

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK

Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the welfare schemes & rapid development in all sectors have transformed the lives of the poorest of the poor. He has empowered and enabled common man to stand on their own feet for sustainable income & quality living.

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India Reports 774 New Covid Cases

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry on Saturday said the country reported 774 new Covid-19 cases and two deaths in the last 24 hours. The two new fatalities were reported from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, according to the Ministry data. On Friday, 12 deaths were reported -- five from Kerala, four from Karnataka, two from Maharashtra, and one from Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, the total number of active cases further fell to 4,187 from Friday's 4,334. **•P-06**

J&K Blossoms Le Figaro Chronicles Enchanting Transformation Of Kashmir



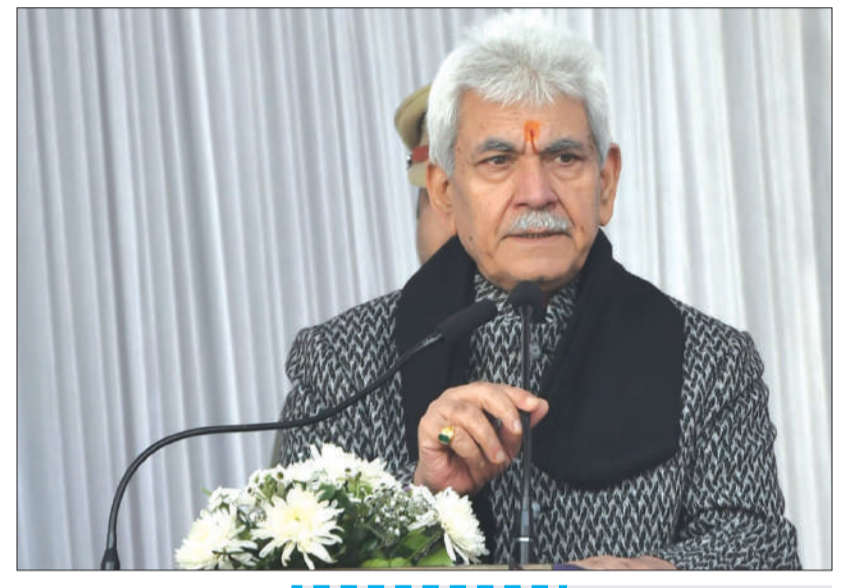
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Acknowledging the great transformation of Kashmir from violence to resurgent paradise, a French newspaper on Saturday chronicled Kashmir's story. Le Figaro, the French newspaper, report titled, 'Enchanting transformation of Kashmir in a striking turn of events', said: "Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) experienced an unprecedented surge in tourism in 2023, welcoming a record-breaking 2 crore tourists." Describing Kashmir as a "Forgotten Paradise," the detailed report said: "Kashmir timidly opened up to foreign travellers after decades of conflict." "Srinagar is now a haven of peace in the foothills of the Himalayas," the report said. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) experienced an unprecedented surge in tourism in 2023, welcoming a record-breaking 2 crore tourists. This surge, the highest in 77 years, is indicative of the positive transformation within the Union Territory over the past four years, resulting in increased employment opportunities and a thriving hotel industry. The cinematic allure of the region attracted over 100 film shoots in the last year alone, shining a spotlight on its captivating landscapes. The French newspaper, Le Figaro, presented a grand report on the evolving charm **•P-06**

'No Dearth Of Electricity' Reviewing Power Supply In J&K On Daily Basis: LG Sinha

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that he is personally monitoring the electricity supply on the daily basis in the UT while Srinagar has emerged as a role model for the rest of the country. Addressing a function in Srinagar, LG said that he personally monitors the electricity supply on a daily basis in the UT every evening. "I monitor and get feedback on area-wise power supply," he said. The LG said that the damaged transformers are being repaired within 24 hours. "There is no dearth of electricity in J&K," he said. The LG said that under the dynamic leadership of outgoing SMC commissioner Athar Amir, Srinagar has gone through a huge transformation and is now a role model for the rest of the Indian cities.



"Srinagar has witnessed a huge transformation in the past two years. Today, we can say that Srinagar has emerged one of the best cities in the country," the LG said. He said that the night of December 31 at Lal Chowk signifies that J&K is on the path of reviving its lost **•P-06**

LG Joins Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra In Srinagar

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday joined the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Srinagar. The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the citizens for their overwhelming participation in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme across the Union Territory and commended their effort to translate accelerated growth under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi into inclusive growth and Developed Bharat. "Viksit Bharat **•P-06**

Apple Growers Sound Alarm Over Unprecedented Dry Spell

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: It is the peak winter season in Kashmir and 55-year-old Ghulam Nabi Khan of Baramulla spends most time of the day in his orchards. Worried about the snowless winter so far, he is considering irrigating his orchards, which require immediate **•P-06**

Arms Seizure Case NIA Attaches House Of Key Conspirator In Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Continuing with its crackdown on terrorist groups, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday attached the house of a key conspirator in the 2022 Chanapora arms seizure case of Kashmir. In a statement, issued, a spokesperson said that the property of accused Amir Mushtaq Ganaie, identified as one of the masterminds in the case RC -4/22/NIA/JMU, was attached today as 'proceeds of terrorism' by an NIA team in Kiran Colony in Chanapora region of Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. The statement reads that the accused had used the proceeds of terror for conspiring and committing terror crimes against the **•P-06**

Poll-Mode Nadda Arriving In Jammu Today To Check Party Pulse

ABID BASHIR

SRINAGAR: With stage set for the big fight—Lok Sabha polls—slated for March- April this year, J&K BJP has blew the poll bugle with party's national president J P Nadda arriving in Jammu tomorrow (Jan 7) to chair a crucial meeting to check the party pulse. Reliable sources said that the J&K BJP unit is already in poll mode and a lot of ground exercise has been done so far. "BJP national president J P Nadda is arriving in Jammu tomorrow. He will chair a crucial meeting of party leadership at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu where J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina and BJP General Secretary (Org) **•P-06**

CS Assesses Preparedness For Solarization Of Govt Buildings

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JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a meeting to assess the preparedness of the UT for saturation of rooftop solar power plants on all the government buildings by December, 2025 here as per the target fixed by Prime Minister in the recently concluded CS Conference at New Delhi. The meeting besides Principal Secretary, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology and CEO, JAKEDA and other senior officers of the concerned departments. In the onset of this meeting the Chief Secretary emphasised upon making a robust strategy for time bound delivery of the same without any fail. He made out that the solar energy is clean and less expensive so it is in the fitness of things to adopt and exploit its potential in the UT as much as possible. He advised for holding meetings with the biggest players available in the market like those of NHPC, NTPC or SECI for tapping the potential and studying the feasibility and potential of each government building here in the UT. Dulloo asked for conducting a day-**•P-06**

Prolonged Dry Spell Triggers Multiple Bushfires Across Kashmir

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Amid the persistent dry spell in Kashmir, fire incidents have been reported at multiple forest areas across the Valley so far while the government has claimed to have initiated action and activated the forest personnel in this regard. A bushfire broke out at multiple places across Kashmir in the last few days. The bushfire broke out in Karanu area of Karnah, Devpora in South Kashmir's Shopian, Wurandore in Managam area of Kulgam, Kangan in Ganderbal, Salamabad in Uri, Sumlar in north Kashmir's Bandipora, Nagawadi in Tral, Rampora Rajpora in Sopore, Kuntwara Range in Doda among other places. The fire incidents in these places have been reported in the past three days. Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Khan told KNO that the bushfire is the outcome of the persistent dry spell in Kashmir. "Such incidents have been witnessed in the past as well," he said. According to an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, the current surge in forest fires can be attributed to the absence of active Western Disturbances. "The continuous dry spell spanning over a month has significantly reduced moisture levels in the vegetation and other areas, rendering the forests highly susceptible to ignition," he said. The crucial role of Western Disturbances **•P-06**

Sgr Shivers At Minus 5.4 Degree Celsius

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SRINAGAR: Amid persistent dry spell across Kashmir, the minimum temperature has recorded a further dip on Saturday with Srinagar recording a low of minus 5.4 degree Celsius. The mercury continued to settle below freezing point in the ongoing 40-day harshest winter period, Chillai Kalan. As per the data, Pahalgam was the coldest at minus 6.3 degree Celsius. Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.4 degree Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir has recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort recorded a low of minus 4.5 degree Celsius. In Kokernag, the mercury settled at minus 2.9 degree Celsius. Pertinently, the weatherman has predicted dry weather conditions till January 14, saying there is no significant weather activity during the period—(KNO)

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SUCCESS STORY

Sports, a way of empowering Girls, believes Sajad Ahmad Mir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Hailing from a small village in Anantnag town, armed with education and dedication, Sajad Ahmad Mir has become a ray of hope for many female students who want to excel in sports and make it their career choices. His journey from a sports student to national level coach is reshaping the lives of many students through games.

Mir, a Physical Education Teacher in the department of Youth Services & Sports District Anantnag believes that success is not about gaining leadership but it is about empowering people through sports. "It is said that the true measure of success is the number of people touched and transformed by one's success," he is living his life to this definition of success.

Nagpur International marathon player, National Level player in Netball, Softball and State Level in cricket and former National Level coach of the cricket team of JKUT, Mir has many certificates in his kitty.

Starting his journey as a Physical education Teacher in the year April 2010 from GMS Monghalh, Sajad Ahmed was later transferred to Govt. Girls Model Higher Secondary School Ranibagh in the heart of Anantnag town.

Under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao program



launched by the Government of India in 2015, Mir initiated a curriculum for the students, under which he transformed the lives of thousands of students by encouraging them to join Sports, NCC and other curricular activities. He continues to encourage and inspire young sports enthusiasts in the valley.

Addressing the concerns about women empowerment and gender bias, Mir decided to pledge his life to this cause by empowering female students through sports. In order to motivate students to take the lead in sports, he organized awareness camps in different villages in his school and fulfilled his duty as a coach. So far, he has successfully organized more than 500 plus awareness campaigns in sports category in remote villages of Kashmir Valley which remained unconnected to roads, due to extreme terrain conditions.

Assisted by his colleagues, he walked miles through the forest to

and 3 Nationals in recent years. Whatever I have learned and achieved I owe it all to him," she said.

