to uphold the principles of the BJP and work tirelessly for the progress and welfare of the nation.

Mission Shakti SWD, CRC Jammu join hands to celebrate National Girl Child Day with Specially Abled Children

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 24: Mission Shakti Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jammu, organized a heartwarming and vibrant celebration to mark National Girl Child Day, focusing on empowering specially-abled girls. The event not only highlighted the talents and achievements of these young girls but also underscored the values of inclusivity, empowerment, and gender equity.

The program was thoughtfully designed to celebrate the abilities and dreams of specially-abled children. Alongside plantation, a signature campaign, cultural performances and speeches, the Mission Shakti, under its BBBP initiative, distributed school bags, Tiffins and water bottles to the children as a gesture of encouragement and support for their educational jour-



ney. The children enthusiastically presented cultural items, recited poetry and displayed their craft items. The parents of the children also attended the event, lending their wholehearted support and admiration.

Speaking on the occasion, District Mission Coordinator Shagun Manchanda stressed the importance of such initiatives in fostering confidence among these girls and

reaffirmed Mission Shakti's unwavering commitment to advocating for their rights and education. She acknowledged the incredible synergy between Mission Shakti and CRC Jammu, which made this celebration exceptional.

Adding her perspective, Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director CRC, commended the event for being a beautiful showcase of strength, potential, and the indomitable

spirit of these young girls. She highlighted the need for continued efforts to ensure that every specially-abled child gets an equal opportunity to succeed.

Sub Divisional Magistrate Akhnoor Subhankar Pathak was the Chief Guest. In his address, he applauded Mission Shakti's proactive efforts under the SANKALP initiative for improving the socio-economic conditions of women and children, particularly in under-represented groups. He emphasized the transformative potential of empowering one girl and its ripple effect across future generations. Officials from Mission Shakti's SANKALP wing, representatives from CRC Jammu, and families of the children celebrated the occasion together, marking a milestone of unity and collaboration. The presence of parents further reinforced the message that true empowerment begins with family and community support.

DH Bandipora Bans Videography, Photography to Protect Patient Privacy

■ HT News Network

Bandipora, Jan 24: Authorities at District Hospital Bandipora have imposed a strict ban on videography and photography within the hospital premises to ensure patient privacy and confidentiality. According to an official statement, the decision aims to create a secure and respectful environment for patients, their families, and hospital staff. "Videography and photography inside the hospital premises are strictly prohibited which includes capturing images or videos using mobile phones or any other devices," the statement read. Hospital officials emphasized the importance of maintaining confidentiality, particularly in sensitive areas such as the emergency ward, operation theatres, and patient rooms.

They said such restrictions are crucial to ensuring that patients feel safe and respected during their medical care. The hospital has urged the public to cooperate with security staff and adhere to the protocols while visiting the premises. "We request everyone to respect patient privacy and follow hospital guidelines," the officials added. In recent years, concerns have been raised about the misuse of videos or photos taken within hospital settings, sometimes leading to breaches of confidentiality or sensationalism on social media. The Bandipora hospital authorities have taken this step to prevent such incidents and maintain professionalism.

MVD Kulgam Hosts Road Safety Awareness Camp with SDRF Demonstrations on National Drivers' Day

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam, Jan 24: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Kulgam, in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), organized a road safety awareness camp to mark National Drivers' Day and National Road Safety Month 2025. The event featured live demonstrations by the SDRF team, aimed at educating drivers and the public on vital road safety measures and emergency response techniques. The camp emphasized adherence to traffic rules, the use of safety gear, and



responsible driving to reduce road accidents. Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Showkat Ahmad, along with the MVD squad, led a special awareness session for two-wheeler riders, stressing the importance of wearing helmets for both drivers

and pillion riders. Informational pamphlets were distributed, and officials engaged with attendees to address concerns related to road safety. The initiative reflects MVD Kulgam's dedication to promoting a culture of safety and responsibility on the roads.

DC inspects arrangements for Republic Day 2025 at Sports Stadium Poonch

■ HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal conducted an on-site inspection at the Sports Stadium Poonch to review the arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day 2025 celebrations at the venue. He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tahir Mustafa Malik and other civil and Police Officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner meticulously assessed the preparations, focusing on various aspects including seating arrangements, stage setup, security measures, and logistical sup-



port to ensure the event proceeds smoothly. Emphasizing the importance of detailed planning, he stated that the celebration should reflect the grandeur and discipline befitting the significance of the occasion.

"The Republic Day celebrations are a testament to our unity and patriotism," said DC Vikas Kundal. "It is imperative that we ensure public convenience,

especially for dignitaries, school children, and participants in cultural programs."

The Deputy Commissioner directed all line departments to work in close coordination to finalize the arrangements well in advance. He underscored the administration's commitment to making the event a grand success, showcasing the spirit of the district.

Promoting Skill Development: JKEDI, Dogra Degree College Samba sign MoU to make students industry ready

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 24: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and Dogra Degree College Samba signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here on Friday to work together for entrepreneurship development and startup related services.

The MoU aims at helping the students enhance their skills and knowledge with regard to entrepreneurship, innovation and startups. The MoU was

signed in a formal ceremony held at JKEDI, Baribrahmana campus and was attended by key officials from both the institutions. The signatories were Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Director JKEDI and Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal Dogra Degree College, Samba, Dr. Dharamveer Sharma, Dean, Dogra Educational Trust, Amarpreet Kaur, Convenor and Ashish Thakur, Social Media Coordinator, IIC Dogra Degree College along with the officers/officials of JKEDI were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Director JKEDI Rajinder Kumar



Sharma highlighted the importance of working together and focusing the efforts on cooperation within the areas of entrepreneurship, skill based training, educational research and promotion of startup and innovation culture. He stressed that JKEDI shall extend support for internships to students of the college, based on recommendations through proper channels subject to suitable positions and criteria fulfillment. The students shall also be trained in emerging technologies in order to bridge

the skill gap and make them industry ready."

Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal Dogra Degree College applauded the partnership as a significant stride to help the student community benefit by enhancing their skills and knowledge with regard to entrepreneurship, innovation and startups."

The MoU between the JKEDI and Dogra Degree College, Samba is a part of JKEDI's continuous approach towards developing an innovation based startup friendly ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

CS asks to devise mechanism for periodical monitoring of SBM-G assets

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of Rural Development Department (RDD) to review progress on implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of regular monitoring of community assets created by the Rural Sanitation Department. He directed the department to devise a robust mechanism for tracking the functional status of these assets including community sanitation complexes, compost pits, segregation sheds, soak pits and drainage facilities.

He further instructed that ground level staff be tasked with uploading of geo-tagged photos and videos of these assets periodically to ensure updated information is readily available to the authorities.

Dulloo called for making budgetary provisions to establish Gorbardhan units in all districts and stressed their optimal utilisation to benefit rural communities. He highlighted the need for a comprehensive Operations and Maintenance (O&M) policy to ensure sustainable management of community sanitation assets and encouraged active public participation in their upkeep. He stated that if these assets are made greatly beneficial for the public they would in turn find it interesting to adopt them for proper management.

The Chief Secretary underscored the significance of establishing faecal sludge treatment facilities in various districts, deeming them crucial for maintaining clean and ambient rural surroundings. He also advocated creation of carbon-neutral panchayats across the Union Territory and



urged the department to certify such initiatives to validate their impact.

He directed the department to further strengthen the IEC activities in the UT for affecting the much required behavioural change among the population. He advised for consistent promotion of SBM-G initiatives in the region. He told them to focus on disseminating success stories, raising awareness and ensuring regular engagement with stakeholders to sustain momentum of the mission thereby guaranteeing its success in the UT.

Secretary, RDD, Aijaz Assad, provided an overview of the department's achievements under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen. He informed the meeting that the Government of India has approved 245 crore as the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for 2024-25, supplemented by contributions from the UT.

Director General of Rural Sanitation,

Anoo Malhotra, apprised the meeting of significant progress made during the current financial year. She reported that all 6,650 villages in J&K have been declared ODF+ Model, with 81% (5,407 villages) approved by third-party verification. The meeting was apprised that under SBM-G, community assets created included 13,879 compost pits, 2,800 segregation sheds, and 7,600 segregation bins for solid waste management.

Additionally, 13,870 community soak pits and 2,800 drainage facilities have also been established for greywater treatment, along with numerous individual assets benefiting households across the UT.

Regarding utilisation of funds received so far, it was disclosed that of the total available funds of Rs131.15 crore, Rs124.70 crore have been utilised, leaving a balance of just Rs 6.45 crore in SNA. It was revealed that efforts are underway to complete 135

plastic waste management units across the blocks of J&K soon.

It was reiterated that the RDD is committed to ensure the success of SBM-G and improving the quality of life in rural areas. The stakeholders were urged to work collaboratively for effective implementation of this significant programme in the length and breadth of the UT. Additionally, 13,870 community soak pits and 2,800 drainage facilities have also been established for greywater treatment, along with numerous individual assets benefiting households across the UT.

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GDC Vijaypur hosts series of events to commemorate Republic Day

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, JANUARY 24: Government Degree College Vijaypur organized a series of events to mark the celebration of 76th Anniversary of Indian Republic Day.

The NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) organised 'The Tiranga Rally' under the aegis of "Nayi Chetna 3.0" and "Shikshit Bharat".

The Rally was flagged off by Principal of the College Dr. Vandana Verma. A large gathering of Faculty Members, NSS Volunteers and students joined in the celebrations. The rally marched from the College campus to Patti village and concluded back on the campus.

Similarly, the Department of English of the College organised slogan writing competition on the theme "Gender Equality: Breaking Stereotypes" under the aegis of "Nayi Chetna 3.0" and "Shikshit Bharat".

The students wrote meaningful slogans, conveying information regarding prevention and protection of women against sexual harassment both at workplace and homes and to ensure effective redressal of complaints of sexual harassment. The College Principal appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee and exhorted that these activities play a major role to raise awareness and educate the students about gender inequality.

Poonch promotes Cleanliness, Environmental Awareness by launching Swachhanttra Campaign

■ HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 24: The District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with the Municipal Council, successfully organized a Mega Swachhanttra Campaign today, aimed at fostering community engagement in cleanliness and environmental sustainability.

The event took place at Parade Park and featured a variety of engaging activities, including a Painting Competition, Signature Campaign and Ploughing Drive conducted by the Municipal Council.

The Forest Department initiated a plantation drive themed "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," encouraging citizens to actively contribute to their environment.

Students from different educational institutions actively participated in the Painting Competition, showcasing their artistic talents.

National Girl Child Day celebrated at Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 24: The District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, celebrated National Girl Child Day by organising a series of engaging activities aimed at empowering young girls and raising awareness about their rights. The event featured motivational lectures on the theme "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao," encouraging the protection and education of girls. Scintillating cultural performances, including solo and group dance besides musical acts by girl students representing different educational institutions added to the grandeur of the event. The event also showcased singing and dance performances by the girls of "PARISHA" Home for Girls. A remarkable skit, presented by Kishtwar Act Production, highlighted the importance of girls' education and their empowerment.

