

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication



Congratulations to our Indian contingent for a historic performance at the 10th Asia Pacific Deaf Games 2024 held in Kuala Lumpur! Our talented athletes have brought immense pride to our nation by winning an extraordinary 55 medals, making it India's best ever performance at the games.

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CM Stresses On Cultural Revival, Heritage Preservation In J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a review meeting of Department of Culture here at Civil Secretariat, focusing on revitalizing Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and infrastructure. The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Culture Suresh Gupta, Secretary PWD, and other senior officials. Kashmir-based officers joined via video conferencing. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized the original vision behind the conceptualisation of Tehzeeb Mahal in Srinagar, underscoring its role in promoting local artists. "Tehzeeb Mahal must serve as a space where

artists can showcase their talent while preserving its core theme. Wherever possible, the available space should be expanded to align with this vision," he said. Omar Abdullah also directed the department to revive the restoration of Naagar Nagar at the foothills of Hari Parbat, a project halted a decade ago, to save its deteriorating walls. Speaking on the need for a comprehensive Cultural Policy for J&K, the Chief Minister urged the department to consult stakeholders. "Engage with the stakeholders to formalize a robust Cultural Policy," he added. He also called for immediate filling of departmental vacancies to ensure seamless functioning. Earlier, Principal Secretary Culture presented a detailed overview of the department's functioning, highlighting its initiatives through directorates such as Archives, Archaeology & Museums. **•P-06**

J&K Paid Rs 37,273 Cr As GST Since 2017: GoI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

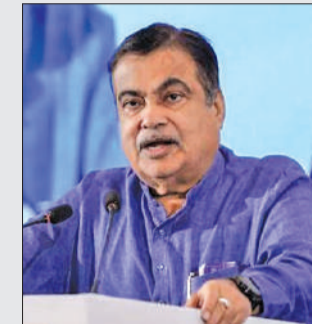
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has paid a whopping amount of Rs 37,273 crore as Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 2017 till November 2024, the government data revealed on Tuesday. During the period, the region has received Rs 59,611 crore in SGST, IGST settlements, and compensation payments. Jammu and Kashmir's annual GST collections have grown steadily, from Rs 2,320 crore in FY 2017-18 (July 2017 to March 2018) to Rs 6,704 crore in FY 2023-24. For the current fiscal year, the collections till November 2024 stand at Rs 4,861 crore. Similarly, the settlements and compensation rose significantly, peaking at Rs 11,171 crore in FY 2021-22, with Rs 5,932 crore disbursed so far in FY 2024-25. "GST collection in India is classified into CGST, SGST, and IGST, depending on whether the supply of goods or services is intrastate or interstate," the government



said, adding that while CGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI), SGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of the respective States. "For inter-state supply and imports, IGST is levied and collected by the Centre, with the collected IGST being apportioned between the Union and the States/UTs on a monthly basis as per the Goods and Services Tax Settlement of Funds Rules, 2017. Provisional settlements are made depending on the un-apportioned IGST," it said. It said that the government has also undertaken several reforms to improve GST compliance, based on the recommendations of the GST Council. "These reforms include measures like the e-way bill, ITC matching, e-invoice for B2C **•P-06**

GST COLLECTION IN INDIA IS CLASSIFIED INTO CGST, SGST, and IGST, depending on whether the supply of goods or services is intrastate or interstate," the government said,

...Srinagar Ring Road Gadkari Assures Mehdi On Compensation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday assured Srinagar Member Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is actively pursuing the issue of compensation disparity regarding the Srinagar Ring Road project with the District Collectors for the timely disbursement of the remaining compensation amount. In a letter to the MP, a copy of which is in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Gadkari has also assured that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Phase-III of the project is in progress. The project is set to be included under the National Highways (O) scheme, subject to the DPR's outcome, he added. **•P-06**

...Cold Nights Return Temp Drops To Season's Lowest In Kashmir

OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: As majority of places across Kashmir continued to witness prolonged dry spell, the mercury has plummeted to the season's lowest at several parts of the Valley with Srinagar, recording the coldest night so far at minus 5.4 degree Celsius. The cold wave has tightened its grip across Kashmir with the majority of the areas recording the season's coldest night including Srinagar, the



summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. As per the details available, Srinagar has recorded the season's lowest temperature at minus 5.4 degree Celsius, marking the coldest night here while Sonamarg was the coldest place at minus 9.7 degree Celsius. Furthermore, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, was the second coldest place, where the mercury settled at minus 9.0 degree Celsius. **•P-06**

J&K Govt Sets Up Ministerial Panel On Reservation Rules

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday accorded sanction to the formation of a three-member cabinet sub-committee to look into grievances against the present reservation policy in the union territory. The sanction for the formation of the sub-committee was given through an order issued by the General Administration Department. According to the order, ministers Sakina Masood Itoo, Satish Sharma and Javed Rana will be the members of the sub committee.

The sub committee will submit its report to the council of ministers headed by chief minister Omar Abdullah. The chief minister last month said the Cabinet sub-committee will be constituted to engage with all stakeholders on the issue of reservation in government jobs. "A lot is being said about reservation. Our youth, especially those belonging to the open category, think they not getting their rights, but there are also those who have been brought into the reservation ambit who do not want any reduction in **•P-06**

GoI Approves Rs 256.46 Crore For Tourism Development In Ladakh

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has sanctioned Rs 256.46 crore for a series of tourism development projects in Ladakh to bolster the region's growing tourism sector. This key announcement was made by Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, during a Lok Sabha session on December 9. According to details obtained, the allocated funds will be directed towards several initiatives under the schemes of Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, and Assistance to Central Agencies, with the aim of promoting infrastructure and enhancing



adventure tourism. Shekhawat said the Ministry of Tourism is playing a crucial role in supporting initiatives to cultivate tourism, including promoting local events and leveraging social media campaigns. "Efforts such as the Incredible India Digital Portal and the launch of the **•P-06**

Over 31,000 Treated For Drug De-Addiction In J&K In Two Years

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has implemented various initiatives to combat the rising drug abuse, particularly heroin addiction, in Jammu and Kashmir, with over 31,000 people treated for drug de-addiction, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Replying to a question raised by MP Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi in the Rajya Sabha about the alarming rise in drug abuse, particularly heroin addiction, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of Social

Justice and Empowerment said, "Under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), the Union Territory has received support for preventive education, awareness generation, rehabilitation centres, and treatment facilities." The Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) has reached over 98 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir, including more than 8 lakh youth and 9 lakh women, the ministry said, adding, "In FY 2023-24, over 31,000 people have been treated for drug de-addiction, and a toll-free helpline, **•P-06**



...With Enhanced Infra Pahalgam Sees Rise In Tourist Footfall This Winter

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PAHALGAM: The famous tourist destination in South Kashmir—Pahalgam has been witnessing a rise in the footfall of tourists at the picturesque place this winter with the officials claiming that lakhs of people have visited Pahalgam this year. Officials said all the efforts are being made to keep the famous tourist destination vibrant during winter too. An official of Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) said that as the infrastructure has been enhanced and there is a good flow of tourists at Pahalgam in winters as well. "All stakeholders did good business this year as there was a good flow of tourists and due to efforts of every department, the footfall has increased in winters and every effort is being made to keep this des-



ination vibrant round the year," he said. "Pahalgam has uninterrupted power supply, water supply and hoteliers have updated heating facilities that has helped to keep Pahalgam alive," he said, adding that on the eve of the new year, different programmes will be held and the main aim is to attract more and more tourists. The official said that adventure activities including skiing and snowboard-

ing will be conducted to attract more and more tourists. He said that as infrastructure has been enhanced, Pahalgam now can host thousands of tourists in winters. He said that a proper mechanism has been put in place to sanitize both Urban and Rural areas of Pahalgam besides that the PDA carries out frequent sanitation drives. He requested the tourists whether domestic, foreign or locals **•P-06**

...As Temp Plummet Denge Cases Decline Across J&K

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: As the mercury plummeted, the dengue cases in Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed a decline as fewer cases are being reported across the Union Territory. As per the details available, 6,822 cases of dengue and one death have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far. An official from State Epide-

AS PER THE details available, 6,822 cases of dengue and one death have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far.

miology said that the majority of the cases (4041) were reported from Jammu district alone. The district was followed by Samba with 701 cases, Kathua with 698 cases and Udhampur with 349 cases, he said. "A total of 192 cases have been reported in Rajouri, 348 in Reasi, 215 in Doda, 77 in Ramban, 78 in Poonch, 26 in Kishtwar, 29 in Kashmir and 43 from other areas," he said. In the year 2022, over 8,000 dengue cases and 18 **•P-06**

INOX SRINAGAR
WEDNESDAY, 11TH DEC.

Movies
SCHEDULE

PUSHPA (THE RULE PART-02)
(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A 16+) 10:45AM, 02:45PM, 06:45PM

PUSHPA (THE RULE PART-02)
(HINDI) (U/A 16+) 12:30PM, 01:40PM, 04:45PM, 05:45PM

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

Call 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets

Wildfire Blockbuster

PUSHPA (THE RULE PART-02)

DC B'la chairs 15th NCORD meeting, focuses on tackling Drug Abuse

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In order to strengthen the district's fight against drug abuse and trafficking, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Tuesday chaired the 15th NCORD meeting, here.

The meeting focused on preventive measures, early identification of drug addicts, and rehabilitation strategies through a collaborative approach involving various departments.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for capacity-building among key stakeholders, including educators, health workers, and ICDS staff. He directed the concerned departments to organize training sessions for staff at the primary, middle, and higher secondary levels. These sessions aim to help frontline workers identify early signs of drug addiction and provide timely interventions.

Minga Sherpa also highlighted the importance of health camps and screening programs to identify cases of substance abuse. These initiatives will be conducted at schools, colleges, and community centers. Awareness campaigns targeting students, parents, and the broader



community were also recommended to educate them about the dangers of drug use and the importance of seeking help.

Community engagement was a key focus, with the DC calling for workshops and awareness drives involving parents and local leaders to foster a collective approach to prevention. He stressed the need to create support networks for addicts and their families, ensuring access to rehabilitation centers for recovery and reintegration into society.

In a bid to further enhance efforts, the DC directed the police to identify drug hotspots within the district and implement targeted interventions in these areas to curb the

spread of drug abuse. Additionally, the DC instructed the Agriculture Officer to identify areas where unsustainable crops are being grown and to provide alternative crops that are more sustainable, offering economic stability while reducing dependence on harmful practices.

