


Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Narendra Modi
@narendramodi



Attended the oath taking ceremony of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. My best wishes for his tenure.

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...13 Terrorists Among 44 Killed Terror Attacks Rocked 8 Of 10 Jammu Districts In 2024



AGENCIES

JAMMU: Terror attacks have killed 44 people, including 18 security personnel, in Jammu this year with the strikes spreading from the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to six other areas in the troubled region, security officials said on Monday.

Though the Pir Panjal districts of Rajouri and Poonch witnessed a considerable drop in terror activities in 2024 compared to the previous years, the series of incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu from April-May onwards have kept the security agencies on their toes.

To counter the threat and thwart the attempts of Pakistan-based handlers to spread terror in the peaceful areas of the region, officials said the army, in close synergy with the police and the central armed police forces, has launched relentless operations in the vulner-

able regions, especially in the dense forests.

As per official data, Doda, Kathua and Reasi districts recorded nine killings each this year followed by Kishtwar (five), Udhampur (four), Jammu and Rajouri (three each), and Poonch (two).

The deceased included 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, the officials said, adding that among the 14 civilians killed by the terrorists, seven were pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khouri temple while three were village defence guards (VDGs).

While the pilgrims were killed in an attack on their bus which also claimed the life of the local driver and conductor, the VDGs were shot in Udhampur and Kishtwar districts.

Seven security personnel lost their lives in terror incidents this year in Kathua, five in Doda, three in Kishtwar, two in Poonch and one in Udhampur, the officials said, adding that three

CM Omar Calls For Sustainable, High-Value Tourism Policy In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the functioning of the Tourism Department and chart the way forward for a more sustainable, visitor-focused approach in Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, Directors of Tourism Jammu/Kashmir and other senior officials from the Tourism Department.

Commissioner Secretary Tourism presented an overview of the department's achievements, promotional activities, and future plans, highlighting recent successful events such as the Kashmir Marathon, G20 Summit, F4 Car Show in Kashmir, Sunburn Music Festival in Jammu and the JK Tourism Development Conclave 2024. During the meeting, additional plans



were discussed for promoting adventure activities like skiing and river rafting.

Recognizing the role of tourism as the "backbone" of J&K's economy, the Chief Minister highlighted its potential to create substantial employment opportunities for youth.

He underscored the need to treat tourism as a structured, long-term endeavour, rather than an ad-hoc activity, by adopting a tourist-centric perspective.

Omar Starts Work From Winter Capital

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah received a rousing welcome at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu upon his arrival to assume office in the winter capital.

This marked his first official visit to the Jammu Secretariat since taking office as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on October 16 in Srinagar.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was warmly greeted by his Council of ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and cabinet members Sakeen Masood Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar, and Satish Sharma.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta and other senior officials, and staff of the Civil Secretariat were also

WE NEED TO ENHANCE THE TOURIST EXPERIENCE, SO VISITORS ARE MORE LIKELY to revisit and recommend J&K as a destination," the chief minister remarked.

Gurez-B'pora Road Closed Due To Snow Accumulation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Gurez-Bandipora road has been closed for all traffic movements following snow accumulation in the region.

An official said that the area received approximately three-inches of snow, with ongoing snowfall expected to add to the total accumulations following

WITH ONGOING snowfall expected to add to the total accumulations following which road was closed for all kinds of traffic.

which road was closed for all kinds of traffic.

He said that the area has witnessed snowfall along with strong winds due to which travelling on the road is very dangerous.

He added that after the snowfall stops, efforts will be made to restore traffic on the road. (NVI)

Jan 01 To Oct 31 J&K Faces 27% Deficient Rainfall



OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a deficit rainfall of 27 per cent since January 01 his year till October 31st while the prolonged dry spell in the ongoing season has further ended up in the receding of water level in river Jhelum and other streams, which

simultaneously lead to the water scarcity in Kashmir parts as well.

As per the data available, the year—2024 began on an alarming note, as J&K recorded a deficit rainfall of 48% during January and February months. However, another season from March to May—a pre-monsoon period—ended

...Tourist Flow Increases Sonamarg Receives 7.60 Lakh Visitors In 10 Months

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: The flow of tourists has increased at the picturesque destination of Sonamarg with the officials revealing that a total of 7.60 lakh tourists have visited the spot in the last ten months from January 01 to October 31.

Sonamarg, known as 'the meadow of gold' and with snow clad mountains sharing a spectacular blue sky, situated at an altitude of 2730 m, is a mesmerizing hill station in district Ganderbal.

Officials said that there has



been a surge in tourist flow since January 01, 2024 to the end of October, saying that a total of 7.60 lac tourists have visited the place.

Among them, 7 lacs were domestic visitors while 14,000 were foreigners

Dry Spell Impacts Saffron Production In Kashmir



JAHANGEER GANAIE

PAMPORE: The dry spell in Kashmir has had a devastating impact on saffron production this year, with yields dropping by 50 to 70 percent compared to previous years. Saffron growers from the Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district have raised concerns about the situation, citing

inadequate rainfall and prolonged dry conditions as the main factors affecting the crop's growth.

According to saffron growers, including prominent figures like Abdul Hamid from Pulwama and Mohammad Ashiq from Lethpora, the limited rainfall this autumn, particularly a light rain in September, has been insufficient to support

Dry Spell Spurs 40% Decline In Migratory Bird Arrivals At Hokersar Wetland

JAHANGIR SOFI

SRINAGAR: The ongoing dry spell in Kashmir has severely impacted the arrival of migratory birds in the region, with officials reporting a 40% decrease in the current bird population at the Hokersar wetland.

Hokersar wetland also known as the "International Bird Airport" of Kashmir, serves as the primary entry point for migratory birds travelling to other valley wetlands.

As reported earlier, the migratory birds had already started arriving in the valley, with officials anticipating a rise in numbers in the coming days. The officials plan to retain more water in Hokersar and construct bunds along its edges to enhance water retention.

"We have activated water gates to increase water levels by closing the wetland's exit points. This will enable the wetland to retain much-needed water for the incoming bird population," said an official.

He said there is a decrease of around 40 percent in bird numbers compared to last year. This is due to the



prolonged dry conditions affecting the valley's water bodies," he said.

Meanwhile, Raja Muzaffar Bhat, an environmental activist told KNO that encroachments and illegal dumping of sewage in the water and mining have resulted in the degradation of the wetlands.

"Massive-scale mining of the rivers during the last few years has caused the huge accumulation of silt, both in the rivers and wetlands, damaging the natural vegetation and fauna of the wetlands, disrupting water flow and harming their health," he said.

Bhat said the extensive mining had altered river

Justice Khanna Sworn In As Next CJI



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Justice Sanjiv Khanna was on Monday sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice Khanna at the swearing-in ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Justice Khanna, who will serve as CJI for a little over six months, will demit office on May 13, 2025.

He succeeds Justice D Y Chandrachud, who demitted office on Sunday on attaining the age of 65 years.

Justice Khanna, known for his role in key Supreme Court rulings, including striking down the electoral bonds scheme and endorsing the revocation of Article 370, will serve a brief tenure, concluding on March 13, 2025.

Justice Khanna will have a relatively short tenure of just six months—he is due to retire on March 13, 2025.

INOX SRINAGAR
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MOVIES
Watch List TUESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER



(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A) 02:00PM, 05:30PM HINDI 11:30AM



(HINDI) (U/A) 12:00PM, 03:15PM, 04:40PM, 06:30PM



(3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (U/A) 11:45AM



(HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (U/A) 02:30PM

J&K Forensic Science Lab announces STR based genetic data publication

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Forensic Science Laboratory, Jammu and Kashmir, has announced the first ever genetic data publication based on hyper variable Short Tandem Repeats (STR's) on UT's human population which was published in International Journal of Legal Medicine (IJLM).

Pertinently, the study was conducted on 694 unrelated individuals selected randomly from the large population to find out the genetic implications of demographic dynamics that has taken place in the region. The study confirmed considerable admixture and genetic relation of different districts of Kashmir with adjoining Central Asian/Arab countries which were



connected through ancient silk route.

Jammu districts, on the other hand, show an appreciable genetic similarities with adjoining states of Indian Union. Besides, Ramban, Reasi and Kishtwar though adjacent geographically were found to be genetically scattered.

"This is the first broad based autosomal STR study that has a potential impact on justice delivery in the courts of Law. DNA evidences produced in the courts will now be supplemented by the statistical data presenting the weight of evidence. Besides, it will have a

profound impact on management of genetic diseases in the UT of J&K", said the lead author Dr. Nadeem Mubarak.

Director FSL, Gurmukh Singh, applauding contributions of all the authors, said that this will unequivocally have a positive impact on delivery of justice in the courts thus increasing the rate of conviction in DNA related cases especially in POCSO cases.

Moreover, such a contribution will undoubtedly help in boosting research & development in FSL J & K. Officer in-charge FSL Srinagar, Syed Ishfaq Manzoor, congratulated the team of scientists for achieving this milestone. He said that this publication will have an everlasting impact on the justice delivery system in the UT of J & K.

DC Budgam reviews progress of works at Transit Accommodation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Monday conducted a comprehensive review of the works at Transit Accommodation Project for PM Package/ Migrant employees at Kakanmaran, Budgam.

The project is designed to provide safe housing and accommodation for the PM package, Migrant employees primarily belonging to the minority community and includes the construction of 12 blocks with a total of around 200 flats.

During his visit to the site, the officials briefed the DC on the progress, informing him that 8 out of the 12 blocks are expected to be completed by the end of December and work on the rest 4 towers is going



on at an accelerated speed. Each building is designed to offer modern, well-equipped flats, with specific areas dedicated to back side and front side carpet areas, as well as lobby and stairs, ensuring adequate living space and comfort for the occupants. The project also includes

allied works such as leveling, compound wall construction, security infrastructure, internal roads, approach roads, drainage, and protection works, providing a comprehensive and secure living environment.

The DC emphasised the importance of adhering to the project timeline and

maintaining high-quality standards throughout the construction process. He instructed the concerned officials to ensure that work continues without any delays and that the project remains on track for completion.

Reiterating his commitment to fast-tracking developmental works, the DC underscored the commitment of district administration to ensure that all major infrastructural projects spanning across various sectors are completed and dedicated for public use within the strict timeline and without wastage of any resources.

The DC was accompanied by senior officials, including the Superintending Engineer, CPO, Executive Engineers from the Roads & Buildings (R&B), PHE and PDD Department, Budgam.

Excise Deptt conducts several raids on Brick Kilns in Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range South Kashmir along with other subordinate staff conducted a series of raids at brick kilns located in Marval- Kakpora of District Pulwama.

The raids were conducted on the directions of the Excise Commissioner, Subash Chander Chibber, and under the supervision of Dy. Excise Commissioner Executive Kashmir, Tazayun Mukhtar.

During the raid, the team uncovered 40

litres of Lahan adjacent to one of the brick kilns. The said Lahan was destroyed on spot by the Excise Team and the owners of the brick kilns were duly informed about the severe legal repercussions associated with illicit distillation.

In addition to the enforcement action, the senior citizens of the locality were sensitized regarding the social and health hazards of illicit liquor. They were urged to report if any such illegal activities happen in their area to the officials of the Excise Department promptly.

DLSA Budgam celebrates 'National Education Day'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of a calendar of activities issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam celebrated National Education Day in collaboration with the Government Boys Middle School, Budgam.