Adding to the celebration, Nidhi Aryan, winner of Kishtwar Idol Season 2, captivated the audience with her performance, leaving a lasting impression. A special segment of the event featured inspiring stories from girl entrepreneurs who have achieved remarkable success in their respective fields. Among them were Ruhana Sheikh, a talented calligrapher; Mehwish Tak, a skilled makeup artist; Azma Bhat, a home baker and cloud kitchen entrepreneur; and Sudarshana Devi, a successful mushroom cultivation entrepreneur.

DC Reasi reviews Change of Land use cases

■ HT News Network



REASI, JANUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee today to review applications seeking Change of Land Use cases in the district. Three cases were assessed. After scrutiny and through assessment the applications were found lacking in meeting the set criteria and were set aside.

The Deputy Commissioner asked for consulting the Housing and Urban Development Department and the Revenue Department to ensure all the change of land use cases are taken into consideration after thorough scrutiny. She emphasised diligence and transparency in the processing of CLU cases to uphold the integrity of the change of land use policy.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including ACR Anshumali Sharma, DFO Reasi Sunil Manhas, CAO Harbans Singh, and XENs from Jal Shakti, JPDCL and PMGSY, as well as the Tehsildars and other relevant officers.

JKRLM "Lakhpatri Didis" to witness Republic Day Parade-2025 at New Delhi as prestigious guests

Being honored for their resilience & dedication: MD

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 24: In a proud and historic moment, Lakhpatri Didis associated with the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) have been invited as "prestigious guests" to witness the 76th Republic Day Parade 2025 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

A delegation of nine Lakhpatri Didis accompanied by their spouses from both the divisions, will attend this prestigious national event. This honor recognizes their relentless efforts in promoting entrepreneurship, driving economic growth, and creating a positive impact within their communities. By featuring them on this grand stage, their achievements are being showcased at the national level.

Speaking about this achievement, Mission Director JKRLM Dr. Shubhra Sharma described the invitation as a "historic milestone" for the SHGs under the mission. She stated, "This invitation symbolises recognition and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our self-help groups. It is a celebration of their success stories and a testament to their resili-



ience and determination to overcome challenges and break barriers."

Dr. Sharma further emphasized the significance of this recognition, adding, "This opportunity will not only inspire our SHG members but also serve as an inspiration to countless women across the country. It highlights the transformative impact that women can create when empowered with the right opportunities and support."

The presence of these SHG members at the Republic Day Parade reflects the progress made in empowering women in Jammu & Kashmir. It serves as a beacon of hope and encouragement for women nation-

wide to pursue their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society.

The MD said that the JKRLM is committed to empowering women through initiatives focused on economic independence, skill development, and leadership. This honor bestowed upon the SHG members stands as a testament to the mission's dedication to fostering inclusive growth and social upliftment. The presence of these SHG members at the Republic Day Parade reflects the progress made in empowering women in Jammu & Kashmir. It serves as a beacon of hope and encouragement for women nationwide to pursue their dreams.

Republic Day-2025: Full Dress Rehearsal held at MA Stadium

Divisional Commissioner Jammu inspects parade, hoists tricolor

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 24: The full dress rehearsal for UT level celebration of Republic Day-2025 was held at M A Stadium Jammu, today.

The parade consisted of men and women contingents from Army, BSF, CRPF, JKP, JKAP, IRP, SSB, NCC cadets, Bharat Scouts and guides, Exservicemen, J&K Forest Protection Force, UTDRF, JK Fire & Emergency Services and school students.

Pipe and Brass bands of BSF, JKP, JKAP, Army and school students played tunes to the march past.

Divisional Commission-



er Jammu, Ramesh Kumar inspected the Parade and took the salute at the impressive March Past and hoisted the tricolor.

School children and artists of J&K Academy of Art

their spectacular and thrilling performances.

The cultural items depicted national integration, unity in diversity, harmony and composite culture of Jammu Kashmir UT, besides featuring patriotic songs, folk music and dance.

Tableaux on themes celebrating cultural diversity of J&K, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, Swarnim Bharat Ki Virasat: Sahkar se Vikas, Fit India Movement, War Against Drugs, highlighted initiatives and achievements of the Government.

Senior officers from UT administration, Nodal officers and the in-charges were also present.

National Girl Child Day celebrated in District Ramban with enthusiasm

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 24: District Ramban celebrated National Girl Child Day with great enthusiasm under the overall guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary. The event, held at the Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex generated awareness about the importance of empowering the girl child and promoting gender equality in society.

A series of activities were organized by the Social Welfare Department and District Legal Service Authority across the district to mark the occasion,



including awareness programs, seminars, cultural events, and interactive sessions highlighting the significance of educating and nurturing girls.

The government departments, educational institutions, and social organizations collaborated to spread awareness about

empowerment of girls. She emphasized the importance of ensuring justice and protection for girls, encouraging them to seek legal aid whenever needed. Addressing the gathering at the event, officials emphasized the need for equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and skill development for girls.

District Social Welfare Officer Rahul Gupta, in his address, stressed the importance of collective efforts in ensuring a brighter future for the girl child and reiterated the district administration's commitment to effectively implementing various government schemes.

'A small blip': India's growth momentum holds steady, says Ashwini Vaishnaw at Davos

HT News Network

New Delhi:-Addressing global leaders and industry captains, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Railways, Electronics & IT presented India's vision of inclusive development and its remarkable growth story to global leaders and industry captains at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Balanced approach to economic growth
The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting highlighted the balanced approach to economic growth taken by India with both manufacturing and services driving nations's development. "It cannot be manufacturing or services; it has to be manufacturing and services as both these sectors are integral to India's economic trajectory," the minister stated, underscoring the synergy required between the two for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Export-Led Growth Strategy
He emphasized India's transformation from focusing solely on import substitution to adopting a "Make in India, Make for the World" approach. With 99% of mobile phones used domestically now manufactured in India, the growth strategy has



shifted towards export-led growth across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and garments.

