

Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication

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2024 has been one hell of a year, when it was good it was amazing & when it was bad it really sucked. 2025 please go easier on my poor heart. Here's wishing all of you a happy, peaceful & health 2025. May the flames of this bonfire fill your lives with the warmth of love & happiness.

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...J&K Arms License Scam

Centre Gives Nod To Prosecute IAS Officer



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has accorded sanction for prosecution of Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, an IAS officer of erstwhile cadre of Jammu & Kashmir, for involvement in the infamous arms licence scam.

In a communique, the Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel & Training, Government of India, that it has accorded sanction for prosecution of Kumar Rajeev Ranjan in the case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2018.

"I am directed to refer to your email dated 23.12.2024 on the subject mentioned above and to say that an order, conveying grant of

sanction against Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, in CBI RCCHGO51201850007, under section 6 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006(1949 A.D.) for alleged offences under section 5(2) PC Act, 2006(1949 A.D.) has already been issued on 28.11.2004 with the approval of the competent authority," reads the communique.

It is worthwhile to mention that a huge arms licence scam involving deputy magistrates of Jammu & Kashmir was unearthed by the Rajasthan ATS in 2017.

The case was being probed by the J&K Police before then Governor NN Vohra handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The investigation revealed that arms licences in bulk were issued by the then deputy magistrates •P-06

Cold Wave Intensifies In Kashmir

Gulmarg Shivers At Minus 11.5, Pahalgam Records Minus 8.4 Deg Celsius



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Cold wave intensified further in Jammu and Kashmir as Srinagar city recorded minus 3.5 as the minimum temperature on Tuesday.

The Meteorological (MeT) department has forecast an intense cold wave during the next four to eight days.

A MeT department statement said, "Generally cold dry weather conditions on 31st December. Two western Disturbances (WD) in quick succession are likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from 1st January onwards. 1-2nd January (Feeble WD): Generally cloudy with light snow at scattered places during 1st evening/night to 2nd morning. On 3-6th January (Moderate WD): Generally cloudy with light to moderate rain (plains of JMU)/Snow at many places of J&K with peak activity on 4th and 5th January."

The department also issued an advisory. "Cold wave at isolated places during 31st Dec. In view of snowfall, sub freezing temp & icy conditions over

roads (Plains/higher reaches). Tourists/travellers/Transporters are advised to follow Admin/Traffic advisory. Possibility of heavy snow at isolated higher reaches during 4th and 5th Jan."

Srinagar city recorded minus 3.5, Gulmarg minus 11.5 and Pahalgam minus 8.4 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 7.1, Katra town 5, Batote 1.5, Banihal minus 2.3 and Bhaderwah minus 1.4 as the minimum temperature.

The 40-day-long •P-06

BRO To Maintain Mughal Road Stretch



POONCH: In a significant step towards enhancing road connectivity, the Mughal Road stretch from Buziaz to Pir Ki Gali has been handed over to the Border Roads Organization (BRO) by the Public Works Department (PWD).

The transition was facilitated with the efforts of District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal, and was completed with all necessary formalities.

The Deputy Commissioner confirmed the handover and emphasized the importance of maintaining this crucial road stretch. He urged the BRO to enhance infrastructure support during the winter months, ensuring better accessibility for both civilian traffic and security forces in the region. •P-06

J&K Gets NGT Notice Over Axing Of Trees

SRINAGAR: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the Jammu and Kashmir government, including the Chief Secretary, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Block Development Officer (BDO) Lalpora Tangmarg, and other officials, over the alleged felling of over 1000 trees in the village of Sonium Lalpora and the diversion of a local stream for the construction of a playground.

According to the complaint, the BDO •P-06

Terror Handler's Rs 52.5L Property Attached

SRINAGAR: Bandipora Police attached residential land worth Rs 52.5 lakhs belonging to a terror handler at Hilalabad Nesbal Sumbal on Monday.

Police spokesperson in a statement issued here said that the property, measuring 2 Kanals and 7.5 Marlas, was attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The land, registered under Survey Nos. 898 (1.5 Marlas), 862 (7.75 Marlas), and 938 (1 Kanal) •P-06

...War Against Corruption

ACB Filed 87 Graft Cases In 2024

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Continuing its war against corruption this year as well, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) filed 87 cases, including 42 in Jammu division and 45 in the Valley besides filing charge-sheets against 32 accused before the court of law in the Union Territory.

Also, the anti-graft body filed 23 trap cases and 13 cases of Disproportionate Assets against corrupt officials during 2024, in line with its 'zero tolerance' policy for corruption.