A robust monitoring and data collection system was proposed to track identified cases and ensure proper follow-up. The DC emphasized the importance of cross-departmental collaboration, particularly between education, health, social welfare, law enforcement, and agriculture, to effectively implement these measures.

The DC also directed the

District Youth Services and Sports Officer to organize a mega sports event with the theme 'Awareness against Drug Abuse' to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drugs while engaging the youth through sports and community participation.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Additional Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, Additional Superintendent Police Sopore, Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Pattan and Gulmarg, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer and other concerned officers were attended the meeting.

DLSA Sgr, Budgam observe 'World Human Rights Day' at Central Jail

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To raise awareness among jail inmates about human rights and the importance of legal aid in safeguarding these rights, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with DLSA Budgam, under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority, observed 'World Human Rights Day' at Central Jail Srinagar today.

The programme was held under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar and Om Prakash Baghat, Chairman DLSA Budgam/Pr. District & Sessions Judge Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary of DLSA Srinagar.

The event was graced by presence of Nusrat Ali



Hakak, Secretary DLSA Srinagar/Budgam; Shahbaz Hussain Bhat, DySP Central Jail Srinagar, along with officials of Central Jail Srinagar, Officials & Legal Aid Defence Councils of DLSA Srinagar, and para-legal volunteers of DLSA Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, Nusrat Ali Hakak emphasized the signifi-

cance of World Human Rights Day in promoting dignity, equality and justice. She encouraged inmates to understand and exercise their rights within the framework of law and highlighted the vital role of the legal system in protecting those rights.

Shahbaz Hussain Bhat, DySP, Central Jail emphasized the jail inmates about

the significance of human rights and their universal application, even within correctional facilities. He spoke about the importance of upholding dignity, ensuring fairness, and recognizing the fundamental rights of every individual, regardless of their circumstances.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, and Urba Rashid, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, served as resource persons during the event. They conducted informative sessions to educate the inmates on various aspects of human rights, the importance of legal aid, and the mechanisms available to address grievances effectively.

The event underscored the commitment of the DLSA to ensuring access to justice for all, including those in incarceration.

DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of Health Department



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Health Department at the V.C room of DC Office, Ganderbal.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Ganderbal, Dr. B.A. Khan, presented a detailed overview of various health indicators and Centrally Sponsored schemes under the National Health Mission (NHM).

The DC conducted an in-depth review of critical health department indicators, including ABHA ID Generation and Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR), monitoring of District Public Health Laboratories (DIPHL), HB testing for lac-

tating and pregnant mothers, enrollment of senior citizens aged 70 and above under PMJAY.

While reviewing these indicators, the DC emphasized achieving 100 percent ABHA ID and HPR generation and directed continuous monitoring of DIPHL and Common Collection Booths (CCB).

The status of staff strength across various health institutions was also discussed. The CMO was instructed to initiate the process of filling vacant positions promptly.

The DC also set a deadline for completing HB Testing for lactating and pregnant mothers by the end of December. Strict directions were issued to ensure 100 percent enrollment of senior citizens aged 70 and above under PMJAY.

DC Budgam reviews works progress of Sheikh-ul-Alam Skill Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing upgradation and construction works at the Sheikh-ul-Alam Centre for Skill development, Old Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex, Public Facilitation Centre (PFC) and new Public Toilet Complex (PTC) at the DC Office, Budgam.

It is apt to mention that major construction works, renovation and repair work has reached its final stage of finishing works.

The upgradation of the DC office complex will provide improved services and facilities, benefiting both staff and the general public visiting the office.

On the occasion, the DC inspected the Public Facilitation Centre and assessed the infrastructure necessary for facilitating the common public that come in large numbers for their

works at the office.

Later, the DC visited Sheikh ul Alam skill development centre and reviewed the ongoing upgradation works of the centre. This centre shall provide for the required space and infrastructure for skill development and capacity building programs for the youth of Budgam.

During the inspection, the DC directed the concerned agencies for completing the work maintaining high standards of quality, as the centre will serve the dual purpose of a public awareness generating space and also as a Skill Development Training Centre.

Additionally, the centre will be equipped with the necessary facilities to conduct skill development programs, aimed at empowering the youth and promoting employment opportunities in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the significance of infrastructure upgrades for the local community.

DC Kupwara reviews performance of Health department

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In order to ensure smooth and vibrant functioning of Health Institutions in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Monday convened a meeting of all health officers to review the performance of the health sector.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said that the health sector is a crucial sector concerning the interest of masses and stressed upon the officers to work with added zeal and utmost sincerity so that the people do not face any inconvenience in getting uninterrupted service from the Health Institutions across the district.

The DC directed the Chief Medical Officer and Block Medical Officers to hold regular inspections of health institutions in their respective jurisdictions to ensure smooth functioning of these institutions. She also directed them to make a comprehen-

sive plan to provide the schedule for availability of doctors of different branches so that the people get hassle free treatment. She also impressed upon them to ensure availability of the paramedical and other staff in the institutions.

Regarding the punctuality in hospitals, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure punctuality of the doctors and staff in the health facilities across the district and said that anybody showing dereliction in performing their duty will face action under rules.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan presented the health profile of the district through a detailed powerpoint presentation.

On the occasion, it was informed that 307 health institutions including 234 Sub Centres, 33 Primary Health Centres, 31 NTPHCs, 7 Community Health Centres, one each Associated District Hospital and District Tuberculosis Centre are functioning across the district to cater the

needs of the population.

Highlighting the performance of the health institutions, he informed that 1195701 patients under OPD and 80380 under IPD were attended during the current financial year from April to November 2024. Besides, 5882 institutional deliveries, 33401 USG, 29357 ECG, 2980 Dialysis and 4478 CT scans have also been done during the same period. He also informed that 9847 new pregnant women have been registered for ANC across 10 medical blocks of the district.

During the meeting, the DC also took a comprehensive review of various centrally sponsored schemes which include AB-PMJAY, Ayushman Bharat/JK Sehat, ABHA ID, JSY, Clinical Establishment, NCD Screening, NPCDCS and other schemes. She stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure cent percent coverage of these schemes among the targeted population so that people are benefitted well in time.

Fake ITC's STD conducts inspections, enforcement drives across Jammu division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: State Taxes Department (STD) has taken strict measures to curb the menace of fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) by conducting inspections and enforcement drives across several districts of Jammu division.

The STD carried out these drives under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P K Bhat and under the supervision of Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra.

The teams specifically targeted dealers who were found engaged in the recycling of B2C invoices into B2B invoices, thereby passing on ITC to other dealers and contractors. The ITC was being used to settle GST output tax instead of being paid in cash. The teams visited various business premises to investigate the malpractices.

The department urged the dealers to follow the fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or practices involving fake ITC.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Fresh No.72sr2)

eNIT No.77 of 2024-25/7245-53/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 09-12-2024

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
01	Upgradation of SDM Office Uri.(5th call)	1.00	200/-	2000/-	15 days	14.12.2024	DEE	Untied Grants

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Baramulla
Position of AAA/TS: Accorded/Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09.12.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.12.2024 from (10:00 AM) to 14.12.2024 (02:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	09.12.2024 from (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	14.12.2024 (02:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14.12.2024 (03:00PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan debited under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri, (tender receiving authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/ pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful (1st lowest) bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3 (a) Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debaring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

3. (c) T he Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:

- (i) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- (ii) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
- (iii) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- (iv) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender receiving authority).

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

No.:2024-25/7245-53
Dated: 09-12-2024

DIPK-9272-24
DT: 10/12/2024

Sd/= (Er. FayazKumar) Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Uri.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MACHINERY DIVISION SRINAGAR
MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2024-25/79
Date	10.12.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway/State/central Government organization for the below mentioned work :-

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rupees)	Bid Security/EMD in (In Rupees)	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5
SITC & ITC (as the case may be) of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG Set / Horizontal pumping unit including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at bore well No.13 under implementation of National Mission on Saffron.	200.00	2366746.00	47334.00	Approved under NMS
SITC & ITC (as the case may be) of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG Set / Horizontal pumping unit including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at bore well No.104 under implementation of National Mission on Saffron.	200.00	2820238.00	56404.00	Approved under NMS

The bidding 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 as per schedule of dates given below :-

01	Publish date	10.12.2024(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	10.12.2024(18:30hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	10.12.2024(18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	20.12.2024(18:55hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	21.12.2024(14:00hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/ 4868-72
Date: 10.12.2024

DIPK-9359-24
DT: 10/12/2024

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

Providing Water, Power To Rohingyas Our Duty Until They Are In J&K: Dr. Farooq

AGENCIES

JAMMU- National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said it is responsibility of the Jammu and Kashmir government to provide basic amenities like water and electricity to Rohingyas residing in the region.

"The Government of India brought the refugees here. We did not bring them here, and as long as they are here, it is our duty to provide them with water and electricity. This is our responsibility", Abdullah told reporters during a visit to Kathua.

His remarks come a day after the BJP termed the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu city a major "political conspiracy" and demanded a CBI probe to identify those involved in facilitating it.

Hitting out at the National Conference (NC) government over remarks on granting water and power connections to them in Jammu, the BJP had also alleged it was done to protect them as they belong to a particular community.

According to government data, more than 13,700 foreigners, most of them Rohingyas (illegal immigrants from Myanmar) and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in

Jammu and other districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Their population increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016.

In March 2021, police found over 270 Rohingyas, including women and children, living illegally in the Jammu city during a veri-



fication drive and lodged them at a holding centre inside the Kathua sub-jail. Abdullah also batted strongly for restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir, and said there will be only one power centre in J-K.

"The double-engine government will not work here. Statehood will be restored. There will be only one power centre in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Asked about atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, Abdullah criticised the central government, saying "the Government of India should look into this. It is

an RSS-led government. We need to pay attention to this issue."

On the question of restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Abdullah reaffirmed, "statehood will be restored. It is the promise of the Government of India and has

also been pledged before the Supreme Court. Just as their election promises were fulfilled, the Supreme Court commitment will also honoured, and statehood will return."

Abdullah addressed the issue of power cuts in the region, attributing them to a lack of rainfall and snowfall. "We are trying to minimise power cuts. There is a shortage of electricity because there has been no snowfall or rain. Efforts are being made to improve the power supply," he said.

Asked about PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's recent statements on Hindutava,

Abdullah said, "I do not need to comment on her statements."

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister also spoke about the concerns regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). "Questions about EVMs have not arisen today; they have been raised ever since these machines were introduced. The government must ensure that people trust these machines," he said.

