

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Modi government changed Kashmir. By abolishing Article 370, Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji and Hon'ble HM Shri @AmitShah Ji freed Kashmir from terrorism and opened doors to tourism. #PragatisheelJammuKashmir

Srinagar • Thursday 01, February 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 27 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 5/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paise) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

2 Foreigner Skiers Rescued In B'la

BARAMULLA: At least seven persons including two foreigners were rescued by the Army on Wednesday in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

As per a statement issued, the defense spokesman said that the post of Banal ex Pattan Bn received info at 07:30 pm on 30 January about a skiing team of seven individuals including two foreign nationals (Switzerland) got stranded due to bad weather after coming down from Sunshine peak. The info was given ●P-06

Apple Prices Witness 20 Percent Dip

SRINAGAR: Apple growers and traders in Kashmir are worried as prices of the fruit have witnessed a sharp decline in the last few weeks.

Growers from different areas of Kashmir said that apples fetched good returns but now rates have dipped with some 10 percent of the produce yet to reach mandis from cold storages.

Aafaq Ahmad, an apple trader from Pulwama said that A grade apple would fetch over Rs 1300 in October, November and December last year but now it is sold around Rs 900-1000.

He said that the same is the cause with B-grade apples and rates have witnessed a ●P-06

TRAGIC

8 Dead, 7 Injured In Uri Accident



WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: Eight people including four women were killed, while seven others were injured after a passenger vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Uri-Boniya area of Baramulla in north Kashmir on Wednesday.

Block Medical Officer (BMO), Boniyar, Dr. Khurshed Ahmed Khan said that eight people were dead and seven others were injured in the deadly accident.

The injured were shifted to Baramulla hospital for necessary treatment.

"Seven others were injured in the accident, who are being treated in GMC Baramulla," the BMO said.

He identified the deceased as Tahira, wife of Reyaz Ahmed Sheikh, Amina Bano, daughter of Abdul Gani Sheikh, Mohammed Maqbool, son of Ahmed Sheikh, Maqsood Ahmed, son of Ghulam Rasool Sheikh, Sameena Begum, wife of Abdul Hamid Shah, Sarwa Begum, wife of Ghulam Mohammed Bakshi, Abdul Rehman Lone, son of Fathe Lone and Abdul Razak, son of Abdul Rehman — all residents of Bujithallan.

The injured were identified as Shabir Ahmed ●P-06

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK

Deeply saddened by the tragic accidents in Baramulla & Kishtwar. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured.

Tourists, Skiers Delighted

Snowfall Ends Dry Spell, Breathes Life Back Into Gulmarg

WARIS FAYAZ

GULMARG: The prolonged dry spell in the Kashmir valley has come to an end as it received rains and snow, especially in Gulmarg—a winter wonderland now adorned in a pristine white cloak — attracting visitors eager to experience the much-awaited magical charm of snow-covered landscapes.

The absence of snow during the dry spell amidst winter had earlier left residents and businesses in a state of anticipation; however, the recent snowfall has infused the region with a renewed sense of vibrancy.

Expressing their excitement and joy at witnessing the transformation of Gulmarg, tourists flocking to the destination, as well as those affiliated with the businesses, shared their happiness.

"It's a perfect time for everyone to plan a visit to Gulmarg and revel in the winter charm," a group of tourists from West Bengal said. "Nature has bestowed a beautiful gift with the snowfall in Gulmarg; witnessing the snowfall feels like a true blessing," they said.

Nikita, who had come from Ludhiana along with her family, said she had been to Gulmarg for the second time, and experiencing the snowfall here was like stepping into a winter paradise.

"It's a paradise-like feeling that everyone should experience at least once," she said. "I wholeheartedly recommend everyone to visit and immerse themselves in the ●P-06



Rains Lash Plains

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: After the culmination of Chillai-Kalan, several places across the Valley continued to experience fresh snowfall on Wednesday while the plains received light rains with the weatherman predicting more snowfall till February 04.

Sopore town, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Shopian, Gurez and other places across the Valley have received fresh snowfall today.

As per the forecast, the Meteorological department (MeT) said that there is a possibility of heavy snowfall over few higher reaches of North, North western and South Kashmir areas till tomorrow morning.

"Few lower reaches and plains of North, ●P-06

Edu Sector Witnessed Radical Reforms Under PM's Leadership: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

VARANASI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that country's education sector under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed radical reforms and enabled students to realize their dreams.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the country's education sector witnessed radical reforms and enabling students to realize their dreams", the Lt Governor said while inaugurating the Maharshi Sandipni Public School in Jalalpur, Varanasi. ●P-06

Modi Govt Rebuilt J&K, Ended Era Of Terrorism: Amit Shah

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi government has rebuilt Jammu and Kashmir, ending an era of terrorism and violence and giving wings to development by rolling out massive infrastructure and welfare schemes.

In a series of posts on X in both English and Hindi, accompanied by the #PragatisheelJammuKashmir hashtag, Shah also said Prime Minister Modi transformed Jammu and Kashmir by awakening a new hope among youngsters.

He said the Modi government secured the dreams of the youngsters and gave new flight to their aspirations by strengthening education and skilling facilities. "The Modi government ●P-06



KPDCL Bans Selling Of Nichrome Coil-Based Heating Gadgets

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC) Wednesday ordered blanket ban on procuring and selling of nichrome coil-based heating gadgets in the Valley.

According to an order, KPDC said that the government in 2018 had ordered complete ban on manufacture, import, transport, sale, purchase and use of Nichrome coil-based crude heaters, boilers and steamers.

It said that manufacturers do not conform to the required specifications of BIS or International Electrotechnical Commission.

"In consonance to the above orders, all Electric Divisions have done a remarkable job in seizing these crude heating appliances from a vast majority of the consumers," KPDC said.

The order further states that it has been observed that after seizure, the consumers buy fresh ●P-06



From Mega Events To Foreign Tours

Admin Vows To Breach Last Year's 2.11 Cr Figure

ABID BASHIR

SRINAGAR: Snow or no snow, the Tourism department is all set to woo more foreigners besides domestic tourists this year with an aim to breach last year's 2.11 Crore tourist arrival figure. A series of steps are in the pipe-line that include mega events like Khelo-India, tourism promotion campaigns, national level conferences and foreign tours for stakeholders to lure international tourists.

In an exclusive chat, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal that Kashmir itself is a major attraction for domestic as well as foreign tourists.

"Many offbeat destinations are ready to host domestic as well as foreign tourists this year. Our primary aim is to bring more and more foreign guests to J&K this year. For that, many events are on cards," she said.

Mudgal said that a series of tourism promotion events will be held in the months ahead. "We are organising mega ●P-06

CS Visits Tawi Riverfront Development Project Site

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday took his maiden visit to the project site of Tawi Riverfront Development here during which he inspected the ongoing works and those completed by the executing agency followed-up by a meeting regarding the same at Civil Secretariat here.

During this visit he was accompanied by ACS, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandep Kaur; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Commissioner, JMC, Rahul Yadav; DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Chief Engineer, I&FC/UEED besides other concerned officers and officials. ●P-06

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

MOVIES List & Timings Thursday 01 Feb



FIGHTER (HINDI)
11:40AM, 02:55PM, 04:30PM 3D ATMOS
01:15PM, 04:50PM (U/A)



12TH FAIL (HINDI)
11:20AM (U/A)



DILWALE DULHANIA LE JAYENGE
HINDI 05:45PM (U/A)



DUNKI (HINDI)
02:20PM (U/A)

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

TICKETS AT:

www.bookmyshow.com
www.inoxmovies.com
Paytm, Inox App or
Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

Call 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets

WEEKLY BLOCK DIWAS

DC Srinagar holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp in Lasjan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Lasjan area in Panthachowk Tehsil of the District in an endeavor to bring Administration at the doorsteps of the people for on spot resolution of their developmental issues and demands during public outreach programme under Weekly Block Diwas.



Commissioner.

Chairman, District Development Council, Srinagar, Malik Aftab Ahmad and other eminent citizens, besides large number of people of Lasjan, Nowgam, Soiteng, Wathpara, Baginder, Padshahibagh and other adjoining areas were part of the Public Grievance Redressal Camp.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, local representatives, public delegations and individuals projected various issues and demands before the Deputy

The demands and issues put before the DC include augmentation of Water supply and drainage system, development of playgrounds, upgradation of sports infrastructure, besides other development issues were flagged-off during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

The Deputy Commissioner after giving patient hearing to the issues and demands of the public, sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

their time bound redressal.

The DC asked the Officers of line Departments to reach out to the doorsteps of the common masses and made them aware about centrally sponsored schemes so that they avail benefits from these schemes and achieve saturation.

The DC underscored the importance of the programmes launched by the Government like Back to Village, My Town My Pride and ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra during which Administration and Officers of the line Departments visit the uncovered areas.

Besides, Programme Officer, ICDS, Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Education Officer, Tehsildar Panthachowk, other District Officers and Engineers were also present on the occasion.

DC G'bl chairs Block Diwas in Manasbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In a bid to address the concerns and aspirations of the local community, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Wednesday presided over the Block Diwas program at Manasbal for Block Safapora in the district.



The event served as a platform for direct communication between the administration and the public, focusing on fostering inclusive development and addressing pertinent issues.

During the event, residents of Safapora and nearby villages raised various concerns, including the need for improved health facilities at NTPHC Gratabal, timber availability, street lights repair, Lar canal dredging/repair, early commissioning of administrative block, and the development of a playfield at Pahlipora.

After attentively listening to the concerns raised, the DC reiterated the administration's commitment to inclusive development, emphasizing the importance of local participation in uplifting far-flung areas. Immediate instructions were issued to the relevant departments for the timely resolution of

the genuine issues raised during the Block Diwas.

Addressing the dredging of the Lar canal, the DC directed the Executive Engineer I&FC to commence work promptly in priority areas. For street lights repairs and installation, the CEO of Manasbal Development Authority was tasked with submitting a report on damaged street lights and identifying locations for new installations.

Highlighting the significance of preserving the pristine glory of Manasbal Lake, the DC asserted that locals, especially those residing on its periphery, are the primary stakeholders in this endeavor. He urged the community to refrain from disposing sewage pipes or garbage

into the lake, highlighting the district administration's ongoing measures for the lake's development, including the construction of pedestrian paths, lighting, and viewpoints.

Underlining the commitment to robust area development, the DC assured swift completion of infrastructure projects and efficient service delivery to both urban and rural areas of the district.

The Block Diwas program was attended by ADDC, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; DDC Member Sapapora, CEO MDA, ACD, SE R&B, Executive Engineers, and other district and sectoral officers.

Furthermore, the DC recognized and felicitated students from Ganderbal

who excelled in sports events held across different states.

Later, the DC inspected ongoing development works at Manasbal Lake, particularly the 2.7 km pedestrian walk path from Kondbal onwards.

SE R&B informed the DC that the walk path project comprising of four components including link road from Pottermulla / Gulabagh near patwar khana to engineering college comprising of 1100 meter length, 8 meter span RCC culvert, construction of R wall, and Development of parking area at Manasbal.

The DC gave necessary instructions for its timely completion and other associated works.

BLOCK DIWAS AT PATTAN

DC B'la leads efforts to address community concerns



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In an endeavour to engage with the community and listen to their grievances and demands at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas programme, organised by District Administration Baramulla at Government Degree College Pattan.

Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf, Sub Divisional Magistrate Pattan, ACD Baramulla, other officers from concerned line departments, public representatives, delegations and a large number of people from villages and municipal areas of Pattan block participated in the Block Diwas.

The main issues raised by the public during the Block Diwas included, unavailability of core streams at Pattan Degree College's curriculum, beautification of Pattan Town, issues pertaining to access of portable drinking water, upgradation of schools, demand for health centre at Yatipora, and macadamization of inner roads, shifting of electric poles at main market of the town.

The DC proactively interacted with participants, attentively address-

ing their grievances and developmental concerns. Many issues were promptly resolved on the spot, while the DC assured the public that the rest of their demands have been noted and will be taken up with the concerned departments on priority.

Speaking about the beautification of Pattan Town, the DC highlighted that while the district administration will work towards facilitating infrastructure building, preserving and enhancing the beauty of the town is a civic duty shared by all.

Meanwhile, the DC delegated the responsibility to the District Animal Husbandry Officer to arrange for mobile dispensary vans in the cattle village areas where veterinary clinics are not readily accessible.

Regarding the potable drinking water issue, the DC emphasized that Baramulla district has been allocated the highest number of schemes under JJM, and additionally, under AMRUT 2.0, the remaining areas of towns will be covered to ensure access to potable drinking water.

Minga Sherpa expressed heartfelt gratitude to the community for their resilience in braving the cold and rain to attend the Block Diwas event and voice their concerns and grievances.

Distt Admin Kulgam holds Block Diwas at Kund Block

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Under the weekly Block Diwas programme, a Grievances Redressal Camp was Wednesday held at Kund Block of the district, in Waltengo Panchayat.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan presided over the camp and listened to various developmental and welfare issues of the public.

ACD, Kulgam on the occasion apprised about the rural development works including MGNREGA, SBM, Playfields, etc while as Exen Jal Shakti, Qazigund apprised about the ongoing water supply works in the block under JJM. Similarly other departments like R&B, KPDCCL, Health also intimated about the functioning of their departments in the area.

Athar sought details of various developmental works ongoing under various sectors including KPDCCL, R&B road works, JJM works etc and asked for speedy work execution for timely completion.

He also stressed upon the concerned to make adequate arrangements for the upcoming Annual Urs at Kund including Water, Power, Street lights, transport, security etc.

Delegations of the area apprised about starting of 24x7 services at PHC Waltengo, availability of technical staff for lab, USG, Xray, construction of Ziyarat at Waltengo, adequate availability of electricity and other arrangements during Urs, macadamisation of Chatergam - Nigeenpora road, bank branch in the area, road

from Razloo to Churat, gynaecology services at PHC Razloo, macadamisation of inner roads at Razloo, playfield at Oriel, road from Kanchloo to Gujjer Basti, bridge at Kanchloo, PMAY units, road at Brinal, Chatergam to Brinal road etc.

Tribal Representatives appreciated efforts of the district administration for development efforts in the area while asking for further compensation of kins of victims of Waltengo Nar accident, road at Gujjer basti, Noubough, transformer for Nagrass, Panchgam along with construction of pending accommodation units of 2005 Snow Avalanche.

The DC on the occasion directed for immediate resolution of some of the issues raised during the camp while directing for proper follow up of other issues with concerned authorities for redressal.

DDC Member, Kund, Gulzar Ahmad Shiekh expressed gratitude to the district administration for organising Block Diwas in the area for grievance redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, DC assured that issues of development and welfare have been noted and steps shall be taken towards the direction of their redressal.

People should actively participate in Gram Sabhas and prioritise works which have maximum benefit for the community, DC urged people.

ADC, Vikar Ahmad Giri; ACR, Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; ACD, Mohd Imran; ACP, Shurjil Ali and other district and sectoral officers attended the block diwas along with hundreds of local population.

DC Anantnag felicitates Young Computer Savvy for Outstanding Tech Proficiency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In a heartening acknowledgment of the positive use of technology for positive purposes, emphasizing that age is no barrier to making a meaningful impact, Huzai's ability to harness modern tools effectively at such a young age serves as an inspiration to his peers and the community at large.

DC expressed his appreciation for Huzai's commendable efforts, stating,

This recognition underscores the significance of embracing technology for positive purposes, emphasizing that age is no barrier to making a meaningful impact. Huzai's ability to harness modern tools effectively at such a young age serves as an inspiration to his peers and the community at large.



their individual capabilities but also reflects the positive potential that technology holds when used judiciously."

Huzai Shakeel's achievement serves as a testament to the transformative power of technology when wielded responsibly. The Certificate of Appreciation bestowed upon him is a symbol of encouragement for other young minds to explore and leverage technology for constructive purposes.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT DIVISION QAZIGUND

Email: qazigundphedivision@gmail.com (Phone No./ Fax No. 01931-295040)

E-NIT No.36 OF 2023-24 dt.30.01.2024, issued under No. 5515-35-65 Date:30.01.2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state, for the work mentioned below:-

SL No	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Time of completion	EMD	Class of Contractor	M.H	Cost of Tender doc.(In Rs)
1.	Extension Of Head From Spring Gawas And Distribution To Kumar Mohalla Pipes For WSS Batagund A (Under NABARD)	6.917	15days	20751	DEE	NABARD	500/-

- Position of Accord: Accorded
Position of T.S: Accorded
Position of funds: Available (Ongoing Project)
- 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.
 - Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund (Tender receiving authority).
 - Earnest Money equivalent to 3% of Advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR/BG without which the tender shall not be entertained. (Pledged Executive Engineer JSD Qazigund)
 - The quantity of items in the BOQ are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. The quantity items in the BOQ can increase or decrease and shall not be mentioned in the allotment order.
 - The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job failing which the Engineer In-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond in time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debared to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.
 - The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the peripherals of the area, before tendering for the stages of the particular area at his own expenses.
 - The tenderers have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof. No conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be lowest one.
 - The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work in rate/quantity schedule in the form of BOQ.
 - The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available with him or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required for reexecution of any of the work or works allotted to him.

- Unbalanced Tender:
- In case bidder uploads his bid with respective below percentage than the advertised cost, additional performance security in the shape of CDR /FDR shall have to be uploaded along with the online bid by the bidder at the time of submission of his/her bid falling which, his/her bid shall be rejected. The Additional performance security deposit of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of work up to 50% .The additional performance security unbalanced bid shall be worked out as per following breakup.

S. No.	Percentage of Unbalanced Tender viz advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% and upto 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and upto 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and upto 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30%	20%

- The Payment to the concerned agency shall be made as per availability of funds.
- The items which may not figure in the BOQ but found necessary for execution shall be paid as per SSR or lowest market rates decided by the contract committee of the Divisional Level.
- Work done claims has to be supported with pre, during and post photographic evidence.

Critical dates:

01	Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice.	30.01.2024
02	Start of Downloading	31.01.2024 9.00 AM
03	Bid Submission Start Date	31.01.2024 9.00 AM
04	Bid submission end date	06.02.2024 11.30AM
05	Date & time of opening Bids (online)	06.02.2024 2.00 PM

DIPK-15810-23 DT: 31/01/2024 Executive Engineer, J. S PHE Division Qazigund

CAR SOLD
I, Ajaz Ahmed Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/O Dangarpura Sumbal Bandipora, Jk Have Sold My Ford Figgo Bearing Registration No. Jk17-0589 Model 2011 Chassis No. BC01011 & Engine No. JIBC01011 To Peer Haziq Sajad S/O Sajad Hussain Mehboobi R/O Nambalabal Pampore Pulwama, JK. Now, From This Date Onwards All The Responsibility Will Lay With The New Owner. I.e Peer Haziq Sajad S/O Sajad Hussain Mehboobi R/O Nambalabal Pampore Pulwama Of Whatsoever Nature I.e, Challan, Main Accident Case, Fir, Theft Case, Or Any Other Kind Of Unlawful Activity The Responsible Will Be Fully On The New Owner.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT LABOUR COMMISSIONER, KULGAM
DC OFFICE CUM MINI SECRETARIAT
Tel: 09131-295197 email: alckulgam@gmail.com
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-SHRAM REGISTRANTS RATION-CARD CAMP
This is for the information of all the e-Shram Registrants of District Kulgam, who are without Ration Cards, can visit their respective Tehsil Supply Offices of Food Department along with their documents viz. Aadhar Card, Domicile Certificate, Income Proof and e-Shram Card on 2nd and 3rd of February 2024 so that Ration Card will be issued in their favour.
For any query in the matter please call the below mentioned numbers:
9086571168, 7006399449
No: ALC/KUL/2024/820 Dated: 30/01/2024
DIPK-15823-23 DT: 31/01/2024
Assistant Labour Commissioner Kulgam

Snow envelopes Baderwah's tourist attractions as dry spell ends

'Locals, tourists enjoy sites, click pictures to save memories'



SAHIL NASHAD

BHADERWAH: As the dry spell ended finally, snow enveloped the famous tourist attractions in Baderwah, luring a large number of tourists. Witnesses said that tourist sites that include Chattergala, Padri, Guldanda received the first snowfall of the season. The snowfall has brought a unique flavour

to the region, providing a magical experience for both locals and tourists. Tourists are quite upbeat about their experience in Baderwah. Upper reaches of Baderwah valley including Kailiash Range Mountains, Ashapatipati Galicer, Guldanda, Chattergala, Padri, Jaie Valley, Chinta Valley and Kansar received first snowfall of the season and the plains witnessed rainfall there-

by ending the two-month long dry spell. While tourists were seen enjoying fresh snowfall in Baderwah valley, many of them were seen clicking pictures in the snow. "Bhadarwah is the best place to spend holidays. Not only is the place beautiful, but people here are very nice and helpful," Rakesh Mahajan, a tourist from Maharashtra, told KNO. Another tourist from

Delhi, Ritu Devi, said: "We are at Guldanda and due to cool breeze, we are feeling the chill. We are enjoying our stay here as it's like a fairy tale that we are playing with snow that too on roadside and just 30 Km from the town." The Baderwah administration has taken measures to ensure the safety of tourists, including clearing the roads and providing assistance to those in need—(KNO)

J&K a sunrise region brimming with opportunities in every sector: Bhatnagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Wednesday inaugurated the 1st edition of Jammu Trade Fair 2024 at Gen. Zorawar Singh Auditorium Ground, University of Jammu here.

The Trade Fair, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) from January 31st to February 4th, 2024, provides a captivating display of the Union Territory's rich culture and untapped trade potential.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted the distinctiveness and quality of every product originating from J&K, emphasizing that the region offers opportunities for growth, development and success. He expressed Jammu Trade Fair 2024 marks a significant milestone for J&K, where the government is extending comprehensive support to farmers, manufacturers and artisans.

The Advisor commended the incentives provided in the UT for the artisans and others associated with this sector. He applauded the



dedicated efforts of JKTPO and the Industries and Commerce department in organizing the Jammu Trade Fair 2024 and stressed the potential benefits it could yield.

Delving on the significance of One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, Advisor Bhatnagar noted that nearly 17 products have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags, with others in the pipeline. He likened J&K to a sunrise region brimming with opportunities in every sector. He also commended the cultural program and artisans for their impressive performances.