The event was held under the direction of Om Prakash Baghat, Chairman, DLSA Budgam. This event, besides marking a significant milestone in the promotion of education, also aligns with the ethos of the National Educational Policy, recognizing the fundamental right of every child to receive quality education.

The theme of this year's National Education Day is 'Building a Brighter Tomorrow through Education.'

The speakers said that the need is to develop an education system so that the youth of our country do not need to go abroad and the middle-class families need not to spend lakhs and crores of rupees.

In a bid to fortify the commitment to education, DLSA Budgam has joined hands with Government Boys Middle School, Budgam to amplify the impact of educational initiatives and foster an environment where learning is not just a right but a celebrated privilege.

At the heart of this collaboration is the recognition that education is not just a privilege but a fundamental right. The right of every child to receive quality education is enshrined in the constitution, and initiatives like these reaffirm the commitment to making education accessible to all.

4-Day Trekking Camp for Students flagged-off by DC, SSP B'la



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: A bus carrying 56 students was Monday flagged-off from the DC office Baramulla by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Mohammad Zaid Malik, marking the start of a four-day trekking camp to Gulmarg.

The programme was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Baramulla aiming to promote physical fitness, adventure, and life skills among the youth.

The District Youth Services and Sports Officer was also present at the flag-off ceremony.

Pertinently, this initiative provides students with an opportunity to explore Gulmarg's scenic landscapes while engaging in activities that foster teamwork, resilience

and environmental awareness.

At the flag-off ceremony, DC emphasized the importance of such programs in building well-rounded and responsible young citizens, asserting that outdoor experiences help youth develop confidence, discipline, and a deeper connection with nature.

SSP Baramulla also addressed the students and encouraged them to make the most of this opportunity while adhering to safety protocols. He commended the Department of Youth Services & Sports for its dedication to youth development through meaningful programs like this.

The trekking camp, scheduled from November 11 to November 15, 2024, will be supervised by Escort Teachers, experienced guides and trainers, ensuring a safe and educational experience for all participants.

DC Budgam felicitates 143 Panchayats for Achieving TB-Free Status

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The District Administration Budgam Monday organized a felicitation ceremony to honor panchayats for achieving TB-free status under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) programme.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo presided over the felicitation ceremony at the District Headquarters to honor 143 panchayats for achieving TB-free status under NTEP.

The event saw the presence of State TB Officer Kashmir, Dr. Adnan Yaseen; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Moud Ayoub, all Block Medical Officers (BMOs), and other NTEP staff.

The recognized panchayats were awarded certificates and mementos for their efforts in the 'TB Mukti Panchayat' initiative. Out of 296 Gram Panchayats in Budgam, 143 claimed TB-free status, which was verified and confirmed by the district's verification team.

The DC praised the dedication of health officials, panchayat members and the community in this achievement.

The event highlighted the administration's commitment to public health and the importance of continued efforts to prevent TB, ensuring that all panchayats in Budgam can work towards being recognised as TB-free Panchayats.

B'pora admin issues rebuttal, addresses criticism on Wular event absence

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In response to recent news reports raising concerns about the absence of District Administration officials at an event organized in Zurimanz by the Mahigeeran and Singarakashan Association Bandipora in collaboration with the Sopore Fishermen Union, and attended by Hon'ble MLAs from Bandipora, Sonawari, Sopore, and Wagoora Kreeri, the District Administration Bandipora has issued a clarification, debunking the allegations circulating in the media.

The District Administration clarifies that no formal invitation or prior intimation was received from the organizers, which would have enabled the participation of district officials in this event.

The District Administration remains fully committed to supporting events organized by government or private agencies that benefit the community and the environment. It actively encourages such initiatives and ensures that relevant officials are present at these gatherings whenever possible.

NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I have lost my 8th pass certificate of session 2013 issued by Govt Middle School Dangerpora. Now I intend to get its duplicate in this regard if anybody have anykind of objection he/she may file the same with Principal Govt Middle School Dangerpora within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

Ishfaq Hussain Rather
S/o Gh Mohd Rather
R/o Sarai Dangerpora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

-----E mail Id xenmhdang@gmail.com-----

GIST of short term e-NIT No MHDA/TS/37 of 2024-25 DATED: 09-11-2024
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT Short Term e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered Mechanical contractors (Registered on JKPWDOMS) for the below mentioned works:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Time of completion (Days)	Technical Sanction.
1	Repairs and Maintenance of Various Snow Cats of Snow Clearance Control Room Kulgam.	50300	200	1000	07	Accorded

- Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded
 - Position of Funds: Available
- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 09-11-2024 (15:00Hrs)
 - Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 09-11-2024 (16:00Hrs) to 18-11-2024 (11:00Hrs) in two covers.
 - Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 18-11-2024 (15:00Hrs) in Office of the undersigned.

No: MHDA/ TS- 193/2048-49. Sd/-
Dated: 08-11-2024 Executive Engineer
DIPK-7798-24 Mechanical and Hospital Division
DT: 11/11/2024 Anantnag

Government of Jammu and Kashmir JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.

CORRIGENDUM-II

For E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 56 of 10/2024 DT: - 28-10-2024 issued vide this office No-PHE/MRD/TS/3378-82 DT: - 28-10-2024 and published vide No: 2024_PHE_262512_3 is hereby extended again due to poor response. The new closing and opening dates are given below:

S.NO.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Closing date	14-11-2024	11:00 AM
2.	Bid opening date	14-11-2024	12:00 PM

No: PHE/MRD/3680-84 Sd/-
Dated: 11-11-2024 Executive Engineer,
DIPK-7774-24 PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
DT: 11/11/2024 Srinagar.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir PLANNING DEVELOPMENT & MONITORING DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

CIRCULAR

Subject: Draft Jammu & Kashmir Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules-2024.

Whereas, vide SRO 207 dated 04-09-1992, the Jammu & Kashmir Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules-1992 were notified by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department with amendment to Schedule-T vide SRO 318 dated 17.10.2011 and amendment to Schedule-II vide SRO 204 dated 10.04.2013;

Whereas, various changes have taken place from time to time on account of up-gradation, creation, abolition, and apportionment of posts between the UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh;

Whereas, in order to streamline the Jammu and Kashmir Economics and Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules in view of up-gradation, creation, abolition, and apportionment of posts between the UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, it has been felt necessary to revise the Jammu and Kashmir Economics and Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules;

Whereas, Planning Development & Monitoring Department vide Government Order No. 42-PD&MD of 2024, dated 03.04.2024 constituted a committee to review the existing Recruitment Rules of J&K Economics & Statistics (Gazetted/ Subordinate) Service;

Whereas, the existing J&K Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules were discussed by the Committee in several meeting(s) and latest on 25.05.2024;

Whereas, the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K has furnished the final report of the Committee along with draft recruitment rules in respect of J&K Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service vide letter No: DES-HRM/4/2023/1197-98, dated: 13.08.2024;

Whereas, these rules are required to be placed in public domain in line with instructions circulated vide Circular No: 03 - AR1 & Trainings of 2023 dated: 22.09.2023

Now, therefore, before placing the draft Jammu & Kashmir Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules 2024 before the competent Authority for its consideration/approval, the draft Jammu & Kashmir Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2024 along with Schedule-I (Annexure- I) & Schedule-II (Annexure- II) are hereby circulated for inviting objections from all the stakeholders. The objection(s), if any, should reach to the Planning Development & Monitoring Department (HRM Section) (hrmsectionfd@gmail.com) within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance/ publication of this Circular. The objection(s) received after expiry of the set time period shall not be entertained under any circumstances.

The Draft Jammu & Kashmir Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules 2024 along with Annexure(s) are also hosted on the Websites www.jkplanning.gov.in & www.ecostatjk.nic.in)

No. PDMD-HRM/12/2023-01 Sd/-
Dated: 11.11.2024. (Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary), IAS
DIPK-7779-24 Secretary to the Government
DT: 11/11/2024 Planning Development & Monitoring Department

MP Anantnag-PC chairs DISHA meeting

Calls for collective enthusiasm in ensuring all beneficiaries receive support

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Member of Parliament (MP) from 3- Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Mian Altaf Ahmad Monday chaired a District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at Dak Bungalow Khanabal, Anantnag.

The meeting was attended by the Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC), MY Gorsi and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the district including Peerzada Mohammad Syeed (Anantnag), Altaf Ahmad Wani (Pahalgam), Ab. Majeed Larmi (Anantnag West), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri (Srigufara Bijbehara), Chaudhry Zafar Ahmad Khatana (Kokernag) and Riyaz Ahmad Khan (Shangus).

The meeting focused on the progress of key development projects and government schemes.

The MLAs projected the development needs and demands of their respective constituencies.



During the meeting, District Development Commissioner Anantnag, SF Hamid briefed the chair on the ongoing development activities across the district. He highlighted the progress of various government schemes, including MGNREGA, PMAY, NRLM, Ayushman Bharat, JJM, and ICDS, among others.

He informed that works under the District CAPEX

plan are moving forward with greater momentum, with tenders completed and several projects already underway.

The Member of Parliament conducted a detailed review of these schemes, emphasising the need for improved performance in power transmission, PHE, Health, Agriculture etc distribution networks, MGNREGA, SBM, PMAY,

NRLM, and the JJM.

He also specifically focused on the welfare of farmers, particularly dairy farmers, urging increased efforts to enhance the marketability of milk production in the district and strengthening the district's electrical network.

The chair also stressed on the importance of cooperation and coordination among MLAs, district officers, and other stakeholders.

He called for collective enthusiasm in ensuring that all beneficiaries receive support under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The meeting concluded with a unanimous commitment to accelerating development initiatives and ensuring the welfare of the people in Anantnag. District officers and sectoral heads were urged to work together efficiently to deliver tangible results across all sectors.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Anantnag, ADDC, ADC, all sectoral Heads and District officers.

J-K govt orders transfers, postings of several officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered transfers and postings for several Private Secretaries with immediate effect.

As per an order, Fayaz Ahmad Khan, Private Secretary, has been transferred from the office of Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, on an ex-cadre basis.

Sarni Ullah Mir, Private Secretary, is moved from the office of Principal, SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar, and posted in the J&K Public Service Commission.

Naresh Sharma, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted in the Transport Department to work with the Administrative Secretary.

Nisar Ahmad Bhat, In-charge Private Secretary, has been transferred from the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to the Information Department to work with the Administrative Secretary.

Masroof Sultan Guroo, Private Secretary, is transferred from SKIMS, Soura to the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, on an ex-cadre basis.

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tion Department to work with the Administrative Secretary.

Irshad Ahmad, Private Secretary (HoD Cadre), has been moved from the JK Public Service Commission to the office of the Principal, SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar.

Additionally, Lakshman Kumar Sharma, Private Secretary (HoD Cadre), has been transferred from the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, to the Directorate of Horticulture, Jammu, and Soma Kumar, Private Secretary (HoD Cadre), is transferred from the Government College of Engineering & Technology, Jammu, to

the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, Private Secretary (HoD Cadre), has been transferred from the Directorate of Horticulture, Jammu, and will await further posting in the General Administration Department.

Ishrat Hussain Thoker, Senior Stenographer, who was awaiting adjustment, has been posted in the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to work with the Administrative Secretary.