Highlighting unemployment as the biggest issue in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said "There are many educated boys and girls who remain unemployed. Numerous vacancies exist, but they have not been filled. The government must focus on these issues so that our youth can find work."

Abdullah also criticised the condition of healthcare and educational infrastructure in the region, calling it "poor" and in need of urgent improvement.

Warning about environmental degradation, Abdullah said, "If our forests are not preserved, how will we get rain and snow? Crops are failing in many areas due to a lack of water. Protecting the environment and forests is not just the government's responsibility but also the people's duty. We must all work together to save nature."

J&K Govt Allocates Districts to Ministers for Enhanced Governance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a bid to strengthen governance and ensure effective coordination across the state, the Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department issued Government Order No. 2057-JK(GAD) of 2024, allocating specific districts to various Hon'ble Ministers. This move aims to enhance the implementation of developmental programs, improve monitoring of public services, and address district-specific issues efficiently.

The district allocations are as follows: Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister will look after Jammu, Poonch, Anantnag, and Shopian. Similarly, Sakeena Masood Ito, Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare will look after Kupwara, Srinagar, Kathua, and Samba. Likewise, Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecol-

ogy & Environment, and Tribal Affairs will handle the charge of Doda, Rajouri, Pulwama, and Baramulla.

Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives, and Elections will look after Ganderbal, Budgam, Kishtwar, and Ramban.

Similarly, Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, and other portfolios has been given the charge of Reasi, Udhampur, Kulgam, and Bandipora.

According to the Associated News Bureau (ANB), the order, signed by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Sanjeev Verma, IAS, underscores the government's focus on decentralized governance. The allocated ministers are expected to coordinate with local authorities to ensure smooth delivery of public services and monitor developmental projects in their respective districts.

Amir Bhat becomes Kashmir's first national para shooting champion

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

ANANTNAG: Amir Ahmad Bhat, a 30-year-old Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Indian Army, has made history as he became the first Kashmiri national champion in para shooting.

Hailing from Damhal village in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, Amir won two gold medals among five at the 5th Para Shooting Championship held in Pune, Maharashtra, in November.

He is also the first para shooter in India to qualify for the Paralympics in less than two years and represented India in the P3-25m Pistol Mixed event held at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris this year.

Bhat said, "In the 5th National Para Shooting Championship last month, I won a total of five medals. In the 10m Air Pistol event, I secured a gold medal, while in the 10m Air Pistol Standard, I earned an indi-

vidual bronze and a team silver. In the 25m Sports Pistol event, I won individual gold, becoming the national champion, along with a team silver."

Amir, who began his shooting career in 2022, credits his time in the Indian Army for developing his skills. "When I joined the Army, we were trained in basic shooting. My performance was consistently excellent, and I eventually became a sniper, participating in several events," he said.

His confidence in his abilities encouraged him to take up shooting as a serious pursuit. "Shooting has vast potential as a sport, even more than cricket, on a global scale," he said.

Looking ahead, Amir aspires to represent India and the Indian Army on the world stage. "I am proud to bring these achievements to my country and my organisation," he added—(KNO)

NEET PG Admissions

Doctors at SKIMS Bemina protest against reducing OM quota

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The doctors from SKIMS Medical College Bemina on Tuesday staged a protest against the reduction in the Open Merit (OM) quota in NEET PG admissions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Doctors expressed their concern over the drastic reduction in open merit seats for postgraduate medical courses. The allocation has dropped from 75% in 2019 to just 38.5% in 2024, leaving limited opportunities for merit-based candidates after 50% of the seats are allocated to the All-India Quota.

They questioned the rationale behind extensive reservations, especially in specialized branches, arguing that it compromises the production of skilled doctors and undermines healthcare quality. "All students access the same resources during MBBS. Why should extensive reservations apply to NEET PG specialty courses?" one of the protesting doctors asked.

The protesters criticized Rule 17 of the J&K Reservation Rules (2004-2005), describing it as unfair to open merit candidates. They pointed out that when a reserved category candidate upgrades to a higher specialty, the vacated seat is reassigned to another reserved candidate rather than to an open merit candidate. This, they argue, disproportionately benefits reserved candidates.

The doctors warned that the reservation system is already harming healthcare standards, with less qualified individuals securing seats and promotions. They emphasized the need to prioritize merit to ensure a competent healthcare workforce.

Medical professionals have voiced concerns over the impact of reservation-based selections on the quality of healthcare and the reputation of medical institutions. They emphasized that healthcare should remain uncompromised, urging that leadership roles in the sector should be occupied by competent doctors selected on merit.

The doctors highlighted the issue of candidates, who secure undergraduate medical seats through reservation but fail to qualify for postgraduate seats on open merit. They suggested that such candidates should be required to serve as medical officers in underserved areas, utilizing their reservation benefits for the greater good.

Calling for a review of the reservation policy, the professionals stressed that only truly deserving candidates should benefit from these schemes. They appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Sakina Ito to address their grievances promptly and implement reforms to ensure fairness and uphold meritocracy in medical admissions.—(KNO)

RESERVATION RULES

Govt Forms Cabinet Sub Committee To Hear Grievances of Youth

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The National Conference-led government Tuesday constituted a three-member Cabinet Sub-Committee (CSC) to hear the grievances of youth regarding reservation rules. According to the Associated News Bureau (ANB), headed by Social Welfare Minister Sakina Masood Ito, the CSC will have Minister for Public Health Engineering, Javed Rana and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma as members. The committee, as per the reports will look into complaints from aspirants for different posts regarding the reservation rules and start a process of consultation with the stakeholders. The Social Welfare Department will act as a nodal department to support the sub-committee that then subsequently submit the report to the council of ministers. (ANB)

NOTICE

I, MAMATA DEVI wife of JC-289696M Nb Sub (Cik SD) Vishwanath Kumar Sahni presently residing at Vill - Lakrad Madhurapur, PO - Rampur Dyal, Teh & Distt - Muzaffarpur, State - Bihar have changed my name from MAMATA DEVI to KUMARI MAMTA vide Affidavit dated 07-12-2024 before Notary/Magistrate.

KUMARI MAMTA
W/o Vishwanath Kumar Sahni

Satish Sharma declares the 68th National School Games 2024-25 closed

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, FCS&CA and Transport, Satish Sharma, Tuesday declared the 68th National School Games in four sports disciplines of Judo, Fencing, Wushu and Football closed in a grand valedictory ceremony at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

A total of around 4000 athletes and officials drawn from 44 state/UT/organisation teams across the country took part in these prestigious games, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the aegis of School Games Federation of India (SGFI).

While addressing a large gathering of participants, the Sports Minister extended gratitude to them for showing sporting spirit and discipline during this month long sporting extravaganza, helping its smooth and successful conclusion.

Emphasising Government's commitment towards promoting genuine sports talent while ensuring that no individual or group would be allowed to



politicize sports, the Sports Minister assured that only deserving athletes would be supported and those who have misused sports bodies for personal gain would be shown the door.

Satish Sharma asserted, "let sports be the domain of the sportspersons only, adding only sportspersons should run the sports associations and organisations to yield better results, thus see J&K carving a space on India's sports map and budding athletes blossoming at the national scene".

Extending gratitude to the parents, coaches and sports teachers for their unwavering support and encouragement of young athletes, the Minister also highlighted the broader benefits of sports, stating

that it is essential in shaping well-rounded individuals, keeping the youth engaged and diverting them from the sedentary lifestyles.

Secretary YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez, while speaking on the occasion, stressed the role of the department in nurturing the sports talent at the grass-root level and instilling values of leadership, discipline and perseverance.

He also congratulated the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, for successful completion of the 68th National School Games in Judo. He expressed confidence that the remaining three national championships would also be successfully organised.

The glittering closing

ceremony commenced with a warm welcome address by the Director General of YS&S, Rajinder Singh Tara. He spoke about the significance of such events, not only for promoting sports but also for fostering cultural exchange, brotherhood, and religious harmony among children.

Highlighting the magnitude of the event, Tara informed that over 4,000 participants competed across various sports disciplines during the games, emphasising J&K's commitment towards nurturing budding athletes and promoting sports in every nook and corner of the Union Territory.

The ceremony also witnessed an enthralling performance by famous Dogri singer Sonali Dogra.

Meanwhile, Jharkhand clinched gold, Haryana bagged silver and Manipur claimed the bronze medal while Anushka Kumari of Jharkhand was declared as the Best Player in the U-17 Girls Football Championship.

The Sports Minister, along with other dignitaries, distributed medals/trophies among the winners of Girls U-17 Girls Football Championship.

Satish Sharma visits NABARD J&K Regional Office

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, Tuesday visited the Jammu & Kashmir Regional Office of NABARD.

Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD, Bhalamudi Sridhar; Deputy General Manager Urmil Lata; General Manager, Vikas Mittal and other officers were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Minister was apprised of the diverse initiatives being undertaken by NABARD to foster development of Jammu & Kash-

mir and uplift the lives of rural communities.

The Minister also took detailed review of interventions of NABARD in terms of their sustainability and meeting the end objectives.

The Minister expressed keen interest in NABARD's initiatives and lauded its efforts in transforming the socio-economic fabric of rural J&K. He emphasized the need for scaling up interventions to ensure last-mile connectivity and advised NABARD to focus on outcome-based implementation of programs.

Satish Sharma also assured full support from the Government in NABARD's endeavours to contribute to the holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir.

JKSSB Set To Advertise 304 Vacancies in Agri Dept

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for job seekers in Jammu and Kashmir, the Agriculture Department is set to advertise 304 vacancies through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), sources said, adding, the move is expected to bolster the department's workforce and contribute to the region's agricultural development.

Official sources said that the upcoming vacancies will likely cover multiple roles in the department, catering to individuals with diverse qualifications and skill sets. While the official details of the positions and their eligibility criteria are yet to be announced, the notifi-

cation is expected to provide clarity on the application process, educational qualifications, and other requirements.