Speaking at the event, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh stated that

recognizing the true potential of JKTPO, could foster an environment for business that actively supports trade and exports to help J&K flourish and prosper economically. He appreciated such programmes in empowering local farmers, sellers, and producers and enhancing Jammu and Kashmir's socio-economic environment.

He said that this inaugural event is set to become the flagship event and is planned to be held annually in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

Managing Director of JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, on the occasion, extended his gratitude to the Advisor for addressing and give valuable insights to gathering. He gave out that JKTPO is

mandated to organize such events for the promotion of unique products of J&K.

He conveyed appreciation for the support and guidance received from the Industries and Commerce, J&K Academy of culture, Art & Languages and other organizations and stakeholders for organizing this event.

Driven by the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', the Jammu Trade Fair 2024 aims to showcase the diverse economic and cultural facets of J&K. The Fair is set to become an annual fixture on fixed dates, creating a consistent platform for businesses and investors, and provide a unique identity to Jammu city.

Notably, the fair is being organized on revenue generation model with least reliance on Government budgeting support, thus being first of its kind and a trail blazing event. Further, the event has received official approval from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, further validating its significance as a key platform for fostering economic growth and cultural exchange in the region.

JD Info bids affectionate farewell to Mohd Aslam on superannuation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir organised an impressive adieu programme to bid affectionate farewell to Assistant Director Information, Mohammad Aslam Khan, who was also holding the charge of Field Publicity Officer and Dist. Inf. Officer, Anantnag, on his superannuation Wednesday.

Mohammad Aslam Khan has served at various positions in the department spanning about 40 years of service.

Khan was a doyen of the department who enriched



DIPR with his vast experience and knowledge regarding smooth conduct of National and State level VVIP functions and Public Relations work.

Besides, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam Chowdhury; Deputy Director

(PR), Bilal Mukhtar Dar; Culture Officer, Burhan Hussain the farewell function gathered officers and officials from divisional office and districts.

While expressing his appreciation for the retiring Officer, Joint Director Kashmir said that he was a confi-

dent Officer with enormous capabilities who executed entrusted jobs meticulously and efficiently.

The Deputy Director (PR) also praised the management and performance of Mohammad Aslam Khan. He said that the retiring officer's work and conduct should encourage others to deliver their services with dedication and honesty.

Culture Officer also shared his experience of closely working with Khan and showered praise upon him for neatly orchestrating plans for successfully conducting VVIP functions and official matters.

Snow brings cheer to stakeholders in Sonamarg

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Following an extended dry spell, the recent snowfall has breathed life into the tourism sector.

The tourism sector experienced a slump due to absence of snow in hill resorts like Gulmarg and Sonamarg with cancellation of bookings.

With the season's snow, locals are jubilant that it holds significant economic importance for them.

They were praying for more snow to sustain their livelihood.

CEO Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) Dr Ilyas Ahmad said that tourists are enjoying snowfall with Sonamarg covered under one foot of snow.

"For winter sports like skiing, however, we need more snowfall. It is hoped that further snowfall is coming soon based on the weather report that we are monitoring," he added.

The Snowshoe Federation of India and the Snowshoe Association of Kashmir are planning a national event for February.

"To that aim, we have looked at the most fundamental facilities, including lodging, etc. Many tourists had to reschedule their trips because there hadn't been any snowfall in the days before, and Sonamarg's tourism industry has seen a rise in demand following the most recent snowfall," he said—(KNO)

Newly promoted Directors of Planning calls on CS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The newly promoted Directors of Planning Wednesday called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and conveyed their gratitude for their career progression after putting in the necessary service periods as Joint Director Planning.

The Chief Secretary encouraged them to work with dedication and honesty as their role in the progress and development of the UT is pivotal. He congratulated them for their elevation to the posts of

Directors of Planning here. Earlier on the recommendations of the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee sanction was accorded to the promotion of the 13 Joint Directors as Directors of J&K Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service in the pay Level-13 (123100 - 215900) with effect from 26.12.2023. Subsequently the promotion order was issued by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department vide No. 11-JK(PD&MD) of 2024 dated: 30-01-2024.

Ladkah set to host 4th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games

TASADUQ HUSSAIN

SRINAGAR: The Ladakh region is all set to host the 4th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games which will feature ice hockey and speed skating as the main events. A senior official said the games are scheduled to take place from February 02 to 06 at three different venues in Leh.

The official assured that preparations have already commenced in the region to ensure the success of this annual event. He said efforts are underway to guarantee a smooth and high-profile event, with a focus on infrastructure, accommodation facilities, security arrangements, and other essential aspects.

Venues for the event include NDS Sports Stadium, Guphuks Pond and Ladakh Scout Regimental Centre (LSRC). The official said the preparations align with the standards set by the Sports Authority of India, and ensure proper arrangements for both players and spectators to avoid any hurdles.

Regarding participation, he said that players from at least 15 different states of the country are expected to compete in the games in Leh, Ladakh. Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting, is anticipated to inaugurate the event in Leh, although no official confirmation has been made.

"Invitations will be extended to J&K Governor Manoj Sinha, LG Ladakh, MP Ladakh, and CEOs of both Kargil and Leh," he said.

The official said this is a significant moment for Ladakh Union Territory to host the prestigious event for the first time.

"We are fully preparing to host this event successfully. This is a prestigious event, and we aim to continue hosting such events in the future," he said, adding, "Ensuring the satisfaction of sports authorities and players, we are committed to providing top-notch venues and infrastructure."—(KNO)

Ensure timely handover of completed sub-projects: CEO ERA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA), Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar Wednesday impressed upon all officers of J&K ERA to ensure timely handover of all sub projects completed under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project to user departments.

She said this while chairing the periodic meeting held to review progress on ongoing World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar here today.

While reviewing progress on under execution sub projects being executed under JTFRP, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar was informed that the work on upgradation of 47 dewatering stations in Srinagar city is at advanced stage with work already completed on 40 stations while as work on remaining 7 stations will be completed by March, 2024.

The CEO directed the concerned nodal officers to keenly observe and sort out all impediments hindering



progress on execution of works on the sub project. She asked the Additional Secretary, Legal JKERA to follow-up with the SMC the legal issues that may be affecting progress on the sub-project.

Nodal officer for construction of additional block at GDC, Bemina, informed that work on sub project is nearing completion as only some ancillary works and installation of lifts in the building are pending and same will be completed by March, 2024.

Nodal officer for construction of 160 bedded hospital building at Bone and Joints hospital, Barzulla, being executed under World Bank funded JTFRP, informed that work on the sub-project is at the advanced stage with substantial progress achieved on civil component of the sub project.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ajaz Ahmad Dar, S/o Abdul Gani Dar, R/o Limber, Baramulla Limber, hereby inform the public that I have sold my car, Wagon R VXI, bearing registration no JK011 - 6140, Chassis No: MA3EED81S00615371, to Shahid Ahmad Khan, s/o Abdul Rashid Khan, residing at Gurpora Rainwari, district Srinagar. As of today (30-01-2024), I relinquish all responsibilities pertaining to the aforementioned vehicle. Any events or incidents related to the car henceforth will not be my responsibility.

AJAZ AHMAD DAR
S/O ABDUL GANI DAR
R/O LIMBER, BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Aqib Ajaz Dar S/o : Ajaz Ahmad Dar intends to apply in the Department of tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit Under the name and Style " Tiny Hues Tour and Travels Tarzoo Sopore. If Anybody have any objection He/she May contact the Department of Tourism Kashmir within the period of seven days after that no objection will be accepted.

TINY HUES TOUR AND TRAVELS
TARZOO SOPORE BARAMULLA J&K
PROP :- AQIB AJAZ DAR
S/O : AJAZ AHMAD DAR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-I (TLMD-I), BEMINA, SRINAGAR

Ph. No. 0194-2492427, 9419181913 E-mail: tlm1tech@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No: 32/JKPTCL/TLMD-I/SGR/2023-24; Dated: 31.01.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Two Covers) from reputed, experienced, competent and financially sound Electrical Contractors/Firms/Joint Ventures fulfilling the eligibility criteria specified in the standard bidding document are invited online for the works detailed below.

e-Tenders need to be accompanied with a non-refundable Tender Fee in the form of Demand Draft pledged to Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I, Bemina, Srinagar for Rs.1500.00 (Rupees One Thousand and Five Hundred Only) and EMD amounting to Rs. 91,600.00 (Rupees Ninety-One Thousand & Six Hundred Only) in the form of CDR/FDR/BG as security deposit pledged to Executive Engineer, TLMD-I, Bemina.

Cover-I: The bidding process is online. However, hardcopies consisting of Tender fee and EMD in accordance with General Terms and conditions of SBD (original instruments) in cover-1 should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, TLMD-I, Bemina, Srinagar (Phone No. 9419181913) one day after the last date for online submission of e-Bid.

However, after opening of the tenders on-line, L1 Bidder will be called to submit his/her Original/Photocopies of documents viz. relevant documents valid and renewed contractor License /Labour Registration Certificate, GST registration, PAN card, TIN No. and all other documents related to the bid for synchronization with Techno commercial evaluation.

Cover-II: The bidder shall upload online rates as per detailed BOQ enclosed as Annexure-A. The rates shall be inclusive of all taxes etc. The Standard Bidding Document shall be kept available at website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.

S. No	Scope of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Lac)	Tender Fee (in Rs)	EMD (in Rs)	Time of Completion
1.	Stabilization of existing EHV transmission line infrastructure by way of stringing / laying of conductor at various locations of 132kV D/C Habbak-Badampora-Kangan-Sumbal transmission line along with fixing of missing members, replacement of various line accessories and branch cutting of trees in the line corridor (Phase-II, Part-A)	45.76	1500.00	91600.00	02 months

The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document, seeking o clarifications and submission dates thereof is as per the table below:

CRITICAL DATES SCHEDULE

e-NIT No: 32/JKPTCL/TLMD-I/SGR/2023-24; Dated: 31.01.2024

1.	Issue of NIT	31.01.2024
2.	Downloading of bidding documents (Start)	31.01.2024 (02:00 PM)
3.	Start date for seeking clarifications	01.02.2024 (10:00 AM)
4.	End date for seeking clarifications	05.02.2024 (04:00 PM)
5.	End date for replies to clarifications	06.02.2024 (04:00 PM)
6.	E-Bid submission (start) date & time (uploading of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF formats)	01.02.2024 (10:00 AM)
7.	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, bid security and other supporting documents in PDF formats)	22.02.2024 (02:00 PM)
8.	Last date for submission of Hard Copy of e-Bid	23.02.2024 (04:00 PM)
9.	Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date and time.	24.02.2024 (02:00 PM)
10.	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-I, Bemina
11.	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1500.00
12.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 91600.00

- Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.
- Clarifications can be sought from the office of the under signed (Phone No.: 9419181913) or on E-Mail addresses: tmd1tech@gmail.com
- Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall visit the site of work, have firsthand assessment of the tendered job and acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions. The bidder shall make first hand assessment of the expenses involved with the actual execution of the contract at various sites and accordingly quote the prices. Any item or items required for arriving at the goal corresponding to a particular job item description in BOQ but not exclusively mentioned therein shall be treated to be included in the particular job item description without incurring any further financial liability on JKPTCL.
- The Corporation (JKPTCL) reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- The Bidders are advised to furnish and upload complete bidder address including address of place of business along with all valid Landline/Mobile Nos /fax Nos plus e-mailing addresses.