"Corrupt officials have a

demoralizing effect on honest public servants, and corruption by public servants has become a gigantic problem. Large-scale corruption retards nation-building activities, affecting everyone adversely. Corruption in any society is inversely proportional to good governance, provoking a range of economic and social problems," an ACB spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said that the investigation of cases in ACB is carried out in a thorough manner and strenuous efforts are put to collect evidence.

Besides it, the •P-06



सत्यमेव जयते
Anti-Corruption Bureau
Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

PM Wishes Nation On New Year In A Poetic Style



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Reflecting the mood of a confident India eager to march ahead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday wished a Happy New Year to countrymen in a post on X and recounted the remarkable progress and transformation achieved in 2024.

Calling it a "poetic celebra-

tion", PM Modi, in his post in Hinglish, said, "Mera Bharat Badh raha (My India is taking big strides of progress)."

"From space to soil, railways to runways, culture to innovation, #IndiaIn2024 marked a year of remarkable progress & transformation!" wrote PM Modi in a heartfelt message.

"A poetic celebration as we stride confidently •P-06

LG Greet People On New Year



JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of New Year 2025.

In a message the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of New Year, I convey my warm greetings and good wishes to all. •P-06

Union Home Secy Winds Up 2-Day Kashmir Visit



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Before winding up his 2-day Kashmir visit Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday called on the Commissioner Secretaries to ensure that common people in Jammu and Kashmir get direct benefits of the centrally sponsored schemes.

Sources told a local news

agency KNO that the Union Home Secretary chaired a key meeting here and evaluated the progress of infrastructure and employment-driven projects funded by the Centre.

They said that the meeting was attended by J&K Chief Secretary Atal Duloo, Commissioner Secretaries of different departments and other top officials. •P-06

Kashmir's Patron Saint And Stir Over Omitted School Lesson

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: When cultural heritage is sought to be safeguarded, the traditional values that instil catholicity and inclusiveness might be expected to be light houses standing amid rough waves but quite the contrary nearly happened in Kashmir. The mere gesture spoke volumes and drew out voices loud and assertive.



When a school curriculum was altered, it was deemed "blue-pencilling" and "cultural terrorism." The omission of a chapter on Sheikh-ul-Alam from the English syllabus of class 9 was a vehemently opposed move. CPI-M MLA from south Kashmir's Kulgam, Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami found it "deeply troubling that an entire chapter on the revered Sufi saint Sheikh-ul-Alam has been dropped from the Class IX textbook."

Pointing to the backdrop of this development, he posted on X: "This blue pencilling, carried out prior to the Assembly polls, is unacceptable to a society rooted in rich Sufi traditions." Turning to the state to redress, he

urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to "intervene and ensure that this crucial chapter is reinstated, thereby preserving and honouring our rich cultural and Sufi heritage."

Who was Sheikh-ul-Alam?

A Sufi saint by the name of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali, said to have been born in 1377 in present day Kulgam, was a mystic, poet and Islamic preacher who wielded great

influence over the masses. Counted as one of the founders of the Rishi order in Kashmir, he was bestowed the title of 'Sheikh-ul-Alam', meaning spiritual guide of the world.

He continues to be known as Nund Rishi as well, as he was fondly called. "Nund means beautiful in Kashmiri," said G. N. Adfar, author of 'The Alchemy of Light', a trilogy compiling verses by the mystic poet translated in

English. "He lived 700 years ago. Kashmir has not produced another Nund Rishi," he said. "There is no home in Kashmir whether Muslim or non-Muslim where people will not be aware of Nund Rishi because his teachings are for humanity, not for a particular sect," he added.

He explained that Rishis were people who lived in forests, away from society and devoted themselves entirely to the worship of •P-06

Inox Srinagar extends its heartfelt wishes for a very Happy New Year to all!

Movies WATCH LIST

Wednesday, 1st January 2025

 MUFASA MUFASA: THE LION KING (3D HINDI) (U) 03:00PM, 05:30PM	 BABY JOHN BABY JOHN (HINDI) (UA 16+) 11:30AM, 02:45PM	 PUSHPA 2 PUSHPA (THE RULE PART-02) (HINDI) (UA 16+) 11:10AM, 01:30PM, 05:20PM	 KRAVEN THE HUNTER KRAVEN THE HUNTER (HINDI) (A) 10:50 AM (ENG WITH ENG SUBTITLE) (A) 06:00PM
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 Paytm, Inox App or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets

Jammu and Kashmir 2024:

127 Lives Lost in Militancy-Related Incidents

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In 2024, Jammu and Kashmir faced an exceptionally tumultuous year marked by escalating militant activity. Over the year, 69 militants were killed in various encounters, including 24 local militants, 27 non-local militants, and 18 infiltrators. The year also saw the loss of 29 army soldiers, including five officers, with many injured in different militancy-related incidents across the region. Three Army potters, a cop, 2 CRPF personnel, 6 local civilians and 17 non-local civilians were also killed in the year 2024.