This recruitment drive is anticipated to create a buzz among job aspirants, especially those seeking government jobs in the agriculture sector. The initiative aligns with the government's focus on strengthening agriculture, which remains a backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

The recruitment will be conducted under the aegis of the JKSSB, ensuring a transparent and merit-based process. Interested candidates are advised to stay updated through the official JKSSB website and notifications to ensure they don't miss the opportunity. (ANB)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, AWANTIPORA
e-mail : phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com / Ph :01933-247152

e-NIT No.:-28/PHA of 2024-25 [e-Tendering]

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders in Double cover system are invited on Percentage Basis from Registered Workshop Holders whose workshops/Mechanical contractors are registered in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Lac)	Cost of TD (in Rs)	EMD	Time of Completion	Class of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Repairing / replacement of transmission system and suspension system of departmental tanker bearing registration no JK09-4839 (Eicher Make) of PHE, Division Awantipora (under tanker service)	1.285 lacs	200/-	2% of Estimated cost	10 days	Registered Workshop Holders/ Mechanical contractors
02	Repairing / replacement of transmission system and suspension system of departmental tanker bearing registration no JK01K - 9454 (Eicher Make) of PHE, Division Awantipora (Under Tanker Service)	1.093 lacs	200/-	2% of Estimated cost	10 days	Registered Workshop Holders/ Mechanical contractors

(In continuation to this office eNIT No:25 of 2024-25 Dated: 03-12-2024 endorsed vide No: 3087-99 Dated: 03-12-2024, the tender has been re-rendered as eNIT : 28/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 09-12-2024, due to poor response. Contractor who already have submitted their bids in eNIT 25, can upload the same treasury Fee Challan here.)
The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	10	12	2024	11:30AM
2	Download start date	10	12	2024	11:30 AM
3	Bid submission start date	10	12	2024	11:30 AM
4	Bid submission end date	15	12	2024	12:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	16	12	2024	01:00 PM

- ▶ Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
- ▶ To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- ▶ The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- ▶ Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4) of the above table and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Awantipora (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)
- ▶ Bid performance security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora
- ▶ Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in Double Cover containing documents as under:
 - i) Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan / Government Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora (Tender Inviting Authority)
 - ii) Scanned copy of CDR/FDR of 2% value of tender cost.
 - iii) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
 - iv) Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.
 - v) Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.
- ▶ All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No.25-double.

No. PHA/AWP/3182-93
Dated:- 10-12-2024

Executive Engineer
A.A.O Jal Shakti Department
PHE Division Awantipora

DIPK-9337-24
DT: 10/12/2024

A.E.E

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Crackdown On Drug Smugglers

The crackdown on the narcotics smugglers has picked up speed and every day we hear of about half a dozen private properties being attached by the police department. It is a great feeling to have the drug smugglers behind the bars and their ill-gotten wealth being seized. This crackdown of this intensity should have started about a decade ago. If this crackdown had started about a decade ago then we would have been able to prevent thousands of youth from falling in the tentacles of drug abuse. The drugs usage is common to all three regions of South, central and north Kashmir but the main supply line of drugs was always happening from the south Kashmir region. The dry marshy land here provides a safe ground for marijuana cultivation. From south Kashmir marijuana and other drugs would flow to the rest of north India and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Many people became overnight rich due to acting as a mule for this supply chain of drugs. This ill-gotten wealth created a new elite class in south Kashmir which wanted everything now and here. Big fat weddings, foreign new year trips, lavish cars, frequent visits to Thailand and what not. As they say crime breeds another crime so the drugs abuse led to many other associated problems in the society from which it might take another thirty years minimum to recover. Drugs are the real cancer. A society where drug abuse breeds and sustains for a longer period of time is a society bound for doom. Drug abuse is mainly prevalent in the youth who ideally are bread earners in a society and when a supposed bread earner becomes a dependent the whole family structure goes for a toss. Kashmir needs more rehabilitation centres desperately and needs them now. There are still thousands of youth who can be motivated to throw off this bad habit, youth who are still in the initial stages of drug abuse. There are still dreams in their eyes, they want to have a career, take care of their parents, marry off, have children and be a bread earner for the whole family. We need counselors who can bring these youth back on the right path. No mercy for those who pushed thousands of youth into drug abuse.

4500 Years Ago India Taught The World International Trade



SHUBHAM KEWALIYA

“India Maritime Heritage Conclave organized by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)”

In today's era, foreign trade constitutes an important attribute that paves the way for the progress of any nation. The basis of India's growing economy is also foreign trade. Notably, 95% of India's foreign trade is conducted through sea route. Although the practice of conducting business across the sea is very ancient, Indians were the first to introduce successful companies to the world through the sea route around 4500 years ago.

The reason for the rise of India's ancient Saraswati-Indus civilization was also international trade which was mostly done via sea route. Although the script of that civilization has not been deciphered yet, archaeological evidence provides evidence of trade through sea routes in the ancient civilization of India.

The archaeological site of Lothal, located in the Ahmedabad district of present-day Gujarat, was the main center of international trade through sea. This archaeological site was discovered and excavated by S. R. Rao of the Archaeological Survey of India. From Lothal we have recovered the remains of a huge dockyard which was built using baked bricks. Its size is 216x36 meters. It was connected to the sea through a canal. This dock, built 4500 years ago, is an example of the advanced engineering of our ancestors. From the excavations conducted inside this dock, we have found five anchor stones. This evidence proves that ships were anchored inside this dock. A 41-foot-wide inlet was made in



this dock for the ships to enter. From its width, it can be estimated that huge ships were built in the Saraswati-Indus civilization. S.R. Rao thinks that about 60 tons of goods were loaded on a ship and sent to Mesopotamia via the Persian Gulf. Apart from Lothal, maritime trade was also carried out via Kuntasi, Padri, Nageshwar, Bag-sara, Nagwara, Desalpur etc.

There is also clear evidence of what type of ships were built by the people living on the banks of the Saraswati and Indus rivers around 4500 years ago and what was their shape. A seal has been recovered from the excavation of Mohenjodaro on which we can observe an engraving of a ship. An interesting feature can be observed in this ship which is the provision of a cabin for the sailors to stay on it. Along with this, we can also observe the engraving of two birds on it. Scholars think that the birds were probably used to work out the directions in the middle of the ocean. A toy boat made of baked clay has

been found in Kot Diji, an archaeological site of the Saraswati Indus Civilization. This boat has been designed in the form of a bull. Clay statues of humans have also been made inside the boat. This boat is more than 4500 years old, which indicates that the construction of ships had begun around that time.

Another significant find constitute the artifacts which were exchanged through maritime trade. The archaeological remains obtained from excavations show that cotton clothes were exported by the people of the Saraswati Indus Civilization. We have recovered a bundle of cotton cloth from Umma, an ancient city of the Sumerian civilization, which bears the seal of the Saraswati Indus Civilization. Beads made of semi-precious stones were also exported from India during that period. Combs made of ivory found from the archaeological site of Ur were also exported from India. A special type of pottery named Reserved Slip Ware has also

been found in excavations at Lothal and Mohenjodaro. It is believed that these pots were imported from the archaeological site of Ur. A seal from the Persian Gulf found at Lothal is another example of bilateral trade.

The above archaeological evidence provides irrefutable evidence that 4500 years ago, based on their advanced knowledge, ancestors of present-day Indians used to conduct international trade through maritime routes with different ancient civilizations across the world.

There is a dire need to further establish this rich maritime heritage of India on the world stage. The first Indian Maritime Heritage Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in New Delhi and this shall serve as a stepping stone on the maritime heritage of India.

Author is Assistant Professor (History), Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi

Healing The Invisible Wounds



SYED MAJID GILANI

From the beginning, Haya's indifference was apparent. She never offered Saif the love and warmth he yearned for. While she was not openly cruel, her emotional distance was unmistakable. She kept him at arm's length, never truly connecting with him or showing affection. Her coldness created a subtle yet undeniable barrier, signaling the need to withdraw. Still, Saif stayed, driven by love and hope. His heart refused to accept the painful truth: Haya had already made up her mind.

Haya's indifferent and emotionless demeanor had always subtly suggested that she had secretly craved a detachment from Saif right from the start. Despite her deliberate attempts to provoke him, she failed to push Saif into seeking a divorce. Her subtle tactics, designed to manipulate him, ultimately proved ineffective. Meanwhile, she secretly and silently plotted against him, orchestrating nefarious games in the shadows. Yet, even this failed to achieve her desired outcome.

Saif loved Haya deeply, convinced that love could overcome any obstacle. With patience and understanding, he endured her coldness, hoping she would one day see him for who he truly was and reciprocate his love. However, as the years went by, the weight of her indifference became increasingly unbearable. Her emotional detachment transformed into a subtle yet devastating form of cruelty that Saif could no longer disregard. Despite this, he persisted in



believing that his love would ultimately prevail, softening her heart over time.

Despite Haya's behavior, Saif continued to pour his heart into the relationship. He poured his heart and soul into it, dedicating his time, energy, and love to a partnership that was already disintegrating. Every effort he made, every small gesture of kindness, was met with indifference or rejection. Saif always clung to the hope that if he held on a little longer, if he loved her enough, their marriage could be salvaged. However, deep down, he knew the truth: their relationship was beyond repair. Haya had made her decision long ago and had already begun to emotionally and physically distance herself, leaving Saif to navigate a marriage that had become a mere facade.

Haya's coldness was more than just a lack of affection—it was a deliberate and consistent emotional estrangement that persisted throughout their marriage. Saif was kept at an emotional distance, and the bedroom he had lovingly rede-

signed for her, with the hope of creating a warm and inviting sanctuary, became a poignant reminder of his profound isolation. He had poured his soul into creating a sanctuary, but she had transformed it into a cold, empty room where he was never truly welcomed.

Haya's emotional neglect served as a constant reminder that no matter how much Saif gave, he would never receive anything in return. Her indifference had become a self-perpetuating cycle, leaving Saif feeling drained and unfulfilled.

As time passed, Saif was forced to confront the painful reality. His love, once a bond between them, had become a weight that was slowly crushing him. No matter how much affection he showed, it could not fill the chasm Haya had created in their relationship. The sacrifices he made only seemed to drive them further apart, and his hope, love, and tolerance, which had kept the marriage intact for so long, were slowly losing their potency. The relationship was disintegrating, piece by piece.

Haya's indifference, which Saif had endured for so long, had drained him emotionally, and the truth he had long refused to accept became impossible to ignore: he had been clinging to a relationship that had long since lost its meaning.

The invisible wounds and bruises of Saif's sufferings deepened with each passing day, his heart heavy with the weight of his unrequited love. His love for Haya had transformed into a silent torment, a constant ache that consumed him from within. Yet, in the quiet moments of his pain, a subtle shift occurred. Saif began to realize that remaining in a relationship where his love was unreciprocated was no longer a testament to his loyalty, but a path that would inevitably lead to his emotional devastation. The marriage, which he had sustained through sheer determination and willpower, had lost its essence.