Ayman recalls, "How sir would motivate them during morning assembly to participate in sports, NCC and cultural activities. He would tell stories of sports women like the Phogat sisters, PT Usha, PV Sindhu, Sania Mirza, Saina Nehwal to inspire young girls."

Fiza Bared has 25 local championships and several nationals in cricket and has won a Gold Medal in Toy Making Competition UT Level. "I was inspired by students of Mir and her sister Danishta Bared who has played 2 Nationals under Mir in the discipline of Softball has decided to learn Cricket."

Fiza Nisar is a 3 time National Level player of two games Tennis Cricket and Chess. Also a 'C' certificate holder in NCC and an adventure sports lover. She has played several local and state level championships since then and is a National Chess and Tennis Cricket Player with two successful Medals.

Emphasizing the importance of sports in life, he believes that apart from being a fun recreational activity and a way to stay active, participating in sports is a way to gain important social, leadership skills and gain self-confidence.

DC Kupwara chairs Red Cross Committee meet

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The District Development Commissioner, (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Saturday chaired a meeting of officers of District Red Cross Committee (DRCS) to review its functioning.

During the meeting, the DDC, who is also Chairperson of DRCS, Kupwara emphasized upon concerned officers for proper training of Red Cross Society and highlighting of its activities to make it more vibrant.

CEO Kupwara was directed to deposit an outstanding amount of annual Red Cross Fund for the FY, 2022-23 and 2023-24 into District Red Cross Head.

Regarding the election of Representative of District Red Cross Society, District Social Welfare Officer Kupwara was directed to



identify suitable members in consultation with ACR to be enrolled to complete the quorum and ACR will conduct election of district representatives of Red Cross.

Regarding setting up Dispensaries in remote areas under Red Cross, CMO Kupwara apprised the chair about the detail of remote, under-served

areas for Mobile Medical unit and dispensaries in the district, which has already been shared with the higher ups.

The DDC directed DTO to register the District Red Cross society as NIKSHEY Mitra for extending nutritional support to the TB Patients through Red Cross and also design suitable food packets for patients. It was given out in the meeting that 4 leprosy patients are undergoing treatment in the district.

Principals of the degree colleges of the district were directed to deposit the amount collected under Red Cross in the District Red Cross Fund.

Meeting was attended by ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir, ACR, Principals of degree Colleges, CEO, CMO, DTO and other members of the Red Cross Committee.

M Ashraf Hakak Joins GMC Srinagar as Administrator



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Mohammad Ashraf Hakak Saturday joined as Administrator, Associated Hospitals Srinagar.

Meanwhile, in a grand joining ceremony held at Government Medical College, Srinagar, a prestigious assembly of key officials extended a warm welcome to Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, the newly appointed Administrator.

The gathering comprised including Dr. Waseem Qureshi, Registrar Academics; Yasmeena Jan, Personnel Officer; Sabreena, Chief Accounts Officer; Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Administrative Officer; Showkat Ahmad, Assistant Legal Remembrancer; Shabir Ahmad, Assistant Director Planning; Javed Ahmad Shah, Estates Cum Transport Officer and Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, Private Secretary to the Administrator.

Expressing their collective sentiments, the assembly lauded Hakak as not only an excellent professional but also a dedicated civil servant. Their words resonated with hope and expectations for the new Administrator, emphasizing their anticipation for positive changes and advancements under his leadership.

The ceremony exuded optimism and unity as the distinguished officials articulated their aspirations, marking the beginning of a promising era at the GMC Srinagar.

Prof. Masood Tanveer, Principal/ Dean Govt. Medical College Srinagar also welcomed Hakak.

VC DDC Kupwara reviews status of essential services in Wavoora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Vice-Chairman District Development Council (VC-DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir Saturday convened a meeting of concerned officers, at Dak Banglow here to review the status of various essential services in DDC territorial constituency of Wavoora (Lolab).

On the occasion, the VC DDC impressed upon all the officers to work with added dedication and zeal and ensure completion of all the ongoing works so that people at large could get benefitted.

Regarding power supply, the VC asked the concerned officers to make all possible efforts to ensure power supply as per the curtailment schedule so that people of the far

flung area of Lolab valley do not suffer in this bone chilling winter season.

Reviewing the scenario of Jal Jeevan Mission, Haji Farooq asked the AEE PHE Lolab to speed up the pace of work on all JJM schemes belonging to Panchayat Tangcheck, Potushai and different other areas as the people of these areas face hardships due to scarcity of potable drinking water supply.

VC also reviewed various issues pertaining to R&B and I&FC and asked the concerned officers to expedite the works so that people are facilitated.

Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab, officers from Jal Shakti, STD Sopore, PDD, Project Wing Baramulla and concerned officials were present in the meeting.

DC for impeccable R-Day Celebrations in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Saturday presided over a comprehensive meeting to meticulously review and refine arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day, 2024 in Pulwama.

Addressing the meeting, DC stressed the imperative of executing all preparations promptly while strictly adhering to stringent security protocols.

During the meeting, the DC directed various departments to ensure coordinated efforts, facilitating the smooth execution of planned events and activities. Emphasis was placed on venue cleanliness, and officials were instructed to arrange for seating, sound systems, and lighting in Government buildings and other infrastructure.

The Health Department was tasked with organizing comprehensive medical facilities, including first aid and ambulance services at the venues. Moreover, the Information Department received explicit instructions to

REPUBLIC DAY DC Shopian fixes deptt wise responsibilities for impactful celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Saturday convened a meeting of all the district officers at Meeting Hall of Mini-Secretariat, here to take stock of arrangements to be put in place for ensuing Republic Day, 2024 celebrations.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on arrangements to be put in place at the venue including security, seating, car parking, transportation and illumination of buildings, refreshments, water, power, barricading, canopies, Public Address System, Reception Committee, seating arrangement, Media Gallery, medicare facilities besides accommodation for the participants.

The DC instructed the concerned to organise colourful cultural programmes to mark the event along with presentation of March Past contingents and called upon officers to put in place elaborate arrangements for smooth conduct of the function.

On the occasion, department wise responsibilities were fixed for adherence and directed to ensure impactful celebration of the functions, at District, sub divisional, tehsil and village levels.

The meeting was informed that the Republic Day celebrations will begin with playing of Shehnai Vadan at designated places by the Information department in collaboration with the Education department.

The DC directed all the concerned departments to make fool proof arrangements for Republic Day celebration and Full dress rehearsal.

The contingents of Police, CRPF, JKP, Home Guard, NCC besides Police Bands and school contingents will be the part of celebration for the presentation of March past.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ASP, Shopian, Naresh Kumar and other district officers.

Arrangements for R-Day celebrations reviewed in Handwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir Saturday convened a meeting of all concerned officers at Environmental Hall Handwara, to review the arrangements for celebration of ensuing Republic Day in Handwara sub division.

On the occasion, the ADC stressed upon the officers to ensure elaborate and hassle free arrangements for conduct of the National event. He directed the officers to maintain proper coordination and ensure arrangements well in advance.

He directed the line departments to display Tableaus during Republic Day to showcase developmental activities of their respective departments and government schemes. He said all efforts shall be made to make the National function more attractive and informative.

The ADC gave directions that Republic Day celebration Functions shall be held at Tehsil levels and Block levels with the same fervour and enthusiasm.

It was given out in the meeting that the main event of Republic Day celebration shall be held at District police lines (DPL) at Kulangam Handwara where the National flag will be hoisted and the VIP will take salute on the March past.

It was informed that the main function will start with Shanaivadan at 8:05 AM while the National Flag will be hoisted at 10:05 AM.

Entrusting the responsibilities for smooth conduct of the event, ADC asked R&B department, Mechanical Engineering and Municipality Handwara to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of the DPL ground and Town area. They were also directed to keep manpower available in case of snowfall on the day of rehearsal as well as main function day.

The R&B department was directed to make seating arrangements for the function. The decoration will be done by the Floriculture department and Municipality Handwara.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION – IV.
 PAMPORE KASHMIR – 192121
 Email: xentimd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-1

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/17 of 2023-24 for Dismantling and replacement/re-erection of tilted tower cap of Tower No.74 of 220KV (D/C) Wagoora to Zainakot Transmission line near Budgam Railway is extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	15-01-2024 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	16-01-2024 at 14:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

---sd---
 Executive Engineer,
 TLMD-IV Pampore

Email: principalmtg@gmail.com Contact No.: (01954295025)

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE

Tangmarg, Baramulla, Kashmir. One Earth, One Family, One- Future
 No: GDC7TMG/2023-24/1290 NAAC Accredited Dated: 04-01-2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs.2/= each are invited from registered persons/firms/parties for running of college canteen for the session 2024-25. The tenders accompanied with CDR of Rs. 2000/= should reach the office of the undersigned within fifteen days from the publication of this notice.

Terms and conditions:

- No tender without CDR will be entertained,
- List of items/eatables for which rates are to be quoted can be had from the office of the undersigned on all working days.
- Rates/specifications of items must be strictly quoted.
- FSSAI registration certificate under FSS Act,2006 must be enclosed.
- Experience certificate from registered Hoteliers/ Caterers with minimum of three years' experience should be accompanied with the tender.
- The successful tenderer will have to pay monthly rent as would be decided by the college canteen committee.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-14843-23
 DT: 06/01/2024

Principal
 Govt Degree College
 Tangmarg Kashmir

Nation determined to strengthen hands of PM Modi: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Saturday said the Nation has resolved and is determined to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in his relentless and dedicated pursuit of inclusive growth of India that has witnessed an unprecedented and stupendous transformation during the past over nine years.

"The PM's vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayas has galvanised the compatriots and motivated all to ensure Viksit Bharat by 2047", Rana said while interacting with party colleagues of Nagrota, Damsal, Mathwar and Amb-Ghrota Blocks of Nagrota Assembly constituency, here this afternoon.