Local Militants: The ongoing militancy claimed the lives of 24 local militants, some of whom were leaders within the ranks of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Among the slain militants, included Bilal Rasool Bhat from Shopian, Let Commander Basit Dar, Umar Khan, and Riyaz Ahmad Dar from Pulwama, and several others from Kulgam, Shopian, Budgam, and Anantnag districts. These militants were killed during gunfights with the joint forces in various areas across the region.

Non-Local Militants: At least 27 non-local militants were also neutralized

in encounters throughout the year. Their deaths occurred in various districts, including Baramulla, Kulgam, and Kupwara.

Infiltrators: The army successfully neutralized 18 infiltrators this year, mainly during gunfights along the Line of Control in areas like Sabura Nalla (Baramulla), Keran Sector (Kupwara), and Nowshera (Rajouri).

Losses in the Armed Forces: The year 2024 witnessed the killings of 29 soldiers including five officers. Among the casualties were soldiers killed during encounters in volatile areas such as Nowshera, Kulgam, and Poonch, as well as in targeted attacks on military posts and convoys. The tragic attack in the Badnota area of Kathua resulted in the deaths of five soldiers, while several others were injured in encounters throughout the region.

Injuries to Armed Forces Personnel: Alongside the fatalities, 55 men in uniform were injured in militant-related incidents, ranging from landmine blasts to direct gunfire. These soldiers sustained injuries while engaging militants in forests, checkpoints, and during ambushes in several districts including Doda,

Kathua, and Poonch.

Civilian Casualties: The civilian population in Jammu and Kashmir also bore the brunt of the violence. A total of 6 local civilians lost their lives due to militant attacks. Among them were a government employee in Rajouri, a BJP Sarpanch in Shopian, and a civilian in a mistaken identity incident in Samba. Additionally, non-local civilians, including 17 migrant workers and pilgrims, were killed in targeted attacks across the region. The most significant of these incidents occurred when militants ambushed a bus carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, leading to the deaths of at least 10 individuals.

Army Potters and Police Losses: In addition to army personnel, three army potters lost their lives in militant attacks. Rajesh Kumar died in an explosion near the LoC in Rajouri, while two others were killed during a militant attack on an army vehicle in Gulmarg, Baramulla. In the police force, a head constable was killed in Kogmandali village of Kathua district.

Militant Attacks: The year witnessed several major attacks. The first of 2024 occurred when mili-

itants targeted an army convoy in Krishna Ghati, Poonch, although there were no casualties. However, the most lethal of these attacks occurred in Kathua's Badnota area, where five soldiers were killed. Militants also carried out attacks on police posts in Udhampur, Rajouri, and Kathua.

Encounters Across Jammu and Kashmir: In terms of counterinsurgency operations, encounters were reported in various areas, from Srinagar's Khanyar and Dachigam to Bandipora's Gurez Sector and Baramulla's Uri Sector. In the northern districts of Kupwara and Rajouri, several gunfights took place, particularly in areas like Machil Sector, Kamkari Sector, and Nowshera. Notable encounters also occurred in the forests of Doda, Poonch, and Kishtwar, with security forces battling militants in challenging terrain.

VDG Members: The Village Defense Guard (VDG) also suffered losses, with three members killed and one injured in different militant attacks. These local defence groups, which assist security forces in maintaining order in rural areas, have increasingly been targeted by militants. [KNT]

A Year of Legislative Reform: Modernizing India's Lawscape

The year 2024 witnessed a flurry of legislative activity aimed at modernizing India's legal framework and aligning it with the demands of a rapidly evolving nation. From sweeping criminal code reforms to crucial amendments in key sectors like banking, aviation, and maritime, the government demonstrated a commitment to creating a more efficient, just, and citizen-centric legal landscape.

A cornerstone of these reforms was the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, collectively replacing the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act, and the Code of Criminal Procedure. This move, aimed at "indigenizing" India's legal system,

reflects a conscious effort to move away from colonial-era laws and create a legal framework more reflective of contemporary Indian society and values.

The focus on modernizing India's legal framework extended beyond criminal law. The passage of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, aimed to restore trust in public examinations and ensure a level playing field for all students. Similarly, the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, sought to modernize the regulatory framework for the aviation sector, empowering India to become a global leader in aircraft design and manufacturing.

The maritime sector also witnessed significant reforms. The Carriage of

Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, replaced a century-old act, enhancing cargo protection and aligning Indian maritime law with international best practices. The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, aimed to simplify licensing procedures for Indian-flagged vessels, boosting domestic shipping and creating employment opportunities.