For the first time, Saif grasped the realization that healing could only commence when he relinquished

his attachment. This insight did not arrive easily, nor did it occur suddenly. Memories of rare happier moments and dreams of growing old together still lingered, haunting him like a ghost. Haya had already charted her course.

Saif couldn't help but think that if she had simply communicated her desire for separation openly and honestly, without subjecting him to years of silent torment and emotional anguish, she might have spared herself, not to mention preserving Saif's pure-hearted innocence.

Although the past, with its accumulated pain, would forever be etched in Saif's story, he would rise above it, embarking on a journey of healing, though uncertain, whether the wounds and bruises would ever fully heal, or if he would carry them with him forever.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Writer and serves as a GST Inspector for the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

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

Santosh Trophy: Turning The Tables

SALMAN ASHRAF MIR

J&K Santosh Trophy team sees a resurgence after a period of almost a decade as the team qualified for the second round after 9 years under the tutelage of valley legend Coach Mehraj Ud Din Wadoo.

Certain aspects lead to the much-awaited qualification which has eluded the team for a long time. The masterstroke was the appointment of Coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo who brought his vast experience of playing and coaching career at the highest level in the country. An AFC Pro License qualified coach who has been working various coaching roles in ISL clubs and I league clubs and abroad. He was assisted by AFC A License Coach Satpal Singh Kala a legendary figure who has been in the coaching circles for the last 30 years. Alongside these two handling the medical side of the team was internationally experienced physiotherapist Dr Burhan Wani who spent many years with various junior Indian national teams.

The appointment of a professional and competent staff resulted in a very transparent selection that was supported by J&K Sports Council who took the responsibility of this team. The team was selected on merit with a balance of experience and young talent that finally looked like a squad that could deliver.

The team then had a proper preparation camp of three weeks first in Srinagar and then in Jammu which involved strength sessions tactical and technical work and practice games to test the squad to its maximum potential and enhance the ability of the players.

With a solid camp under their belt, the team looked positive in every aspect as they left for Amristar for the campaign. Their pool featured other 3 teams of Punjab Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. The first game was against the arch nemesis and potential favourites Punjab who are



one of the most successful teams in Santosh trophy history with 8 titles. The game against Punjab showed the tactical organization and shrewd setup of the team courtesy of Coach Wadoo as the J&K boys kept Punjab at bay and emerged victorious with a 1-0 win over the mighty Punjab team.

In the second and third games, J&K ran through their opponents

Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh with empathic wins which showed the attacking prowess of this team as Coach Wadoo gave a chance to many youngsters who showcased their ability on the national stage.

With three wins out of the three the team qualified for the much eluded final round. It was also refreshing to see a J&K team with

a new take of keeping the foot on the pedestal and taking an attacking and progressive approach instead of the usual defensive and backfoot approach.

This campaign has shown us that if professional staff is handed over to football teams with infrastructural support and resources provided by the governing bodies we can expect

better results. Work can be done in a systematic way to have significant progress in the footballing scenario of J&K where there is a lot to be desired still.

(The author is a football management professional who has been working in football in various parts of the country)

Salary Revision - The Unending Delay

DR MUDASIR AHMAD GORI

The academic arrangement candidates in Jammu and Kashmir are caught in a web of uncertainty and chaos regarding the long-awaited salary revision. Despite claims of approval from the Minister of Education, the implementation of the order remains in limbo.

This has led to widespread anxiety, frustration, and speculation among those whose livelihoods depend on this clarity. The situation demands an urgent explanation from the authorities to clear the air of confusion and rumors.

It is important to acknowledge that Academic arrangement candidates have been contributing tirelessly to the education sector, ensuring uninterrupted teaching in colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

However, their compensation remains a matter of contention. Reports suggest that the order for a salary increase has been approved, yet it has not been implemented, leaving the candidates wondering.

Such a situation raises serious questions about administrative accountability. If the salary hike order has indeed been sanctioned, what is preventing its implementation? Is it bureaucratic red tape, a lack of funds, or mere negligence? If the order has been approved then who is responsible for the delay? What is stopping the officials from implementing the orders? What are its limitations? Is the Finance Section or the Directorate of Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir holding back the process? Is the Nodal Principal of the respective divisions responsible for the bottleneck? All of these questions may be answered publicly to avoid any discrepancy. Let there be a state of transparency.

One may reach to a concession that there is probably the issue of lack of communication and transparency. Despite the supposed approval by the Minister of Education, the concerned authorities have not provided a definitive timeline or explanation for the delay. The finance section and the nodal principals of the respective divisions seem to be passing the buck, leaving academic arrangement candidates



in a state of limbo.

The delay has had a profound impact on the mental well-being of academic arrangement candidates. Many of them rely solely on this income to support their families. The ambiguity surrounding their salary revision not only affects their financial stability but also their morale. Instead of focusing on their professional responsibilities, they are forced to grapple with anxiety and uncertainty.

The concerned authorities must clear the air of rumors regarding the following things:

- Clarify the Current Status: Provide a clear statement on

whether the salary revision has been approved and, if so, what is causing the delay.

- Identify the Responsible Entity: Pinpoint the department or individual accountable for the hold-up—be it the Finance Section or Directorate of Colleges or the Nodal Principals of both divisions.
- Set a Timeline: Ensure that a timeline for implementation is communicated to the candidates to alleviate their fears.
- Ensure Transparency: The authorities should publish official updates to curb the spread of rumors.

The education sector in Jammu and Kashmir cannot thrive without the dedication of its academic arrangement candidates. It is the responsibility of the Directorate of Colleges, the Finance Department, and the Nodal Principals to resolve this issue swiftly and transparently. The delay not only undermines the candidates but also tarnishes the credibility of the administrative system.

It is to be understood that the lingering uncertainty surrounding salary revisions for academic arrangement candidates is unacceptable. The concerned authorities must act decisively to clear the air, address the discrepancy, and

implement the order without further delay. Only then can the academic arrangement candidates of Jammu and Kashmir live peacefully and continue to serve the education sector with the dedication it deserves.

As a part of the Academic Arrangement Community, I assume it is my moral responsibility and duty to request as well as urge the authorities to prioritize this matter and ensure that justice is served. Time is of the essence, and every delay adds to the frustration of those who have given their all to the cause of education. May the good sense prevail?

(The author can be mailed at mudasirgori87@gmail.com)

Can Eating 5 Mushrooms A Day Help Combat Heart Diseases And Cancer?

Mushrooms are emerging as a nutritional powerhouse in the fight against life-threatening diseases since they are low in calories yet rich in essential vitamins and minerals. Recent researches highlight that consuming just five small mushrooms daily can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, and even dementia, thanks to two potent antioxidants; ergothioneine and glutathione, which are found abundantly in mushrooms. These antioxidants are proven to neutralise harmful free radicals that contribute to severe illnesses. According to Robert Beelman, director at the Penn State Centre for Plant and Mushroom Products for Health, mushrooms are the richest dietary source of these antioxidants, making them an essential addition to a healthy diet.



How mushrooms can help combat heart disease and cancer

The ability of mushrooms to fight heart disease and cancer lies in their nutritional profile. The antioxidants ergothioneine and glutathione reduce oxidative stress by neutralising free radicals,

which are recognised for harming cells and trigger chronic diseases. Moreover, mushrooms are rich in vitamins, including B-complex, and minerals such as seleni-

um and potassium that promote heart health. They also promote improved cholesterol levels due to their high fibre and low-calorie content. Mushrooms are crucial

for cancer prevention as they boost the immune system and reduce inflammation, potentially decreasing the risk of tumour development. This makes them not

only a superfood but also a shield against two of the most common health issues worldwide; cancer and heart conditions.

Types of mushrooms in

India and their health benefits
India boasts a wide variety of edible mushrooms like button, oyster, and shiitake mushrooms readily available, adding these nutrient-dense foods to your meals is easy and affordable and each mushroom comes with their unique benefits.

1. Button mushroom
Button mushrooms are the most popular variety in India, they are high in B vitamins, vitamin D, selenium, and antioxidants. They promote immune function, cardiovascular health, and energy production.

2. Oyster mushroom
Known for their smooth texture, these mushrooms are low in calories and rich in nutrients such as niacin, folate, and vitamin C. They promote healthy cholesterol levels and offer ergothioneine, which is beneficial for cellular repair.

3. Shiitake mushroom
These tasty mushrooms are rich in fibre, vitamins, and anti-inflammatory benefits, making them great for immune and digestive health.

4. Cordyceps mushroom
Revered in traditional medicine, cordyceps enhance endurance and respiratory function, rendering them a favoured option for athletes.

5. Lion's Mane mushroom
Renowned for its cognitive-enhancing benefits, this mushroom supports brain health and nerve regeneration, in addition to promoting skin renewal.

6. Reishi mushroom
Often referred to as the "mushroom of immortality," reishi mushrooms boost immune function and alleviate stress, potentially benefiting heart health.

7. Turkey Tail mushroom
This variety is rich in antioxidants and prebiotics, promoting gut health and possibly assisting in cancer prevention.

8. Chaga mushroom
Chaga is recognised for its anti-inflammatory benefits, helping in the fight against oxidative stress and boosting immunity.

Indians have much to gain by adding mushrooms to their daily meals. Packed with antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, they tackle several health issues, including heart disease and cancer. By eating only five tiny mushrooms daily, you can protect your well-being and support your body in combating oxidative stress. Start your path to improved health by incorporating this adaptable and tasty superfood into your diet today.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CM Stresses On

Libraries and Research, and the Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

The progress on various key projects was reviewed, including the restoration of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and archival repositories.

The meeting was informed about the digitization of archival records which has been fully completed in Jammu and is 50% complete in Srinagar, with six lakh records being shifted to a new facility near Kala Kendra at a cost of Rs 7.2 crore.

The meeting also discussed the 100 days target for cultural and heritage development in Jammu and Srinagar.

Key initiatives include the operationalization of a new archival repository, modernization of the SRS Library under the Smart City Project, restoration of 16 heritage sites, and the completion of several library and cultural infrastructure projects.

A special presentation on Tehzeeb Mahal gave details of its design, architectural heritage revival, and cultural elements, further reinforcing the government's commitment to preserving and promoting J&K's rich legacy.

J&K Paid Rs

suppliers, Aadhaar authentication for registration, and targeted actions against non-filers and risky taxpayers, using artificial intelligence and machine-based analytics," it added—(KNO)

Gadkari Assures

Regarding the access point at Patwa Road Budgam (at Ch. 22.321), the minister said, "I would like to inform you that an underpass without a slip road has been provisioned in the CA. The feasibility for constructing access from the crossroad to the Ring Road at Ch. 22.321 is being explored based on the availability of ROW, utilities shifting requirements, etc."