He said the Prime Minister's commitment to inclusive growth is reflected in initiatives like "Make in India", "Start-up", "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", and "Ayushman Bharat," which aim to uplift every section of society, bridging the gaps that have persisted for six decades since the independence. For the past nine years, however,



the thrust and motivation has been to ensure economic development that reaches every corner of the country's diverse society without appeasement or discrimination, he said, adding that the beneficiaries of this mission have primarily been the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are now becoming a vibrant and proactive part of India's growth story.

Devender Rana said the momentous shift came after the abrogation of Article 370 which made all the difference in August 2019 with obstacles in the implementation of various central schemes and welfare programmes removed, ending the deprivation and

denial of seventy years to marginalised segments. He said path breaking initiatives are gaining momentum which are to be taken to the next level during the third term of Prime Minister Modi, he asserted.

"By empowering the poor, the youth and the women, promoting skill development, fostering innovation and encouraging investment, Prime Minister Modi believes in carving out a nation where prosperity knows no socio-economic boundaries", Mr Rana said adding that the unwavering devotion of the BJP to building a stronger and Viksit Bharat calls for collective support. These efforts and the dynamic and progres-

sive leadership of the Prime Minister will surely make India the Vishwaguru, he said, hoping that the people, irrespective of religion, caste or region will rise to the occasion once again to steer the nation towards the goal by contributing to the realization of a prosperous and vibrant India.

Devender Rana dwelt in detail the progress registered by the country in all sectors of development, science and technology, economic affairs which has enabled India to become fifth economic power of the world. In the next five years, the country is destined to become the third economic power across the world, he said.

CS releases heritage calendar of Radio Sharda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday released the calendar of Radio Sharda, 90.4 FM devoted for promotion of local culture and traditions here.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary maintained that the LG administration is committed to the preservation, promotion and popularization of the local culture and its values. He also applauded the role of the society that



is running this FM Radio here which is helpful in transferring the old rich culture from one genera-

tion to another. The society 'Pir Panchal' that is owning this station also felicitated Chief Sec-

retary for assuming this highest seat of administration here. They also apprised him about the role the society is playing besides the popularity of Radio Sharda among the displaced Kashmiri Panditshere in Jammu.

It is worthwhile to mention here that this year's calendar has a theme based on the ancient heritage temple of ShardaMandir at Teetwal in district Kupwara located close to the Line of control (LoC) in Kashmir.

First ever Ice Skating camp concludes in Sonamarg



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The inaugural Ice Skating camp at Sonamarg, initiated on December 24, 2023, marked its successful conclusion Saturday.

Organized by the District Administration Ganderbal in collaboration with local stakeholders, the event witnessed the participation of approximately 20 local boys who received expert training from Mohd Ashraf Dijoo of the Ice Skating Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

The collaboration with local hoteliers played a pivotal role in facilitating the camp, with support from the Youth Services and Sports Department, Education, Tourism, and the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA).

At the closing ceremony, a prize distribution ceremony celebrated the achievements of the participants, who were honored with medals and certificates.

Notably, a contingent of national-level ice skaters joined to inspire and

encourage the budding enthusiasts.

The diverse audience, comprising stakeholders, tourists, and locals, expressed their appreciation for the event, advocating for its continuity as a regular feature in Sonamarg.

This positive sentiment aligns with the collective belief that such events contribute significantly to the destination's appeal.

Chief Executive Officer of SDA commended the efforts of officers and stakeholders, expressing gratitude and acknowledging their crucial role in making the event a success. He emphasized that such initiatives would undoubtedly contribute to enhancing tourism in Sonamarg.

The success of the first-ever Ice Skating camp in Sonamarg not only reflects the dedication of participants and organizers but also highlights the potential for future events to elevate the region's profile as a thriving winter sports destination.

VBSY uplifts District Pulwama with Positive Transformation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In an unwavering pursuit of holistic development, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has woven a rich tapestry of awareness, transcending Panchayats and Municipalities to resonate within the heart of villages in District Pulwama.

Today, the VBSY reached six villages in District Pulwama, marking the occasion with vibrant celebrations. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans traversed these villages, disseminating the visionary message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the purpose behind the VBSY. The residents of these villages wholeheartedly embraced the Sankalp pledge, resonating with the profound ideals of the Yatra.

Cultural programs were held, showcasing the spirit of the Yatra through performances by students and locals alike.

Government departments actively participated, displaying their schemes through stalls

and offering on-the-spot services. The Yatra served as a platform for various departments to articulate their initiatives, enlightening the community on the diverse opportunities available to them.

Under the 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' segment, beneficiaries shared personal stories, illustrating how Government interventions have positively impacted and transformed their lives.

The VBSY has successfully realized its core objective - the saturation of government schemes, reaching the unreached, and laying the foundation for Viksit Bharat as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the Yatra's launch.

This Yatra has emerged as a beacon of change, surpassing mere rhetoric by turning aspirations into reality. It has ensured that the benefits of Government schemes reach every individual. As the Yatra progresses, it solidifies its role as a catalyst for positive change, inspiring hope and progress throughout District Pulwama.

HORTICULTURE'S CRUCIAL IMPACT

Director Horti. Stresses Role in Regional Advancement

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Horticulture Kashmir, G. R. Mir Saturday attended a mega awareness camp in Budgam district, aimed at empowering local farmers with insights into the latest horticultural schemes and technical advancements.

The event witnessed active participation from key stakeholders, including Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam, Dr M Iqbal Baba; officers and officials from the department, and representatives of PRIs.

More than 300 farmers, predominantly engaged in fruit cultivation, were present at the camp, highlighting the importance of the occasion.

The primary focus of the program was to disseminate crucial information about various Union Territory and centrally sponsored schemes. Prominent among them were the HADP (Holistic Agriculture Development Programme), High-Density Plantation Scheme, and MIDH (Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture).

To ensure effective outreach, an online application system for availing

the benefits of departmental schemes was demonstrated in detail, providing the common farmer with a comprehensive understanding of the process.

A technical guidance session conducted by experts from the Department and covered essential aspects of successful and profitable fruit cultivation, including the latest technical interventions. This session aimed to equip farmers with the knowledge necessary to enhance their horticultural practices.

In his address, Director Horticulture underscored the department's vision and ongoing initiatives. He emphasized the pivotal role of horticulture in propelling the region's overall development, highlighting the potential for growth and sustainability within the sector.

The event served as a dynamic platform for stakeholders to engage directly with the department, fostering a collaborative environment for the mutual benefit of the horticulture community.

A grievance and redressal session at the end allowed participants to address concerns and seek solutions.

DCD officials thwart illegal import of Abortifacient Kits in Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Acting on crucial intelligence, a team of Drug Control Officers under the supervision of Deputy Drugs Controller Kashmir, Nighat Jabeen Shah, in collaboration with State Tax Officer Irshad Assad Jan and his team from State Tax Department Central Enforcement Srinagar (Airport), successfully intercepted a consignment of illegal abortifacient kits at the Srinagar Airport cargo building.

Based on specific information, a joint team of officials conducted a thorough inspection of parcels arriving at the airport. Their vigilance paid-off when they identified a suspicious package containing abortifacient kits, estimated to be worth more than Rs. 3.0 lakh. The consignment was immediately seized and secured.

"This timely intervention has prevented the illegal circulation of these sensitive medicines within the Union Territory," stated Deputy Drugs Controller, Kashmir.

Abortifacient kits are prescription drugs requiring specialized medical

supervision for safe and responsible use. Unauthorized possession and sale of these drugs pose serious health risks to women and undermine established medical protocols.

The seized consignment is currently under investigation, and efforts are underway to identify the sender and intended recipient. Legal action will be initiated against all parties involved, as per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

"This operation highlights the effective collaboration between the Drug Control Department and the Excise Department in safeguarding public health from the dangers of illegal drug trafficking," Nighat Shah further emphasized.

"We remain committed to cracking down on such illegal activities and ensuring the safe and ethical distribution of all drugs within the Union Territory."

The Drug Control Department urges the public to be vigilant and report any suspected instances of illegal drug activity to the nearest authorities. By working together, we can create a safer and healthier environment for all citizens.

SWEET CHANGE

Growers replace traditional orchards with high-density apple varieties

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: A small village in Pulwama is ushering a massive change in horticulture by replacing traditional varieties of apple orchards with high density apple.

Hundreds of growers from the Shahoora village in Pulwama are converting their land to cultivate a diverse range of premium apples, which promises not only increased yields but also unique flavors and textures.

The change started after a few apple growers from the area planted high-density varieties and earned high margins of profit. This sparked interest among the rest of the growers of the area to plant the same varieties.

The growers said that the new varieties of apples were introduced in Kashmir after 2015 and they start bearing fruits just a year after their plantation and reach full production in the 4th or 5th year. Besides, high-density apples are harvested in August

and have facilities available to save them from hailstorms and other things.

Contrastingly, a traditional apple tree starts bearing fruit at least ten years after plantation and is harvested in November. At times like in the past few years, the late harvest caused growers to sustain damages due to untimely snowfall.

Tariq Ahmad, who has high-density apples on around eight kanals of land in Shahoora said people have noticed the benefits of high-density apple farming. "We have prepared fresh 12 Kanals and are going for high-density apple farming as this requires low input cost and less labour cost," he said, adding that the quality of such apples is also high with uniformity in colour and size.

The varieties include Jerome, King Roat, Gala Scarlet, Red Velox, Scarlet Spur-II, Super Chief, Redlum Gala and Auvii Fuji. "The high density apple orchards require less fertilisers

and pesticides," Tariq said. Mohammad Akbar, another grower in Niloora village of Shahoora, said that they are planning to plant over 5,000 high density trees this year.

He said that the same is the case with other villages in the area as high density varieties are being planted on hundreds of kanals of land.

An official said that the shift towards high-density orchards involves innovative planting techniques, advanced cultivation methods and the incorporation of cutting-edge technology. "This transformative approach is attracting attention from apple enthusiasts and industry experts alike," they said, adding that farmers are embracing this trend, recognizing the potential for enhanced productivity and economic benefits.

The horticulture official said that around 800 hectares of land has been brought under high-density apple farming in J&K so far and the department is

working to increase it to around 5,500 hectares in the next few years.

They said the 50 percent subsidy is provided to orchardists who establish or switch to high-density fruit production.