The government also took crucial steps to strengthen India's financial sector. The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced measures to enhance customer convenience, strengthen investor protection, and improve the efficiency of cooperative banks.

One of the most ambitious legislative initiatives of the year was the move towards "One Nation, One Election." The Constitution

(One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, aimed to synchronize elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies, potentially streamlining the electoral process, reducing political disruptions, and optimizing resource allocation.

These legislative reforms represent a significant step towards building a modern and efficient legal framework for India. While challenges remain, these initiatives reflect the government's commitment to good governance, economic growth, and social justice. As India continues its journey towards becoming a global leader, a robust and responsive legal system will be crucial to navigating the complexities of the 21st century.

Doodhpathri Welcomes 1.86 million Tourists in 2024, Emerging as a Key Destination in Kashmir: CEO



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Doodhpathri, the picturesque meadow in Central Kashmir's Budgam recorded an impressive milestone in 2024, attracting 1.86 million tourists. Reyaz Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer of the Doodhpathri Development Authority, attributed this remarkable growth to years of sustained development and dedicated promotional efforts. "This surge in tourism is a reflection of our consistent efforts to make Doodhpathri a prime attraction for visitors from around the world," he said.

"The breakdown of the tourist influx highlights the diverse appeal

of the destination: 1,482 international tourists, 1,182,843 domestic travellers, and 681,255 local visitors explored the breathtaking landscapes and serene environment of Doodhpathri over the past year."

CEO Reyaz Ahmad emphasized that this record turnout is not only a testament to Doodhpathri's natural allure but also to the infrastructure and amenities developed in recent years. "The influx of visitors underscores the success of our initiatives to promote Doodhpathri as a premier tourist spot. Our commitment to sustainable tourism and community engagement has played a pivotal role in this achievement," he stated, "he said. [KNT]"

'Three million tourists visit Kashmir in 2024'

Kashmir's popularity growing on global scale: Director Tourism

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As the year 2024 comes to a close, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced a transformative period marked by both challenges and achievements. Among the stand-out developments was the resurgence of the tourism sector, a lifeline for Kashmir often referred to as "Paradise on Earth." The year saw an influx of both domestic and international visitors.

According to official data, Jammu and Kashmir welcomed approximately 3 million tourists this year. This remarkable number included pilgrims of the Amarnath Yatra and visitors drawn by the natural beauty of the region. Notably, the health resort of Sonamarg emerged as a major attraction, with 817,708 tourists basking in its serene landscapes and breathtaking vistas.

The Director Tourism, Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob

while talking to the news agency Kashmir News Trust highlighted the significance of this record-breaking year. Speaking over the phone, he said that the unprecedented arrival of 3 million tourists has elevated the tourism sector to new heights. "The influx of foreign tourists, coupled with a surge in domestic visitors, reflects the Kashmir's growing popularity on a global scale," he said.

Raja Yaqoob expressed optimism for the coming

year, stating that the department is committed to further promoting Jammu and Kashmir's unparalleled natural beauty and warm hospitality. "Plans are underway to enhance the global profile of the valley, ensuring its continued growth as a premier travel destination," he said adding that the focus will remain on sustaining this momentum while preserving the cultural and ecological heritage that makes Valley unique. [KNT]

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHRARI-SHARIEF

Near: Nowhar (Iqbal Abad) Chrar-I-Sharief E-mail: xenrmbchrar23@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM
E-NIT No.41/RNB/CHRAR of 2024-25 Dated:31/12/2024

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

SN	Name of Work	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	Supply, installation/Arrangement of various components/ items on eve of Republic Day (26 th January, 2025)	200/-	1000/-	FY 2024-25	Contingencies	C/D

Position of AAA - Accorded
Position of funds - Available/Committed
Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Department Kashmir.

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	31/12/2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	31/12/2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	31/12/2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	10/01/2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	11/01/2025 at 11:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief

Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy. Any short fall found in the soft copy will render the Bid rejected. As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sector Finance department vide No.OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief (Tender Receiving Authority). The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.
- The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).
- Time is the essence of the contract; the bidders shall adhere strictly to the time frame given by the department/ Engineer-in-Charge.
- The work being of emergent nature, the bidders must always be prepared to start the work on even very short notices.
- All the hired items must be of standard quality apt for the event, clean, in proper condition, attractive, etc. to the best satisfaction of Engineer-in-Charge.
- Since the work is related to a festive event, the work force engaged are supposed to be prompt, ethical and shall maintain proper discipline during the entire event.