All the above officers and officials are deemed to have been relieved with immediate effect, as part of the administrative reshuffle, the order said.

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Govt will recognise daily-wagers, casual labourers: Tanvir Sadiq

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Senior National Conference leader and MLA Zaidul Tanvir Sadiq Monday said that the government is committed to regularise all daily-wagers, casual labourers in a phased manner and also restore the autonomy of premier health institution—Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science (SKIMS) Soura.

Sadiq said that the government is duty bound to regularise all daily-wagers, casual labourers and need basis employees as promised in the manifesto.

"We have promised in our poll manifesto. We are committed to regularise the daily-wagers, casual labourers and need basis employees. Besides, we will also restore the autonomy of SKIMS Soura," Sadiq said—(KNO)

Rana advocates participatory approach for conservation of forests

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, Monday exhorted upon the senior officers of Forest Department to adopt participatory approach towards conservation of forest resources and protection of environment by involving local communities.

The Minister directed for implementation of Forest Rights Act, fast-track recruitment, check on timber smuggling and establishing cordial relation/communication with local communities, especially the traditional forest dwellers for conservation of forests.

In a brief introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the department at Civil Secretariat Jammu, Rana expressed hope that the forest fraternity shall work in tandem with communities to conserve and protect forests and environment. He exhorted upon the officers to work with dedication and sincerity to solve public issues and concerns.

The Minister stressed upon the need of effective implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) and safeguarding the statutory rights of tribal communities who live in forests.

CS for implementation of AMRUT projects for timely completion



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired 5th UT Level Steering Committee (UTLSC) Meeting of AMRUT 2.0, called for having the review of ongoing projects besides considering new ones for their approval.

Those who were present includes Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production & Forest Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, RDD; Director, ULB J/K; DG, Codes; Chief Engineers Jal Shakti & Irrigation Departments besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the officers of the Department to start executing the approved projects at an earliest so that these are completed on time. He observed that such central schemes are of national importance therefore deserving focussed attention and smooth implementation on ground.

Dulloo also enjoined upon the concerned to explore all the possibilities

of executing these water supply schemes envisaged under AMRUT 2.0 for major towns through different agencies having reputation of implementing these at national level.

He emphasised on making this scheme successful here as this guarantees augmentation of water supply to these urban centres sufficing their water requirements for many decades to come.

The Chief Secretary urged the concerned to examine the needs of each of the town to be covered under it and prioritize the implementation accordingly.

He encouraged the engineering staff of the executing agencies to have a knack of solving technical issues at their own level without resorting to the habit of pushing them up. He maintained that such stunts only add to delaying the vital projects at the peril of common masses.

He also enjoined upon the Department to fix responsibility while taking note of few DPRs requiring revision for want of certain technical feasibilities. He made out that projects certified by the Techni-

cal Appraisal Committee should only be taken up for approval so that there remains no scope for any glitches to face in implementation of works on ground.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur gave out details of the projects sanctioned under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 for J&K.

She revealed that these projects aim at making cities 'water secure' and providing functional water tap connections to all households in all statutory towns.

She gave out that the scheme encompasses creating 99 water supply schemes here at a cost of Rs 560 Cr besides some sewage projects for the big cities and rejuvenation of water bodies in these areas.

Mandeep Kaur further added that central allocation to the tune of Rs 611 Cr for water supply, 206 Cr for sewerage & septage management and Rs 50 Cr for rejuvenation of water bodies & development of green spaces in urban areas has been made in favour of the UT.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-II, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Email id:- std2rajbagh@yahoo.in

EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to poor response, the date of submission of bids for below mentioned e-NIT is hereby extended, with the details enumerated below:-

SNO	E.NIT No.	Name of the work	Tender ID	Cost tender document (In Rs)	EMD Cost (In Rs)
1	eNIT No. STD-II / 26 of 2024-25 Dated 18-10-2024	Supply of material required from time to time for day to day operation / Maintenance of 33KV lines and 33/11 KV Receiving station of Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh during the financial year 2024-25 or till next rate contract on as and when required basis.	2024_PDD_26120_7_1	Rs 500.00	Rs 20,000.00

Last Date of Bid Submission extended upto 19-11-2024; 2:30pm
Bid Opening Date 20-11-2024; 2:30pm

No.:STD-II/3097-99/Ts Sd/
Dated: 11-11-2024 Executive Engineer,
DIPK-NB-2322-24 Sub Transmission Division-II,
DT: 11/11/2024 Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Tribal Affairs Minister reviews status of Tribal Bhawan, EMR schools

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Monday directed for regular reviews by senior officers to enable expeditious completion of all development projects meant for welfare of tribal communities in J&K.

In a meeting attended by Secretary Tribal Affairs, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Rana reviewed the measures being implemented by the Tribal Affairs Department and divisional administration Jammu to remove bottlenecks hampering timely completion of Tribal Bhawan at Nagrota and EMR Schools in Jammu division.

"The government is ensuring efficient implementation of various schemes and policies aimed ensuring socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities", the Minister stated while asking the Secretary Tribal Affairs to chalk out strategy for awareness of tribal communities regarding various schemes meant

for their development.

Rana said that government is keen to establish Eklayva Model Residential Schools (EMRS) to provide quality education to tribal students in remote areas besides facilitating access to higher education and employment opportunities.

"By focusing on academic and holistic development, the EMRSs have emerged as a significant tool for tribal empowerment", he asserted.

The Minister also stated that the scholarships are aimed to reduce dropout rates and promote education of tribal students. He directed the concerned officer to make a plan with focus on filling critical gaps in education, healthcare and infrastructure in tribal regions, backed by significant budget allocations.

Secretary Tribal Affairs Department informed the Minister about various schemes, physical and financial position of the department, digital interventions besides challenges and subsequent strategies to overcome those challenges.

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Army Pays Tribute To JCO Killed In Kishtwar Encounter

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Army on Monday laid wreaths on the mortal remains of a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) who laid down his life in a gunfight with the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of the Army's 2 Para, was killed and three more soldiers were injured in the gunfight on Sunday. The encounter broke out when joint search parties of the Army and police intercepted the terrorists around 11 am in the Keshwan forest area. The exchange of fire went on for more than four hours.

Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar laid down his life on Sunday, while three other soldiers were injured in the gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest area in Keshwan.

The operation comes amid an intensified hunt that has been underway since the recent killing of two Village Defence Guards (VDGs).

The General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the White Knight Corps,

Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, led the wreath-laying ceremony at the IAF station in Jammu, where the Naib Subedar's mortal remains were brought from Kishtwar. The bugle sounded at the last post and an Army contingent presented a salute to honour the fallen soldier.

"In a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, GoC White Knight Corps laid a wreath in Jammu to pay homage to the braveheart Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice while undertaking a counter-terrorist operation in Kishtwar," the White Knight Corps posted on X.

The mortal remains of Naib Subedar Kumar have been airlifted by a chopper to his native place in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi.

Following deadly attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch over the past three years, terror activities have expanded to six other districts in the Jammu region this year, leading to the deaths of 44 people, including 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, security officials said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

E-NIT No: 87/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/6133-43 Dated: 05/11/2024
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

SNO	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. GST) (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	AAA No & Dated	Class Of Contactor
1.	Elementary Building Less Schools (Primary) at GPS Lariyar.....(List S.No 1015)	49.14	1100/-	2% of Advertised Cost	180	PAB 2023-24 under Samagra Shiksha (S.No 1015)	06-CHIRAG OF 2024.Dated: 05.01.2024 and TS No: 60-SE/PS of 2024-25 Dated: 25.10.2024 vide endoursement No :SE/PS/4229-30 Dated 25.10.2024	AAV, BEE
2.	Elementary Dilapidated Building (Primary) at BPS Shikargah... (List S.No 1022)	49.14	1100/-	2% of Advertised Cost	180	PAB 2023-24 under Samagra Shiksha (S.No 1022)	06-CHIRAG OF 2024.Dated: 05.01.2024 and TS No: 60-SE/PS of 2024-25 Dated: 25.10.2024 vide endoursement No :SE/PS/4229-30 Dated 25.10.2024	AAV, BEE
3.	Elementary Dilapidated Building (Upper Primary) at UPS D.G. Gund... (S.No 1024)	49.14	1100/-	2% of Advertised Cost	180	PAB 2023-24 under Samagra Shiksha (S.No 1024)	06-CHIRAG OF 2024.Dated: 05.01.2024 and TS No: 60-SE/PS of 2024-25 Dated: 25.10.2024 vide endoursement No :SE/PS/4229-30 Dated 25.10.2024	AAV, BEE

Position of AAA: Accorded-
Position of funds: Available
Project Authority: DSS-J&K

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09/11/2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/11/2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	11/11/2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	02/12/2024 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	03/12/2024 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora_ (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee (bid security) should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.

1. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

2. All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

Sd/- Draftsman DIPK-7776-24 DT: 11/11/2024
Sd/- Technical Officer
Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Welcome Snowfall

The first snowfall of the season has been witnessed on the higher reaches of Kashmir valley. In a few videos shared online a visibly two to three inches of snow has accumulated on Sadhna top, higher reaches of Gulmarg and other higher reaches of the valley. It is a great thing that we had a timely snowfall in the valley as the months of September and October had way below average precipitation.

Dust had gathered on the streets and Boulevard of Srinagar and other cities leading to various higher and lower respiratory tract allergies. It had become impossible to ride on a two-wheeler without muffling one's face. The situation is further compounded by lack of visibility as the fog begins to settle on the roads of Kashmir which has the potential to lead to many accidents.

The global warming is leading world into an incurable chaos with weather vagaries increasing at an increased pace. Colder places are becoming warmer and hot places like Saudi Arabia are experiencing snowfall. It is amazing to note that many hills around Medina and Mecca cities have turned green with green shrubs and plants ubiquitously sprouted their terrain.

Imagine what the places like Delhi and Ahwaz have to go through these days. The air is simply not breathable in those places. Accidents are happening almost after every ten minutes.

In Kashmir unless we take immediate steps there is a high chance that we can bump into a similar weather pattern. Since Kashmir is surrounded by mountains from all sides the haze can sustain for weeks on end leading to many hazardous situations. Let us welcome this snowfall on our hill-tops with open arms. Let us hope it gives boost to our tourism..