No: TLMD-I/TS/23-24/32A/4576-80
Dated: 31.01.2024
DIPK-NB-5490-23
DT: 31/01/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I,
Transmission (Kashmir), JKPTCL, Bemina, Sgr

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

RASTA The Right Way

The district administration in Anantnag district recently did something phenomenal. In a bid to save accident-hit patients in the golden hour Anantnag Administration recently launched 'RASTA – Roadside Assistance during Traffic Accidents' initiative to offer training to residents and shopkeepers residing along main roads, aiming to equip them with the skills to provide first aid to the injured people. The hands-on training aims to equip the roadside shopkeepers with the necessary skills and knowledge to act as aid givers during the "Golden Hour Period". The establishment is planning to distribute Medical Kits among all such trained volunteers. This program is aimed at equipping a huge number of people with the ability to administer timely medical aid which can save the life of an accident victim in the first critical hour. The first one or two hours are the most critical hours after the accident. Of late, because of the increased traffic on the streets of Kashmir, we have seen a lot of accidents. The majority of the accident-hit patients reach the hospital too late resulting in a great number of casualties. There seems to be a mad rush on the roads. People just want to reach somewhere within no time. Following the lane system is a rarity on our highways. The use of indicators to change the lanes is even more of a rarity. It also remains a mystery to note that a good number of people who drive cars on the roads in Kashmir are drivers without a license or adolescents who are yet to reach the age of getting a license. In some cases, the paucity of proper sign boards leaves a lot of grey area which the impatient, greedy drivers of vehicles use to their advantage. Also, the fact that the traffic department has been massively understaffed for many years now. The traffic department needs to expand its staff strength – it is long overdue now. We must again congratulate the district administration Anantnag for conducting this wonderful program. This needs to be emulated in other districts as well. RASTA is the right way.

The Impact Of Climate Change On Snow

SAHIL MANZOOR

Kashmir Valley has different faces throughout the year. During winters the Kashmir valley looks whitish. The lofty snow-clad mountains look so charming and enhance the beauty of Kashmir valley. Winters are quite special in Kashmir as during this period tourists come from all over the world to see snowfall. Snow is the soul of Kashmir during winter. Without snow, Kashmir looks deserted like no doubt Kashmir has no alternative throughout the globe. But snow enhances the beauty of Kashmir and has great and beneficial benefits. Even though these days literate or illiterate people know the value of snow, understand the importance of environmental-related changes, and climatic conditions, and know the severity of prolonged drought. So every Kashmiri prays and wishes for fresh snowfall.

Snow is a solid form of water. Countries that lie in the northern parts of the world receive snowfall. In Kashmir, there are several rivers like the Lidder River in Pahalgam, Shaliganag in Doodhpathri, Doodhganga in Yusmarg, and waterfalls. The main source of all these rivers, and canals are the glaciers. Glaciers are the snow-covered mountains that cater water to rivers, for drinking purposes, and keep the surroundings during summers cold and charming. Snow keeps the soil moist and has immense benefits.

From the arrival of winter to mid-Chilal Kalan, snowfall might play an important role. snowfall should happen at the start of January then it keeps for a longer time. The harsh cold season starts from the 21st of December to 31 of January. But we should never lose our hopes. The Almighty has the best plans for humanity and knows what is better and what is not. So we are predicting things, discussing them as per the scientific facts, etc. Snow is not important



only in winter. Snow plays a great role in Kashmir for all the four seasons. So snow has great importance and attracts thousands of tourists.

Spring: During spring looks like lush green, and flowers everywhere in the gardens look so winsome. Spring starts from the 21st of March to the 21st of June. During spring Tulip Gardens is one of the immense attractions for the local tourists from all over the world. Mughal gardens like Nishat, Shalimar, harvan, Pari Mahal, Cheshma Shahi, and Botanical gardens look mesmerizing, lavishing, charming, and sensuous.

We still have lost nothing. Let's pray together and I hope almighty Allah will bless us with favorable and beneficial snowfall that we have been waiting for the last couple of months. Prays are so valuable and powerful that we should never lose hope and hope for the best results. I hope we will see fresh snowfall soon. Snow covers the whole surface of Kashmir and looks like it is painted with white.

For the last couple of decades, the impact of environmental-related issues has been observed in Kashmir Valley.

Like an increase in temperature, and more rainfall during June and July. Dryness in winters, now less rainfall in March and April. This is quite alarming and we have to keep things in consideration that we have preserved all the natural treasuries like forests in a very good position. Forests play a necessary role in climate. When there are adequate forests we have good and favourable seasons.

The author can be mailed at sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

The Message Of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024



HILAL BUKHARI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently concluded the seventh edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on the 29th of January 2024. PM is holding Pariksha Pe Charcha (which means Discourse about Examination) every year now before the board exams and other exams are held in this country. The main objective of this program is to guide the students particularly so that they can properly face their exams without any kind of stress.

This grand event was telecasted online on many platforms throughout the country. Through this fruitful program, PM interacted with millions of students, teachers, and parents who were eagerly watching him from every nook and corner of this vast country. Prime Minister Modi shared several great and wise thoughts with the students, teachers, and parents and answered several questions from both the offline as well as the online audience.

I will try to put forth the main crux of this 'Charcha' or discourse in this write-up so that all of us might be able to revise and remember the main messages that PM wished to convey to the students, teachers, and parents of this country. I have tried to put this discourse in my own words and make it simpler for the readers. The PM advised the students that they should avoid running away from technology. He suggested they use it judiciously so that it can be fruitful for them in the long run. Using it judiciously means using it properly without misusing it. The misuse of



the technology by the students will certainly lead to dangerous consequences in the future.

Another important message is that the students should learn to set small goals and prepare gradually. Such methodology is going to help the students during their preparations. The students must learn that leaving everything to the so-called eleventh-hour preparation leads to more stress in students. Therefore, it is better to prepare in a piecemeal manner. The students and the teachers were also advised to treat every student equally. Equality is the hallmark of progress in this new age. The Prime Minister also suggested the students to take care of themselves. As we know the life and health of an individual

should be his or her priority. Therefore, the students mustn't risk their lives or health in any condition. They must know that anything can be achieved in this world provided our life and health are safe.

The PM also suggested the students focus on writing during their preparatory stage. Students should try writing before entering the exam halls. We often witness that students do not practice their writing skills in advance which later leads to their stress and they are not able to perform better inside the exam halls. The students are also advised to calm themselves when they enter the exam centers. The P.M. suggested the students use deep breathing exercises in the examination hall. This exercise will be helpful

for them in managing their exam stress properly.

P. M. Modi told the students to build their friendships without any selfish tendencies. Students should learn to build friendships in a complimentary manner which shall be beneficial for all of them. They should also be always aware of and focus on their personal development. The Prime Minister suggested the parents of this country especially avoid comparing their children with others. Comparison often leads to stress and stress, in turn, is always responsible for deteriorating the performance of the students. The parents must learn that every individual is unique in his or her capabilities.

PM Modi also suggested that teachers and parents

promote healthy competition among the students. Healthy competition means competition that is more inclusive and development-oriented. Finally, PM Modi suggested to the parents that they should not treat their child's report cards as their visiting cards. It means that the parents should not over-stress their wards by relating their success in the exams with their status. The child's report card does not represent their guardian's status.

In conclusion, we might say that this was another great episode of that fruitful series which has helped students throughout the country manage exam stress properly and excel brilliantly.

The author can be mailed at bukhari.hilalahmad5@gmail.com

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

50th Anniversary Of **Dark Emergency**

Dark Period Of Democratic Erosion



PROF. JASIM MOHAMMAD

Indira Gandhi's decision to impose Emergency in June 26, 1975 is a glaring stain on the canvas of India's democratic history. This imposition was a brazen assault on the democratic foundations of India. The Emergency period, marked by a suspension of civil liberties, censorship, and a ruthless crackdown on political dissent which represents a betrayal of the very principles that our democracy is built upon.

Emergency in India was a 21-month period from 1975 to 1977 when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared state of emergency across the country. One of the most egregious aspects of the Emergency was the systematic erosion of fundamental rights. The suspension of habeas corpus allowed for arbitrary arrests and detentions, stripped citizens of their basic right to personal liberty. The chilling effect of censorship on the media further curtailed the free exchange of ideas which turned the press into a mere mouthpiece for the government's narrative.

Indira Gandhi's decision to suspend fundamental rights and curtail civil liberties during Emergency undermined the very essence of democracy. The arrest of political opponents, suppression of dissent, and muzzling of the press created an environment where voices critical of the government were stifled. The Emergency was declared without warning on the midnight of 25 June and the country woke up to the death of democracy. A national emergency was being declared in India for the third time, the first two times were during the wars with China and Pakistan in 1962 and 1971 respectively.

The verdict by the Allahabad High Court, which declared Indira Gandhi guilty of electoral malpractices during the 1971 Lok Sabha elections, serves as a poignant reminder of the subversion of democratic norms during the Emergency period. This decision unveils a chapter in Indian history where the highest echelons of power were willing to manipulate the democratic process to serve their political interests.

The long-term consequences of the Emergency are deeply ingrained in the collective memory of the nation. It created a culture of fear and self-censorship, where citizens were hesitant to voice their opinions for fear of reprisals. The scars of this authoritarian episode continue to impact India's democratic fabric, which reminds us of the fragility of our institutions when faced with unchecked power.

When things were heating up for the government, Gandhi declared emergency and immediately arrested all major opposition leaders including JP, Morarji Desai, Charan Singh, Acharya Kripalani, etc. Even Congress leaders who were opposed to the emergency were arrested. During the emergency, civil liberties were severely restrained. The freedom of the press was strictly curtailed and anything published had to pass the Information and Broadcasting ministry. Indira Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi wielded extra-constitutional powers. He conducted forceful mass sterilization of people in a bid to control the population of the country. Non-Congress state governments were sacked. Many slums in Delhi were destroyed. There were many instances of human rights violations in India. Curfews were imposed and the police detained people without trial.

The abuse of power during



Emergency is a glaring example of the concentration of authority in the hands of the executive. The Prime Minister's move to suppress political opposition through the misuse of legal provisions and state machinery raises questions about the checks and balances in the democratic system. However, Emergency was a calculated move by Indira Gandhi to protect her own power and position.

The imposition of Emergency witnessed widespread human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, torture, and censorship. The suspension of habeas corpus allowed for prolonged detentions without trial, reflects a disregard for the prin-

the leaders and activists of the opposition parties, the student movements, the trade unions, the civil rights groups, and the journalists. Some of the notable figures who were arrested during the Emergency were Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L. K. Advani, George Fernandes, Nanaji Deshmukh, Ramnath Goenka, Kuldip Nayar, Arun Shourie, etc.

The Emergency also saw a massive campaign of forced sterilization, which was aimed at controlling the population growth and reducing poverty. The campaign was spearheaded by Sanjay Gandhi, who had no official position in the government but wielded enormous power and influence. He set

among the people, who resisted and protested against the forced sterilization.