No.4508-17
Dated:17/12/2024

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chararisharief

DIPK-10291-24
DT: 31/12/2024

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAFIABAD.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Fresh E-TENDERING/NIT No.- 46 of R&B/RW/2024-25 Dated:26-12-2024 (3rd call)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/ Consultant/ Agency/ Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated cost of project	Adv. Cost for consultancy	Cost of Tender document	E/ Money	Time for completion	Type of consultancy
1	Consultancy services (structural/ Architectural/ Geo Tech investigation)/ other for construction of 1x30 meter span Plate Girder Bridge at Doabgah on Nallah Vibalat Rafiabad incl. Soil investigation. (under NABARD RIDF XXIX)	629.41 lacs	4.50 lacs	200/-	9000/-	60 days	Structural/ Architectural Consultancy with Soil investigation and exploration.

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of Funds = Available

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-12-2024
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 26-12-2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 26-12-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 03-01-2025 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	03-01-2025 (04:30PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Rafiabad.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabad [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and the bidders residing Outside UT of J&K can submit DD of any nationalized bank in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabad the cost of tender document fee is non refundable.

- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabad. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the work
- 10% normal deposit will be withheld on passing of each bill for the payment and same will be released after the completion of work
- The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Response shall be opened online on same WebSite in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Rafiabad.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get, Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

DIPK-10234-24
DT: 31/12/2024

MP Ladakh Haji Hanifa Jan Visits Atul International Taekwondo Academy

Interacts with Players from Ladakh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant move to encourage and support athletes from Ladakh, Member of Parliament Haji Hanifa Jan visited the Atul International Taekwondo Academy in Channi Himmat today. The visit focused on meeting international-level Taekwondo players from Ladakh and addressing their challenges. The academy, led by India's top Taekwondo coach, Master Atul Pangotra, is currently training several prominent players from Ladakh, including State Awardee Shahnaz Parveen and international athletes Sonam Chopshal, Zeeshan Mehdi, and Kinchen Youdol. During his interaction, MP Haji Hanifa Jan engaged with the athletes to understand their routine, struggles, and aspirations. He assured them of his commitment to addressing their concerns and promised to take their issues to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh and the Union Government. The players highlighted various challenges, including financial constraints, limited facilities, and lack of government support, which hinder their preparation for



national and international events. The MP appreciated their dedication and emphasized the need for immediate intervention to support their journey. Recognizing the efforts of Master Atul Pangotra, MP Haji Hanifa Jan felicitated him with traditional khataks and a memento. Speaking on the occasion, the MP lauded Master Atul Pangotra's contribution to training athletes with advanced techniques and ensuring their competitiveness at global levels. "Master Atul Pangotra has made tremendous efforts in nurturing the talent of Ladakh's players despite limited resources. His vision and dedication are helping these athletes bring laurels to the region and the nation," MP Haji Hanifa Jan stated. Addressing the media,

national Player Shahnaz Parveen expressed her gratitude for the MP's visit. "This is the first time a public representative, especially an MP, has visited us and listened to our concerns. This boosts our morale and gives us hope for better support in the future," she said. Master Atul Pangotra echoed her sentiments, emphasizing the potential of the Ladakh Taekwondo Association to produce Olympic-level athletes. "Despite limited resources, the medal tally for UT Ladakh is high. With adequate support, they can train more players to compete in international events and even the Olympics," he said. MP Haji Hanifa Jan concluded his visit with a commitment to prioritize the needs of athletes from Ladakh. "Our athletes are an inspiration for the youth. Supporting them will pave the way for more young people to take up sports and represent Ladakh and India on global platforms. I will ensure that their grievances are addressed and resources are made available to help them achieve their dreams," he said.

Winter Season: Tourism Deptt nominates officers for assistance of tourists

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure seamless assistance and support to tourists visiting Kashmir during the ensuing winter season, the Directorate of Tourism Kashmir today nominated officers and officials as Nodal Officers for various areas. The officers shall coordinate and oversee the efforts to ensure hassle free movement and stay of tourists and to respond to any exigency/issue being faced by the tourists. The Nodal Officers shall work under the overall supervision of Dr. S.D Chowdhary, Deputy Director Tourism, Enforcement (SSP), (9797066007). Malik Waseem, Deputy Director Tourism (7006856600) shall oversee South Kashmir while Nasir Mehmood Khan, Deputy Director Tourism (9622669777) will manage North Kashmir and Abid Iqbal, Deputy Director Tourism, (7006707274) will supervise grievances and assistance of tourists in Central Kashmir. The Nodal Officers shall closely liaise with the concerned resort officers and concerned District Administrations/Departments for timely resolution of issues. Furthermore, Resort Officers and Tourist police personnel shall remain available for rendering all the necessary assistance to the tourists visiting the areas during the winter season.

Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg, Tahir Mohi U Din (7006759980) along with Syed Rafi, SI Tourist Police (9419003753) for Gulmarg. Assistant Director Tourism Pahalgam Jahid Azad (7006245981) along with Mush-taq Ahmad, SI Tourist Police (7889342088) for Pahalgam. Tourist Officer, Mudassar Mushtaq (9906906115) Koker-nag/Achabal/Daksum along with Mushtaq Ahmad, HC Tourist Police (6005434129) for Kokernag and Muneera, LHC Tourist Police (9797872546) for Achabal. Shafqat Ahmad Ito, Assistant Tourist Officer (7006823575) for Doodhpathri; while Basharat Hussain, Assistant Tourist Officer (9018679626) along with Fayaz Ahmad, ASI Tourist Police (9149729678) for Sonamarg. Meanwhile, a Control Room has also been constituted at Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Srinagar, to provide seamless assistance to tourists and respond to emergencies during this period. Officers and officials deployed at the Control Room include Nisar Rasool, Assistant Director Tourism (9906663868); Azad Yaseen, Assistant Tourist Officer (7006146562); Gowhar Raffie, Assistant Tourist Officer (7006580763); Sidharth Sathoo, Receptionist (7889727957); Rahul Pandita, Receptionist (7006389514); Vishant Pandita, Receptionist (7298506506); Zahida Parveen, and Abdul Rashid Bhat.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of RDSS projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, convened a meeting today to assess the progress of works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district. During the meeting, Chief Manager Power Grid briefed the DC on the status of the projects. It was informed that the RDSS, with a project cost of Rs. 126.9 crore, aims to strengthen the power distribution infrastructure in the district by installing 618 new distribution transformers and 330 km of LT Aerial Bundled Cables (ABC). The initiative is designed to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses in

Kulgam. It was informed that the physical progress of the works currently stands at approximately 22%. The DC expressed dissatisfaction with the delayed supply of distribution transformers and directed the concerned to expedite the delivery process to ensure timely completion of the project. He further instructed to mobilize men and machinery to ensure completion of projects well in time. The DC emphasized the importance of completing the works within the stipulated timeline to enhance the reliability and efficiency of the power distribution system in the district. The meeting was also attended by ACR, Ex. Engineer PDD, Tehsildar D. H. Pora and other officers.

DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the untimely demise of Mrs. Sabiha Fayaz (Rosy) W/o Mr Fayaz Ahmed Rah R/o Sona Masjid Fateh Kadal Srinagar who passed away on 31/12/2024 (Tuesday). May Allah grant janat u firdous to the departed soul. Fateh khani will be held on 02/01/2025 (Thursday) at their ancestral graveyard near Sona Masjid Karfali Mohalla at 10:30 am... Inshallah.

BEREAVED RAH FAMILY

7006152009 (Fahad Rah).
9906611644 (Fayaz Ahmad Rah)

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KAKAPORA

RE-ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch ward shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqa, for the engagement of AWH's (Shayikas) for the Anganwadi Centre of POSHAN Project Kakapora on "Honourarium basis". The applications along with required documents shall be submitted in the Office of undersigned i.e the Child Development Project Officer Kakapora within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

S.No	Name of Poshan Project	Name of the Post	No of Posts	Name of AWC	Panchayat Halqa	Punch Constituency No
01	Kakapora	AWH (Shayikas)	01	Kakapora-D	I(kakapora-B)	PC-i

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers):-

- ▶ Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post.
- ▶ The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- ▶ The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- ▶ Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
- ▶ In case no matriculate candidate is available in the Ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- ▶ The committee shall select the most destitute/ needy married women of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate can also be considered.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form of Shayikas (AWH)

- ▶ Panch Ward Certificate/ Present/ continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO.
- ▶ Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- ▶ Date of Birth Certificate.
- ▶ Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th
- ▶ Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- ▶ Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
- ▶ The application forms for Shayikas shall be obtained from office of the U/S free of cost. ^

No: CDPO/Kak/Adv/2024/756-773
Dated: 31-12-2024

DIPK-10233-24
DT: 31/12/2024

Child Project Officer
Poshan, Kakapora

GMC Anantnag Makes History: First Institution Worldwide to Complete 50 LBB-A Pacing Procedures Using C-arm

This is a milestone in super specialty healthcare, my team's dedication has been exemplary: Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr. Ruksana

AAZAN MANZOOR

ANANTNAG: Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag has made history as the first institution worldwide to complete 50 Left Bundle Branch Area (LBB-A) pacing procedures using a C-arm system, a groundbreaking achievement accomplished without Electrophysiology (EP) bawakup. As per the details collected by the news agency JKNS under the guidance of Principal Prof. Dr. Ruksana Najeeb, the GMC Anantnag cardiology team—Dr. Syed Maqbool, Dr. Shamim Iqbal, and Dr. Showkat Hussain Shah—achieved this milestone in just four months, overcoming numerous challenges. Officials from GMC Anantnag said the initiative began in September