In September 2015, the then J&K Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed inaugurated the first-ever high-density apple orchard at Bamdoora in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kashmir on average produces over 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples every year, a figure that in some years touches 25 lakh metric tonnes.

According to the 2017 economic survey in J&K, half of Kashmir's population is directly or indirectly dependent on the apple industry and over 3.5 lakh hectares are under apple cultivation.

Horticulture is an essential contributor to SGGDP with a share of about 9.5 percent. About 8.50 crore man-days are generated through this sector in J&K every year - (KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender NIT-No.202of2023-24 issued under endorsement No.15529-34 Dated:05-01-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Major Head	Time of completion	Class Of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01	Repair and Renovation of Health and Wellness Centre NTPHC Waliwar under Ayushman Arogya Mandir.	Rs.3.76Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.7520/=	Health Sector	20-Days	DEE
02	Upgradation of NTPHC at Gratabal under Ayushman Arogya Mandir.	Rs.3.87Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.7740/=	Health Sector	20-Days	DEE
03	Upgradation of NTPHC at Kondbal under Ayushman Arogya Mandir.	Rs.3.98 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.7960/=	Health Sector	20-Days	DEE
04	Repair/Renovation of Health & Wellness Centre NTPHC Haripora Under Ayushman Arogya Mandir.	Rs.4.05 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.8100/=	Health Sector	20-Days	DEE
05	Compound Walling with Gate at HWC Benhama Under Ayushman Arogya Mandir.	Rs.8.02 Lacs	Rs.600/=	Rs.16040/=	Health Sector	30-Days	DEE/CEE

AA: Accorded

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 schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-01-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	05-01-2024 from 04:30PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	05-01-2024 from 04:30 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	11-01-2024 upto 4.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	12-01-2024 at 10:35 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.

Note:-

- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The Performance Security i.e.5% shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security/after award of the contract for the Work is issued.

1.1 Note:- All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

- 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 in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
- The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No: 15529-34
Dated: 05-01-2024

DIPK-14812-23
DT: 06/01/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Alternative Sources Of Income

It has become highly important in modern-day life to have alternative earnings besides the main steady salary. From the last three decades, there is hardly a house in any Indian metropolitan city like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru where inmates do not invest in stocks or do not have any alternative mode of earnings apart from the conventional salary. People are earning through their hobbies, through their normal posts on Instagram, by trading in stocks, or by teaching people online. There are courses available online that can teach an ordinary educated individual on how to acquire a skill through which he can generate an alternate source of income. It can be painting, singing, editing, video-editing, textual editing, proofreading or ghostwriting. People are shunning the traditional method of a six- or eight-hour shift and spending the remaining time with a side hustle through which they earn about one-third or one-fourth of the main salary. People usually do not want to invest their entire time into an entrepreneurial idea but definitely as a side hustle people are willing to spend a few hours every day to hone an alternate skill which can help them generate some income. Coming to Kashmir, many Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) had tried to impart these skills in the young people to equip them with the ability to create an alternative source of income. However, the recent statistics suggest that the number of people in Kashmir who invest in the stock market is still one of the lowest in the country. Even some states with lower population than Jammu and Kashmir are at par or at times have even a higher number of people who invest in the stock market. Likewise, the skill set of people to earn through the internet is also on the downside. One suggestion can be to teach these vocational skills in schools from 9th class onwards – teaching our kids the ability to trade in stock market, or coding, editing can go a long way in helping them fetch a job for themselves. Of all things we pass on to newer generations, we should not pass on our lethargy or lack of enterprise to them. We must equip them with enough skill sets so that they are able to earn a living for themselves right from the time they turn eighteen. The time when the earning hours were from ten in the morning to four in the afternoon are over – side hustles are now indispensable.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Navigating Spinal Healing

Breakthrough Advantages Of Endoscopic Spinal Surgery



DR SATNAM SINGH CHHABRA

When it comes to spinal issues, finding the right solution is crucial for a quicker recovery and improved quality of life. In recent years, a revolutionary approach known as Endoscopic Spinal Surgery has been gaining prominence for its minimally invasive nature and promising outcomes.

Endoscopic Spinal Surgery is a cutting-edge technique designed to address a range of spinal problems with minimal disruption to the body. At its core, the procedure employs a slender instrument called an endoscope, equipped with a camera and light, to navigate through small incisions and directly visualize the affected area of the spine. This precision allows surgeons to perform intricate procedures with significantly smaller incisions compared to traditional open surgeries.

Key Advantages of Endoscopic Spinal Surgery

Minimally Invasive Precision: Unlike traditional open spine surgeries that require extensive incisions, Endoscopic Spinal Surgery relies on small openings, often less than an inch in size. This minimally invasive approach reduces trauma to surrounding muscles and tissues, promoting a speedier recovery.

Faster Recovery Times: Smaller incisions translate to shorter recovery periods. Patients undergoing endoscopic procedures often experience reduced postoperative pain and can resume their daily activities sooner compared to those undergoing traditional open surgery.

Reduced Scarring: The cosmetic impact of Endoscopic Spinal Surgery is noteworthy. The smaller incisions result in minimal scarring, offering a more aesthetically pleasing outcome compared to larger incisions associated



with traditional surgeries.

Targeted Treatment Options: The endoscope provides a direct and magnified view of the affected area, enabling surgeons to precisely address the root cause of spinal issues. Whether it's a herniated disc, spinal stenosis, or other conditions, the targeted nature of the procedure enhances its efficacy.

Preservation of Healthy Tissues: By minimizing the need to disturb surrounding muscles and tissues, Endoscopic Spinal Surgery aims to preserve healthy anatomical structures. This preservation contributes to overall spinal stability and reduces the risk of complications associated with tissue damage.

Customized Approach: Each patient's spinal condition is unique, and Endoscopic Spinal Surgery allows for a customized approach. Surgeons can tailor the procedure to the specific needs of the individual, addressing the nuances of their condition with precision.

Potential for Outpatient Procedures: In certain cases, Endoscopic Spinal Surgery may be performed on an outpatient basis, meaning patients can return home on the same day as their surgery. This contrasts with traditional surgeries that often require longer hospital stays.

Endoscopic Spinal Surgery represents a beacon of hope for individuals grappling with spinal issues, offering

a path to healing that prioritizes precision, minimal invasiveness, and quicker recovery. As the medical field continues to advance, this innovative technique stands as a testament to the possibilities of providing effective treatment while minimizing the physical impact on patients. For those considering spinal surgery, exploring the benefits of Endoscopic Spinal Surgery with a qualified healthcare professional may open a clearer path toward a more comfortable and expedited recovery.

Author is Head Neuro and Spine Department, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi

The Curse Of Longevity

The Challenge Of Dementia In Aging Populations



DR. PALLAVI RAJHANS

As advancements in healthcare and living standards lead to increased life expectancy, a new challenge emerges – the curse of longevity. One of the most formidable foes of aging populations is dementia, a group of disorders characterized by cognitive decline and memory loss. This article delves into the complex issue of dementia, exploring its impact on individuals, families, and societies, and the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address this growing public health concern.

Understanding Dementia

Dementia is not a specific disease but a term encompassing a range of cognitive disorders, with Alzheimer's disease being the most common form. Other types include vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal dementia. As individuals age, the risk of developing dementia increases, posing a significant threat to cognitive function and overall well-being.

The Burden on Individuals and Families

Dementia not only erodes memory but also impairs a person's ability to perform daily activities and make sound judgments. This places an immense burden on affected individuals and their families, who often become primary caregivers. The emotional toll, financial strain, and the challenges of providing round-the-clock care contribute to the profound impact of dementia on the quality of life for both

patients and their loved ones.

Societal Challenges and Economic Impact

As populations age, the prevalence of dementia is expected to rise dramatically. This demographic shift poses significant challenges for healthcare systems, economies, and societal structures. The economic burden of dementia, including healthcare costs and lost productivity, is staggering. Nations worldwide grapple with the need to allocate resources for research, care, and support services to address this looming crisis.

The Role of Genetics and Lifestyle Factors

While aging is a primary risk factor for dementia, genetics

and lifestyle choices also play crucial roles. Individuals with a family history of dementia may be genetically predisposed to the condition. However, lifestyle factors such as diet, physical activity, and cardiovascular health can influence the risk of developing dementia. Addressing modifiable risk factors becomes imperative in the quest to mitigate the impact of dementia.

Challenges in Diagnosis and Treatment

Diagnosing dementia poses challenges as symptoms may be subtle and vary among individuals. Early detection is critical for implementing interventions that can slow down the progression of the

disease. Currently, there is no cure for most forms of dementia, making research into effective treatments and preventive measures a priority in the scientific community.

Promoting Brain Health and Research Initiatives

To combat the curse of longevity and the rising tide of dementia, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. This includes promoting brain health through healthy lifestyle choices, fostering research initiatives to understand the complexities of dementia, and developing innovative treatments and interventions. Public awareness campaigns are vital in reducing stigma, encouraging early diagnosis, and enhancing support for

affected individuals and their families.

The curse of longevity, in the form of dementia, stands as a formidable challenge that demands immediate attention and concerted efforts from individuals, communities, and government. As we navigate the complexities of an aging population, prioritizing brain health, investing in research, and developing comprehensive care and support systems are essential steps toward alleviating the impact of dementia and fostering a future where longevity is a blessing rather than a curse.

Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Tulasi Healthcare, New Delhi

Women Shaping The Dynamics Of Society



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON

In the intricate tapestry of our society, the role of women remains a subject worthy of profound contemplation. Have we ever paused to discern the subtle nuances that contribute to the aging of women faster than their male counterparts? What societal dynamics weave the narrative where a daughter, within the initial years of marriage, transforms into a reflection of her mother's sister? This inquiry beckons us to explore the depths of our social fabric and the dynamics that define the roles and expectations placed upon women.

The physical metamorphosis of women, their bodies gracefully aging, is a phenomenon often observed. Yet, it prompts us to ponder whether the aging of the soul and desires aligns with the physical transformation. Nature, in its wisdom, has bestowed upon women an array of capabilities that extend beyond the conventional roles assigned to them. The duty of procreation is merely one facet; women are endowed with the ability to infuse life with beauty, joy, and resilience.