The Emergency also imposed severe restrictions on the freedom of expression and information. The press was censored and anything published had to pass the scrutiny of the Information and Broadcasting ministry. The government issued a series of guidelines and directives to the media, which prohibited any criticism of the government or the prime minister, any report of the opposition activities or the public discontent, any mention of the arrests or the human rights violations, and any discussion of the controversial issues such as the sterilization

the key positions in the media organizations, such as the Press Trust of India (PTI), the United News of India (UNI), the All India Radio (AIR), and the Doordarshan (DD). The government also manipulated the advertisements and the subsidies to reward or punish the media outlets and also infiltrated the media with its agents and informers, who monitored and reported the activities and the views of the journalists and the editors.

The media became a mouthpiece of the government and a tool of the propaganda and lost its independence, integrity and failed to perform its role as a watchdog and a public educator.

Indira Gandhi's strategy of suppressing political opposition by invoking Emergency powers raises questions about the democratic principles she purportedly championed. The use of emergency provisions to eliminate rivals rather than addressing legitimate concerns through democratic dialogue is a blot on India's democratic legacy. This whole period was a period of political repression and authoritarianism, where the opposition parties and the movements were crushed and the dissenting voices were silenced.

The suppression of opposition during Emergency was systematic and ruthless. The government also banned or dissolved many opposition parties and organizations, such as the Janata Party, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Akali Dal, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, etc. The government disrupted and disbanded many opposition rallies and also denied the opposition any access to the media or the public opinion.

Imposing Emergency, however, was not the only option available to Indira Gandhi in the face of political challenges. Instead of resorting to such extreme measures, she could have pursued constructive dialogue and reconciliation with opposition parties. Engaging in a transparent and open political discourse would have allowed for the resolution of differences through democratic means.

In hindsight, the imposition of Emergency was not only an unnecessary and disproportionate response but a betrayal of the trust placed in a democratic leader. The scars left by this authoritarian episode compel us to remain vigilant, ensure that such undemocratic actions find no place in the future of India's vibrant democratic landscape.

Author is Professor and the Chairman, Centre for Narendra Modi Studies, Bharat. He can be mailed at profjasimmd@gmail.com



ciples of justice and fairness. The Emergency was a period of terror and repression for the people of India, who had to endure the atrocities of the state machinery and the whims of the ruling party.

According to various estimates, more than 100,000 people were arrested during the Emergency, many of them without any charges or evidence. The detainees were subjected to torture, humiliation, and coercion by the police and the intelligence agencies. Many of them were forced to sign false confessions or implicate others. Some of them died in custody or committed suicide. The most prominent among the detainees were

unrealistic targets and incentives for the officials and the workers involved in the sterilization drive. He also used coercion and intimidation to force people, especially the poor and the marginalized, to undergo sterilization. Many people were lured, bribed, threatened, or kidnapped to the sterilization camps, where they were operated upon without proper medical care or consent. Some of them suffered from infections, complications, or death. The campaign also violated the religious and cultural sensibilities of many communities, who saw sterilization as a sin or a taboo. The campaign sparked widespread resentment and anger

campaign or the constitutional amendments. The government also banned or confiscated many newspapers, magazines, and books that did not comply with the censorship rules. Many journalists and writers were arrested, harassed, or blacklisted. The government also controlled the radio and the television, which broadcast only the official propaganda and the praises of the prime minister and her son. The censorship and the propaganda created a climate of fear and misinformation, where the people were deprived of their right to know and express the truth.

The government also appointed its loyalists and cronies to

Genome Valley Excellence Award For Nobel Laureate Paediatrician

IAN S

HYDERABAD: The Genome Valley Excellence Award for 2024 will be conferred upon Nobel Prize-winning paediatrician and professor Gregg L. Semenza, announced BioAsia, the marquee healthcare and life sciences event, organised by the Government of Telangana.

The award will be presented at the 21st edition of BioAsia scheduled to be held here from February 26-28.

The International Advisory Board of BioAsia consisting of personalities of national and international reputation made the final selection of the awardee, in light of his prominent ground-breaking discovery in unveiling the hypoxia-inducible factor 1 (HIF-1 protein), a pivotal discov-

ery controlling gene expression in response to fluctuations in oxygen availability.

Professor Semenza is currently the C. Michael Armstrong Professor of Genetic Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA. His pioneering work in the field is critical in the treatment of diseases such as cancer, anaemia, blinding eye disease, and cardiovascular disorders.

Semenza had discovered how cells can sense and adapt to changing oxygen availability. During the 1990s, he identified a molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes in response to varying levels of oxygen.

He received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in the year 2019 for the discovery on "how cells

sense and adapt to oxygen availability".

Telangana's Minister for Industries and Information Technology, D. Sridhar Babu, said professor Semenza's work serves as an inspiration to aspiring scientists and underscores the transformative power of knowledge in shaping a better tomorrow for humanity.

"Professor Semenza's pioneering research has not only deepened our understanding of the intricate mechanisms governing gene expression, but also holds immense promise in advancing medical science and improving healthcare outcomes. BioAsia feels honored to host such a renowned personality," said Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary (I&C), Government of Telangana.

Focus On Drug Price Controls, Preventive Care Can Curb Healthcare Inflation

IAN S

NEW DELHI: While there are several options for taming inflation in healthcare, prioritising prescription drug price control and placing a strong emphasis on preventive care emerge as key solutions, according to a report on Wednesday.

Inflation in healthcare refers to the persistent increase in the cost of medical goods and services over time. This phenomenon is driven by a combination of factors, including advancements in medical technology, rising labour costs, pharmaceutical innovations, and the complex interplay of supply and demand within the healthcare market.

The report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company, reveals that healthcare professionals (HCPs) believe that enforcing prescription drug price controls and giving greater priority to preventive care stand out as the top two solutions that could effectively mitigate healthcare inflation.

Similar results were observed in previous survey waves that were launched to capture the H1 2023 and 2022 outlook.

"Inflation in healthcare often results in increased expenses for medical services, medications, and equipment. This can burden both patients and healthcare providers, potentially limiting access to essential

treatments and straining the financial stability of healthcare institutions. Additionally, it may contribute to disparities in healthcare access and quality," said Sachin Gharat, Associate Project Manager at GlobalData, in a statement.

The 2023 H2 physician survey includes 682 respondents across the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK and Japan. In H2 2023, more than half of the surveyed HCPs expressed a preference for incorporating preventive methods into patient care. This inclination toward prevention underscores a growing recognition of its dual benefit: improving health outcomes while simultaneously contrib-

uting to a more cost-effective healthcare system.

"Long discussed as a potential cost-control strategy, prioritising preventive care to reduce overall healthcare spending is often cited in conjunction with drug pricing controls. Additionally, efforts aimed at reducing avoidable complications and hospital admissions are seen as integral to alleviating financial strain on the healthcare sector, especially within the constraints of already stretched budgets," Gharat said.

A majority of respondents, exceeding 50 per cent, believe that controlling the prices of prescription drugs stands out as a pivotal solution.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

8 Dead, 7 Injured

son of Abdul Gani, Khursheed Ahmed, son of Manzoor Ahmed Sheikh, Junaid Ahmed, son of Mohammed Ashraf, Shabir Ahmed, son of Mohammed Abdullah, Meema, daughter of Mohammed Iqbal Sheikh, Mohammed Shafi, son of Bashir Ahmed and Yasir Ahmed, son of Reyaz Ahmed — all residents of Bujithallan.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, expressed condolences to the families of the deceased and extended support to those currently undergoing medical treatment at GMC Baramulla.

As a gesture of assistance, the DC also announced a relief of Rs 1 lakh to the Next of Kin (NOK) of each deceased besides Rs 50,000 to the injured persons.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha announced that an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to be given to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives in the tragedy besides Rs1 lakh to those who got injured.

He also expressed condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for the recovery of the injured. "Deeply saddened by the tragic accident. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured," reads a post from LG on X—(KNO)

Snowfall Ends

joy of nature's winter wonder. People should pack their bags and head to this winter wonderland."

Similarly, other delighted tourists were seen immersing themselves in the joy of the falling snow, with a few creating snowmen and engaging in cheerful snowball fights.

It's worth mentioning that earlier, the absence of snow in Gulmarg had impacted winter activities such as skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, etc., which are the attractions for tourists during the colder months. The typically snow-laden meadows and tree-lined trails showcased a subdued winter ambience.

However, the snowfall has breathed life back into Gulmarg, setting the stage for a flurry of snow activities to take centre stage. The landscape is transformed, and the enthusiasm for winter adventures is soaring high.

The iconic Gulmarg Gondola – Asia's highest cable car so far – has remained a major attraction, providing panoramic views of the snow-capped peaks that captivated the hearts of adventure seekers.

"Our sledges were patiently waiting for this moment; the prolonged dry spell had worried us, but when the snow finally arrived, it was as joyous as an Eid celebration," sledge owners, unable to contain their excitement, said.

"For us, the snow isn't just a white carpet but a lifeline. It's a sigh of relief, a promise of survival," said Abid Hussain, a seasoned sledger. The recent snowfall breaks the unprecedented dry spell—which is something we haven't experienced in decades, he added.

Similarly, the snowfall has ignited hope and excitement among ski enthusiasts, tour operators, and local businesses. Ski adventurers, who have been patiently waiting for the snow-covered slopes, are gearing up for an exhilarating season. Tour operators, who were hit badly due to the absence of snow, are now optimistic about an upswing in tourism.

Besides, the increased footfall and demand for winter-related services are seen as a positive turn for the economic landscape in terms of the local businesses and others who rely on the same.

"The snowfall is a blessing for our business; it's like nature hit the refresh button. With the blessed snow, we are ready to welcome the tourists seeking the magic of this winter wonderland," said a tour operator.

"The snowfall is a game-changer for skiers like me; I can't wait to feel the rush of speeding down the mountains surrounded by the magical white landscape," said an international skier Waseem Bhat.

Meanwhile, local authorities are ensuring the safety and accessibility of roads and public spaces, making way for a smooth and enjoyable experience for both residents as well as tourists.

A control room has been established to facilitate a swift response in the face of potential weather challenges. People have been asked to contact the officials of the SDM office at the time of any emergency, which includes Owais Ahmed (7889805393), Faisal Fayaz (7006952814) and Suhail Ahmed Parrah (9596516456).

Visitors wishing to explore Gulmarg shall use the 4x4 vehicles and those with anti-skid chains from Tangmarg to Gulmarg and vice versa, an advisory issued from the office of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gulmarg reads.

The administrative official asked the visitors to stay informed about weather updates and follow safety guidelines. "We appreciate the cooperation of residents and visitors in adhering to the issued advisory for the overall

betterment of traffic management and tourist convenience," the official added—(KNO)

Rains Lash

Northwestern and South Kashmir region may receive snowfall depth of 6-8 inches, while plains of Central Kashmir may receive 2-4 inches during tonight and tomorrow early morning," the officials in the MeT department said.

On February 02, the weather is expected to remain generally dry with the possibility of very light snow at isolated higher reaches while on February 3rd and 4th, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at many places of J&K.

Moreover, the MeT officials said that the weather improve from February 5 as dry is expected from February 5 to 12

The MeT has also issued an advisory, saying that due to intermittent light to moderate snow since past three days over higher reaches, significant snow accumulated over higher reaches of North and Northwestern parts of Kashmir division which lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes, thereby the travellers are advised to plan accordingly.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management issued an avalanche warning for 6 districts in the next 24 hours amid inclement weather.