Cyber World - Threat To Safety, Dignity Of Women

PRIYANKA SAURABH

The rise of artificial intelligence-generated content has further aggravated the challenges faced by women in the digital space, leading to new forms of online harassment and privacy violations. This has called for urgent action by both tech companies and governments. Today, when threats to women in the cyberspace have multiplied, there is no safe haven left where they can hide or a heavily guarded area where they can sit and wait for the cyber threats that threaten their dignity to end. A global survey has revealed that 60 percent of girls and women have faced harassment on social media platforms, and about 20 percent of them have either said goodbye to social media or reduced its use due to this. Similarly, UN Women has found that 58 percent of women and girls worldwide have been subjected to some form of online abuse. These include trolling, stalking, doxing, and other forms of online predatory behavior based on gender, which are emerging as new threats of the digital age. Artificial intelligence is being used to create deepfake videos and images that target women with fabricated content that is often sexual or defamatory in nature. U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris faced deepfakes depicting her in false and harmful contexts during her campaign for the 2024 presidency. Artificial intelligence tools spread false narratives or misogynistic content designed to undermine the character and credibility of women, particularly targeting women in leadership roles. Nikki Haley was a victim of manipulated images and fake news during the Republican primaries. Women face a disproportionate level of objectification and sexually explicit content online, amplified by artificial intelligence's ability to create realistic fake content. Explicit photos of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni created by artificial intelligence circulated widely on social media. Deepfakes and altered images created by artificial intelligence violate women's privacy, often resulting in significant reputational damage and mental distress. Bangladeshi politician Rumin Farhana was targeted with deep-



fake content ahead of elections. Steps to mitigate the problem by tech companies and governments. Companies should invest in advanced artificial intelligence detection systems to proactively flag and remove harmful content before it is widely disseminated, with human monitoring to prevent errors. Meta (Facebook) recently announced artificial intelligence tools to combat deep fakes, but their implementation remains inconsistent. Platforms must provide clear accountability measures and report how they handle flagged content with transparent audits of their moderation policies. The EU Digital Services Act (2022) mandates digital platforms to report content moderation actions. Tech companies need to ensure that algorithms are designed in a way that reduces gender bias and prevents misuse of artificial intelligence tools

for harmful purposes. The Google artificial intelligence principles highlight the responsible use of artificial intelligence, but more implementation is needed. Governments should enact data protection laws and create specific legal provisions to address the misuse of AI-generated content, including deepfake-specific laws. India's Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 provide a framework for content moderation but lack stringent AI-specific regulations. Governments should establish AI ethics boards and frameworks that mandate ethical AI development, with a focus on preventing gender-based discrimination. The EU's Artificial Intelligence Act aims to regulate high-risk AI systems, especially in media and surveillance. Governments should launch public awareness campaigns to identify and

report deepfake content, particularly targeting vulnerable groups. India's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal facilitates easy reporting of cybercrimes involving AI-generated content. Tech companies should be held accountable through monetary penalties if they fail to remove harmful content within a stipulated time frame. The GDPR in the European Union allows for heavy fines on companies that fail to protect users from data misuse. A proactive, multilateral approach between governments, tech firms, and civil society will ensure the creation of safer digital spaces for women, promote ethical AI development, and ensure robust online security.

Author is Research Scholar in Political Science

Tribute To Shri Ratan Tata



NARENDRA MODI

It has been a month since Shri Ratan Tata Ji left us. From bustling cities and towns to villages, his absence is deeply felt across every segment of society. Seasoned industrialists, budding entrepreneurs and hardworking professionals mourn his loss. Those passionate about the environment and devoted to philanthropy are equally saddened. His absence has been deeply felt not only across the nation but also around the world.

For the youth, Shri Ratan Tata was an inspiration, a reminder that dreams are worth pursuing and that success can coexist with compassion as well as humility. For others, he represented the finest traditions of Indian enterprise and a steadfast commitment to the values of integrity, excellence and service. Under his leadership, the Tata Group ascended to new heights, embodying respect, honesty and credibility worldwide. Despite this, he wore his achievements lightly, with humility and kindness.

Shri Ratan Tata's unwavering support for the dreams of others was one of his most defining qualities. In recent years, he became known for mentoring India's StartUp ecosystem, investing in many promising ventures. He understood the hopes and aspirations of young entrepreneurs and recognised the potential they had to shape India's future. By backing their efforts, he empowered a generation of dreamers to take bold risks and push boundaries. This has gone a long way in creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, which I am confident will continue to posi-



tively impact India for decades to come.

He constantly championed excellence, urging Indian enterprises to set global benchmarks. This vision, I hope, will inspire our future leaders to make India synonymous with world-class quality.

His greatness was not restricted to the boardroom or helping fellow humans. His compassion extended to all living beings. His deep love for animals was well-known and he supported every possible effort focused on animal welfare. He often shared photos of his dogs, who were as much a part of his life as any business venture. His life was a reminder to us all that true leadership is measured not just by one's achievements, but by one's ability to care for the most vulnerable.

For crores of Indians, Shri Ratan Tata's patriotism shone brightest in times of crisis. His

swift reopening of the iconic Taj Hotel in Mumbai after the 26/11 terror attacks was a rallying call to the nation—India stands united, refusing to yield to terrorism.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of knowing him very closely over the years. We worked closely in Gujarat, where he invested extensively, including in many of the projects he was very passionate about. Just a few weeks ago, I was in Vadodra with the President of the Government of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sánchez and we jointly inaugurated an aircraft complex where C-295 aircrafts would be made in India. It was Shri Ratan Tata who started working on this. Needless to say, Shri Ratan Tata's presence was greatly missed.

I remember Shri Ratan Tata Ji as a man of letters—he would frequently write to me on various issues, be it mat-

ters of governance, expressing appreciation for government support, or sending congratulatory wishes after electoral victories.

Our close interactions continued when I moved to the Centre and he remained a committed partner in our nation-building efforts. Shri Ratan Tata's support for the Swachh Bharat Mission was particularly close to my heart. He was a vocal advocate of this mass movement, understanding that cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation are vital for India's progress. I still remember his heartfelt video message for the Swachh Bharat Mission's tenth anniversary at the start of October. It was among his final public appearances.

Another cause close to his heart was healthcare and especially the fight against cancer. I recall the programme in Assam two years ago, where we had jointly inaugurated

various cancer hospitals in the state. In his remarks that time, he had categorically stated that he wishes to dedicate his final years to healthcare. His efforts to make health and cancer care accessible and affordable were rooted in a profound empathy for those battling diseases, believing that a just society was one that stood by its most vulnerable.

As we remember him today, we are reminded of the society he envisioned—where business can serve as a force for good, where every individual's potential is valued and where progress is measured in the well-being and happiness of all. He remains alive in the lives he touched and the dreams he nurtured. Generations will be grateful to him for making India a better, kinder and more hopeful place.

(The article is part of the PIB features)

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

...Anti-Rights **Geneva Consensus** Declaration Firewall Gender Equality From Threats

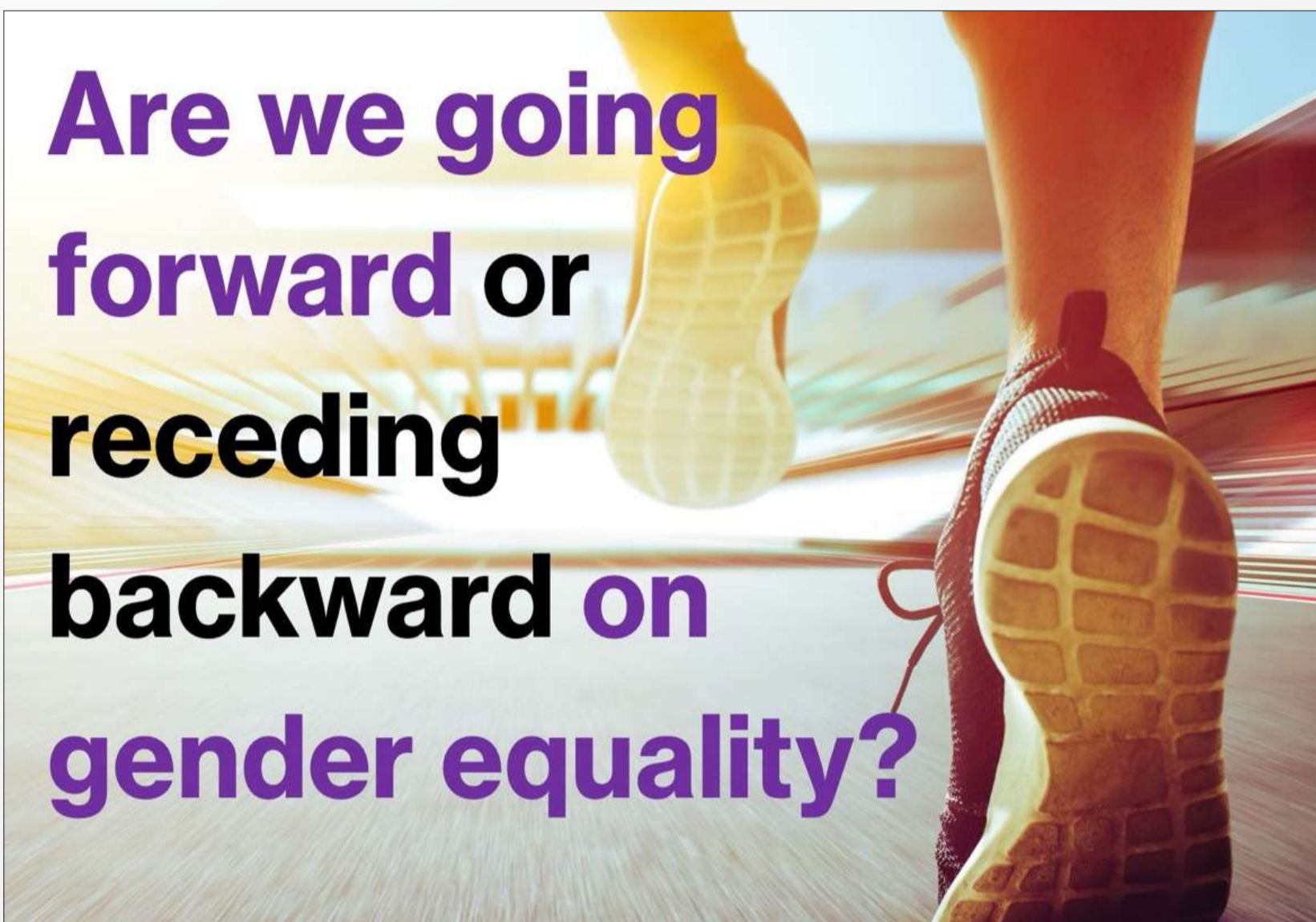


SHOBHA SHUKLA

Trump's earlier tenure as President of the United States was marred by the infamous jolt to abortion rights and broader sexual and reproductive health and rights. Within days after the 2024 election results point towards his imminent return as the President, anti-abortion and anti-rights agenda is menacingly on the rise once again, as per the recent news.

We must remember that all governments have promised to deliver on gender equality and human rights by endorsing a range of declarations, agreements and other commitments, including the legally-binding treaty CEDAW in 1979 (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), ICPD in 1994 (International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action), Beijing Declaration in 1995 and its platform for action, UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, among others.

But anti-rights push of Geneva Consensus Declaration threatens to undo whatever little progress has been made on gender equality and human rights. The Geneva Consensus Declaration takes an anti-rights stance against recognising abortion as a human right and aims to scuttle sexual and reproductive rights. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned us last year that "on the current track, gender equality is projected to be 300 years away." Governments have promised to deliver on gender equality by 2030 as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Court of Kenya and Founder-Director of The Legal Caravan said: "Most African countries have signed on to international human rights instruments which include the CEDAW of 1979, ICPD of 1994, Beijing Declaration of 1995, and the SDGs in 2015. All of them provide critical aspects

ity'. However, it neither promotes the health rights of women nor includes any issues of people from sexual minorities. Geneva Consensus Declaration pushes against the international efforts to make safe abortion a human right, and calls for global health policies to focus on improving maternal health without prioritizing abortion," said Tushar Niroula, Executive Director, MSI (Marie Stopes International) Nepal. "Nepal has got a very progressive safe abortion law in the country, but the consequences of Geneva consensus declaration can pose a threat and have a very negative impact, even though Nepal is not a signatory to the Geneva Consensus Declaration. However, there is a rise in anti-abortion groups promoting pro-life which may further fuel anti-abortion movements of conservative forces within Nepal, especially among the religious organizations or individuals," added Niroula.