Our societal landscape, however, tends to paint a different picture. Marriages, particularly those involving women, often unfold as negotiated agreements rather than expressions of personal choice. The girl's voice, though occasionally considered, is subsumed within the broader societal norms. The hope for harmonious marriages and alternative proposals being considered reflects the delicate dance between love and familial honor.

Weddings, and ceremonies infused with hope and prayers for a blissful union, mark the commencement of a journey laden with responsibilities for women. Beyond the primary role of procreation, women are tasked with the intricate art of harmonizing familial relationships, nurturing children, and orchestrating the symphony of household affairs. The trajectory of a woman's life, within the short span of seven years, often encompasses not just childbirth but a myriad of roles that sculpt her identity.

As the years unfold, a woman may find herself introducing her niece as a sister, symbolizing the swift passage of time and the myriad responsibilities she has. The challenge lies in whether men can fathom the essence of a woman's nature, inherently inclined towards beauty, amidst the demands of familial duties. The once-shared laughter may dim, and the tapestry of joy woven through humor may fade, leaving behind rare echoes akin to the elusive sighting of the Eid moon.

Beyond the physical transformations, the crucial question emerges – does a woman's heart and soul age as her body does? Does her inner world hold desires and aspirations that echo the timeless yearnings found in the hearts of young men? The prevailing societal discourse, unfortunately, tends to confine discussions around women to matters of purity, hygiene, and



childbirth, inadvertently overshadowing the intricate landscape of their emotions, desires, psychology, and needs.

It is imperative to acknowledge that women's aspirations and emotional landscapes are not confined by societal expectations. The dynamic evolution from a cherished daughter to a familial matriarch within a mere five years calls for introspection. Rather than seeking independence, society envisions women and men walking hand in hand,

broaden their perspectives. Recognizing and nurturing the multifaceted dimensions of women's aspirations and needs is not just a responsibility; it is the cornerstone for fostering a life that is not only materially successful but, more importantly, profoundly fulfilling and joyous for both men and women alike.

Empowering Women
In the grand tapestry of our societal canvas, the pivotal role played by women is not just a subject for contemplation but

and brilliance that women bring to the forefront.

The physical metamorphosis of women, though noticeable, only tells a part of their story. Nature's endowment of diverse capabilities to women extends far beyond the stereotypical roles assigned to them. Yes, they bear the gift of procreation, but they also possess an innate ability to infuse life with beauty, empathy, and an unwavering spirit that sustains families and communities.

Celebrating Women's Contribution to Society

Marriages, often viewed through the lens of societal expectations, need a paradigm shift. Rather than negotiated agreements, they should be a celebration of choice, love, and mutual respect. The narrative of women's lives, intricately woven into the familial and societal fabric, deserves acknowledgment not just for the responsibilities they carry but for the dreams they nurture and the aspirations they harbor.

Within the sanctity of marriages, women emerge not only as life-givers but as architects of homes, cultivators of harmonious relationships, and champions of the emotional well-being of their families. The trajectory of their lives, within a mere seven years, encompasses not just the joy of childbirth but an odyssey of self-discovery, growth, and resilience.

The Indomitable Spirit of Women

As we witness the transformations in women's lives, it is imperative to recognize the intangible essence of their nature. Their laughter, once shared with abandon, may face challenges, but it is an indomitable force that weathers storms and illuminates the darkest corners of existence. The joy derived from humor may evolve but never fades, echoing the timeless resilience embedded

in the core of every woman.

Beyond Physical Transformations

Beyond the physical alterations, the crucial question persists – does a woman's heart and soul age as her body does? The prevailing societal discourse often falls short in acknowledging the intricacies of a woman's emotional landscape. It is crucial to recognize that women's aspirations, desires, and dreams are not mere appendages to societal expectations; they are an intrinsic part of the human experience.

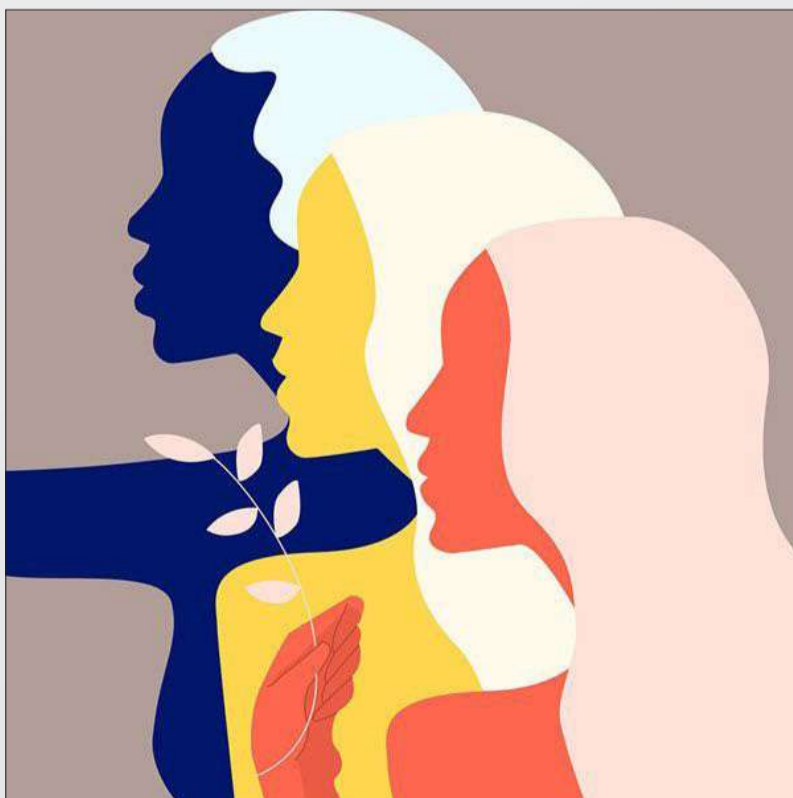
Women's Roles Beyond the Family

The narrative of women's roles extends beyond the familial sphere. Society, at large, benefits immensely from the diverse talents, perspectives, and contributions of women. The transition from a cherished daughter to a familial matriarch in five short years is a testament to the multifaceted capabilities women possess. It's not just about shouldering responsibilities; it's about blazing trails, breaking barriers, and embodying the spirit of resilience that propels society forward.

Tailpiece

In conclusion, let us celebrate and embrace the myriad facets of women's roles in our society. Men, as allies in this shared journey, have the opportunity to champion inclusivity, elevate the voices of women, and foster an environment where aspirations, dreams, and achievements know no gender. It is not just a responsibility; it is a collective endeavor to weave a tapestry where every woman shines in her brilliance, contributing to a society that thrives on equality, diversity, and shared success.

Author is a Motivational Speaker. He can be mailed at akhooon.aubaid@gmail.com



experiencing the kaleidoscope of life together.

Unraveling the Layers of Women's Empowerment

Bottomline, the narrative of women's roles in society is not one-dimensional. Men, as stewards of societal dynamics, must

a narrative that deserves to be celebrated and uplifted. As we delve into the subtle intricacies of why women seemingly age faster and the multifaceted roles they inhabit, it becomes paramount to shed light on the inherent strength, resilience,

Empowering **Self-Employment**

JKBRSETI Anantnag Concludes Training For 13 Candidates Under JKREGP Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: JKBRSETI Anantnag achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing the training of 13 candidates under the JKREGP scheme sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board. This initiative plays a pivotal role in fostering self-employment and promoting local entrepreneurship, as candidates underwent comprehensive training under General EDP program to equip them with the necessary skills for initiating and managing their independent ventures, thereby contributing to employment generation in the region. The program garnered sub-



stantial financial support, with JK Bank providing a capital grant of 94.52 lakh rupees, com-

plemented by a generous subsidy of 33.08 lakh rupees from the Khadi and Village Indus-

tries Board. This collaborative effort underscores the commitment of both institutions to

supporting local entrepreneurs and boosting economic growth. As part of the program, the

candidates were awarded certificates, symbolizing their successful completion of the training. Additionally, they were sensitized to the principles of self-dependency, effective communication, and risk-taking, instilling in them the confidence and knowledge required to navigate the entrepreneurial landscape.

The Director of JKBRSETI Anantnag, along with the senior manager from JK Bank, delivered a precise and impactful lecture, highlighting the paramount importance of self-employment in today's dynamic economic scenario. The insights shared aimed to inspire and guide the candidates on their entrepreneurial

journeys.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Mr. Suhaib, Branch Manager of JK Bank Bijbehara, as the esteemed guest. His presence reflects collaborative support, emphasizing the collective commitment to fostering entrepreneurship in the local community.

This initiative not only marks a milestone in empowering individuals but also sets the stage for sustainable economic development. The ripple effect of these efforts is expected to contribute significantly to the creation of employment opportunities and the overall prosperity of the region.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Le Figaro Chronicles

of Kashmir, describing it as a "Forgotten paradise" timidly opening up to foreign travelers after decades of conflict. The piece, by Bérénice Debras, portrays Srinagar as a haven of peace in the foothills of the Himalayas.

The narrative unfolds at 5:30 in the morning on Dal Lake, where the day breaks in a veil of mist. The boat gracefully glides across the tranquil waters, surrounded by a serene silence. Time seemingly holds its breath, and birds whisper softly. The floating market comes to life as vegetable sellers engage in negotiations from one boat to another. The century-old tradition remains unchanged, with the aroma of traditional Kashmiri khawa wafting from a mobile samovar, providing an authentic experience.

A charismatic character, Mr. Wonderful Flowerman, takes center stage in the Le Figaro report. Draped in a pink sweater and a multicolored shirt, he embodies the essence of a Bollywood character. Negotiations for a bouquet at a "golden price" lead to a unique condition - a visit to Mr. Wonderful Flowerman's father's floating gardens where the plants are cultivated. The journey to an islet on Nigeen Lake unveils the patriarch's lament for the end of the season, accompanied by a glimpse into his daughters' papier-mâché box painting in a rickety wooden cabin.

As the Le Figaro report concludes, it beautifully captures J&K's journey from a conflict-ridden past to a blossoming present. The once-forgotten paradise is portrayed as reclaiming its position on the world stage, signifying a renewed era of enchantment and allure.