Gadkari also addressed specific issues related to access points and underpasses, including feasibility studies for new access points at Patwa Road Budgam. He said the government is also making progress on the construction of a footpath and a box culvert at Lalgam, Panzan—(KNO)

Temp Drops To

Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a low of minus 8.4 degree Celsius while Shopian in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 8.5 degree Celsius.

Also, Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded minus 4.5 degree Celsius. Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.0 degree Celsius.

Furthermore, the weatherman here has predicted no major weather activity till December 20th.

However, the MeT in its advisory, has said that the cold & dry weather will generally prevail over many stations during the next 7-10 days.

"In view of sub-freezing temperature

& icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travellers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory," it added.

Moreover, the government has issued an advisory to halt all concreting operations in Kashmir due to plummeting subzero temperatures.

"Concrete exposed to freezing conditions is vulnerable to frost damage, which can interfere with proper cement hydration and curing. This leads to concrete failing to set correctly, compromising strength and safety," reads an advisory, a copy of which lies with KNO.

It reads that, in light of this, all concreting work is advised to stop until the temperature conditions improve. However, Rural Engineering Wing (REW) Executive Engineers may proceed with concreting operations if they ensure that all necessary precautions are taken. These include using antifreeze additives to support proper curing and ensuring all requirements are met. All REW engineers in the region are directed to comply with this advisory to ensure safety and maintain structural integrity—(KNO)

Over 31,000 Treated

14446, has been established for immediate support."

Mehdi also inquired about the steps taken to address the issue, the increase in rehabilitation centres, the effectiveness of the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan' and the collaborative measures with international law enforcement agencies to counter drug trafficking from Pakistan.

The Ministry said more than 98 lakh people have been reached through NMBA in Jammu and Kashmir, and the department supports several de-addiction programs, including Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA), Outreach and Drop-In Centers (ODIC), and Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATF).

"The government has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and participates in international forums like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to address cross-border drug trafficking," the ministry added—(KNO)

Gol Approves Rs

Incredible India Content Hub are designed to provide stakeholders in the travel industry with accessible resources to promote India as a leading tourism destination," he said.

Key components of the funding include Rs 77.33 crore for developing tourist facilities along vital routes and Rs 86.39 crore earmarked for facilities in Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar and Zanskar regions. The minister said Rs 91.84 crore has been allocated for developing infrastructures for the Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Kargil-Leh route.

He said the government also plans to enhance community involvement and sustainable tourism growth through its newly introduced Ladakh Homestay Policy 2023. This initiative aims to equip local households with essential kits to establish homestays, thereby promoting rural tourism and

supporting skills development through institutes like the State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), he added.

To regulate adventure tourism, Ladakh has implemented comprehensive Guidelines for Adventure Activities and Registration for Adventure Tour Operators, which align with the National Strategy for Adventure Tourism 2022. This framework takes into view safety, sustainability and eco-friendliness, with operators required to renew their registrations every three years.

Other noteworthy measures include the Sewerage Treatment Plant Incentive Scheme 2022, aimed at minimising environmental impacts from tourism activities by promoting decentralised wastewater treatment solutions in small accommodations, the minister said.

Established in 2021, the Ladakh Tourist Police Unit continues to offer critical support and safety to visitors at popular destinations such as Khardung La and Pangong Tso—(KNO)

J&K Govt Sets Up

their rights.
"So, the Cabinet has decided to form a sub-committee, which will include three ministers, and the Cabinet has asked them to take a holistic view of the issue," he added.

Reservations have become a major issue in J-K following the Central government's decision to add more communities to the reserved category and expand quotas in the UT over the past five years.

There are increasing objections to the Centre's move to push the reservation quota to 70 percent in Jammu and Kashmir.

This follows recent announcements to introduce a separate 10 percent reservation for Paharis and other tribes and an enhancement of the OBC (Other Backward Classes) quota to 8 percent.

Dengue Cases

deaths were reported while in 2023 over 6,000 cases and eight deaths were reported. According to the data for more than a decade, 1,709 cases were reported in 2021, 439 in 2019, 53 in 2020, 214 in 2018, 488 in 2017, 79 in 2016, 153 in 2015, four in 2014, 1 837 in 2013, 16 in 2012, three in 2011, none in 2010 and two in 2009.

According to the official, the cases are on decline now but advised people to take "pre-emptive" measures in the absence of a dengue vaccine and called for proactive prevention to combat the painful ailment.

He said a total of 507 dengue patients have been admitted to the hospitals till date and of them, 492 have been discharged and three patients are still under treatment.

"Panic is unnecessary but vigilance and preventive measures are crucial," he said.

The official said that individuals who test positive for dengue should prioritise physical and mental rest, maintain proper hydration, and consume a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

Outlining a comprehensive approach to dengue prevention, he urged people to manage and modify the environment to prevent mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats. "This involves proper disposal of solid waste, removal of artificial

water-holding containers, and regular cleaning and maintenance of domestic water storage units," he said and recommended appropriate use of insecticides in outdoor water storage containers.

Healthcare professionals recommend eliminating stagnant water that serves as mosquito breeding sites at home, schools, workplaces, and their surroundings to prevent dengue.

They suggested avoiding mosquito bites by covering the body and using mosquito nets when sleeping during the day, which should be sprayed with insect repellents.

Common symptoms of dengue, as described by doctors, include fever, headache, eye pain (typically behind the eyes), muscle, joint, or bone pain, rash, nausea, and vomiting, the doctors said—(KNO)

Pahalgam Sees

to behave responsibly and avoid using polythene to keep Pahalgam neat and clean.

He said that recently a high level meeting was conducted in which all stakeholders were consulted and many demands were put forth that are being looked into to keep Pahalgam more vibrant. He said that this year there has been very little snowfall so far and they are expecting further increase in the footfall of tourists after the snowfall—(KNO)

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'Remarkable leader, admired by all', Prez, PM condole SM Krishna's passing away

IANS

BENGALURU : S.M. Krishna, former Karnataka chief minister and a veteran politician, passed away on Tuesday in Bengaluru after a prolonged illness. He was 93.

Krishna was suffering from age-related ailments. He was admitted to the Vaidehi Hospital and later shifted to the Manipal Hospital following a lung infection. He was treated at the ICU recently. He breathed his last at his residence in Sadashivanagar.

He is survived by his wife Prema and two daughters. The late V.G. Siddhartha, founder of Cafe Coffee Day, was his son-in-law. Krishna's grandson is married to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's daughter. Krishna is considered to be Shivakumar's godfather in politics.

President Droupadi Murmu condoled Krishna's death. "Sad to learn about the demise of Shri S. M. Krishna who served people in various capacities during his long career in public life - from a member of the state assembly and of parliament to a union minister and governor. As chief minister of Karnataka, he earned people's affection for his commitment to development of the state. My heartfelt condolences to his family and admirers."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences on Krishna's death. The PM said he had many opportunities to interact with S.M. Krishna over the years, and will always cherish those interactions. "I am deeply saddened by his passing. My con-



lences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

PM Modi further wrote on X handle, "Shri SM Krishna Ji was a remarkable leader, admired by people from all walks of life. He always worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others. He is fondly remembered for his tenure as Karnataka's Chief Minister, particularly for his focus on infrastructural development. Shri SM Krishna Ji was also a prolific reader and thinker."

Dy CM Shivakumar said the mortal remains of Krishna will be kept for public viewing at his residence in Sadashivanagar throughout the day on Tuesday.

His final rites will be conducted Wednesday morning at Somanahalli in Maddur, Mandya district, his birthplace, Shivakumar stated.

Krishna was the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President in 1999 and led the Congress party to a thumping victory. He was the chief minister of Karnataka from 1999 to 2004 and the Governor of Maharashtra from 2004 to 2008. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha and became the External Affairs Minister in the then-PM Manmohan Singh cabinet.

the demise of senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, the party has lost a guiding force.

S.M. Krishna was active in politics for several decades and played a pivotal role in transforming Bengaluru into an IT-BT hub. He also served as the Union Minister of External Affairs and as the Governor of Maharashtra. He was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan award, Vijayendra stated.

Vijayendra prayed to God to grant the strength to bear this loss to the family members, relatives, well-wishers, and supporters of the veteran leader. He also wished for the departed soul to rest in eternal peace.

Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna was born in the village of Somanahalli in Maddur Taluk, Mandya district, Karnataka, to a Vokkaliga family.

After completing his primary education in his hometown, he pursued his secondary education at Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala in Mysuru. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Maharaja's College, Mysuru, and obtained his law degree from University Law College. Additionally, he earned degrees from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., USA.

He is remembered for his contributions to the IT and BT sector and the growth of Bengaluru as the IT capital of the country. He is also known for putting the Brand Bengaluru on the global map.

Even wealthy would envy the grandeur of 'hypocrite' Kejriwal: BJP

IANS

NEW DELHI : The BJP on Tuesday intensified its attack on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the controversial 'Sheesh Mahal' row, releasing a video showcasing the luxurious features of his former official residence at 6 Flagstaff Road in Delhi.

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva posted the video on X, claiming it reveals opulent upgrades made to Kejriwal's residence, including high-end fittings, fixtures, and amenities.

The BJP accused Kejriwal of indulging in extravagance at the expense of Delhi's taxpayers, even as the capital struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BJP alleged that

Kejriwal's luxurious lifestyle is at odds with his public image of simplicity and humility that would even envy the wealthy.

BJP National Secretary Manjinder Singh Sirsa called it "the biggest proof of Arvind Kejriwal's hypocrisy," citing a spa-like room and a Rs 50-lakh jacuzzi in the house.

"This is a man who roams around in loose shirts and slippers pretending to be poor, claiming he does not even own proper shoes. But when videos of his house surface, it shows such grandeur; now a spa-like room has emerged that would make even the wealthiest people feel embarrassed."

"A spa room has been created at great expense, costing several crores of rupees. It features a luxurious jacuzzi worth Rs 50 lakhs. While they take

advantage of the people of Delhi, they will enjoy relaxing in this jacuzzi. The room also includes a spa table and a private gym -- truly amazing!" he said.

"Arvind Kejriwal has a hobby of rich that has resulted in his exploitation of Delhi, while he portrays himself as a messiah of the poor," he said in a social media post.