With the prominent role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the services sector in shaping India's future, driving innovation and creating opportunities, the Union Minister also highlighted the need for laying special emphasis on training the talent pool in AI.

India: "Use case capital of world"

On AI, he emphasized India's potential to become the "use case capital" of the world, creating innovative applications for industries globally. He noted that while AI models are becoming increasingly commoditized, the focus should shift to developing use cases, applications, and solutions that cater to global industries. "Experts believe that India has the potential to lead the world in AI services, just as it has successfully done in the IT services

sector," the minister remarked, underlining India's capability to shape the future of AI on a global scale.

Focus on AI Skilling and Innovation
Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw underscored the government's focus on skilling to prepare India's workforce for emerging technologies, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI). "We have set an ambitious target to equip at least 1 million people with AI tools and skills, enabling them to create use cases and applications that the world needs," the minister stated.

He highlighted similar large-scale initiatives in other sectors, such as setting up 5G labs in 100 universities to prepare students for the telecom industry and providing advanced EDA tools in 240 universities to train students in semiconductor design. By aligning course curricula with industry requirements, the government is ensuring a skilled workforce at every level of the value chain, with results already becoming visible across industries.

Semiconductor and AI Leadership
Shri Vaishnaw shed light on India's ascent in the semiconductor and AI sectors, stating that "Most semiconductor industry leaders believe today that India will soon join the top three destinations for semiconductors."

Resolute In Ensuring No Discrimination Against Girl Child: PM Modi

HT News Network



NEW DELHI, Jan 24: In his message on National Girl Child Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India is proud of the accomplishments of its girls across all fields.

Modi added that his government is equally resolute in ensuring no discrimination happens against the girl child.

In a post on X, he said, "Today, on National Girl Child Day, we reiterate our commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her. India is proud of the accomplishments of the girl child across all fields."

Today, on National Girl Child Day, we reiterate our commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her. India is proud of the accomplishments of the girl child across all fields. Their feats continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Modi said his government has focused on sectors like education, technology, skills and healthcare among others which have contributed to empowering the girl child.

Kharge Urges union minister to fast track key proposals for Central University of Karnataka

HT News Network

Bengaluru, Jan 24: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday demanded the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to expedite the approval of key proposals related to Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, which are currently pending before the Centre.

In a letter to the Minister, he noted that the Central University of Karnataka serves as a hub of education for students not only from Kalaburagi and the seven districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region but those from entire Karnataka and several areas of neighbouring states.

Kharge who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said that the University plays a vital role in addressing educational disparities and fostering opportunities for growth.

Highlighting that the development and growth of such institutions require the Central Government's sustained financial and institutional support, Kharge stated that sanction of new postgraduate departments, teaching positions and HEFA funding proposal that are critical to the progress of the University and the region await the approval from the Government of India.

In the letter, Kharge stated that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended establishing various postgraduate departments, including Statistics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Plant and Animal Sciences, Genetics and Genomics, Library and Information Science, and a BA/LLB program. The matter is currently under consideration.

"To operationalize the proposed departments, the sanction of 55 teaching positions is essential. This proposal is also in the advanced stages of process and awaiting approval," he said.

Kharge also mentioned that the University has submitted a proposal under the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) for constructing hostels for boys and girls, along with other essential infrastructure. This matter is also under consideration. "Given the importance of these initiatives for the development of the Kalyana Karnataka region and their significant impact on students from underprivileged and underdeveloped areas, I kindly request your urgent intervention in the matter."

Centre, Delhi Police conspiring to kill Kejriwal: AAP

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 24: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday accused the BJP-led Centre and the Delhi Police of conspiring to "kill" its supremo Arvind Kejriwal and urged the Election Commission to restore his security cover provided by the Punjab Police that was withdrawn.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP or the Delhi Police to the allegation.

Addressing a press conference here, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and her Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, said they have written to the EC demanding "fair grounds" to the AAP in the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls and the restoration of Kejriwal's security cover given by the Punjab Police, along with an audit of "life-threatening" attacks on him.

They alleged that the Delhi Police, which comes under the Centre, has turned a blind eye on the alleged attacks on Kejriwal in accordance with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's order.

"There are two players involved in this conspiracy to kill Kejriwalji — the BJP and the Delhi Police. They are both conspiring to end Kejriwal's life. Attacks have been attempted on him one after the other. In October (last year), an attack was made



on Kejriwal. Upon investigation by us, it was found that the attackers were BJP workers, but police took no action," Atishi alleged.

"We have written to the EC demanding that Kejriwal's security be restored. We do not trust the Delhi Police as it is under Amit Shah's control," she added.

The AAP leaders alleged that resorting to "dirty politics" ahead of the Delhi polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has conspired to get Kejriwal's security removed. The AAP leaders alleged that resorting to "dirty politics" ahead of the Delhi polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has conspired to get Kejriwal's security removed. (Agencies)

SC refers key legal issue on modification of arbitral awards to 5-judge bench

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 24: The Supreme Court has referred to a five-judge Constitution bench the key legal issue of whether courts can modify arbitral awards under the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

In a significant move, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan, on Thursday, emphasised the need for clarity on the contentious issue of whether courts can modify arbitral awards under Sections 34 and 37 of the 1996 law.

The matter arose from a case titled as Gayatri Balasamy v. ISG Novasoft Technologies Ltd. Section 34 of the Act provides for the setting aside of an arbitral award on limited grounds such as procedural irregularities, violation of public policy, or lack of jurisdiction.

The courts have traditionally interpreted this section narrowly, avoiding a review of the merits of the award to uphold arbitration's principles of finality and efficiency.

Section 37 governs appeals against orders related to arbitration, including those refusing to set aside an award.