2024, with the aim of replacing conventional pacemaker implantation with LBB-A pacing. Conventional pacemakers, which place leads in the right ventricular (RV) apex or septum, can cause Pacemaker-Induced Cardiomyopathy (PIM) in 10-20% of patients within 3-4 years, potentially leading to heart failure, recurrent hospitalizations, or even death. They said LBB-A pacing offers a safer alternative, targeting the heart's natural conduction system rather than the RV muscle, thereby eliminating these complications. Since its introduction in 2017, the technology has been widely adopted globally, including in institutions across India and Jammu and Kashmir. "While most institutions perform LBB-A pacing in cath labs with EP guidance,

GMC Anantnag is unique for conducting these procedures without EP backup, using a C-arm system. It is also the leading institution in Jammu and Kashmir for the number of LBB-A procedures performed," they said. In the meanwhile, GMC Anantnag treated a diverse range of patients, including those with complete heart block, sick sinus syndrome, Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM), Left Bundle Branch Block (LBBB), and even Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM). The team achieved a 95% success rate with no mortality across 50 cases, despite resource constraints and the lack of a dedicated cath lab. Moreover, Principal GMC Anantnag, Prof. Dr. Ruksana Najeeb while talking to news agency JKNC, supported the initiative from its inception,

demonstrating her commitment to advancing super specialty healthcare in South Kashmir. Congratulating the team, she said, "Historically, pacing from the RV apex has been the standard approach to treat patients with bradyarrhythmia. However, the long-term complications of this method have led to the development of conduction system pacing, which mimics natural heart rhythms." Dr. Najeeb further said the challenges of performing such procedures without a dedicated cath lab or EP systems, relying instead on a primitive C-arm system and ECG guidance. "All patients treated under this program are doing well and are under regular follow-up," she added. —(JKNS)

Katra Ropeway Controversy Manjit Singh urges government to address the concerns and apprehensions of the protesting stakeholders

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Former minister and Apni Party's Provincial President for Jammu, S. Manjit Singh, on Tuesday called on the government to engage with protesting stakeholders and address their legitimate concerns and apprehensions regarding the proposed ropeway project to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. He also urged the government to release the arrested members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti who were detained during a protest march against the ropeway project. Pertinently, the proposed Katra-Sanjichhat ropeway is intended to bypass the old Katra-Banga-Adi Kunwari route of the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. Locals, including traders, shopkeepers, pony walas, labourers, and hoteliers, have been opposing the project. They argue that the ropeway would impact their livelihoods, as visiting pilgrims would no longer require their ser-

vices once the ropeway is completed and operational. In a statement issued here, Manjit Singh said, "It is worrisome that the protest has been continuing for the past six days in Katra against the proposed ropeway project to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. The protesters argue that the ropeway could significantly impact their sources of livelihood. Their concerns are legitimate to some extent. The government must engage with these stakeholders to address their concerns and apprehensions. Local stakeholders cannot be left protesting like this. It is imperative for the authorities to initiate meaningful dialogue and ensure their concerns are adequately addressed." Demanding the immediate release of the detained protesters, Singh said, "Unfortunately, some of the leaders of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti have been arrested by the police. They should be released immediately."

Kashmiri Pandits integral part of our culture: Deputy CM

Visits Jagti Nagrota, takes stock of essential services, other facilities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today reaffirmed that Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) are an integral part of the cultural and social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir and the government is committed towards their dignified rehabilitation. The Deputy CM made these remarks while addressing a function on the side lines of his visit to Jagti Township, Nagrota here today. The Deputy CM was accompanied by Relief Commissioner (Migrants), Director Health Services Jammu, Director General Floriculture, Director Food supplies Jammu, and other senior officers. On the occasion, Surinder Choudhary reiterated the government's dedication to addressing the concerns of Kashmiri Pandits and ensuring their well-being through targeted initiatives, robust support system and various welfare schemes. "Efforts are being inten-

sified to provide a better quality of life for the residents of Jagti township and Kashmiri Migrants as a whole and our commitment to their rehabilitation is unwavering," he stated. The deputy Chief minister directed the officers to redress the grievances of the residents within the shortest possible time. During his visit, the Deputy CM conducted a comprehensive review of the facilities available for the township residents. He assessed the status of health and education infrastructure, availability of drinking water and other essential services. In a detailed inspection of healthcare services at the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) in Jagti, the Deputy CM directed Director Health Services to ensure uninterrupted and high-quality medical care services. He also stressed on adequate supply of medicines to meet the needs of the patients besides upgrading the existing infrastructure at the hospital.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION – IV.