He further accused Kejriwal of "building his Sheesh Mahal on the funeral pyres of people." "The poor people of Delhi were gasping for oxygen and searching for hospital beds, but he was busy creating a luxurious spa room for himself," Sirsa alleged, referring to the time of the Covid pandemic.

Earlier in the day, Sachdeva slammed Kejriwal for allegedly breaking promises he made early in

his political career, including a vow not to take government benefits.

Sachdeva, in his post, described the residence as a "7-star resort" built using public funds, detailing alleged expenses -- Rs 1.9 crore for marble, granite, and lighting; Rs 1.5 crore for installation and civil work; and Rs 35 lakh for gym, spa, and sauna equipment, amounting to a total of Rs 3.75 crore.

"We have been telling you the truth about the glass palace of indulgence of the person who calls himself a common man, Arvind Kejriwal. Today, we will show it to you," Sachdeva wrote, adding that the money spent could have been used to benefit ordinary Delhiites.

BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla also weighed in, posting a video on X.

LOP in LS tool of foreign powers; contributes to bring instability: Nadda

IANS

NEW DELHI : Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha and Union Minister J.P. Nadda on Tuesday accused Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of acting as a "tool" for foreign forces and contributing to bring instability in the nation.

The BJP has intensified its attack on the Congress, particularly targeting the Gandhis, over alleged ties with an organisation reportedly funded by the George Soros Foundation. The foundation has been accused of backing narratives challenging India's sovereignty, including advocating for Kashmir's independence.

Addressing the Rajya Sabha, Nadda stated that an organisation called the "Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) works to destabilise and harm the sovereignty of various countries," including India.

Without naming Rahul Gandhi, he said, "It is concerning that the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha has raised issues reported by this organisation. This proves that by acting as a tool of foreign powers, they are contributing to bring instability in the country."

Union Minister J.P. Nadda also referred to the Forum for Democratic Leaders in Asia-Pacific (FDL-AP), alleging that it questions India's sovereignty and identifies Jammu and Kashmir as a separate state.

"A senior-most Congress leader co-chairing such an organisation is a big threat to the internal and external security of the nation," he said.

Highlighting its funding sources, Nadda added, "This organisation is funded by George Soros. I want to understand the



connection between Soros and the Congress party."

He warned against tolerating external interference, saying, "History shows that nations which allowed attacks on their sovereignty have suffered. We are answerable to the common man, the poor villager, who is asking us whether we stand for the security of our country. I want to assure them that the BJP stands firm in its commitment to safeguarding India's sovereignty."

Amid the chaos in the House, Nadda also lauded India's economic progress, stating, "Today, we have risen from the eleventh to the fifth position in the global economic rankings. Despite all these conspiracies, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are on track to become the third-largest economic power."

He assured the public that India would move forward securely under PM Modi's leadership, dismissing attempts to undermine the country's growth and stability.

The discussion led to significant chaos in the Rajya Sabha, due to which the House proceedings were adjourned until 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The BJP's allegations come amid heightened political tensions in the Winter Session of Parliament, with national security and concerns over alleged foreign influence dominating the debates.

Responsibility to lead INDIA bloc should be given to Mamata Banerjee: Lalu Prasad



IANS

PATNA : After West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed willingness to lead the opposition coalition INDIA bloc, RJD national president Lalu Prasad endorsed her leadership on Tuesday.

"The responsibility to lead the INDIA bloc should be given to Mamata Banerjee. I agree with it. Nothing will happen if Congress objects. It should be given to Mamata Banerjee," Lalu Prasad said while speaking to the media persons in Patna on Tuesday.

Lalu's support for the West Bengal Chief Minister comes two days after Mamata Banerjee expressed dissatisfaction with the current functioning of the INDIA bloc.

CM Banerjee in an interview with a private news channel on Friday (December 6) had said that if necessary, she can play the lead role in collective leadership by operating from her own state.

"What can I do if they cannot run the show? I do not lead the front. Those who are in leadership positions there should think about it. But still, I am maintaining my connections with the regional and national parties," she said.

On her role in the opposition bloc, CM Banerjee had said that given an opportunity, she would run the opposition bloc from West Bengal. "There are some who

cannot tolerate me. If given the responsibility, though I do not want that, I can run it (INDIA bloc) from West Bengal. But I do not want to stay away from Bengal. I was born here and will die here," the Chief Minister had said.

Now, with Lalu's statement, questions are being raised about the future of the Opposition group following a string of electoral losses.

Mamata's ambition and Lalu's endorsement signal the growing assertiveness of regional leaders, potentially sidelining Congress's central role.

Earlier, senior Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav had said that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi is not the leader of the INDIA bloc, adding that the grand old party's below-par performance in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections might have made the Trinamool Congress supreme submit her remarks.

"In Himachal Pradesh, where the Congress is in power, they lost all four seats. Similarly, in Karnataka and Telangana, both Congress-ruled states, they lost half of their Lok Sabha seats. Furthermore, Congress failed to win even a single seat in Madhya Pradesh. It suffered major losses in Chhattisgarh. Had Congress performed better in the Lok Sabha elections, Narendra Modi would not have become the Prime Minister today.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

B.K. PORA

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE: NO- 15 OF 2023
DATED: 09 -12-2023

Subject: Re- Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in Anganwadi Centers of POSHAN Project B.K.Pora

Reference:

1. Government order No 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022
2. Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023
3. MD/Poshan/14988-15027 Dated: - 28-05-2023

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in Anganwadi Centre's of POSHAN Project B.K. Pora. It needs to mention here these posts had already been advertised vide Notice No: - CDPO /Poshan /BKP/ Adv/ 2024/401-412 Dated: - 12-08-2024 However due to poor response, the posts have been re-advertised, as per the details is given below: -

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
01.	Poshan Project B.K. Pora	Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)	01
Total			01

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Worker on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centers. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- a) Date of commencement for submission of application 11-12-2024
- b) Last date for submission of applications is. 25-12-2024
- c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection

ANNEXURE 'A'
FORMAT OF APPLICATION

S.No.....

1. Name of POSHAN Project B.K.Pora
2. Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
3. Post applied for _____
4. Name of the Candidate _____
5. Father's Name _____
6. Husband's Name _____
7. Residence _____
8. Ward No. _____
9. Address for correspondence _____
10. Contact No. _____
11. Date of Birth _____
12. Age as on 01.01.2024 _____
13. Academic Qualification:

Sr. No.	Examination passed	Board /University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

14. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/ AWH (YES/NO)
15. Document Attached: _____

Date: _____ Signaturo of the Candidate _____

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts (AWW/AWH) along with name and location of AWC.

Sr. No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	Panchayat Halqa	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
01.	Ganie Mohalla	Shankerpora	Panch Ward No 01	AWW	1

ELIGIBILITY:

- A. For Anganwadi Workers
1. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
3. The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- 4) Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass 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.
- 5) In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.
- 6) Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria to be considered.
- 7) In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- 8) Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
- 8) In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

- C. Document Verification
- 1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
- a) Marks sheet (s) /Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
- b) Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
- c) Domicile Certificate.
- d) Unmarried Certificate (where required)

Candidates have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:

- i) Aadhaar Card
- ii) Voter ID card.
- 3) The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

1. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
2. Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
3. The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

CDPO/Posan/BKP/Adv/024/1149-1160
Dated: 09 -12-2024

DIPK-9307-24
DT: 10/12/2024

Child Development Project Officer
B.K.Pora

DDMA unveils winter plan to keep Srinagar moving

'45 snow clearance machines, emergency shelters in place to ensure safety, functionality'

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: With the arrival of winter in Kashmir, Srinagar's District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has unveiled and finalised an extensive 'Winter Preparedness Plan' for 2024-25 to mitigate risks associated with the region's severe cold conditions.

DDMA, in the winter preparedness plan, has stressed a proactive approach to ensure safety and functionality during the harsh winter months in the district.

DDMA Srinagar, headed by Dr Bilal Mohi-Din Bhat, stated in his message that this Winter Preparedness Plan was focused on the hazards and risks caused by fog, smog, snowfall, urban flooding, land sliding, and cold waves.

For snow clearance operations, the plan has outlined that a total of 45 snow clearance machines have been allocated for critical routes across Srinagar, ensuring uninterrupted access to hospitals, ration depots, and emergency services.

According to the plan, all roads of District Srinagar fall under the category of 'Priority 1st', unlike other peripheral districts where various roads fall under 'Priority 2nd'. In case of snowfall, the machines shall be operated on their respective roads. The total



number of snow clearance machines available with Snow Clearance Control Room Srinagar at present is Forty-Five (45).

The city has also been divided into zones, each with dedicated teams for snow removal and dewatering operations. "The city is divided into four zones headed by zonal sanitation officers who are assisted by 35 ward officers, sanitary inspectors, and sanitary supervisors to supervise the snow clearance," the winter plan mentions.

For health and emergency services, the plan states that rapid response teams are stationed across zones with emergency supplies like oxygen cylinders, medicines, and heating arrangements. Ambulances and power backups have been readied to address emergencies promptly.

All zonal medical officers have been advised to

keep DG Sets with adequate fuel in ready position for power backup. Moreover, the ambulances have also been kept in ready position to meet any emergency.

For energy and utility measures, the plan states that during snowfall, the falling of trees and electrical lines on the road is a usual phenomenon thereby hampering the Mechanized Snow Clearance. Therefore, the Power Development Department / Forestry / Social Forestry Departments have to chip in, to ensure that the fallen trees, debris, electrical lines etc. are cleared and the way is paved for smooth snow clearance by machines

To ensure water supply and maintenance, it outlines measures like insulation of pipelines, standby generators at water treatment plants, and chemical stockpiles to ensure unin-

errupted water supply.

"The pipes & control valve chambers shall be covered with protection to avoid damages due to frost during severe winters. Stand-by generators for providing electric supply at Water Treatment Plants are to be made functional and shall be put in operation during power disruption in winter," it states.

Providing shelter for vulnerable populations during winters, the DDMA Srinagar has laid out provisions to accommodate the homeless, elderly, and other vulnerable groups in shelters equipped with heating and basic amenities.

According to the plan for girl children (less than 18 years), a shelter home at Sanatnagar Housing Colony with an intake capacity of 25 is in place with a basic minimum facility. For boy children (less than 18 years) a

similar shelter home has been set up at Nowgam Srinagar with an intake capacity of 25.

An old age home, run by an NGO, namely HOPE through the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, New Delhi, with an intake capacity of 25 too, has been established at Baghi Mehtab near Railway Track with basic minimum facilities.