Like Section 34, it also aims to minimise judicial interference while addressing exceptional cases requiring oversight.



The legal ambiguity centred on whether these provisions allow courts the power to modify arbitral awards or if the courts' role is strictly limited to upholding or setting them aside.

On Thursday, the CJI acknowledged the complexity of the issue and the broader implications for arbitration jurisprudence and referred the case to a five-judge Constitution bench after taking note of the submissions of senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, assisted by law firm M/s Karanjawala & Co, on behalf of the respondents.

Kirpal submitted that it would be appropriate to refer the question to a five-judge bench to ensure that the issue is brought to a quietus since the reference was made by a three-judge bench itself earlier. Petitioner Gayatri Balasamy was represented by senior advocate Arvind Datar.

The detailed order is awaited.

CBI moves Cal HC seeking death penalty for RG case convict Sanjay Roy

HT News Network

Kolkata, Jan 24: The CBI on Friday filed an appeal before the Calcutta High Court, seeking death penalty for RG Kar hospital rape-murder case convict Sanjay Roy.

A division bench, presided by Justice Debansu Basak, said it will hear the CBI's appeal on January 27, along with a prayer

by the West Bengal government seeking admission of its appeal with a similar plea. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) moved the bench, also comprising Justice Md Shabbir Rashidi, praying for hearing of its appeal on the claim of inadequacy of sentence given by a trial court to Roy.

Representing the CBI, Deputy Solicitor General Rajdeep Majumdar said the central

agency, which investigated the case, has the right to challenge the lower court order before the high court on the ground of inadequacy of sentence. The Sealadah court on January 20 had sentenced Roy to life imprisonment till the end of his natural life for the rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9, 2024. The division

bench had on Wednesday said it would hear the CBI, the victim's family and the convict through their lawyers before deciding on the admission of the appeal filed by the state government. The CBI had opposed the state's right to file an appeal in the case, claiming that it was the prosecuting agency and had the right to prefer the appeal on the grounds of inadequacy of sentence.

Republic Day 2025: Special guests from J&K and Ladakh elated to be invited to witness celebrations

Around 120 achievers from J&K and around 70 from the Ladakh to attend the historic Republic Day celebrations at New Delhi

HT News Network

Srinagar, January 24, 2025

The 26th of January is a special day for every citizen of the country. It marks the day that the Constitution of India — the guiding force for Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity — came into effect.

The Republic Day celebrations of 2025 are going to be special for quite a few reasons, one among them being that this year marks 75 years of the Constitution being in force.

Another reason that makes the 2025 celebrations unique is the fact that this year,

around 10,000 Special Guests from different walks of life have been invited to witness the Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi. These guests are achievers and best performers in their respective areas and are the architects of Swarnim Bharat.

As from other parts of India, around 120 achievers from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and around 70 from the Union Territory of Ladakh will also be a part of the historic Republic Day celebrations this year.

These achievers have been drawn from various fields of



life and include students, artisans, best performing PM-Vishwakarma Yojana beneficiaries, beneficiaries of PM Surya Ghar Yojana, construction workers, residents of Vibrant Villages and best performing Water Warriors among others.

Each of these invitees represents a story of courage and determination and serves as an embodiment of the spirit of contributing towards the cause of nation building.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have time and again demonstrated that if one is committed and dedicated towards their

cause, no obstacles can stop them from achieving what they want to.

The Union Government has made special arrangements for accommodation and other logistical support and no stone is being left unturned to ensure a memorable and comfortable experience for the invitees.

The Government of India is committed to recognizing the achievements and contributions of citizens who are an integral part of the country's journey towards being a prosperous nation. The Government of India is committed to recognizing the achievements.

Cancer Cases Rising in Females, Declining in Males. How to Reduce Your Risk

Cancer death rates decreased by 34% from 1991 to 2022 in the United States, according to a report published January 16 by the American Cancer Society (ACS).

The Cancer Statistics, 2025 report shows this was mainly due to declines in the four most common types of cancer — lung, colorectal, breast and prostate.

However, the rate of new cases of cancer — known as incidence — increased for many types of cancer during this period, including among females and younger adults.

For example, cancer incidence in females ages 50 to 64 years surpassed that of males for the first time, the report found. The cancer rate among females younger than 50 years is now 82% higher than in males, an increase from 51% in 2002.

In addition, among people younger than 65 years, lung cancer incidence is higher among females than males. This is due to differences in women starting smoking and quitting, the

report noted.

The report also highlighted that incidence and deaths due to pancreatic cancer continue to increase for both males and females. The 5-year survival rate for people diagnosed with pancreatic exocrine tumors is just 8%. This type accounts for 9 out of 10 cases of pancreatic cancer.

"Pancreatic cancer is hard to diagnose early — there's no screening test for it, like with colon cancer," said Nilesh Vora, MD, hematologist and medical oncologist and medical director of the MemorialCare Todd Cancer Institute at Long Beach Medical Center in Long Beach, CA. Vora was not involved in the report.

"The treatments for pancreatic cancer haven't mirrored the advances in treatment we've seen in some other cancers, like lung cancer, melanoma and colon cancer," Vora told Healthline.

Decline in overall cancer deaths Overall, the report estimates that there will be 2,041,910 new cancer diagnoses in the U.S. in 2025, with



618,120 deaths due to cancer.

In spite of the expected large number of new cancer cases this year, the cancer death rate dropped by 34% between 1991 and 2022. This decrease led to nearly 4.5 million cancer cases being avoided, the report found. "For individuals diagnosed with a cancer, the mortality rate is continuing to decrease and to decrease quite significantly," said Kathleen K. Harnden, MD, MBA,

medical director of breast oncology at Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Fairfax, VA. Harnden was not involved in the new report.