Rise of global anti-rights move-

ment is threatening sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as liberal democracies and the civil liberties and human rights of all."

Tushar Niroula of MSI Nepal says: "We cannot be complacent in countries where we have a progressive safe abortion law because attempts like Geneva Consensus Declaration will encourage anti-abortion movements and active opposition from religious groups, which may potentially lead to the rollback of safe abortion laws. 28 out of 36 countries within MSI Network have reported active opposition against sexual and reproductive health and rights in the last two years. 8 country programmes in MSI Network reported direct attack from anti-abortion pro-life groups and many more reported attacks from local organizations. Regressive activities like Geneva Consensus Declaration can create a barrier to access safe abortion services, which could lead to an increase in unsafe

advance progress on all goals and targets enshrined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Health justice, economic justice, redistributive justice, social justice, climate justice, gender justice and accountability to peoples are essential and interdependent pillars of development justice.

While on the larger level, political agendas have to be rooted in gender and development justice where "no one is truly left behind" yet at an individual level too we have to dismantle harmful gender stereotypes and norms. Harmful narrative for gender inequality is regressive and so is the rise of anti-rights movements worldwide.

The year 2025 will mark 30 years since Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action were adopted in 1995. Beijing+30 intergovernmental review processes are being held in Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and later this month in Asia and the Pacific region.



"When the PACT for the future was adopted at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2024, alarmingly over 30 countries have adopted it which are also signatories to the regressive and anti-rights Geneva Consensus Declaration," said Menka Goundan, Programme Director, ARROW (Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women). She was speaking at the 2nd session of SHE & Rights (Sexual Health with Equity and Rights) co-organised by ARROW, IPPF, WGNRR and CNS.

Menka added: "Whilst the bigger winds like the PACT of the future adopted at the UNGA might come in, and we would be like 'oh yeah! this is so progressive' but we often do not underscore it against threats like Geneva Consensus Declaration which will impede the progressive implementation of the PACT for the Future, and other commitments we are making for gender equality and human rights."

"That is why we need to educate ourselves in terms of threats like Geneva Consensus Declaration. This Declaration is regressive and anti-abortion, and right winged (in terms of its framework) because it allows governments to hide under the principle of 'sovereignty' and to release these countries from their obligation to enact sexual and reproductive rights for women. So, it is a very slim move to regress when it comes to sexual and reproductive health and rights. We are failing to ensure that women have autonomy to make choices on their sexual and reproductive health" said Menka.

Conflicting policies
Kavutha Mutua, Advocate, High

on gender equality and women empowerment with a focus on safe abortion, access to contraceptives and comprehensive sexuality education. But contradicting policies, like Geneva Consensus Declaration, go against what is provided in local laws. For example, Kenya (whose constitution provides for the right to access abortion services) has signed on to the regressive Geneva Consensus Declaration - and there has been a campaign in African countries led by our respected First Ladies who are encouraging signing on to such declaration which goes against the provisions of our local laws. As Africa we need to prioritize the removal of legal and policy barriers towards access to safe abortion services and access to contraceptives."

Safe abortion rights are critical to the progress of humankind
Dr Suchitra Dalvie, Co-Founder and Coordinator, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) said: "Safe abortion rights are critical to the progress of humankind because the inability to control fertility reduces women's opportunities to access education, financial independence and overall well-being. It reduces capacity to exercise autonomy, agency and the ability to fulfil their highest potential. Criminalization does not reduce or stop abortions, rather it only reduces safe abortions."

"The regressive Geneva Consensus Declaration is absolutely a conservative, authoritative and repressive attempt against the choice of women for their reproductive rights as it promotes no right to abortion. Ironically, Geneva Consensus Declaration is meant to be for the 'women's health and gender equal-



ments is threatening SRHR
Dr Rathnamala M Desai, Member, Board of Trustees, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and President, Family Planning Association of India (FPA India) said that "Now a transnational anti-rights movement is gaining further political, social and economic legitimacy-historically targeting abortion rights. Various coalitions of nationalist religious and ultra-conservative actors and organisations have become emboldened to attack gender equality and sexuality more broadly in pursuit of a regressive social and political agenda. The rise of a global

abortion resulting in high maternal morbidity and mortality."

Agrees Dr Dalvie of ASAP: "We must be very involved in strategizing to mitigate the risks that could be posed by regressive Geneva Consensus Declaration to whatever progress has happened on gender equality and human rights. Even in countries where we have the abortion law there is still potential for it to be taken away as we have seen with the example of the United States."

Gender justice is vital cog-in-the-wheel for SDGs

Gender justice remains the essential and critical cog-in-the-wheel to

Shobha Shukla is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She is a former senior Physics faculty of prestigious Loreto Convent College and current Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Chairperson of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA). She coordinates SHE & Rights Media Initiative (Sexual health with equity and rights). Follow her on Twitter @shobhaishukla or read her writings here www.bit.ly/ShobhaShukla

9 Reasons Why Makhana Is The Perfect Snack

Makhana, also known as fox nuts or lotus seeds, is a popular snack made from the seeds of the Euryale fox plant, which grows in water. These seeds are dried and popped to create a crunchy, light snack that's often roasted with spices. Makhana is highly nutritious, packed with protein, fibre, and antioxidants, making it a fantastic option for those looking for a healthy, low-calorie snack. It's also rich in minerals like calcium, magnesium, and potassium, which support overall health. Due to its nutrient density, makhana is considered beneficial for weight management, heart health, and even anti-ageing. Read on as we share why exactly makhana is the perfect snack.



9 Reasons why makhana is the perfect snack

1. Low in calories, high in satiety

Makhana is low in calories and high in volume, meaning it

fills you up without contributing to excessive calorie intake. This makes it a fantastic snack for weight management, as it curbs hunger without adding many calories, helping prevent overeating.

2. Rich in protein for muscle health

With a good amount of protein, makhana supports muscle maintenance and recovery, especially important for those engaging in regular physical activity. Protein-rich snacks also tend to be more satisfying, helping you stay fuller for longer between meals.

3. Packed with antioxidants for cell protection

Makhana is rich in antioxidants like flavonoids, which help combat oxidative stress and reduce cell damage. This can slow down aging and lower the risk of chronic diseases, making makhana not only a

tasty but also a health-promoting snack.

4. Excellent source of calcium for bone strength

Makhana contains high levels of calcium, an essential mineral for maintaining strong bones and teeth. Including makhana in your diet can

support bone health, particularly beneficial as we age or for individuals with a higher risk of osteoporosis.

5. Low glycemic index for stable blood sugar

Makhana has a low glycemic index, which helps prevent sharp blood sugar spikes. This is especially helpful for people with diabetes or anyone looking to avoid energy crashes that follow high-sugar snacks, making makhana a balanced choice for steady energy.

6. Supports heart health

Makhana is naturally low in sodium and high in potassium, which can help balance blood pressure levels and support heart health. For those mindful of their heart health, this nutrient balance makes it a heart-friendly snack.

7. Gluten-free & easily digestible

Being naturally gluten-free, makhana is a suitable snack option for individuals with gluten intolerance or those avoiding gluten. Additionally,

it is light on the stomach and easy to digest, making it ideal for people of all ages, including children and the elderly.

8. Good for detoxification

Makhana is known to have astringent properties that can support kidney health and assist in flushing out toxins from the body. Including makhana in your diet may help enhance the body's natural detoxification processes, supporting kidney and liver function.

9. Versatile and flavourful

Makhana can be enjoyed in various ways – roasted with a sprinkle of salt, flavored with spices, or added to curries and desserts. Its versatility and adaptability to both savoury and sweet flavours make it an enjoyable and satisfying snack for any palate.

These benefits make makhana an ideal snack that not only tastes great but also offers numerous health advantages, making it a perfect choice for a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Terror Attacks

terrorists were killed in a two-day long operation in Akhnoor sector of Jammu region in October, four in separate encounters in Doda, two each in Kathua, Udhampur and Rajouri.

The Rajouri-Poonch belt, which like other parts of Jammu region were almost cleared of terrorism over a decade ago, witnessed deadly terror attacks mostly targeting army vehicles since October 2021, resulting in the death of more than 100 persons, including 47 security personnel and 48 terrorists, besides seven civilians.

Rajouri accounted for 19 deaths in 2021, 14 in 2022 and 28 in 2023. Likewise, Poonch recorded 15 deaths in 2021, four in 2022 and 24 in 2023, the officials said quoting the data.

They said the footprints of the security forces have been increased in many areas where they were earlier reduced or completely withdrawn due to the improved security situation over the years.

Night patrolling has also been intensified across the region, especially in the border villages, to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border, the officials said.

They added that public outreach in the form of medical camps and other welfare measures under 'Operation Sadbhavana' (goodwill), including frequent interaction with the elders and the youth, have also recorded a manifold increase.

CM Omar Calls

amenities and certified clean toilet facilities along major tourist routes and at key destinations to elevate visitor satisfaction.

"We must build environmentally conscious infrastructure that respects J&K's unique heritage and architecture," he added.

Chief Minister Abdullah highlighted the importance of shifting tourism efforts from "high volume" to "high value," emphasizing quality over quantity.

He also urged regulated infrastructure growth in newly proposed destinations and developing tourist spots to ensure sustainable development. He stressed the need for synergized efforts with the local community, advocating for all tourism projects to consider heritage preservation and environmental sustainability.

To further improve the tourist experience, the Chief Minister favoured creation of a feedback portal directly linked to his office, enabling tourists to share their experiences and suggestions.

Chief Minister emphasized routine inspections of homestay facilities to maintain cleanliness and essential infrastructure standards, ensuring a welcoming environment for all visitors.

The progress on central government schemes such as PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan was also reviewed. Chief Minister said that Sonamarg has the potential to emerge as a Skiing destination given the abundance of snow there and it needs our attention.

Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction over poor condition of waste dumping site at Gulmarg and exhorted the concerned officials to improve the waste management facilities in Gulmarg on priority.

Chief Minister proposed sustainable development measures for Gulmarg, called for revitalizing the Gondola service.

He took serious view of mismanagement in Gondola service ticketing which has irked the tourists and has led to black marketing of tickets.

He directed JK Cable Car Corporation to streamline the ticketing process with efficiency, leveraging the technology and making tickets easily available to visitors.

For skiing development, he recommended hiring reputed consultants and experts for proper alignment of skiing drag lifts and emphasized that all plans should consider the impacts of climate change.

Chief Minister underlined the need for taking up green field tourism development projects.

He gave instructions for strengthening of Tourism Development Authorities and taking immediate steps to prepare master plans for every development authority for planned development of tourism destina-

tions.

Omar Starts Work

present to receive him. In a gesture of camaraderie, the Chief Minister visited the chambers of his ministers to formally welcome them, reflecting his commitment to fostering a collaborative working environment.

During his visit, Chief Minister also inspected the ongoing construction of the new Assembly Complex.

He toured the complex, where officials from the Public Works Department (PWD) Roads & Buildings (R&B) Division provided a detailed briefing on the project's various stages, timeline and next steps.