Reviewing Power

glory for which it was known for. The Lt Governor said the UT Administration is always committed to serve the people with complete dedication and to resolve their issues promptly. He also lauded the endeavours of Srinagar Smart City Limited and Municipal Corporation for transforming Srinagar City into a prime example of urban transformation. He said the massive and first of its kind new year celebration at Lal Chowk to welcome the year 2024 and the festivities till late night is indication of positive change in people's lives and restoration of Kashmir's ancient glory. The Lt Governor administered 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge to officials and the citizens. He visited the stalls put up by different departments and handed over the sanction letters and benefits to beneficiaries under various schemes.

Beneficiaries also shared their experiences and success stories on the occasion. Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sujit Kumar, DIG CKR Srinagar; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Athar Aamir Khan, CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited; senior officers of police and civil administration and people in large number were present. —(KNO)

LG Joins Viksit Bharat

Sankalp Yatra has infused a sense of self-confidence in the poor and marginalised sections of society. Janbhagidari is the strength of this Yatra and collective strength of people will play a key role in saturation of schemes and economic betterment," the Lt Governor said.

Reiterating the resolve of the government to promote equitable and inclusive development, the Lt Governor said, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the welfare schemes and rapid development in all sectors have transformed the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has empowered and enabled

common man to stand on their own feet for sustainable income and quality living, he said.

"Today, the entire nation is proud of what J&K has achieved in the last four years. Our consistent focus is on economic empowerment of women, farmers and youth for growth. We have to make sure they access and fully utilise the opportunities resurgent Jammu Kashmir has to offer," the Lt Governor further added.

India Reports 774

As of now, the total number of coronavirus cases in India, since the initial outbreak in January 2020, has reached 4,50,17,378, while the overall death toll has risen to 5,33,387.

The new JN.1 sub-variant is a descendent of the Omicron subvariant known as BA.2.86 or Pirola, with Kerala being the first state to report a case.

Kerala, Karnataka witnessed JN.1 variant cases, while Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telangana, Odisha and Haryana were also affected, as per the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG).

Data suggests that the JN.1 variant is not causing a significant rise in new cases or hospitalisations and deaths.

These states have collectively reported 619 cases of the sub-variant by Thursday, with Karnataka leading with 199 cases, followed by Kerala with 148 cases. INSACOG's data revealed that 239 Covid cases in December 2023, and 24 in November 2023, were identified with the presence of the JN.1 variant.

The overall recovery from Covid has reached over 4.4 crore individuals, reflecting a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent.

The country has administered a total of 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines, as per the available data.

Apple Growers

watering. "The current dry weather is giving a tough time to farmers. It usually snows during December but now we are witnessing dry weather since November," he said.

As Kashmir grapples with an unusual and prolonged dry winter season, apple growers in the region are expressing growing concerns about the potential impact on their orchards.

The absence of customary snowfall and the dry spells are raising alarms among farmers who heavily depend on the winter climate for the successful cultivation of apples.

President, North Kashmir Apple Growers Association said the current snowless dry weather will adversely impact the apple orchards.

"The next 15 days are crucial for farmers. If it doesn't snow in Kashmir during the next two weeks, our orchards will suffer heavily. It is during the winter time that our soil retains moisture, which is important for the health of apple trees and the quality of fruits," he said.

Malik said the abundant snowfall during Chillai Kalan ensures proper irrigation to the orchards during summertime. "We have witnessed for the last many years that Kashmir doesn't get abundant rainfall during summer time. So, the proper flow of water from glaciers would irrigate our orchards. We depend on the snowfall for water supply during summer time," he said.

Malik said the fruit quality deteriorates with less or no snowfall.

Pertinently, December last year witnessed a 79 percent deficit in rainfall.

Irshad Ahmad Bhat, an expert said the prolonged dry spell makes apple trees vulnerable to diseases. "With a snowless winter, there is concern about the potential increase in pests and diseases that could affect the apple orchards, requiring vigilant monitoring and management," he said—(KNO)

Arms Seizure Case

nation. "According to NIA investigations, Ganaie and his associates were cadres of 'The Resistance Front (TRF)', an offshoot of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit. They were associated with their Pakistan-based handlers/operative / commanders of LeT/TRF," it reads.

It added that the case was part of a larger conspiracy relating to drone dropping of weapons and money by a Pakistan-based module operating in J&K. Investigations have revealed. "The main kingpin of this drone dropping, namely Faisal Muneer, was earlier arrested and chargesheeted by NIA, which found him to be involved in receiving weapons consignments sent from across the border by one Sajjad Gul@Hamza."

"After receiving these weapons, Faisal used to deliver them in Srinagar to Amir Mushtaq Ganaie, who further distributed them to active cadres/terrorists of TRF/LeT for the purpose of carrying out targeted killings in J&K with the aim of spreading terror among the people. The accused were also engaged in radicalizing, motivating and instigating vulnerable youth to join TRF/LeT and other terror outfits in Kashmir.

Besides arms and ammunition, NIA investigators had recovered several incriminating materials, including chats about terror funds, from the mobile phones of the accused persons."

It reads that the NIA has established that the accused had been carrying out terrorist activities for a long time, thereby threatening the security, integrity and sovereignty of India. It added that the NIA had taken over the case, initially registered by Chanapora police in May 2022, and re-registered it at the agency's Jammu branch office on 18th June 2022. "The agency intends to intensify its efforts to dismantle all terror networks and demolish their support infrastructure by attaching and seizing their properties in the coming days."—(KNO)

Nadda Arriving

Ashok Koul will brief him about the party's pulse and strengthen on ground ahead of the Parliamentary polls," they said.

The sources said that National General Secretary BJP and J&K affairs incharge Tarun Chug will also attend the meeting. The meeting assumes significance as BJP has already started many exercises that include reaching out to people at booth and constituency level.

A senior BJP leader said that the party national president's visit is significant and a morale booster for all ranks of the party. "The BJP J&K chief will present the report card of the party that includes the probable candidates from J&K who would be shortlisted for contesting Lok Sabha polls," he said. "To frame the strategy to be implemented on ground is the must agenda for tomorrow's meeting."

He some "structural changes" at middle and lower-rung leadership is also on cards. Talking to KNO, BJP J&K General Secretary Ashok Koul said that the meeting is very important for the BJP cadre. "It is always a big step when the party chief himself comes to J&K from Delhi to check the party performance," he said. "We will be discussing Lok Sabha polls and obviously, the final strategy will be discussed for implementation on ground." He said loopholes will be identified and measures to plug them will also be taken in the meeting.

The BJP will also organize a party spokesmen meeting in Jammu on January 10. "Directions for spokesmen will be passed in the meeting," a party leader said.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will arrive in Jammu on January 9. Sources said that Shah will visit forward posts and also meet army officials to get their feedback on the prevailing situation. Sources said that Shah

is likely to meet BJP leader of J&K later in the afternoon before leaving back to New Delhi—(KNO)

CS Assesses

long workshop with such players and apprising them about your interest before them about this solarization mission here. He further gave out that besides providing the requisite revolving fund to the JAKEDA for this task the government is also open to extend subsidy to the agencies implementing this programme in the UT.

He advised the department to prepare a model contract and DPR for each district after carrying out survey of identified buildings in next couple of weeks. He told them to watch for the successful precedences left by other States/UTs in the country. He also stressed on seeking technical assistance from any reputed organisation in order to have a clear roadmap for achieving this goal.

In his presentation the Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Saurabh Bhagat revealed that the UT government offices has 22494 registrations to their names across the districts of J&K with a sanctioned load of about 486 MW. It was given out that nearly 1900 buildings had already been solarized either by JAKEDA or other departments with a cumulative capacity of 27.61 MW till now.

Moreover it was revealed that approximately 300 MW could be added by installing these rooftop solar power plants in remaining 20,000 buildings. It was added that each of the department has to provide the information like list of their buildings along with sanctioned connected load, shadow free rooftop space, geo-coordinates and other relevant details about such structures here.

Prolonged Dry Spell

in bringing moisture to the region has been absent, exacerbating the dry conditions, he said.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, said that the reports of fire have been received from three places and the further necessary action was initiated in this regard.

"The persistent dry spell has led to the forest fire. We have already activated the forest personnel to deal with such incidents. We have received the reports from three places and immediate steps were taken," he said.

Pertinently, as already reported, December 2023 unfolded as the most arid month of the year for the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, recording a deficit of 79% and 100%, respectively.

J&K registered a mere 12.6 mm of rainfall, significantly below the average of 59.4 mm, while there was a complete absence of rainfall in Ladakh—(KNO)

Public Notice

This is to inform the public that a duplicate character certificate is being applied for from Govt Girls Higher Secondary Institute, Kothi Bagh.

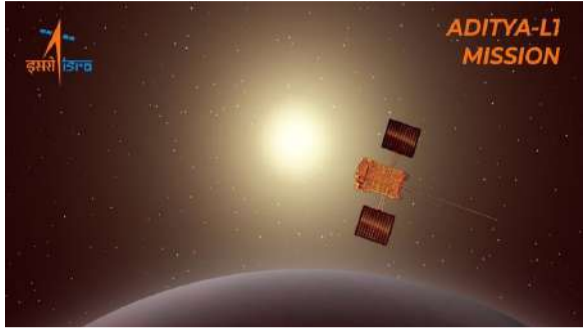
Name: Aadeeba
Father's Name: Fida Hussain
Mother's Name: Sakina
Residence: Aarabal, Shalimar, Srinagar
Class: 12th
Session: 2021.

Any individual with objections to this application is requested to contact Govt Girls Higher Secondary Institute, Kothi Bagh, within seven working days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

India's solar observatory Aditya-L1 reaches halo orbit L1

IAN S

CHENNAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that India's first solar observatory Aditya-L1 has reached its destination successfully. "India creates yet another landmark. India's first solar observatory Aditya-L1 reaches its destination. It is a testament to the relentless dedication of our scientists in realising among the most complex and intricate space missions. I join the nation in applauding this extraordinary feat. We will continue to pursue new frontiers of science for the benefit of humanity," PM Modi said on X.



phenomena is directed towards the Earth, it could cause various types of disturbances in the near earth space environment.