"Men and women who are facing a really difficult time and diagnosis [should know] that the future is bright, and that they are more and more likely to be cured and cancer-free at the other side of their treatment" she told Healthline.

"Our [cancer] treatment regimens

and our diagnostic techniques have all gotten better, so we are finding cancer at increased incidence," said Vora. "But people are also living much longer than they did 30 years ago, so the mortality rate has gone down. That tells me that there are more people living with cancer than there was before," he added.

Harden noted the availability of advanced multi-disciplinary care — in which patients have access to coordinated care between a surgeon, medical oncologist and radiation oncologist — has also helped improve cancer survival in the United States.

"It makes someone's care move faster," she said. "All the physicians are speaking to each other, they review the same information and come up with a multi-pronged approach to someone's cancer care."

It's not clear why females and young people have an increasing burden of cancer in recent years, but experts have identified several possible causes. "We've talked a lot about lack of exercise and increasing obesity.

We've talked a lot about diet changes," said Vora. "I don't think there's a definitive conclusion that we can draw, but I think those things need to be explored."

Harden pointed out that "as people are more engaged with their screens, or have positions and roles where they tend to be more sedentary — sitting at a desk and more screen-oriented, even not walking from one office to the other — that increases their risk of cancer."

"There is also emerging evidence about the role of dietary changes," she said. "The consumption of more ultra-processed foods Trusted Source may increase cancer risk. The decreased consumption of vegetables can also increase cancer risk."

Obesity is also a major risk factor for cancer, including for breast cancer and endometrial cancer. According to the American Cancer Society-Trusted Source, 10% of cancer cases in females in U.S. are linked to excess body weight, compared to 5% in males.

Carbonated Water May Promote Weight Loss, but Effects Are Minimal

When people are seeking to lose weight, they may give up unhealthy sodas laden with sugar or artificial sweeteners. In doing so, some people may miss the "bite" of carbonation that comes with fizzy drink consumption.

Beverages like sparkling water can fill the void without adding calories or undesirable chemicals.

According to a new article published on January 21 in BMJ Nutrition Prevention & Health, a researcher evaluated how fizzy water could aid your weight loss efforts beyond filling the void left by ditching sodas.

The discussion highlights how drinking carbonated water may induce certain physiological changes conducive to weight loss.

Still, there are no shortcuts to losing weight. Weight loss is best achieved through a nutritious diet and regular physical activity.



Sparkling water may improve blood glucose study author Akira Takahashi, MD, PhD, of the Dialysis Center at Tesseikai Neurosurgery Hospital in Shijonawata, Japan, explained in a press release that carbonated water reportedly speeds up digestion and helps decrease

blood glucose levels. However, the mechanisms driving these effects were unclear. To better understand the effects, Takahashi compared the effect on glucose levels with hemodialysis, a treatment where blood is filtered outside the body. Hemodialysis treatment also alters carbon

dioxide levels in the blood. During this process, blood glucose levels fall, which suggests that carbon dioxide helps in the utilization of glucose.

Takahashi theorized that something similar might happen when people drink carbonated water.

Carbon dioxide is released into the bloodstream, where an enzyme in the red blood cells converts it into bicarbonate. This conversion raises the pH within those cells, allowing the body to use glucose more effectively. Could these improvements in glucose usage lead to weight loss? Takahashi wrote that it likely could, but the effect overall would be quite small. Sparkling water could aid weight loss in other ways

While this review looked at what is happening at the cellular level, there are other known ways that drinking fizzy water may help you in your weight loss goals.

Over-Eating In Winter? Try These Nutritionist-Recommended Solutions



Do you often find yourself reaching out for that slice of cake kept in the fridge during the winter season? If yes, then you are not alone. Winter indeed comes packed with pleasant weather and the joy of munching on food under the cover of the blankets. But, one of the most common problems of the chilly season is over-indulgence. You might lose track of time binge-eating popcorn and sugary delights while watching your favourite show from the comfort of your bed. This can lead to significant weight gain. However, have you ever wondered why you tend to overeat in winter?

Fret not, nutritionist Palak Nagpal is here to answer your queries. In a video posted on Instagram, she has shared food alternatives so that your weight remains intact. In the clip, Palak says, "Everyone eats more during winter. But are you gaining weight? Well, the answer is no. But only if you eat right. Now in winter, you eat more because the body has to keep itself warm. It is often carbohydrates that you crave during winter and eating the wrong ones can actually make you gain weight." Now, let's take a look at the diet alterations as prescribed by Palak Nagpal

According to the nutritionist, you tend to crave carbs in winter. "Refined options like sugar and white bread offer quick energy but lead to crashes. Instead, focus on protein and fibre to keep cravings in check," she says.

Snacking smart is another option. "Try nuts with fruit or veggies and hummus," suggests Palak Nagpal.

Hypothyroidism Diet: Foods To Eat And Avoid To Manage Underactive Thyroid

Hypothyroidism or underactive thyroid is a condition in which your thyroid gland does not make enough thyroid hormones. Both men and women can have an underactive thyroid, however, it is more common in women. Thyroid hormones help manage several bodily functions including growth, cell repair and metabolism. If left untreated, hypothyroidism can lead to several health issues such as heart problems, pregnancy complications, poor cholesterol and more.

Symptoms of hypothyroidism include weight gain, tiredness, thinning hair, depression, muscle weakness and menstrual irregularities. However, a few changes in diet and lifestyle along with medication can help control hypothyroidism symptoms. Here, we have a list of foods to eat and avoid.

Diet for hypothyroidism If you have hypothyroidism, you must eliminate gluten, processed foods or inflammatory foods from your diet. Iodine, zinc, selenium, vitamin D, magnesium, iron and vitamin B12 are some important nutrients that can help with hypothyroidism management.