Dry Spell Impacts

healthy saffron cultivation. "The lack of proper rainfall during critical months has affected not just saffron, but most crops in the region this year," Hamid said. He expressed concerns that the crop's production is expected to be less than half of what it was in previous years.

Ashiq, another local grower, lamented that the dry weather had not only reduced saffron production but also raised the costs of cultivating the crop. "The expenses on saffron cultivation this year are far greater than what we will likely earn from the harvest," he said, adding that the situation is pushing many farmers to the brink. He criticised the National Saffron Mission (NSM), which was launched in 2010 with the aim of revitalising saffron cultivation in the region, accusing it of failing to achieve its objectives.

"The NSM has been a failure. Every time we raise our concerns about its ineffectiveness, those same departments that have failed to deliver are made part of the investigation committees," Ashiq said. He and other saffron growers are now demanding an independent investigation into the matter so that officials and departments responsible for the neglect can be held accountable.

Abdul Majeed Wani, President of the Saffron Growers Association of Kashmir, said this year's production has decreased by at least 50 percent compared to last year. "This dry spell has hit us hard, and the decrease in production is a direct result of this prolonged drought. Without urgent action, the future of saffron cultivation here is in jeopardy," he said.

Other growers from Pampore and surrounding areas also reported reduced yields. The impact of climate change, coupled with the failure of irrigation systems and inadequate support from the government, has left many saffron farmers in dire straits.

According to data obtained, saffron production in Jammu and Kashmir has been on a consistent decline over the years. From 8.0 metric tons (MT) in 2010-11, production fell to just 2.6 MT in 2023-24, marking a drastic 67.5% decrease. While there was a slight recovery in production last year (2022-23), with a marginal 4% increase, it remains far below the figures seen a decade ago.

In 2013-14, saffron production in the region peaked at 14.01 MT with a yield of 3.82 quintals per hectare. However, production has since fluctuated, with significant declines in the years that followed. In 2019-20, production plummeted to a mere 0.02 MT, with a yield of just 4.44 quintals per hectare. The production figures remained stagnant in subsequent years, with no significant recovery.

The National Saffron Mission has come under heavy scrutiny by local farmers. Although the NSM included measures like the installation of borewells for irrigation, there are reports suggesting that many of these borewells are either non-functional or not being properly maintained.

According to agricultural department officials, out of the 110 borewells under the NSM, only 77 are currently operational. However, they also said that farmers are not taking ownership of the wells, which may contribute to the lack of effective utilization.

Despite the claim by officials that some improvements have been made, the overwhelming majority of saffron growers feel that the assistance provided under the NSM has been inadequate. This has further fueled calls for an independent investigation into the mission's efficacy.

The ongoing crisis has serious implications not only for the saffron growers but also for the regional economy. Saffron, often referred to as the "golden spice", is an integral part of Kashmir's agricultural heritage, and its decline threatens the livelihoods of thousands of farmers who depend on it for their income. Kashmir saffron holds a unique place in global markets due to its high quality, and its diminishing production could harm the region's standing in the international trade of this prized commodity—(KNO)

Sonamarg Receives

41,000 were locals. Sonamarg has become a premier attraction for both local and non-local travellers in Kashmir, they said.

The local shopkeepers are delighted with the increase in tourist activity, expressing gratitude to the tourism department for its promotional efforts.

They note that the influx of tourists has surpassed previous records, indicating that the region is becoming increasingly appealing to travellers.

People associated with the tourism sector enthusiastically welcome the tourists, seeing it as a revival of their businesses.

They urge the tourism department to continue promoting Sonamarg to attract even more visitors. The tourists are visibly happy, contributing to a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere in the region, they said.

Advocate Ajay Kumar, said, "I have been visiting Kashmir for the last three years, and I can confidently say it is a place of unparalleled peace and beauty. Sonamarg, in particular, is breath-taking. I encourage everyone to come, experience its charm, and enjoy the serenity of Kashmir."

CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority, Gh Mohd Bhat told KNO that SDA has played a pivotal role this year by organizing a range of winter sports activities, significantly contributing to the economic and tourism revival in Sonamarg.

"Sonamarg Development Authority has been instrumental in reviving both the economy and tourism this year, through a series of winter sports events. As the snow-covered beauty of Sonamarg continues to captivate visitors, we remain hopeful that it will sustain the livelihoods of those who depend on this thriving industry," he said—(KNO)

J&K Faces 27%

with a nine per cent shortfall. The monsoon season also ended with 26 per cent deficit rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir following which the previous month—October also ended with a 74 per cent deficit, with parts of South Kashmir experiencing more than a 90 per cent deficit.

Thereby, the data suggests that overall; there has been a deficit of 27 per cent rainfall from January 01, 2024 to October 31, 2024.

However, the parts of Kashmir received a fresh light snowfall today, bringing an end to the 50-day dry spell in Jammu and Kashmir.

The higher reaches of Kilshay Top, Tulail, and nearby villages in Gurez, famous tourist destination Gulmarg-phase2, Doodhpathri, Sinthan top, Zojila pass and Baltal Pahalgam experienced fresh snowfall today while the plains including Srinagar—the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir received light rainfall as well.

As per the details, phase-II of Gulmarg has received two inches of snowfall.

The fresh light wet spell—an outcome of a weak Western Disturbance, has led to the decline in the mercury as well. It has been learnt that moderate to heavy rain and hailstorm was witnessed in Poonch this afternoon as well.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng while sharing his views on the low precipitation in J&K, said that it can be attributed to the absence of Western Disturbances and the early retreat of the monsoon.

"The underlying cause, however, is climate change driven by global warming, which has made weather patterns increasingly unpredictable. Addressing this challenge requires coordinated efforts at local, national, and global levels to control rising temperatures. Unfortunately, current measures fall significantly short of what's needed to curb the escalating impact on our climate," he said.

Meanwhile, with the deficit rainfall and prolonged dry spell, the water level in the river Jhelum and other streams have dropped to new all-time low.

The water level of Jhelum at Sangam dropped to minus 0.82 feet on 06 Nov 9 a.m., which is the lowest water level recorded at the station while at Pampore, the gauge reading was minus 1.75 meters, at Ram Munshi Bagh Srinagar, it was 1.28 feet and 1.15 feet at Asham.

Some tributaries of Jhelum were also flowing at a record low level.

The water level of Vishow Nallah at Khudwani was recorded at 2.31 m, minus 0.45 m of Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi & Lidder Nallah at Batkoot, 0.61 m of Doodhganga Nallah at Barzulla, and 0.02 m of Sindh Nallah at Doderhama.

The persistent dry spell has also affected the water supply in Jammu and Kashmir with the in the Jal Shakti department stating that the water reservoirs are almost running dry.

Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) department, Vivek Kohli, told KNO that the water supply is being ensured to the people twice a day, but added that the flow of supply remains, however, low compared to the previous time due to the less water availability.

Kohli also said that the additional supply to the consumers through water tanks is being ensured to the people wherever necessary—(KNO)

Justice Khanna

A graduate of Delhi University's Campus Law Centre, he enrolled as an advocate in 1983 and primarily practised before the Delhi High Court. Before his elevation as judge of Delhi High Court in June 2005, he served as Senior Standing Counsel of the Income Tax Department and was also the standing counsel on civil matters for the Delhi government.

Dry Spell Spurs

significant changes in bird migration patterns across the wetland areas," Sofi said.

Environmentalists and bird watchers have raised alarms about declining water levels and increasing habitat encroachment, saying these factors have led to substantial drops in bird populations, density, and diversity in previously thriving sites.

The Kashmir region has experienced a record rainfall deficit of 90% in October and November, following a similarly low monsoon season. With this year's dry conditions pushing water bodies to extremely low levels, wetland health and migratory arrivals are suffering.

According to the official migratory bird census data accessed by KNO, from 2024, the Hokersar wetland recorded 4,21,000 birds, while the Hygam wetland hosted 4,00,000 birds. The numbers reflect a decrease from 2023 when Hokersar received 4,14,000 and Hygam welcomed 4,96,000 birds.

Officials claim that massive efforts were underway to restore wetland health as part of the Integrated Management Action Plan (IMAP) for Kashmir Wetland Conservation Reserves.

According to the five-year initiative (2022-2027), the programme is aimed at addressing threats such as siltation, weed infestation, pollution, habitat degradation and encroachment in a bid to sustain wetland ecosystems and make them conducive for migratory waterfowl—(KNO)

COP29

IRENA calls to reflect global pledge to triple renewable power capacity by 2030

IAN S

BAKU: Even if all COP announcements to date were to be fully implemented, a significant CO2 emission gap would still need to be closed by 2030, according to IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook 2024.

Released at the opening of the two-week UN Climate Conference COP29 in Baku in Azerbaijan on Monday, the agency's 1.5-degree Celsius scenario outlines a net-zero path by mid-century, offering a framework for governments to develop energy transition strategies that better align energy planning with climate policies to channel investment.

The Outlook shows that current country pledges could cut global energy-related CO2 emissions by three per cent by 2030 and 51 per cent by 2050. Achieving the global goals of tripling renewable power capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, as agreed at COP28, would keep the energy transition on track for net-zero emissions by 2050.

These 2030 targets are crucial to limiting global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees, as underscored by the UAE Consensus.

However, a significant gap remains between

political announcements and actual county plans and policies. National plans and targets are set to deliver only half of the required growth in renewable power by 2030.

Investments in renewable power, grids and flexibility, energy efficiency and conservation must increase dramatically to meet the renewable energy and efficiency goals, totalling \$31.5 trillion from 2024-2030.

There are also large geographical disparities in terms of renewable additions and investments, causing inequalities in the global energy transition. While renewable investment has generally been on the rise, it remains concentrated in a few countries, leaving much of the Global South behind.

Moreover, with over 70 per cent energy supply, fossil fuels continue to dominate the energy mix in several of the biggest economies, the world's largest CO2 emitters. To meet the 1.5-degree target, the G20 must triple its installed renewable power capacity by 2030, reaching 9,400 gigawatts (GW), and expand it seven-fold by 2050 to 24,900 GW, compared to 2023 levels.

Francisco La Camera, the Director-General of IRENA, said: "We have

reached crunch time. A robust global finance deal and the next NDCs in 2025 are 'make-or-break' moments to keep 1.5 degrees alive. NDCs 3.0 provide the last opportunity this decade for countries to step up their stated ambitions. Particularly, an agreement on a new quantified goal for climate finance at COP29 is critical to ensure a just transition, support investments in the Global South and empower countries to step up their NDC ambitions. 1.5 degrees hinges on efforts by G20 countries. Their NDCs must match global commitments to triple renewable power capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030."

Under IRENA's 1.5-degree scenario, renewable energy sources would provide the bulk of the power mix, accounting for 68 per cent and 91 per cent of the total electricity supply by 2030 and 2050, respectively.

By 2050, a deep transformation of the power and end-use sectors is required to enable the high shares of renewable energy required by the transition.

Following another year of extreme weather events and record-breaking heatwaves, UN Environment Programme's 2024 Emissions Gap and Adaptation Gap Reports showed slow

progress on emissions reduction and adaptation planning and finance.

Nations must deliver dramatically stronger ambition and action in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and dramatically increase climate adaptation efforts, starting with a commitment to act on finance at COP29.

COP29 from November 11 to 22 presents a pivotal opportunity to accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis, as it brings together leaders from governments, business, and civil society to advance concrete solutions to one of the defining issues of our time.