According to a statement, an avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 2800 & 3500 metres in Doda and Ganderbal districts in the next 24 hours.

The statement reads that an avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2400 metres in Poonch, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts in the next 24 hours.

It advised people living in these areas to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas—(KNO)

2 Foreigner Skiers

from SDPO Tangmarg & TA REP, the statement said.

The rescue party of str 02-02-20 under Major Abhay received the information around 0730pm and tried to establish contact with the stranded skiers, the statement said.

Around 09:45pm, the rescue team was able to establish contact with the stranded civilian, who are occupying a dhok near Alu post and stayed put for the night as the approach route was not accessible and bad vis was there, it added.

The Rescue Operation started at around 08:00 am. The individuals were brought to Banal COB and given first aid and meals. The individuals were further taken till Drang Rd Head at 01:00 pm, the statement added.

Apple Prices Witness

decline of around Rs 200 per box.

They said that the main reason behind the decline in prices is the continuous import of apples from other countries.

Subzar Ahmad, another Apple trader from Shopian said that they have procured apples at higher rates in October and November last year but they are currently facing losses as rates have decreased by around 20-30 percent.

He said that traders who kept their produce in CA stores will face more losses if rates won't go up in the coming weeks.

President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union (KVFGCDU), Basheer Ahmad told KNO that the fruit with low quality due to frozen conditions is getting low prices.

Besides, he said there has been an impact of imports from other countries along with cold weather conditions in the country as most people avoid apples in the cold season.

He said that rates have declined by around 30 percent but there is very little impact on quality produce.

Around 3 lakh metric tons of apples are stored in CA storages across Kashmir.

Kashmir on average produces over 20 lakh metric tonnes of apple every year, a figure that in some years touches 25 lakh metric tonnes. The 2017 economic survey in J&K said that half of Kashmir's population is directly or indirectly dependent on the apple industry and over 3.5 lakh hectares are under apple cultivation—(KNO)

Edu Sector Witnessed

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the management, staff and students of the school.

Guided by the vision of serving the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society, I am confident that the Maharshi Sandipni Public School will continue to provide comprehensive and holistic education to the children, he said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant

transformation taking place in the education ecosystem in the past few years.

He said the better educational infrastructure and National Education Policy 2020 will take India's education system to greater heights.

The Lt Governor also emphasized on making the teaching-learning process more engaging and encouraging critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving and collaboration among the students.

Educationist and social worker Sh. Jitendra Nath Singh; Members of the School Management, Prominent citizens, Staff, Teachers and Students of the school were present.

Modi Govt Rebuilt

rebuilt Jammu and Kashmir, ending an era of terrorism and violence. The Modi government gave wings to the development of Jammu and Kashmir by rolling out massive infrastructure and welfare schemes and today it stands as a proud testimony to Bharat's powerful democracy," he said.

The home minister said the culture of Jammu and Kashmir is one of the country's most ancient and richest and, under the Modi government, the Union Territory's cultural heritage is being revived and its cultural pride is once again increasing.

He also alleged that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were untouched by development due to dynastic politics.

Shah said the Modi government has strengthened the Panchayati Raj system in the Union Territory with the aim of providing development at the grassroots level, freeing governance from dynasty and bringing it to the common people.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji, Jammu and Kashmir is now heaving a sigh of relief. After abolishing Article 370, the Modi government has secured the dignity of life in the Valley by crushing terrorism with a zero-tolerance policy," the home minister said.

In a post on X along similar lines, Shah's office said Jammu and Kashmir struggled with terrorism and extremism for a long time.

The Modi government established peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir by abolishing Article 370, as a result of which the Union Territory is moving forward on the path of development and prosperity, the post said.

Due to the policies of the Modi government, the picture of the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir has changed and they are no longer joining separatism but development, it added.

"Not a single incident of stone pelting took place in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023," the post said.

Shah's office said the Modi government restored the Panchayati Raj system to strengthen the roots of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, due to which governance has come into the hands of the common people and a new era of development has dawned in the entire region.(Agencies)

KPDCL Bans

nichrome coil-based crude gadgets from the market where these are easily available and revert to abuse of electricity, thereby nullifying tireless efforts put in. In order to permanently remove the availability of nichrome coil based heaters, boilers and steamers from the markets, KPDCL directed all sub divisional officers to implement the order by circulating a copy amongst the business outlets dealing in electrical equipment items. "They shall be advised not to procure and sell any Nichrome Coil based heating gadgets, failing which the same shall be seized," it reads.

KPDCL accordingly advised the concerned to approach the district administration for ensuring compliance of the orders passed by the government—(KNO)

CS Visits Tawi

The Chief Secretary went around the barrage site near 4th bridge and examined the work done so far. He even inspected the drawings and designs of this project and enquired about the final outlay to be dedicated to public.

He called for speeding up the pace of work and delivering the project within the set deadline. He took note of several important decisions to be taken for smooth operation of this Jammu city beautification project.

He impressed upon making a concrete plan about the designation of an authority which could look after the entire project including the real estate component of this mega project. He also advised the concerned to have a robust plan for the reclaimed portions of land on left and right banks including the central island so that it adds to the overall ambience of this project.

Dulloo further stressed on having a plan for the relocation of the adjoining warehouse in

consultation with the stakeholders. He asked for having a close coordination between the Divisional, District administrations and the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) for taking expeditious decisions regarding each issue at hand.

The Chief Secretary while having an insight into the component of real estate development for recreational, residential/commercial purposes asked for taking approval for land use plan beforehand so that the ease of doing business is ensured later. He directed for completing these preliminary works in a month's time and lay full focus on their execution in the months ahead.

In the meeting the Chief Secretary was informed by the CEO, JSCL and Chief Engineer, I&FC about the progress on different components of this project. It was given out that the project has been conceived with twin objectives of flood mitigation and creation of recreational spaces.

It was said that the project has two broad components including the construction part and real estate development part. For both these components the concerned executing agencies have taken up the services of consultants also.

As far as the construction part is concerned it includes developing the promenades, diaphragm walls, retaining walls, laying of anchor slabs, embankment filling and interceptor drains on both left and right banks along with the central island near 4th bridge, as was informed in the meeting.

The development of real estate includes creation of recreational, residential, commercial and green spaces on reclaimed land and on the adjoining warehouse.

It was said that an embankment of the length of about 7 Kms has to be laid in phase from Gujjar Nagar Bridge to 4th Bridge thus creating an artificial lake from Bhagwati Nagar barrage to Bikram Bridge. In phase 1 the project embankments are being constructed for a length of 2.7 Kms on both sides of the river from Barrage to Bikram Bridge, the meeting was apprised.

It was said that the total project cost for phase 1 is Rs 194.47 Cr which consists of Rs 156.38 Cr for raising of embankment, diaphragm wall, filling, interceptor drains, pier protection etc while remaining Rs 38.09 Cr on amenities like landscaping, roads, footpaths, toilet block, food courts, lighting etc.

The meeting was further apprised that the overall physical progress of this project is more than 70% slated to be completed by June this year. Moreover it was given out that against the target of 440 panels of Diaphragm wall all stands completed. In addition 7,04,000 m3 embankment filling has been achieved, 3162 m retaining wall, 2188 m anchor slab, 1780 m NP4 pipes has been laid along with 13,310 m3 pier protection works has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs 84.19 Cr.

The meeting also discussed the issues like diversion of 12 nallahs on both right and left side of this river. It also deliberated upon the monetising strategy, proposed land use, lease period, authority for real estate development besides other significant issues for operation and management of this project.

Admin Vows

tourism conferences at SKICC as well with an aim to give a new impetus to the tourism promotion," she said.

The Commissioner Secretary Tourism said that the department is actively supporting the Khelo-India program besides other events at Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and other offbeat destinations. "We will be also taking the tour operators, travel agents and other stakeholders on foreign tours for international tourism promotion campaigns at global level," she said.

Mudgal said that the department vows to breach last year's 2.11 Cr tourist arrival figures. "This year, we hope to see more tourists than last year," she said.

A tourism official said that off beat tourist destinations have attracted a large number of tourists last year while as LoC Tourism was also a major attraction for both foreign as well as domestic tourists.

"In the 2.11 Crore tourists last year, there were 55000 foreign guests as well. This year January month was lost as weather remained dry. Otherwise, in January, we would witness a large number of tourists from South East Asia," the official said.

He said that all eyes are on the months of February and March as whatever snow remains intact will definitely attract tourists. "Given the mood of weather, it seems that there will be scorching heat across the globe in summers, while Kashmir may remain cool. So a good number of foreign as well as domestic guests are expected to visit Kashmir in the months ahead," he said. "Hope to see a good tourist season in the ensuing year."—(KNO)

Full budget will be presented after formation of new govt: PM Modi

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Speaking to the media before the start of the Budget Session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that full budget will be presented after the formation of the new government.

The Prime Minister said, "Unusually, when the election time is near, the full budget is not presented, we will also follow the same tradition and bring the full budget before you after the formation of the new government. This time, the country's Finance Minister Nirmala ji is going to present her budget in front of all of us tomorrow with some guiding points."

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled the first session of the new Parliament and highlighted the significant decision taken in the first session.

"The passage of the Women Empowerment and Adulation Act marked a pivotal moment for our nation, Modi Said.

Referring to the Republic Day celebrations, he acknowledged the country's embrace of the



strength, valour, and determination of Nari Shakti.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of the address by President Droupadi Murmu and presentation of the Interim Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, describing it as a celebration of women's empowerment.

Reflecting on the past decade, PM Modi acknowledged the contribution of every Member of Parliament. However, he urged introspection among those who have strayed from democratic values and resorted to ruckus and

disruption. The Prime Minister said, "Criticism and opposition are essential in a democracy, but it is those who have enriched the House with constructive ideas that are remembered by a large cross section. No one remembers those who have just created disruption."

Looking ahead, Modi emphasised the enduring impact of parliamentary debates, asserting, "Every word spoken here will echo in the annals of history."

He called upon members to contribute positively, stating, "While construc-

tive criticism is welcome, disruptive behavior will fade into obscurity."

With the Budget Session underway, PM Modi urged all esteemed members to seize the opportunity to leave a positive imprint. He implored them to prioritise national interests, saying, "Let us strive to deliver our best, enrich the House with our ideas, and infuse the nation with enthusiasm and optimism."

Modi concluded, "India's journey of inclusive and comprehensive development will continue, propelled by the blessings of the people."

PARLIAMENT SECURITY BREACH

Judicial custody of all 6 accused extended till March 1

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Delhi's Patiala House Court has extended the judicial custody of all the six accused in the December 13, 2023 Parliament security breach case till March 1.

Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur, who presided over the proceedings, noted the presence of all the accused -- Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Amol Dhanraj Shinde, Neelam Devi Azad, Lalit Jha and Mahesh Kumawat -- in the courtroom.

The judge granted a further 30-day extension to their judicial custody.

The court has scheduled a hearing on February 17 to address an application filed by some of the arrested individuals, alleging that the police forcibly obtained their signatures on blank papers.

The court has sought a response from Delhi Police regarding this application.