- **Foods to eat:**
- **Fruits:** berries, apples, citrus fruits, bananas and more
- **Vegetables:** leafy greens, carrots, peas, sweet potato and mushrooms
- **Healthy fats**
- **Whole grains**
- **Nuts and seeds**
- **Dairy products and iodine sources**
- **Foods containing selenium:** oatmeal, brown rice, tuna and chicken
- **Foods with zinc:** legumes, pumpkin seeds,



yogurt and seafood.

■ Foods to limit:

Soy, cruciferous vegetables, gluten, fatty foods, sugary foods, ultra-processed foods, coffee, alcohol, soda, sweetened beverages, foods with preservatives and processed snacks like chips. Diet alone cannot treat hypothyroidism. Medication, a healthy diet and a healthy lifestyle can help manage symptoms and maintain healthy levels of thyroid hormone.

Other tips to manage hypothyroidism: Exercise regularly for at least 30 minutes every day Get enough sleep for 6-8 hours Manage stress Try losing weight Spend some time in the sun to boost vitamin D levels Get your hormones checked regularly Go for regular check-ups

NEWS

Why Are Citrus Fruits Considered Healthy?

Citrus fruits are a group of fruits that belong to the genus Citrus and are known for their bright colours, tangy flavours, and rich aroma. Common examples include oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruits, tangerines, and pomelos. They are rich in vitamin C, antioxidants, fibre, and essential minerals like potassium and magnesium. Citrus fruits are low in calories, making them a healthy addition to any diet. They are renowned for their ability to boost immunity, promote skin health, and support overall well-being due to their dense nutrient profile. Keep reading as we discuss in detail the many benefits of adding citrus fruits to your diet.

■ 1. Boosts immunity

Citrus fruits are loaded with vitamin C, a powerful antioxidant that strengthens the immune system by stimulating white blood cell production. This helps the body fight infections, reduce inflammation, and recover from illnesses faster.

■ 2. Improves skin health

Vitamin C in citrus fruits promotes collagen production, which maintains skin elasticity and prevents wrinkles. Additionally, the antioxidants in these fruits protect the skin from damage caused by UV rays and pollution.

■ 3. Supports heart health

Citrus fruits contain flavonoids, such as hesperidin, which help reduce bad cholesterol (LDL) levels and improve good cholesterol (HDL) levels. Their high potassium content also helps regulate blood pressure, reducing the risk of heart disease.

■ 4. Aids digestion

The fibre in citrus fruits, especially in oranges and grapefruits, promotes healthy digestion by preventing constipation and supporting the growth of good gut bacteria. Their acidic nature also stimulates digestive enzymes for better nutrient absorption.

Also Read: Achieve These Amazing Health Benefits By Consuming Oranges

■ 5. Enhances hydration

Citrus fruits have high water content, making them excellent for staying hydrated. Proper hydration is essential for maintaining energy levels, regulating body temperature, and supporting organ function.

■ 6. Reduces risk of kidney stones

The citric acid in citrus fruits, particularly lemons and limes, prevents the formation of calcium oxalate crystals, which are a primary cause of kidney stones. Drinking citrus juice can also increase urine citrate levels, further reducing the risk.

■ 7. Promotes weight loss

Citrus fruits are low in calories and high in fibre, making them a great choice for weight management. The fibre helps keep you full for longer, reducing cravings and promoting portion control.

■ 8. Protects against anaemia

While citrus fruits do not contain much iron, their high vitamin C content enhances the absorption of non-heme iron (plant-based iron) from other foods, reducing the risk of iron-deficiency anaemia.

■ 9. Lowers inflammation

The antioxidants and bioactive compounds in citrus fruits, like flavonoids and carotenoids, combat oxidative stress and reduce inflammation. This helps prevent chronic conditions like arthritis, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.



IOA EC members object to 'illegal' formation of ad-hoc committee for Bihar Olympic Association

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JAN 24

Some of the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) executive council members slammed president PT Usha for the creation of the ad-hoc panel for the Bihar Olympic Association, claiming they were not aware of such a decision taken by the IOA Executive Council, nor were consulted.

In a letter attributed to IOA chief PT Usha, the IOA Executive Council members Amitabh Sharma, Rohit Rajpal and senior vice president Ajay Patel said they disagree with the creation of this committee and request that the matter be presented to the Executive Council for consideration with supporting facts.

"This is in regard to the above-cited subject (Creating of Adhoc Committee, Bihar Olympic



Association) and I wish to state that we as Executive Council members are not aware of such a decision taken by the Executive Council of IOA nor was it consulted with us. We are not in agreement with the creation of this committee and would request that the matter be brought to the EC for consideration with facts," the letter read.

Earlier this month, the IOA dissolved the Bihar Olympic Association for lack of governance, transparency and administrative inefficiency, and the IOA chief formed a five-member ad-hoc commit-

tee led by Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh to take interim charge of BOA and conduct fresh elections by March 31.

This came days after BOA had sent a legal notice to Usha for appointing a fact-finding commission to probe into complaints against BOA regarding its functioning and governance.

In a separate email, which is in possession of IANS, the IOA joint secretary Alakhnanda Ashok called Usha's action "illegal" and said such decisions would obstruct the proper functioning of state associations.

"My objection to the creation of an Adhoc committee in Bihar State Olympic Association," Ashok wrote in his letter to IOA president Usha.

"I am surprised to note your illegal actions from time to time. I am again

objecting to your so called illegal action this time on creation of the Adhoc Committee in the Bihar State Olympic Association (BSOA).

"This action was taken arbitrarily, autocratically, without the approval or discussion of the IOA Executive Board, in clear violation of the IOA Constitution," the email read.