A key focus of COP29 will be finance, as trillions of dollars are required for countries to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect lives and livelihoods from the worsening impacts of climate change.

The conference will also be a key moment for countries to present their updated national climate action plans under the Paris agreement, which are due by early 2025.

If done right, these plans will limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and double as investment plans advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

PM Modi pays tribute to Acharya Kripalani on his birth anniversary

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid heartfelt tributes to Acharya J.B. Kripalani, the former President of the Indian National Congress and a prominent freedom fighter, on his birth anniversary on Monday.

Acknowledging Acharya Kripalani's significant contributions to India's Independence movement, PM Modi shared his thoughts on social media platform X, highlighting the values of democracy, integrity, and social justice that the freedom fighter embodied.

"Remembering Acharya Kripalani on his birth anniversary. He was a towering figure in India's freedom struggle and an embodiment of intellect, integrity and courage. He was deeply committed to democratic values and principles of social justice," said PM Modi.

The Prime Minister further expressed his government's continued dedication to fulfilling the freedom fighter's vision of a prosperous and strong India, where both the poor and marginalized are empowered.

"Acharya Kripalani was unafraid to fight injustice. We reiterate our commitment to fulfilling his noble vision of an India that is prosperous, strong and

where the poor as well as marginalized are empowered," he said.

Acharya Kripalani, born on November 11, 1888, in Hyderabad, Sindh, played a key role in India's struggle for Independence. He was the President of the Indian National Congress at the time of India's Independence and served in various critical roles, including in the Interim Government of India (1946-1947) and the Constituent Assembly of India.

Acharya Kripalani's political journey saw him rise to prominence within the Congress. His first major post was as the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee in 1928-29, and he held the position of General Secretary again from 1934 to 1945. In 1946, he was elected as Congress President, although his tenure was marked by controversy due to his differences with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who objected to Acharya Kripalani's involvement of the party in governance post-Independence.

Acharya Kripalani's critical views on the partition of India and his condemnation of the Congress leadership, particularly in his autobiography 'My Times', further highlighted his ideological stance, leading to his resignation as Congress President later in 1947.

UP CM rallies support for BJP in Jharkhand

IAN S

G A R H W A (JHARKHAND) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while campaigning for BJP candidates in Jharkhand on Monday, urged voters to remain united with the slogan, "batenge to katenge (if we remain divided, we will perish)" and "ek rahenge to safe rahenge (if we stay united, we will be safe)."

Addressing a gathering in the Bhawanathpur Assembly constituency, Yogi criticized the Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), accusing them of trying to divide society and favouring Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators.

Expressing confidence in a BJP victory in the upcoming elections, Yogi Adityanath claimed that the enthusiastic crowds at BJP rallies in Jharkhand indicate strong support.

"The formation of a BJP government after November 23 is certain," he declared.

He also criticized the current Jharkhand government for allowing land, mining, and forest mafias to operate freely, alongside Bangladeshi, Rohingyas, and stone pelters who, according to him, are creating chaos in the state.

"Once our government is in power, we will crack down on all stone pelters,

goons, and mafia elements," he promised.

Drawing a parallel to Uttar Pradesh, Yogi warned that those who disrupt peace and security in festivals there face swift action and severe consequences, implying strict action against troublemakers.

Yogi Adityanath labelled the ruling coalition in Jharkhand as steeped in nepotism and dynastic politics, claiming it revolves around just three families based in Ranchi, Patna, and Delhi. "These parties view power as a tool for personal gain, with no vision for development beyond their own families," he alleged.

He said that only the BJP can effectively govern the state with a balance of tradition and development. "The BJP stands for development, cleanliness, good governance, prosperity, and respect for heritage," he added.

Highlighting the achievements of the Modi government at the Centre, Yogi listed several welfare schemes that have benefited millions over the years. He pointed out that 80 crore people are being provided free rations, four crore houses have been built under the PM Awas Yojana, and toilets have been constructed for ten crore poor households. Additionally, the Ujjwala Yojana has reached ten crore women, and Kisan Nidhi has supported 12 crore farmers, he said.

PM interacts with BJP booth workers, vows to free Jharkhand from graft

IAN S

RANCHI : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday addressed Jharkhand BJP booth workers in an interactive session under the 'Mera Booth, Sabse Mazboot' initiative. He said that while the state is rich in resources and potential, it has suffered due to corruption, mafia influence, and poor governance under the current regime.

Commending the BJP workers, PM Modi said that their dedicated efforts were visible throughout the state, giving the Opposition sleepless nights.

"We must liberate Jharkhand from corruption, mafia influence, and ineffective governance," he stated, adding that the role of booth workers is crucial in achieving this goal.

In his online interaction, PM Modi highlighted that while Jharkhand is resource-rich, its people remain impoverished due to rampant corruption and lack of development.

Unemployment is at an all-time high, and infrastructure issues have stifled tourism, despite the state's



natural beauty, he said.

He said that Jharkhand needs a "double-engine government" to ensure rapid development, aligning with the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

The Prime Minister encouraged BJP workers to focus on grassroots engagement and praising their dedication said that this would yield results. He announced that he would visit the state again on November 13, the day of polling for the first phase of elections in the state.

During the interaction, a booth president Rajiv from Ranchi's Chutia Mandal, spoke about the BJP's election manifesto, particularly

ly the 'Gogo Didi' scheme, which promises Rs 2,000 per month to women, and the Yuva Sathi Allowance.

Praising the scheme PM Modi called it a testament to the manifesto's strength. He also expressed pride in its appreciation by the national media. Pankaj Mandal from Rajmahal also voiced optimism, sharing that BJP is expected to win in his region as youth discontent has grown due to paper leaks and unmet promises from the present coalition government.

PM Modi criticized the Congress, JMM, and RJD for making hollow promises over the past five years, contrasting this with the

BJP's track record of fulfilling commitments in states like Odisha. He assured that the BJP, if elected in Jharkhand, would swiftly honour its promises.

Encouraging workers as elections approach, PM Modi advised them to engage with the public in small groups with enthusiasm. "Make voting a celebration," he urged, suggesting workers "vote first, then enjoy refreshments."

He expressed confidence in the impact of the Gogo Didi scheme, noting that when funds go directly into women's accounts, they are used effectively, which bolsters faith in the BJP's governance.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

cdpoicdskeller@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KELLER

Subject: Engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) Anganwadi centres of Poshan Project Keller on honorarium basis
 Ref: Government Order No. 103 JK-(SWD) of 2023 Dated 28-04-2023 issued by Commissioner Secretary to Government Social Welfare Department J&K
 Ref: MD/Poshan/2023-24/6475-77 Dated 26-02-2024
 Ref: DPOP/Poshan/Estt/2024/1470-71 Dated 26-02-2024
 Ref: SMD/ICDS/Recruitment/2023-24/6227-30 Dated 21-07-2024

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

- a) Opening date of receipt of application forms: - 13-11-2024
- b) Closing date of receipt of application forms: - 02-12-2024

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-A) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqa for Sanginis (AWWs) and Sahiyakis (AWHs) for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Keller on "Honorarium basis"

Vacancy of AWWs

S.No	Name of District	Name of Project	Name of Panchayat	Recruitment of Sanginis(AWWs)	
				Panch Ward	Name of AWC
1	Shopian	Keller	Khatohallan	3, 4, 5, 6, & 07	N.K.Pathri
2	Pulwama	Keller	Sona Banger	1, 4, 5 & ward No. 6	Sonabanger A
3	Pulwama	Keller	Nikas	4	Arabal -A

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers): -

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2024 shall be considered for the post
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AWC is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as a proof of residence of the candidate. In case name of the candidate appears in voter list along with her parents, then she must provide a certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Wherever there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum Education qualification should be 10+2 pass and maximum graduation. In case of no 10+2 suitable candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission Poshan.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be granted purely on academic merit basis & there shall not be any interview/ no other criteria shall be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retired AWW/AWH, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.
- In case of tie in the merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be considered.
- Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form for Sanginis (AWWs):
 1. Voter List of the Panch Ward of the Panchayat Halqa highlighting name of applicant and her family members.
 2. Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
 3. Date of Birth Certificate.
 4. Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.
 5. Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer
 6. Unmarried Certificate from respective Tehsildar (wherever applicable)
 7. Affidavit Sworn before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate to the effect that the candidate shall not possess higher qualification than graduation. If any candidate shall be found to be of higher qualification than graduation, her candidature shall be cancelled forthwith without serving any notice ab-initio and action shall be initiated under law.
 9. Panch Ward Certificate of the candidate issued by BDO highlighting epic number of the candidate in the Panch Ward.
 No:-CDPOS/POSHAN/Kel/Adv/2024/ Child Development Project Officer (ICDS) Poshan Project Keller
 Dated: -11-2024

Annexure-A

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)/Sahiyakis (ANGANWADI HELPERS)

Whether Applied for AWW/AWH.....

- Panch Ward/ Panchayat Halqa.....
- Epic No in panch ward.....
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters)
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters).....
- Marital Status: - Married / Un Married
- Husbands Name (if married)
- Place of Permanent Residence.....
 Mohalla.....Village.....
 Panch Ward Constituency.....
 Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
 House No.....(As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral)
 Block :.....
- Address for Correspondence.....Mobile No.....
- Date of Birth.....

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

- Age as on 01-01-2024.....
- Academic Qualification

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obtained	Max. Marks	%age
1.	8 th					
2.	10 th					
3.	10+2					
4.	Graduation					

- Do candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH (yes/No)

Signature of Candidate

UNDERTAKING
 I.....D/o,W/o.....R/o..... do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

Signature of Candidate

Acknowledgment
 Received application formD/O,W/O..... Residencefor the post of AWW today on
 DIPK-7787-24
 DT: 11/11/2024

Signature of Dealing Assistant

'Too late to interfere'

SC dismisses plea seeking deferment of Bihar by polls

IAN S

NEW DELHI : The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea seeking the postponement of by-elections to the four Assembly seats in Bihar in view of the week-long Chhath Puja.

"It seems that it's too late to interfere in the by-elections scheduled to be held on November 13. No case for interference is made out. The petition is dismissed," a bench, headed by Justice Surya Kant, ordered.

Further, the bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, turned down the prayer that the Election

Commission should decide the representations filed by the petitioner Jan Suraa Party seeking deferment of Bihar by polls.

Last week, a bench headed by (then) CJI D.Y. Chandrachud agreed to consider the urgent listing of the plea after the matter was mentioned for an urgent hearing.

The plea filed before the apex court challenged the Election Commission's "failure" to not defer the by-elections in Bihar while rescheduling the polls in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Kerala due to social and religious events. It said that by-elections in states like Uttar

Pradesh, Kerala etc. were rescheduled from November 13 to 20 on account of large-scale social and cultural gatherings that may impact the voter turnout.

The plea added that similar conditions exist in Bihar and not deferring by-polls in Bihar was not only unjust but violated the right to equal treatment under Article 14 of the Constitution.

"The logistical issues and apprehension of reduced voter turnout are as much a concern in Bihar as they are in Uttar Pradesh. There is no reason whatsoever and no intelligible differentia, to warrant a different treatment

for elections in Bihar," the plea, filed through Karanjawala & Co, contended.