For coordination and communication with emergency control rooms, a District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) will operate round the clock, coordinating disaster response and issuing early warnings through the Indian Meteorological Department.

The winter plan states that the Fire and Emergency Services Department has conducted over 100 fire safety awareness programs to educate the public about winter-specific risks.

Regarding food and fuel reserves, buffer stocks of essential commodities like food grains and LPG cylinders have been secured for one month. Srinagar has 51 petrol stations and 24 LPG outlets prepared to meet public demand. Over 1,900 sanitation workers equipped with necessary tools are tasked with clearing lanes and by-lanes manually during heavy snowfalls, according to the plan—(KNO)

Yuva Sangam Phase-V Cultural Exchange

IIM Jammu Hosts NITTTR Chennai Delegates



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU- The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu welcomed a delegation from the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai, as part of the Yuva Sangam Phase-V initiative under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program. The five-day event aimed to foster cultural exchange, knowledge sharing, and mutual understanding between Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu.

The delegation, comprising 40 participants—20 male and 20 female students, along with two faculty members—was warmly greeted by IIM Jammu Director, Prof. B.S. Sahay. The event was also attended by key IIM Jammu faculty, including Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics; Dr. V. Rajkumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs; Dr. Apurva, Co-Chairperson,

Student Affairs; and Dr. Sudarshan and Dr. Jacqueline Divya Mary from NITTTR Chennai.

The opening session featured a presentation on IIM Jammu's journey and a program outline for the delegates, promising an enriching experience of Jammu's cultural, historical, and educational landmarks. Highlights included visits to the Raghunath Temple, Amar Mahal Palace Museum, and Suchetgarh Border, offering participants a deep dive into the region's heritage. Participants also explored the technological marvels of Jammu, such as the Salal Hydroelectric Project and the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge.

Cultural exchange continued with interactive programs at Jammu University and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), promoting people-to-people connections. A plantation

drive at IIM Jammu on the final day underscored the importance of sustainability. The first day also saw the delegation visiting the vibrant Raghunath Bazaar, followed by a dinner at IIM Jammu's Annapurna dining facility. A group photograph marked the occasion, embodying the spirit of unity and collaboration.

The visit also included a tour of the state-of-the-art Nalanda Library at IIM Jammu, where participants gained insights into the Institute's academic and research facilities.

The event concluded with the National Anthem, reinforcing the essence of national integration and pride that is central to the Yuva Sangam initiative. This cultural exchange program not only celebrated India's unity in diversity but also helped strengthen the bonds between regions, reflecting IIM Jammu's commitment to nurturing socially responsible leaders for the nation.

CM reviews functioning of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Deptt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Law Achal Sethi, Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita and other senior officials. During the review, the Chief Minister assessed the functioning

of the High Court, subordinate courts, the Advocate General's Office, and the Legislative Assembly.

He was briefed on the sanctioned strength of the judiciary and discussed key issues, including ongoing litigations, e-stamping, e-courts, and e-court fee systems. The implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the J&K Legislative Assembly was a key point of discussion.

The Chief Minister directed officials to liaise with the Ministry of Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, to ensure NeVA is operation-

alized before the upcoming budget session of J&K Legislative Assembly. Other components included the classification of laws, appointment of officers in charge of litigations, opinion and vetting of notifications, and the department's achievements in 2023-24.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the Rs 908 crore New High Court Complex project in Srinagar, enquiring about progress, timelines, and phase-wise completion of the project. He emphasized the importance of adhering to deadlines to ensure the timely delivery of this critical infrastructure.

CS led SEC adds 5 more disasters to SDRF list



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday while chairing the State Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) gave its approval for inclusion of 5 more local disasters to the already notified list of disasters as per SDRF norms.

Besides the Principal Secretary Home and DMRR&R, the meeting was attended by other members of the SEC including Principal Secretary Finance; ADGP L&O; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu and Secretary Revenue.

Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing from their respective offices.

During this high level meeting, the members of SEC had consensus on adding five more disasters of local nature to the already notified list as per SDRF. These include Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), Lightning &

Thunderstorm, Heavy Snowfall, Incidents of Man-Animal Conflict and Boat Capsizing.

These disasters were notified as UT specific disasters for disbursement of the benefits to the affected persons as per the guidelines/items and norms set under SDRF. This step is going to bring much requisite relief to hundreds of people becoming victims of such disasters.

The SEC also gave its accord to release of over Rs 6 Cr in favour of Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Srinagar, Rajouri and Ramban on their requisition for additional funds for meeting the expenses of various disasters which have occurred in these districts during this year.

It also decided to release an amount of Rs 6.5 Cr in favour of HG/CD/SDRF for modernizing the force by providing different kinds of equipments like drones, remote controlled Lifebuoy, Fire entry suits, Power Descenders, and Battery operated cutter

cum spreaders.

The other agenda items which were discussed in this SEC and find takers for their approval includes provisioning of Rs 50 lakhs on account of SDRF capacity building by conducting training programs, mock drills, other preparedness activities during the ensuing financial year. It also decided in favour of giving Rs 30 lakhs to the Department for upgradation of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) here in J&K.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to enquire from Deputy Commissioners about the disaster preparedness in their districts. He also took note of the suggestions forwarded by them.

The Principal Secretary, DMRR&R Department, Chandraker Bharti gave out details of the activities held by department during the year. He also highlighted the significance of each agenda item for augmenting the capacity of the UT to be better prepared against the disasters the region is prone to.

Gbl shines at 25th Nat'l Sqay Championship in Haryana

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: In a remarkable display of talent and determination, the athletes from Ganderbal have brought pride to their district at the 25th National Sqay Championship held in Haryana.

With outstanding performances, they have not only made a mark in the competition but also shone a spotlight on Ganderbal, showcasing the district's growing potential in martial arts.

From bronze to gold, these athletes have proven their skill, making Ganderbal's name known across the nation.

Kamraan Tariq, Uzaif Ahmad Shah, and Zaid Bin Ashraf from Ganderbal have brought pride to their hometown with their exceptional performances at the 25th National Sqay Championship held in

Haryana.

Kamraan Tariq won the bronze medal, showcasing his unwavering dedication and determination in the competition. Kamraan said, "This bronze medal is the result of years of hard work, and I am proud to bring it home to Ganderbal. It's just the beginning, and I aim for gold next time."

Uzaif Ahmad Shah told KNO that this achievement of winning a silver medal further highlights the talent emerging from the region. "Winning silver feels amazing. I am thankful to my coaches, especially Saleem Pathan & my family, and friends for their constant support. This victory motivates me to aim higher in the future," he said.

However, it was Zaid Bin Ashraf's extraordinary display of skill that earned him the coveted

gold medal, making him a true champion. "Winning gold is a dream come true. I have put in so much effort for this moment, and I feel proud to represent Ganderbal at the national level," Zaid said.

Saleem Pathan Coach told KNO that on behalf of the Sqay Association Ganderbal. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the players for their dedication and hard work. Your commitment is truly commendable, and I wish each one of you the very best for your future endeavors. Keep striving for excellence."

These three athletes have not only excelled in their sport but have also put Ganderbal on the map with their achievements. Congratulations to Kamraan, Uzaif, Zaid, and the entire team for making the district proud, he said—(KNO)

Vehicles with pending challans to face seizure, RC cancellation: TPRK

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The Traffic Police Office, Rural Kashmir, on Tuesday urged motorists with pending traffic challans to clear their dues immediately, failing which strict action will be taken.

Motorists are directed to pay the fine amount on the Parivahan platform or virtual court portals or appear before the Lok Adalat benches at the Dis-

trict Court Srinagar by December 14, 2024, an official said.



Despite repeated appeals through public notices and

media channels, a significant number of vehicles with multiple challans continue to operate on roads, a senior traffic cop told KNO.

However, he warned that strict legal action will follow from December 16, 2024, against defaulters, which may include the seizure of vehicles or cancellation of Registration Certificates (RCs).

Motorists are advised to act promptly to avoid penalties—(KNO)

SIH-24 to Showcase Cutting-Edge Solutions from 1,300 Teams Nationwide

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 is set to take the stage for its grand finale from December 11-15, 2024, bringing together 1,300 teams and over 10,800 participants across 51 nodal centers nationwide. This prestigious event aims to fuel innovation and problem-solving among students, providing them with an opportunity to develop practical solutions for real-world challenges.

This year's edition has garnered unprecedented participation, with more than 86,000 teams competing at the institute level. A total of 49,000 teams advanced to the national round, marking a remarkable 150% increase in internal hackathons at the institute level, from 900+ in 2023 to over 2,247 this year.

The hackathon will tackle 254 problem statements contributed by 54 Ministries, Departments, State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and Industries. Notable challenges include 'Enhancing

Images of Darker Regions on the Moon' by ISRO and 'AI-Driven Ganga Water Quality Monitoring' by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, among others.

Since its inception, SIH has made a profound impact on India's innovation landscape, contributing to the country's rise in the Global Innovation Index (GII), where India now ranks 39th globally. The hackathon has fostered collaboration between the government and academia, driving advancements in education, skill development, and grassroots innovation.

The event will feature both a Software Edition, running 36 hours non-stop, and a Hardware Edition, lasting 5 days, providing a platform for young minds to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges and create impactful solutions.

SIH 2024 is poised to make significant strides in fostering the spirit of innovation and problem-solving across India, encouraging young talent to contribute to the nation's growth and development.

UNAUTHORISED BOOK SALES

CEO Budgam warns strict action against schools

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: The Chief Education Officer (CEO) of Budgam, Rajiv Abrol, has said that strict action would be taken against private schools violating the education department order on the sale of books and stationery.

The School Education Department (SED) had earlier warned private educational institutions of strict action for forcing parents to purchase textbooks and uniforms from specific shops and adopt the government-approved syllabus.

The order was issued in response to numerous complaints from parents about private schools distributing unauthorised books and charging exorbitant prices.

However, recently multiple complaints were

received from parents in district Budgam about the private schools distributing unauthorised books and charging exorbitant prices.

One specific complaint from the Khanshab zone alleged that a private school charged Rs 5,721 for second-grade books, causing distress among parents. Similar grievances have emerged across the Budgam district, raising concerns about the exploitation of parents by certain schools.

When contacted, Chief Education Officer Budgam Rajiv Abrol assured that the department would enforce the directive strictly to prevent such violations and ensure relief for the affected parents. "Schools found guilty would face immediate cancellation of their registration," the CEO warned—(KNO)