"Your actions are harmful to athletes, as they create instability and obstruct in the proper functioning of state associations. I suggest you to immediately reverse this decision and act in full compliance with the IOA Constitution and keeping the welfare of players in account," it added.

The other members of the ad hoc panel, named by Usha, are Arun Kumar Ojha, Pankaj Kumar Jyoti, Sanjay Sinha and Arjuna awardee shooter Shreyasi Singh.

2nd T20I

Carse replaces Atkinson in England's playing XI; Smith added to squad

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, JAN 24

Pacer Brydon Carse will replace Gus Atkinson in England's playing XI for the second T20I against India at MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Saturday.

The visitors made only one change in their side after suffering a crushing seven-wicket defeat in the series opener in Kolkata on Wednesday. Wicket-keeper Jamie Smith has also been added to the 12 player squad, England Cricket informed on X. In the first T20I, Atkinson had a miserable day in the middle as he conceded a staggering 38 runs in his two overs. He didn't finish his full quota of four overs as Abhishek Sharma's 34-ball 79

sealed the victory for India with 43 balls to spare.

After the loss, England

captain Jos Buttler said they will assess conditions for the upcoming games of the series.

"There was a little in the wicket early on, didn't expect that, but if you came through that phase it was a good pitch and a fast-scoring ground. Some really good players in there, we'll be better for the run-out. Jof looked good, superstar, looked threatening, Mark Wood bowled fast, exciting. We want to be aggressive and watchable, but venue to venue got to assess conditions. Enjoyment of the game is always there, I'm enjoying the environment. I'm a big McCullum fan, always have been. Enjoying working with him," Buttler said in the post-match interaction.

On the other hand, India captain Suryakumar Yadav said enthusiasm shown by

teammates after winning the toss set the benchmark for them.

"The energy after we won the toss set the benchmark. Bowlers had plans, executed, and the way we batted was icing on the cake. We did the same in South Africa, Hardik had responsibility to bowl new ball so cushion to play the extra spinner. Varun's preparations are on point, and Arshdeep is taking the extra responsibility. There's a lot of freedom given, we want to play a bit different. The fielding is one area we've been working really hard. Let's take those half chances and make a difference," Suryakumar said after taking the 1-0 lead in the five-match T20I series.

England's XI for second T20I: Ben Duckett, Phil Salt (WK), Jos Buttler (C), Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Overton, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.



Arjuna Awardee Rubina Francis opens up on Paris 2024 comeback

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JAN 24

Paris Paralympics Games 2024 bronze medalist Rubina Francis expressed her feelings on being conferred with the Arjuna Award recently for her achievements at both national and international level.

Francis recently appeared on the House of Glory podcast, an initiative by the Gagan Narang Sports Foundation. The star has established herself as a prominent figure in para shooting, particularly in the Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1 category.

Building on her successful track record, Rubina secured her place to represent India at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris and then went on to win her first Olympics medal - a bronze.

"I am extremely honoured to be receiving the Arjuna Award and very thankful to the Indian government for recognising my achievements. This is



a very special moment for me and my family as getting a National award is a dream for any athlete. It seems that my hardwork has finally paid off and it almost feels unreal. After all the challenges that I faced in last 3-4 years, this achievement has become even more special," she said.

Francis qualified for her first Olympics in 2020 during the Tokyo Paralympics but finished seventh. In her conversation, she revealed how her performance in Tokyo put her in a tough space, also

making her think about leaving the sport.

"I sat at home and analysed myself. I wrote a full detail about what all went wrong and then I read it. That's when I realised how immature I was during Tokyo. An athlete properly plans before going to such a significant stage but that planning was not there with me. Both I and country had to face the consequences. Everybody was upset," revealed Francis.

However, she overcame her shortcomings and applied the learnings

in Paris, which helped her attain success in the tournament. She spent six months after her loss in Tokyo, working on herself, learning to develop control over her mind to ensure that she does well in her sport.

Francis again faced a tough phase when she continuously lost quotas in almost all the quota matches that took place between 2022 and 2024. However, she didn't give up and entered the Paralympics with the same spirit.

"I don't let the demotivation upset me for many days. It only lasts for one or maximum two months. But post that, I became normal, which is very important. Sports psychology is very important. If I had realised it before Tokyo, I would have won a medal or at least delivered a good performance. I wouldn't have regretted or wasted six months," Francis added while discussing the importance of mental health.

No Indian, Australian in Asalanka-led ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2024

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JAN 24

No Indian and Australian cricketers were featured in the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2024, which is led by Sri Lankan all-rounder Charith Asalanka. The International Cricket Council unveiled the ODI Team of the Year, celebrating the standout stars, who showed a great balance of star power, consistency and versatility.

The Asalanka-led team features Saim Ayub (Pakistan), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan), Pathum Nissanka (Sri Lanka), Kusal Mendis (wk) (Sri Lanka), Sherfane Rutherford



(West Indies), Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan), Haris Rauf (Pakistan), AM Ghanzhar (Afghanistan).

Pakistan's Ayub capped off his breakout season by

selection at the top of the order in the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year. He only debuted in November, but arrived immediately, scoring a combined 125 runs from three ODIs in Australia before scoring a maiden ODI ton in Zimbabwe

shortly after. Three of his last five innings have produced centuries, including two in South Africa in December, a three-match series that saw him average 78.3.

Afghanistan's Gurbaz continues to produce the game-wrecking performances he's been known for ever since his famous century on debut in 2021. In 11 matches, he scored 531 at 48.2 with the highest score of 121. He has scored three centuries and two half-centuries. Afghanistan had a 2024 series against Sri Lanka, Ireland, South Africa and Bangladesh and Gurbaz was productive in all of them.

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