Various spacecraft and communication systems are prone to such disturbances and therefore an early warning of such events is important for taking corrective measures beforehand.

In addition to these, if an astronaut is directly exposed to such explosive phenomena, he/she would be in danger. The various thermal and magnetic phenomena on the sun are of extreme nature.

Thus, the Sun also provides a good natural laboratory to understand those phenomena which cannot be directly studied in the lab. The Indian space agency said all the seven payloads carried by Aditya-L1 are indigenously developed by different laboratories in the country in close coordination with it.

The Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) instrument is developed at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru; Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) instrument at Inter University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Pune; Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad; Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) at Space Physics Laboratory, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram; Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS) and High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HELIOS) payloads at U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru and the Magnetometer at the Laboratory for Electro Optics Systems, Bengaluru.

The Aditya-L1 was orbited in low earth orbit (LEO) on September 2, 2023 by Indian rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle - XL (PSLV-XL) variant on Saturday evening reached its Halo orbit Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1).

It is the point where the gravitational pull of two large bodies -- Sun and Earth -- will be equal and hence the spacecraft will not gravitate towards any one of them.

The Aditya-L1 spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.

"Using the special vantage point L1, four payloads directly view the Sun and the remaining three payloads carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the Lagrange point L1, thus providing important scientific studies of the propagatory effect of solar dynamics in the interplanetary medium," ISRO had said.

Aditya-L1's seven payloads are expected to provide the most crucial information to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities, dynamics of space weather, propagation of particle and fields and others, the Indian space agency said.

The ISRO said the major science objectives of Aditya-L1 mission are: Study of solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics, study of chromospheric and coronal heating, physics of the partially ionised plasma, and initiation of the coronal mass ejections, and flares.

It will also observe the in-situ particle and plasma environment providing data for the study of particle dynamics from the Sun. Other objectives are physics of solar corona and its heating mechanism, the diagnostics of the coronal and coronal loops plasma: Temperature, velocity and density, development, dynamics and origin of Coronal Mass Ejections (CME), to identify the sequence of processes that occur at multiple layers (chromosphere, base and extended corona) which eventually leads to solar eruptive events, magnetic field topology and magnetic field measurements in the solar corona, and the

drivers for space weather (origin, composition and dynamics of solar wind). According to ISRO, the Sun estimated to be 4.5 billion years old is a hot glowing ball of hydrogen and helium gases and is the source of energy for the solar system.

"The gravity of the Sun holds all the objects of the solar system together. At the central region of the sun, known as 'core', the temperature can reach as high as 15 million degree Celsius," it said.

At this temperature, a process called nuclear fusion takes place in the core which powers the Sun.

The visible surface of the sun known as photosphere is relatively cool and has a temperature of about 5,500 degrees Celsius, the ISRO said.

The Sun is the nearest star and therefore can be studied in much more detail as compared to other stars.

By studying the Sun, we can learn much more about stars in our Milky Way as well as about stars in various other galaxies, the ISRO said.

The Sun is a very dynamic star that extends much beyond what we see.

It shows several eruptive phenomena and releases immense amounts of energy in the solar system.

If such explosive solar

Need to figure out battle of narratives ahead of elections: Jaishankar

IAN S

BENGALURU: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday emphasised the need to figure out the "battle of narratives that are being played out ahead of elections" and call them out.

"On the freedom of the press, we have been ranked lower than Afghanistan. What we have seen is steadily building up for the last 10 years. I expect this to reach a crescendo in the first six months of this year. You don't need to guess why. As elections come closer, if it looks like the narrative is not going the way they wanted, they will start attacking the process. We have seen that before... they will attack the Supreme Court, the Election Commission, even the common sense of voters," Jaishankar said.

He made the remarks while speaking during a discussion on his book 'Why Bharat Matters' with BJP MP Tejasvi Surya in Bengaluru.

Talking about how the other countries would look at the inauguration of the Ram temple on January 22, Jaishankar said that people across the world will be looking forward to the inauguration. "As you start moving eastwards, you can see a very strong



cultural influence. The reference I make is Korea. In Korea, there is a belief that their Royalty actually had a connection with Ayodhya. In the last few years, we have seen the revival of Ayodhya. We have actually had Korean participation in cultural programmes. They take it as a matter of pride. On January 22, a lot of people across the world will be looking what's happening."

Jaishankar pointed out that taking the Kashmir issue to the United Nations was a "fundamental error". "If we had a good sense of international politics at that stage, we would not have taken that call. We were taken for a ride by a set of countries that had a geo-political agenda and used Kashmir as an issue of vulnerability. It took

decades to take a call on Article 370 and close the window of vulnerability which we were foolish to open in the 1940s."

"We need to be hard-headed and clear on what our interests are. If India wants to stand up, be a little more considerate, and manage tactfully, we should do it. I would not take a call which is based on whether I am on the side of that country or a bloc. I would take a call at the end of the day on whether it suits my country," he said.

Jaishankar further said: "When I saw the Prime Minister of India getting into Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), you know what a powerful statement it is to our own defence people, to our own creativity and our own technologists? He conveyed that

I have confidence in you and I am flying up there in the aircraft that you have produced. The legitimate expectations of people have to be responded to."

Speaking about choosing the word 'Bharat' this time for his book, unlike his previous book which was titled 'The India Way', Jaishankar said: "It is because of what has happened to us in the last five years. We have become much more self-confident, self-aware and impactful in the world. A large part of the world appreciates how we sailed through Covid, how we handled the complex diplomatically challenging G20 presidency and the success of Chandrayaan. The idea of India as an exemplar is something which the younger generation needs to appreciate."

Jaishankar also said that he'll take up the matter of opening the US Consulate in Bengaluru during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the USA last year. Bengaluru is a global city and it's natural that there should be a US Consulate here. I will go and remind Eric Garcetti (US Ambassador to India) that he needs to set it up fast."

PM Modi expected to visit Kerala thrice before LS polls

IAN S

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: After receiving a rousing reception during his trip to Thrissur earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Kerala at least three more times before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, sources said.

The Thrissur visit on Wednesday appears to have given a huge boost to the morale of the BJP cadres and



according to sources, the party which does not even have a single seat in 140-member Kerala Assembly, is now determined to open its account in

one or perhaps more than 20 seats in the state.

According to the sources, Modi is expected to visit the state once in January and twice in February during which he is expected to dedicate three new projects, including a new facility at the Cochin Shipyard, a National Highway and one at the Kochi Metro.

In the 2019 general elections, the Kerala BJP-led NDA finished a distant third in 19 seats and came

second in just one seat. In total, it managed a mere 15.64 per cent vote share.

While the Congress-led UDF won 19 seats securing a vote share of 47.48 per cent, the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Front got 36.29 per cent votes and one seat.

At the 2021 state Assembly polls, the BJP's vote share plunged by 2.60 per cent to reach 12.36 per cent compared to the 2016 Assembly polls and lost the only seat as well.

Committee on 'One Nation One Election' led by ex-Prez Kovind seeks public input

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The high-level committee on 'One Nation One Election' has issued a notice, seeking suggestions from the general public on the prospect of holding the Lok Sabha polls and the Assembly elections simultaneously, an official said on Saturday.

The committee said that the initiative has been taken for making appropriate changes in the existing legal administrative framework to enable simultaneous elections in the country.

The Central government has constituted the committee which is led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

An official said that as per the 'terms of reference', the committee is required to make recommendations for creation of an appropriate legal and administrative framework for holding simultaneous elections on a permanent basis, identification of necessary amendments to the Constitution and related election laws, preparation

of common electoral rolls, logistics such as EVMs/VVPATs, etc.

The committee has already held two meetings and also contacted the political parties.

The panel said that it has sent letters to 33 political parties. According to an official, the committee members have been examining the implications of a synchronised Lok Sabha election along with the state legislative assemblies.

Suggestions have been invited in writing from the members of the general public for making appropriate changes to the existing legal administrative framework to enable simultaneous elections in the country.

All suggestions received by January 15 would be placed before the Committee for its consideration.

Suggestions may be posted on -- 'https://one.gov.in'

/ through e-mail at 'schlc@gov.in' or by post at Jodhpur Officers Hostel, (Block No. 9) near National Gallery of Modern Arts 'C' Hexagon (India Gate Circle) New Delhi-110003.

Goyal asks BIS to raise standards of goods to international level

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Ministry Piyush Goyal on Saturday urged the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to make the country's standards compatible to international standards wherever possible like in case of lifts, air filters or medical items.

"This can be achieved through an increase in stakeholder consultations and by involving industry representatives," the minister said while addressing the 77th Foundation Day function of BIS.

BIS and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) jointly organised the 'Dialogue for Strengthening Quality Ecosystem in India' to mark the foundation day.

The minister said that a comprehensive network of modern labs have been set up to facilitate testing by BIS and industry. BIS recently agreed to invest Rs 40 crore to set up 21 labs for cotton testing.

He called upon industry to come forward with areas for which testing is required. He said BIS has ample funds and asked the organisation to ensure a transparent ecosystem and high surveillance for better delivery.

Goyal applauded the efforts of BIS in hallmarking jewellery and pointed out that mandatory hallmarking covers 343 districts. More than 4.3 lakh articles are hallmarkled every day and 90 per cent jewellery that people are buying is hallmarkled, he added.

The minister said that till 2014 there were only 14 Quality Control Orders of 106 products but now there are 156 QCOs of 672 products. The minister also pointed out that there had been a 52 per cent decline in toy imports in 2023 compared to 2015 because of QCOs that mandated quality above all.

"QCO's are being processed in nearly 2500 more



items which reflects our commitment towards quality by providing high standard goods and services," he said.

He said that nine years ago, PM Modi gave the vision of Zero Defect, Zero Effect which means that India should make products of high quality that are sustainable, eco-friendly and have zero climate impact.

He quoted PM Modi as saying: "Over decades, India had been dependent on foreign standards for quality. Now India's pace and progress will be decided by our own standards."

Goyal said that good quality is non-negotiable and with the awareness generated by BIS, its benefits are understood by consumers, industry, exporters and importers.