Last time, the court had allowed Delhi Police's application seeking pro-



duction warrant for all the six accused.

Link judge Sudhanshu Kaushik had issued a production warrant and directed the jail authorities to produce the accused on January 31. On January 18, Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur had denied bail to Azad.

Azad had alleged that a woman officer forcibly made her sign over 50 blank papers on the preceding Friday.

Special public prosecutor Akhand Pratap Singh had objected to the allegation, as the court recorded

the submissions from both sides.

Earlier, except Azad, the five others gave their consent before the court to undergo polygraph test, as sought by the Delhi Police which had moved an application seeking permission for the same, saying the investigators need to get more details to make the case strong and gather more evidence to unearth the entire conspiracy.

The police had also sought permission to conduct brain mapping and narco test on Manoranjan and Sagar.

The duo had burst yellow smoke canisters inside the Lok Sabha chamber on December 13, the 22nd anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack, after jumping from the visitors' gallery before they were overpowered by the MPs present in the House.

Two others -- Azad and Shinde -- also burst smoke canisters and raised slogans outside the Parliament. Jha is believed to be the mastermind of the entire plan, who reportedly fled with the mobile phones of the four other accused persons.

BSF arrests 4 smugglers near Pak border in Punjab

IAN S

CHANDIGARH: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday said that its troops have apprehended four Indian smugglers in Punjab and seized a significant quantity of narcotics as well as arms and ammunition in an intelligence-based operation along the international boundary with Pakistan.

The operation unfolded following painstakingly developed intelligence for more than a week, the BSF said in a statement.

Reconnaissance of the probable dropping spot was also done. After thorough assessment and planning, operational teams of BSF laid an ambush in the suspected area on the evening of January 29.

Around 11.30 p.m., the ambush party heard the suspected sound of a drone and observed three individuals moving towards a packet that was just dropped. Subsequently, three smugglers were swiftly apprehended, and a pistol and magazine with four rounds were found on them, it added.

The leader confessed

to multiple drone sorties planned in collusion with Pakistan-based smugglers.

The arrest of smugglers led to the revelation of their other two associates who are absconding, and consistent efforts are being made to nab them as well, said the BSF. The operation continued that had multiple successful drone sorties.

The operation further revealed a video call exchange between Indian smuggler and Pakistani smuggler named Rana, his brother, and another associate Saha, which indicated the smuggling of narcotics through drones.

In the video call, Pak smuggler Rana instructed the Indian smuggler about handing over part of the consignment to a hinterland courier leading to the apprehension of one more courier and the seizure of additional narcotics and drug money.

The BSF will also pursue a strong case for an Interpol notice, in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), against Pakistani smuggler Rana, his brother, and Saha (the kingpins).

ATTACK ON ED STAFF

Absconding mastermind again approaches court seeking bail

IAN S

KOLKATA: Sheikh Shahjahan, the absconding Trinamool Congress leader and the accused mastermind behind the attack on ED and CAPF personnel on January 5, has approached yet another court seeking anticipatory bail.

Shahjahan's counsel moved the anticipatory bail application at a district court in Barasat in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Wednesday.

The matter will come up for hearing on February 26. This is the second time that Shahjahan has approached the court seeking anticipatory bail from underground within the past 24 hours. On Tuesday, a special PMLA court had rejected a plea seeking "no-coercive action" by ED against him.

The matter will come up for hearing at the special court on February 3,

when the ED will present the details of the charges against Shahjahan.

Meanwhile, an absconding leader of the ruling party moving the court frequently has raised questions as to how Shahjahan is operating from underground while the state police are yet to track him even after 26 days since the attack took place.

Political observers feel that it will also strengthen ED's logic for an independent probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to hunt Shahjahan instead of the joint special investigation team (SIT) of the CBI and the state police created for the purpose as per the direction of a single judge bench of the Calcutta High Court.

The ED has already issued a lookout notice against Shahjahan in anticipation of his escape to neighbouring Bangladesh, as its international borders with India are very close to the accused's residence.

'Made in India' Samsung Galaxy S24 series goes on sale

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Samsung on Wednesday announced that its recently launched flagship smartphone series -- Galaxy S24, is now available to buy in India.

The 'Made in India' Galaxy S24 series comes with Live Translate, Interpreter, Chat Assist, Note Assist and Transcript Assist features.

AI built into Samsung

Keyboard can also translate messages in real-time in 13 languages, including Hindi.

Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra in Titanium Gray, Titanium Violet and Titanium Black colours starts from Rs 129,999 (12GB+256GB variant).

The 12GB+512GB variant costs Rs 139,999 and the 12GB+1TB model of Galaxy S24 Ultra will come at Rs 159,999.

The Galaxy S24+ in Cobalt Violet and Onyx Black colours starts from Rs 99,999 for the 12GB+256GB variant and the 12GB+512GB variant will come for Rs 109,999.

The Galaxy S24 in Amber Yellow, Cobalt Violet and Onyx Black colours begins from Rs 79,999 for the 8GB+256GB variant and Rs 89,999 for the 8GB+512GB model.

Consumers purchas-

ing Galaxy S24 Ultra and Galaxy S24+ will get benefits worth Rs 12,000, while those buying Galaxy S24 can avail benefits worth Rs 10,000, the company said.

The Galaxy S24 series is being manufactured at Samsung's Noida factory in India.

Samsung has secured record pre-bookings for the Galaxy S24 series, making it the most successful S series ever in India.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

REGAL LANE LAL CHOWK SRINAGAR

Email: eerrrdsmc@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER No. 51 of 2023-2024 Dated: 29.01.2024

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

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender documents	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor	AA order No	T.S. Order No. dated
1	Providing Briquetting Assembly for Management of Horticulture waste (civil Part) at Nishat /Achan	38.99	77980	1100	10 weeks	NCAP	AYY/ BEE	order No.1245of 2023 Dated:- 06-10-2023	17 OF 2023 20-10-2023

Position of AAK: Accorded. Technical Sanction: Accorded

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

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1	Date of publication of e-portal	29.1.2024
2	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said e-NIT	29.1.2024 from 06:00 PM
3	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	29.1.2024 from 06:00 PM
4	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	22.02.2024 at 06:00 PM
5	Date of Bid opening	23.02.2024 at 11:00 AM
6	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including Bid Security (CDR/ FDR), Tender document fee.	24.02.2024 up to 04:00 PM

Note: - (The Date of EMD/Challan must be from the date of start of bid upto Bid Submission End date,

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 02161020000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned and Division name Viz RRRWD) and Earnest Money / bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/ bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date). The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F./A/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-

Name of the Bank: - Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 Branch: - Balgarden, Srinagar
 Bank Account No: - 02161020000007
 IFSC code: - JAKA0GARDEN
 MICR CODE: 190051008

- Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT NO, SMO and RRRWD viz. NIT 03, SMO, 10, RRRWD)
- For one particular work, only one Bank Receipt / challan (not more than one) of the exact amount of tender fees (neither lesser nor greater) as shown against that particular work must be paid and uploaded with the tenders. The same tender fees paid and uploaded for a particular work should not be again used / uploaded for any other work in the NIT (i.e. one Bank Receipt / Bank Challan for one work only)
- Tender Fee and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found uploaded, with any ambiguity or un-attested correction/over writing for any work such tender /bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action under rules shall be initiated.
- Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.
- The participating agencies/ contractors are advised in their own interest not to resort to any cheating while submitting and uploading the tender document Fees or any other document.
- The bidders are requested to upload following documents:
 - Tender fees.
 - EMD in the shape of CDR and FDR.
 - Registration card and its latest renewal.
 - Verification of Registration Card from competent Authority
 - Latest GST clearance.
 - PAN Card.
 - Correspondence Address of the Agency with active Mobile No.
 - Bank Account details (16-digit Bank Account No, Branch office, IFSC code)
 - Any other document required to be uploaded as per the NIT.
- 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 email address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer, Right River Works Division, SMC (Regal Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar) or in the office of the Informatics officer, SMC (Karan Nagar Srinagar). In case of holidays/ offices happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, or there is any Net problem the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The lowest successful bidder has to furnish 5% of the contract value/ allotted cost cost as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR immediately after opening of tenders. The performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after DLP is successfully over. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR shall be released after performance security is received. The earnest money in favour of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Bank Receipts/ challans.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications to the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process
 No: SMC/EERRWD/ 2300-2307
 Dated: 29-01-2024
 DIPK-NB-5476-23
 DT: 31/01/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Right River Works Division
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmichdtk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2023-24/179/e-tendering Dated: 31.01.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: -

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money (in Rupees)	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Replacement of Oxygen Points in Ward: 3/3A, Ward: 16/16A and Neurosurgery Emergency Ward in SMHS, Hospital Srinagar	0.40	50	10	19-MCS of 2023, Dated: 23-06-2023	SD-1/ TS/89, Dated 01/2024	800/-	Available with intending Department (Principal, GMC Srinagar)

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT 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 from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 31.01.2024(17.00 hrs)and can be downloaded from 31.01.2024 (17.00 hrs).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 31.01.2024 (18:00 hrs) to 12.02.2024 (12:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 12.02.2024 at 14.00(hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/9879-84,
 Dated: 31-01-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

DIPK-15836-23
 DT: 31/01/2024

Prez mentions Article 370, economic reforms in her address to Parliament

IANAS

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu addressed the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, mentioning the removal of Article 370, economic reforms, educational reforms and indigenous defence manufacturing. In her first address in the new Parliament building, she said that building of the Ram temple in Ayodhya had been a dream for centuries and it is a reality now.

The President said there were doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Those are now history. This Parliament also enacted a strict law against 'Triple Talaq' and also a law to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities from our neighboring countries.

She said, "My government also implemented One Rank One Pension, appointment of Chief of Defence Staff."

She said, "According to NITI Aayog, in the last one decade of my government, about 25 crore countrymen have been lifted out of poverty. We have seen India transform from fragile five to a top five economy."



The President said that India's exports have increased from about 450 billion dollars to more than 775 billion dollars. FDI flows have doubled. The number of people filing Income Tax Return has increased from about 3.25 crores to about 8.25 crores. Start-ups in the country have grown to more than one lakh today. In December 2017, 98 lakh people used to pay GST, today their number is 1 crore 40 lakh.

Around 13 crore vehicles were sold in the 10 years before 2014. In the last 10 years, countrymen have purchased more than 21 crore vehicles. About 2,000 electric vehicles were sold in 2014-15, whereas, till the month of December for the year 2023-24, about 12 lakh electric vehicles have been sold, she added.

In 10 years, Capex has

increased 5 times to Rs 10 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit is also under control. Today, we have forex reserves in excess of \$600 billion. The NPAs of banks which used to be in the double digits in the past are today around only 4 percent. Today, India is the world's second largest producer of mobile phones. Today India is exporting Made in India toys. India is maintaining a growth rate of over 7.5 percent for two consecutive quarters.

India became the first country to hoist its flag on the southern pole of the Moon. India successfully launched the Aditya Mission and its satellite reached a distance of 15 lakh kilometers away from Earth. The success of the historic G-20 Summit strengthened India's global standing.

India won more than 100 medals for the first time in the Asian Games. We also won more than 100 medals in the Para Asian Games. India got its largest sea bridge, the Atal Setu. India got its first Namoo Bharat train and the first Amrit Bharat train. It became the country with the fastest 5G rollout in the world.