Further, it said that deferring the four by-elections in Bihar would prevent inconvenience to a large number of voters, promote their participation in the electoral process, and strengthen the democratic process. The plea said that "more than forty Chhath Puja organizing committees have also written to the Election Commission of India on the same issue" and the failure of the poll body to not defer the dates violated the fundamental rights of the electorate at large.

Kashmir Hosts 'Shash Rang' Cultural Extravaganza

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Sufi & Folk Music Festival 2024 – Shashrang Season 14, organized by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages in partnership with The Kashmir Music Club Srinagar, successfully concluded in Srinagar. The event, supported by J&K Bank, Kanwal Foods, and Qaraar Studio, and partnered with Red FM, DD Kashir, and Greater Kashmir, celebrated the region's rich musical heritage.

The festival began with the Shashrang Conference on "Traditions and Transformation," bringing together over 70 cultural experts, musicians, and scholars to discuss Kashmir's evolving musical traditions. A special tribute to Kashmir's musical legacy was made with the screening of Madanwar, a Kashmiri folk song by Waheed Jeelani and his Shashrang Band.

The cultural performances kicked off



with distinguished guests, including Dr. Farooq Abdullah, former CM of J&K, and Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The day featured performances by renowned artists such as Ustaad Mohammad Yaqoob Shaikh, Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, and the Yemberzal Group, culminating in the grand

Shashrang performance.

The festival concluded with the Shashrang Awards 2024, honoring icons of Kashmiri music including Gulzar Ahmad Mir, Pt. Krishan Langoo, and Jameela Khan for their lifetime contributions to the region's musical landscape.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Advocate Abdul Rahim

Rather praised the efforts of the organizers and artists, emphasizing the importance of preserving Kashmir's musical traditions for future generations.

Shashrang Season 14 has once again proven to be a vibrant celebration of Kashmir's cultural essence, uniting tradition, art, and community in a memorable festival.

UNMATCHED STYLE

Maruti Suzuki Launches All-New Dzire

JEHANGIR MALIK

NEW DELHI: Creating a new benchmark in the compact sedan segment, Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), Monday, introduced the Dazzling New Dzire with petrol and S-CNG models. As one of the most successful and iconic brands in Maruti Suzuki's portfolio, the Dzire has earned the trust of over 27 Lakh customers across the country. The Dazzling New Dzire has been reimagined to build on the strong foundation of its legacy and unmatched style, comfort and reliability.

With its progressive design, plus two-tone interiors and a host of segment-first features, the Dazzling New Dzire offers a distinguished and premium experience. Crafted for young, accomplished individuals who view cars as a reflection of their personality, the new Dzire aims to be a game-changer

by effortlessly integrating style with performance, sophistication and comfort. With the Next-Gen Z-Series engine at the heart, the All-New Maruti Suzuki Dzire

in the sedan segment and chosen by customers to become India's highest-selling sedan 3* year-after-year. With each generation, it has revolutionised

the aspirations of today's ambitious and successful individuals. Furthermore, the advanced Z-Series engine makes it India's most fuel-efficient sedan.*

Commenting on this launch, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "Trusted by over 27 Lakh customers, Maruti Suzuki Dzire has been the best-selling sedan in its segment, since its launch in 2008. The All-New Dzire is a testament of our relentless pursuit to offer experiences that are specially tailored for the young, ambitious, 'Thrivers' who makes a statement with distinct choices.

The new Dzire is loaded with segment-first features making it a perfect blend of modernity and cutting-edge technology. This new generation Dzire will empower our customers to effortlessly enhance their lifestyle and confidently assert success."



promises incredible value as India's Most Fuel-Efficient Sedan*.

Introducing the All-New Dzire, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "The Maruti Suzuki Dzire has long stood as a hallmark of excellence

the market and redefined customer expectations. The Dazzling New Dzire exemplifies this enduring legacy with emphasis on styling, performance, features and safety. Sporting a progressive sleek design and plush interiors, the all-new Dzire resonates with

Mehboob Cultural Society Stages 'Gata-ta-Gash' at IUST Cultural Fest



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India's Jashn-e-Kala Sanskriti initiative, the ongoing cultural festival at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) saw the Mehboob Cultural Society from Baramulla staging the iconic play Gata-ta-Gash by celebrated playwright G.D. Bahar.

Performed at the university's auditorium, the play captivated an audience of academics, writers, and students alike. Known for addressing critical social issues, the theatre group's latest production was widely praised for its clever wit and profound social commentary.

The actors' powerful performances stood out, proving that the strength of theatre lies not in elaborate

technical setups but in the skill and passion of the performers themselves. The audience responded with high praise, cementing Gata-ta-Gash as a highlight of the festival.

With this success, Mehboob Cultural Society has generated anticipation for their upcoming projects, with expectations for more thought-provoking and socially relevant performances in the near future.

Sprawling 975 kanal City Forest Project proposed for Kishtwar Town

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan Monday chaired a meeting to discuss and finalise the development of City Forest area on the outskirts of Kishtwar Town, with an emphasis on fostering a green urban environment and enhancing ecological balance in the region.

The meeting, held in the DC office, brought together stakeholders from across the board, including officers from the Forest, RDD, Public Health Engineering (PHE), Public Works Department (PWD), and other allied departments.

At the outset, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kishtwar, Vijay Verma, provided a comprehensive briefing on the City Forest Plan. He outlined the proposed afforestation initiative, which is to be executed on a sprawling 975 kanal land



located on the outskirts of Kishtwar Town. He highlighted the project's primary focus areas, including large-scale plantation, habitat creation, and green cover enhancement, which will contribute to improving local air quality and providing a recreational haven for the residents.

During the discussions, the DDC reviewed critical guidelines for the afforestation project, addressing various aspects such as fencing, irrigation infrastructure, and maintenance provisions. He emphasized the impor-

importance of creating a sustainable ecosystem through effective forestation practices, further instructing departments to facilitate all necessary provisions, such as water supply, for the new saplings.

The District Development Commissioner also underscored the necessity of involving different stakeholders to ensure smooth, hassle-free project execution. He called upon the allied departments to work in close coordination and adopt a "war footing" approach, to complete the City Forest project in a

time-bound manner.

The concept of having Nagar Van (City Forest) at the entry point near Shalimar has been conceived by the Deputy Commissioner R K Shavan. It is his dream project to have a nearby City Forest to minimize the environmental impact due to upcoming Hydroelectric Power Projects in the District.

Highlighting the significance of the City Forest, Rajesh Kumar Shavan emphasized the role of green spaces in enhancing the region's ecological resilience, conserving bio-

diversity, and promoting environmental awareness among local communities. He expressed that this initiative would also contribute towards mitigating urban heat, improving air quality, and providing residents with a natural recreational space for outdoor activities and wellness.

Other Key officers present at the meeting included DFO Social Forestry, Sanjay Gupta; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Phulail Singh; Executive Engineers of PHE and PWD; representatives from the Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPP) authority, along with Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO), and other senior officials.

The Deputy Commissioner concluded by reiterating his commitment to transforming Kishtwar into an eco-friendly, sustainable town through effective conservation and afforestation efforts.

Special Bus service commences from Lal Chowk to Hazratbal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a bid to improve public transport connectivity in J&K and acting promptly on the announcement made by the Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, the JKRTC commenced bus service from Lal Chowk to Hazratbal Dargah via Brien Ishber Nishat Foreshore Road and vice-versa.

This emphasised the government's commitment to improve public transport for all, especially those in rural and remote areas.

Appreciating the swift action by the department, the Transport Minister Satish Sharma said, "this step is important toward our goal of ensuring reliable and accessible public transport for all residents, including those in the city's rural and remote areas".

The Minister emphasized that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed to improve transportation in J&K, especially in the far flung and border areas with the aim to enhance mass mobility, providing increased safety and sustainability, along with greater access and convenience for commuters.

J&K athletes shine at All India Inter SAI Rowing Championship

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Promising athletes from Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) Rowing, Water Sports Centre, Nehru Park, exhibited outstanding performance at the All India Inter SAI Rowing Championship held at the SAI National Centre of Excellence in Alleppey, Kerala.

Zainab Shafi, hailing from Baramulla district, won the bronze medal in the Senior Women Singles category (W1X) while Irtiza Ali and Muntazir Ali Madoo, both from Srinagar district, also secured bronze in the Junior Men Pair category (JM2). In total, 10 athletes from KISCE Rowing, Nehru Park, represented J&K in this prestigious event, demonstrating exceptional skill and determination.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, extended heartfelt congratulations to all the participating athletes and expressed pride in their achievements. He



remarked that Jammu & Kashmir is progressing toward becoming a national hub for water sports and assured continued support in the form of coaching, equipment and other allied facilities for aspiring athletes.

Secretary of Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, also congratulated the contingent, underscoring the potential of J&K's water sports talent and reaffirming the department's commitment towards nurturing world-class athletes.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, celebrated this achievement as a proud moment for the entire region, recognizing the growing impact of J&K's water sports athletes on the national stage. She applauded the athletes for their resilience and success, particularly in competing against participants from top institutions and triumphing over the athletes of the SAI National Centre of Excellence, Alleppey, which is renowned for water sports training in India.

DC inaugurates Himalayan Knowledge Hub in Shopian



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, Monday inaugurated the 'Himalayan Knowledge Hub,' a library cum Reading Room at Bomang, here.

This initiative aims to provide a dedicated space for students, researchers and the local community to access educational resources and engage in knowledge-building activities.

This facility has capacity for 130 students.

Addressing the students, the DC said that the new facility is expected to support academic and cultural development in the region, offering a range of books, study materials, and a conducive environment for learning.

He added that the Himalayan Knowledge Hub aims at enhancing student's preparation for competitive examinations. He said that it will provide a range of resources, includ-

ing study materials, reference books and guide specific to competitive examinations like UPSC, JKPS, NEET, JEE, SSC and other examinations.

While interacting with the students, DC emphasized the students to work hard, pursuing knowledge and building confidence to excel in their pursuits. He said that the initiative is expected to bridge educational gaps, foster academic excellence and contribute to the community's overall intellectual growth.

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Prime Minister National Apprenticeship Mela was Monday conducted at Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Bandipora.

The event witnessed the participation of over 200 aspirants, alongside representatives from various local establishments and units.

Besides, officials from the District Industries Centre Bandipora and

PM National Apprenticeship Mela held at ITI B'pora

Jamkash Vehicleleas Bandipora also attended the event and contributed valuable insights on the growing demand for skills.

The mela aimed to promote skill development and apprenticeship opportunities for the youth, empowering them to gain practical experience in various fields. Sahil Rashid, Superintendent ITI

Bandipora, emphasized the pivotal role of apprenticeships in bridging the skill gap. He noted that these programmes not only help enhance the employability of the youth but also create a pool of skilled professionals that are essential for the growth of local industries.

Sahil further encouraged both young aspirants and industry stake-

holders to take full advantage of the National Apprenticeship Portal to foster a skilled workforce for the future. He assured that ITI Bandipora would continue to support and facilitate apprenticeship opportunities for candidates to ensure they receive high-quality training.

The Manager Jamkash Vehicleleas Bandipora also highlighted

the need for a market-oriented skill set, underscoring how essential it is for today's workforce to adapt to evolving industry demands.

He urged the youth to explore different fields of apprenticeship that can prepare them for emerging job markets.

The event saw a positive response, with more than 100 candidates successfully registering on the portal to begin their apprenticeship journey.