He also appealed to the younger generation to become the young ambassadors of quality and of Viksit Bharat. He said that the youngsters can promote e-learning, and can upgrade PARAKH initiative in colleges and universities.

Delegates including experts from diverse fields related to standardisation, policymakers, industry professionals, consumer groups, academicians, representatives of various Industries, associations, leading manufacturers, traders, special invitees and representatives from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and DPIIT, also participated in the event. The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions.

Stay away from factionalism & corruption, PM Modi's advises Raj MLAs

IAN S

JAIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is currently on a three-day trip to Jaipur, advised Rajasthan MLAs and Ministers to "stay away from factionalism and corruption".

He held discussions with MLAs, Ministers and BJP officials on Friday night at the party's state office in Jaipur. During the meeting, the Prime Minister questioned the MLAs on the Congress's defeat in the November 2023 Assembly elections. To this, some of the legislators cited corruption as the reason.

In response, Modi told the MLAs that "you have to stay away from factionalism and corruption. The party is monitoring all your activities".

He further told the legislators that they should not work keeping only the five-year tenure in mind.

"We have to work ahead keeping this thing in mind that the government should repeat after five years."

The Prime Minister also advised them to visit the booths where they lost in the polls and then go to the one from where they won and then brainstorm on what made them win.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION ZAINPORA.

TENDER NOTICE

NIT No: -Fresh28/ ZNP/RnB/e-TENDERING/ 2023-24 Dated: 05- 01-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Zainpora invites Expression of Interest (EOI from the Diver Association/State Motor Garage/NGOs/Agencies/Consultancy Agent/Public Private Partnership firms/Individuals, under (Single cover system) for allotment of Contract for Hiring of vehicle 01 No for a period upto 30-April-2024.

Name of item	Cost of tender Documents in Rs.	EMD in Rs	Major Head	Class of Contract
Providing of 01 light Vehicle (4x4) i.e Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio / Bolero along with valid licensed Driver for official Purpose in the office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Zainpora	Rs300/- (Rs Three Hundred only)	Rs3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only)	Contingency Charges to project works	Travel / Passenger Light Vehicle union / a registered light vehicle owner with passenger permit and valid licensed Driver

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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 below schedule.

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-01-2024
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05-01-2024 6.00 P.M to 12-01-2024 6.00P.M
3. Bid submission Start Date	05-01-2024 From 6.00 P.M
4. Bid Submission End Date	12-01-2024 upto 6.00P.M
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	13-01-2024 at 11.30 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora

TENDER DOCUMENT

Instructions while submitting the-Tendering process.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Valid Treasury Receipt/e-Challan under Major Head 0059 Revenue in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money/ Bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division zainpora (tender receiving authority)
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website 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 in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION OF CONTRACT

- The Vehicle should be registered through J&K Regional Transport office Srinagar/ Jammu or Assistant Regional Transport officer of any District of UT of J&K.
- Fuel will be issued by the department, however, the toll maintenance charges of vehicle made all times will be paid by the supplier of the Vehicle.
- The Supplier has to quote rate as per day /per month as per rates in vogue in state motor garage only for vehicle with out driver.
- The Vehicle should bear valid Insurance document from reputed insurance company.
- The Vehicle must be having Fast Tag sticker affixed on screen.
- The contract prior shall be given to qualifying parties for a period upto 30 April 2024.
- THE Vehicle must be having a valid permit
- The contract will be initially for a period upto 30 April 2024 or extended upto the next tender which may be further extended on satisfactory services on the same terms and conditions.

Subject to otherwise, provided in this agreement all notices to be given on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K and all other actions to be taken on his behalf may be given or taken on his behalf by the Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora

No: NIT/2263-68
Dt: 05-01-2024

DIPK-14820-23
Dt: 06/01/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Zainpora

SRINAGAR SMART CITY

98 Projects Completed, Seven Ready for Inauguration

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: At least 98 projects under the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) have been completed in Srinagar so far while the authorities said that seven among them have not been inaugurated yet.

CEO, SSCL and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Aamir Khan said that they planned a lot of work, and he is grateful that most of them have been successfully executed on the ground.

"Since 2020, we have completed approximately 98 projects. Among these, seven projects are ready for inauguration but haven't been inaugurated yet," he said.



He further explained, under the Smart City initiative, "we have many projects, and by utilizing

savings, we have included 20 to 30 more projects, such as Goni Khan Market Project, Jamia Masjid Project, Jehangir Chowk Project,

and others."

"Of total 152 projects, 93 are completed, while seven projects await inauguration. Additionally, we have many ongoing projects, including in downtown areas like Pathar Masjid, Dalgate—Gojwara road, and Karan Nagar—Darish Kadal stretch," the Commissioner added.

Highlighting crucial ongoing developments, he stated, "We are actively working on the riverfront view in downtown Srinagar, along with significant progress has been made in Batmaloo, Qamarwari road, and other areas. I anticipate that these projects will be completed by June," he said—(KNO)

In Bandipora, Khurwan Sar Lake battles pollution menace

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: The Khurwan Sar Lake, once a renowned water body in the Sumbal area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district, is rapidly becoming a pollution hotspot as various forms of waste, including garbage, liquid waste, human excreta, and industrial waste, are being disposed of directly or indirectly into the lake, contributing to its environmental degradation.

Locals said that a decade ago, the lake served as the main source of drinking water for the Sumbal area, but now it paints a grim picture due to pollution. "Over the past several years, the lake has been significantly impacted by encroachment, and despite the government's lack of

initiative in safeguarding it or intervening to halt the disposal of garbage, the lake's condition continues to deteriorate with each passing day," they said.

Abdul Majeed, a local resident, said that a decade ago, they used to visit the lake for fishing when the water was completely clear and crystal. People even used to bathe in it during those times. The area, which was three times larger compared to today, has now become a victim of encroachment from all sides.

He expressed concern that all the garbage coming from across Sumbal is being dumped directly or indirectly into the lake, posing a significant threat to its environmental legacy. Despite this, there is a lack of attention or care for the

lake, and it is feared that it is not far from facing a silent death.

Abdul Aziz, another local resident, suggested that the government swiftly restore the river to its former glory for preservation. Also, he said that there is need for preventive measures to stop the practice of dumping garbage into it.

"Migratory birds that used to visit the lake have not been observed in the past couple of years, possibly due to increasing pollution," said Mushtaq Ahmad, another local resident.

Bashir Ahmad, a boatman who previously ferried locals for fishing and other activities on this lake, expressed the difficulties he now faces in rowing the boat due to escalating

pollution. He mentioned, "If we navigate near those areas resembling garbage dumping sites, no one would ever want to visit the lake."

An official stated that he personally visited the lake recently and recognized the environmental challenges it is currently confronting, along with encroachment issues requiring joint efforts from the administration and civil society to restore its lost glory.

Furthermore, he mentioned that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted to higher authorities, outlining plans for restoration. "Also, a suitable dumping site will be identified, ensuring scientific disposal of garbage to prevent harm to the environment and public health," he said—(KNO)

DC Budgam presides over Mega VBSY program

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Mega Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), program was Saturday conducted at Sports Stadium Budgam.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo presided over the program, inspected beneficiary camps installed by various departments to showcase their products and raise awareness generation regarding different schemes. Speaking on the occasion, the DC appreciated all concerned officers and officials for successfully conducting Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), program across all 296 panchayats and for its enthusiastic ongoing conduct in urban areas of the district.

The mega VBSY function witnessed

impressive gathering from all local wards of Town Budgam.

After holding flower ceremony of the VBSY Van and Izband ceremony, the DC also participated in Sankalp pledge on the occasion.

The DC felicitated some achievers for their exemplary work in different fields and distributed sanction letters, cheques and keys to beneficiaries under different welfare schemes. Deliberating on the ongoing developmental activities and successful conduct of VBSY across the district, the DC said that it is the committed objective of the district administration to accelerate developmental projects visibly on the ground.

He said that under the direction of Hon'ble LG, the District administration is committed to

ensure all major infrastructural projects are completed in the shortest possible time.

He said among other major projects, various PHCs were dedicated to public, installation of Mobile Network towers at tourist places and various other uncovered areas, work on PRIs Accommodation at Sheikhpura, Integrated Lavatory, Wuzukhana complex at along with two public Parks at Charar-i-Sharief have been completed, work on New Bus Terminal, Chadoora is in progress and likely to be completed by first half of this year, work on State of the Art New District Hospital Budgam at Reshipora and establishment of Cluster University in Budgam is a key focus area of the district administration.

KIE, HOPE, MISSION-E Unite to Form EMERGE

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a biggest development Saturday in Srinagar, three leading coaching centers of J&K decided to merge to form a single platform for the students of the valley. The three coaching centers which collaborated are KIE, HOPE CLASSES and MISSION-E. The new Institute will be called EMERGE with different brand and logo which will be launched in coming days.

Taking their long history of producing the toppers in NEET and JEE into the account the administration of these coaching centers reaffirmed their faith that they will continue to grow beyond the students' expectations.

Talking on the occasion as chief guest, president CCAK, G



N VAAR said that sustenance of the local Institutes has become a necessity in the present scenario. He emphasised on the educators to provide the quality education at par with the national Institutes.

Chairman Hope Classes Dr Sajad Ahmad Lone earlier welcomed the guests and students to the function. He said that these

three top Institutes have given hundreds of doctors and engineers to society. Director Mission-E Mr Shahnawaz Ahmad said that the local Institutes has been at the forefront in serving the downtrodden students of the valley. He said that every Institute has taught hundreds of students for free who were deserving but were not able to afford the fee.

رسم چہارم

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کیساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ہماری والدہ 5 جنوری 2024 کو اس دنیا سے رحلت کر گئیں۔ مرحومہ نیک سیرت اور صوم و صلوات کی انتہائی پابند تھیں۔ اللہ جنت الفردوس عطا کرے۔ آمین۔

مرحومہ کا چہارم 7 جنوری 2024 کو آبائی مقبرہ واقعہ اسلامیہ کان پور صبح کے 11 بجے انجام دیا جائیگا۔

سوگواران
جان صاحب، فیاض احمد
ساکتہ قمر واری، سرینگر

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —
DIL KE EHSAAAS



0.495 cm

Spectrum Adv | 969700698