The President stated, "I appreciate all of you for having enacted the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam after a wait of three decades. This has paved the way for ensuring greater participation of women in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies. The nation has got a new Nyaya Sanhita based on the principle of 'Justice First'."

She said that the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act will ensure the right to representation to tribals there. India's defence production has crossed one lakh crore rupees. The country has the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, combat aircraft Tejas, manufacturing of C-295 transport aircraft is going to take place in India. Defence corridors are being developed in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The space sector has been opened for young start-ups.

INDI Alliance fragmentation to be felt in J&K soon: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Wednesday predicted rumblings of INDI Alliance fragmentation at the National level will be felt in its Jammu and Kashmir camp soon, as the allies have come together just due to hate-Modi syndrome and their lust for power, which they believe as a matter of right for dynasties. While for the BJP it is the Nation First and for these opportunists, it is the self and family First and so are destined to fall apart soon, he said.

Speaking at the Shakti Vandan Workshop at BJP Headquarters, Reasi, Rana said the traditional arch-rivals have joined hands following humiliating rejection by the people for pursuing opportunistic politics and indulging in nepotism and favoritism.

"Like INDI Alliance's now faltered convergence despite ideological divergence, the J&K allies too are destined to break and fail, given the indifference of people towards their reactionary tendencies that put Kashmir on the boil. Mr Rana said, adding that the politically sagacious citizens of Jammu and Kashmir still remember how National Conference used to fondly refer its now partners as 'worms of gutter'. What a travesty of compulsion, frustration and dejection



that those using choicest invectives against each other over the years were now indulging in worse type of opportunism to seek some sort of relevance and acceptability in the local politics, he observed.

Devender Rana said that as the INDI Alliance partners were struggling to remain together across the country after its founder Nitish Kumar dumped the conglomerate, the Jammu and Kashmir allies too are poised to shatter on the face of indifference of the people, who have developed stakes in peace for continuity of development besides tourism and economic activities. The actors who instigated unrest, encouraged stone-pelting and enforced hartal culture in the Valley for furthering their political agendas bringing misery to the people stand exposed and rejected. The people also know the difference registered during the past four years with peace delivering dividends in terms of humming businesses and economic activities without

obstacles of uncertainty, he added.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir understand the intent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in transforming Jammu and Kashmir from terror hotspot to tourism hub—be it pilgrim tourism or adventure and sports tourism. This has actually happened on ground zero, bringing cheer in the lives of the people. He said the decisive and bold leadership of the Prime Minister has rekindled hope among the people about peace getting impetus, paving way for this part becoming proud and proactive partner in the country's growth story, he maintained.

Devender Rana said the people's hopes with the BJP have added more responsibilities on the rank and file besides the government, which has been working in a mission mode to come to their expectations as per the Prime Minister's cherished agenda Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, he added.

Rana said that inclusive

and equitable development is the only mantra to steer ahead and carving out Naya Jammu Kashmir. The BJP remains committed to the principles of unity, development, and progress, he said, adding this is reflecting from the endeavors being made by the Prime Minister, who has been working tirelessly to ensure that the aspirations of every citizen are met, and the nation continues its journey towards India becoming Viksit and Atamnirbhar.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Rohit Dubey, Zila Pardhan, Arvind Gupta, Parbhari, Baldev Raj Sharma, Ex MLA, Kuldeep Dubey, Ritu Thakur, Zila Pardhan Mahila Morcha, Neelam Devi, Sukhdev Singh, Zila Mahamantri, Romail Singh, Reeta Devi DDC Pouni, Raj Kumar DDC Arnas, Neelma Devi DDC Katra, Ashok Singh BDC Bhagga, Neena Devi BDC Arnas, Padam Dev Singh, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Vijay Paroch, Sakshi Gupta, Kabla Singh and others.

Awantipora man voluntarily retires from IAF, launches travel agency

JAHANGEER GANAIE

AWANTIPORA: A man hailing from south Kashmir's Pulwama district has taken voluntary retirement from the Air Force to embark on a new venture to promote rural tourism and generate employment opportunities in his native area.

Mohammad Rouf Khan, a resident of Barsoo village in the Awantipora hamlet of Pulwama, has launched ICY Kashmir Tour and Travels, "to transform" the tourism landscape of Kashmir.

After dedicating two decades to military service, Rouf said he wants to create sustainable employment opportunities by extending the tourism industry beyond Srinagar

into the heart of Kashmiri villages. Rouf said, "ICY Kashmir Tours and Travels are committed to empowering local communities, including my native village of Barsoo."

He said the venture seeks to involve villagers in various tourism-related activities, from car rentals and guided tours to the direct sale of local products, such as saffron-infused dry fruits, to customers.

"In a region where tourism has been traditionally confined to Srinagar, I want to highlight the charm of Kashmir's villages," Khan said, adding, "Through carefully crafted itineraries and immersive experiences, travellers will have the opportunity to explore the authentic

beauty and culture of real Kashmir, which will contribute directly to local prosperity."

He said it is important to move towards inclusive and sustainable tourism. By empowering villages and diversifying the tourism landscape, I invite travellers to be part of a transformative journey that benefits both visitors and locals alike, he said.

"For bookings and inquiries, visit www.ickashmir.in or find more details on Instagram @ickashmir to discover the authentic charm of Kashmir's villages with ICY Kashmir Tours and Travels," Khan shared.

"I received a positive response in the first six months and anticipate continued success in the future," he added—(KNO)

DH Kishtwar gets hi-tech diagnostic equipment



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Getting a major boost in healthcare, a hormone Analyzer, Chemiluminescence Immunoassay, CLIA System was Wednesday dedicated to the people here at the district Hospital Kishtwar.

The high-tech technical Analyzer facilitates specialised tests for including thyroid profile, Hepatic fibrosis, TORCH, EBV, Inflammation Monitoring, Fertility, Hypertension, Autoimmune, immunoglobulin, Tumour Markers, Drug monitoring, Kidney function, Cardiac, metabolism, prenatal screening,

Anemia, infection markers, Bone Metabolism and other hormone analysis.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav inaugurated the automatic hormonal Analyzer at the General Laboratory of the Government District Hospital. Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Yudhvir Singh and other technical staff participated in the inaugural function.

The state-of-art equipment has been provided to the Hospital by Patel Engineering Pvt Ltd associated with the Kwar and Keru Hydroelectric Power Project under its Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the Analyzer has efficiency of providing accurate output of 78 samples at a time. He said the facility will augment the treatment, post diagnosis with focus on accuracy, high quality and excellent client service to reduce patient-cure time.

Meanwhile, MS said the patients will take a sigh of relief as they don't have to wait for test reports for days. The reports will be available to the patients within hours of testing. Further, he extended gratitude to Patel Engineering Ltd for this positive gesture.

Preparations on, will ensure better arrangements to devotees: Dr Andrabi

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson, Dr. Darakshan Andrabi Wednesday said that all the preparations will be put in place to ensure better facilities to the devotees on the upcoming Shab-e-Mehraj. She added that the Waqf has made efforts to address all the issues regarding Dargah Hazratbal and expressed hope that Shab-e-Mehraj would be celebrated with great devotion.

Pertinently, Shab-e-Mehraj is observed every year in the month of the Islamic Date of Rajab 27, and begins on the evening of 07 February, 2024.

Speaking to the media at Khanyar, Dr. Darakshan Andrabi, while inaugurating various development works mentioned, as the Waqf Board takes charge of

shrines in J&K, efforts have consistently been made to address all the issues.

She added that the primary concern was the lack of proper space for washrooms at shrines in the Valley. "These issues were often highlighted by visitors of the shrines," she said.

Similar to other shrines, the J&K Waqf Board has established washrooms here at Khanyar, today marking its inauguration, alongside laying the foundation for other projects.

Asked about the preparations for Shab-e-Mehraj at Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar, Dr. Andrabi stated that all the necessary arrangements will be put in place. The Waqf has strived to address all the issues at Dargah Hazratbal, expressing optimism that Shab-e-Mehraj will be celebrated with great devotion—(KNO)

Traffic crawls on Batamaloo road as construction work progresses at sluggish pace

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: The slow pace of work at Batamaloo area of Srinagar has caused several traffic woes in the area with locals urging the authorities to expedite the work.

The locals from the area said that the slow pace of work at the busiest Batamaloo in Srinagar is causing a traffic mess in the

area. A local resident Basit said the area is facing frequent traffic jams as the work is going on at a very slow pace, causing inconvenience to them.

"I have to travel on the same route daily and due to the traffic jam, I mostly reach late to my destination. I would like to request the authorities to kindly look into this matter," said

a commuter.

An official said the construction work is being carried out by the R&B department in phases to avoid traffic blockade on the road.

"The work is in progress as a 35-meter span box culvert is being constructed and will be completed within a stipulated time frame," he added—(KNO)

2 dead in Kishtwar accident



AGENCIES

KISHTWAR: At least two people were killed while two others were injured after a snow cutter machine engaged in road clearance work met with an accident at Warwan in Kishtwar district, an official said.

An official said that a snow cutter machine engaged in the road clearance work at Warwan fell into a deep gorge.

He said in the accident, two people died on the spot while two others suffered injuries, who are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Meanwhile, the government has announced Rs 5 each as ex-gratia to the next of kins of deceased and Rs one lakh for the injured—(KNO)

Security forces recover ammunition, warlike store in Kupwara

Kupwara, Jan 31 (KNO): Security forces on Wednesday claimed to have recovered ammunition and other warlike stores in Kupwara's Magam area.

According to a statement, issued, a joint operation was launched in Cheramunji area of Magam, resulting in recovery of ammunition and warlike stores.

The statement reads that the recovered ammunition includes 9 UBGL shells, 4 IED receivers, 30 commercial grade detonators with their original factory packaging, 138 rounds of AK47, a loaded magazine of sniper rifle, blank rounds of AK 47 and 4 magazines of 9mm pistol—(KNO)

Property of notorious drug peddler attached in Kulgam: Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday said to have attached a property of a notorious drug peddler in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

"In a relentless effort to curb the menace of drug peddling, Police in Kulgam have attached property (double storey residential house and cowshed) measuring 1291.48 Sq. Ft valuing Rs 25,62,425 and 1139.5 Sq.Ft valuing Rs 67,8803 respectively, belonging to a notorious drug peddler namely Bashir Ahmad



Khanday Son of Mohd Sultan Khanday resident of Nippora under section 68-F(2) of NDPS Act 1985," a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Kulgam police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in narcot-

ic drug and psychotropic substances by the owner. Pertinently the said drug peddler is involved in Case FIR number 148/2022 of Police Station Qazigund, police said.

This action reaffirms the commitment of J&K Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area have hailed the initiative of Police with regard to the attachment of immovable property, which has been raised and used from illicit trafficking of narcotics by the drug peddlers in the Kulgam district, police said—(KNO)

13TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

HAJI MOHAMMAD RAMZAN

No matter how many years go by, the pain of your death never diminishes, we miss you so much.

May Allah(SWT) grant him Jannat-ul-Firdous and forgive his sins. May Allah (SWT) make his grave a place of comfort and light. Aameen.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:
BASHIR SIDIQ (ADVOCATE)