PAMPORE KASHMIR – 192121 Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-3

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening date of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/05 of 2024-25 for "Annual Routine/ Maintenance of 450MVA, 220/132/33kV Grid Station Zainakote, 450MVA, 220/132kV Grid Station Pampore and 100MVA, 132/33kV Grid Station Nowbugh Chadoora Under the jurisdiction of TLMD-IV Pampore for the year 2024-25 is further extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	07-01-2025 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	08-01-2025 at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in. --SD-- Executive Engineer, TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-3019-24
DT: 31/12/2024

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION – IV.

PAMPORE KASHMIR – 192121 Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-3

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening date of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/06 of 2024-25 for "Annual Routine/ Maintenance (AMC) of 220kV Wagoora-Zainakote and 220kV D/C Kishenpur Pampore Tr. line and 132kV D/C Budgam-Chadoora Transmission lines Under the jurisdiction of TLMD-IV Pampore for the year 2024-25 is further extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	07-01-2025 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	08-01-2025at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in. --SD-- Executive Engineer, TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-3020-24
DT: 31/12/2024

Good Morning
Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Online betting culture

There was a reason why online betting was not even allowed in some states in the United States of America (USA). The moment some of the states reversed the decision the results were for all to see. These states saw billions of dollars going into foreign online companies accounts from these states. Human psychology is positioned or rather aligned in a way that it gets attracted to the 'now and here' more than the long-term slog. People would ideally want to emulate the feat of someone who became rich at 30 rather than someone who became rich at 60. Working hard on a brand for years makes the brand stronger, builds a character in the promoter of the brand and brings in a sense of gratitude and humility. Easy money does quite the opposite - funky shoes, costly watches, hipster cars, posh villas and foreign trips. The money which is accessed easily is also spent impulsively while money which is earned through years and years of hard work is spent for the right purposes. Recently we saw a man in south Kashmir losing about 80 lakh rupees over a period of time on a betting app. From what one could gather from the conversation the man must have been placing bets on the app for many weeks - he had been winning all this money noiselessly but when he lost it all in a short burst of time he decided to finally declare his bankruptcy in front of the media. Now we are hearing of another youth from the Chenab valley losing more than one crore rupees on another betting app. People must understand that there is no short cut to success. Success is earned through years and years of hard work, dedication and single-minded focus. One has to put in relentless labour and man hours, sacrifice a dozen things, curtail interactions with friends and relatives for an extended period of time to achieve success - it was, is and never will be an overnight phenomenon.

The recent phenomenon of YouTubers earning millions in a matter of a few years is spawning a generation of youth who just want to make easy money. This trend has the potential to shrink the talent pool of the valley further. The south-Asian region is already battling with brain drain as the most talented of the youth are taking the first available flight to the first world to never return again. If a good majority of the youth are busy in constant pursuit of easy money then it is a very pitiable scenario. The youth must understand for once and for all that the only person or entity who earns on betting apps is the owner and the management of the betting app. Let better sense prevail!

GenZ and Nostalgia: What's Fueling Their Love for the Past?

RIDA ALI

In an age of constant progress, I find myself retreating to the past. The world's demands feel lighter when I'm watching old shows from the 2000s. My film camera gives me the satisfaction of simpler moments in a way my iPhone can't. Photos of "how things used to be" fill me with a sense of calm. And I know I'm not the only one in Gen Z who feels this way. Our generation may be the most nostalgic yet; 40% of Gen Z longs for eras we never lived through, while 70% regularly consumes media from earlier decades. Why is nostalgia so pervasive for us?

We have more advanced technology, more global connectivity, and more options than any generation before. Yet we reach for things like film cameras and binge old episodes of Gilmore Girls or Wizards of Waverly Place. We wear Y2K fashion and embrace aesthetics that make the early 2000s feel "vintage." Brands cater to us with marketing filled with "vintage" and "nostalgic" imagery because they know it resonates. Why?

Nostalgia can act as a form of self-care, with familiar, pleasant activities activating the brain's reward centres. For Gen Z, turning to early 2000s media offers that familiarity in a time when the present feels increasingly uncertain. There's comfort in returning to shows like Gilmore Girls, Harry Potter, and Friends, where you know exactly what to expect—every character's quirks, every predictable conflict. While these shows may deal with drama, the problems feel contained, almost trivial, compared to the daunting global crises Gen Z faces today. Watching exaggerated portrayals of teenage struggle can feel reassuring, a reminder of when issues were simpler and more manageable. However, with nostalgia often comes romanticization, leading to phrases like, "I was born in the



Unlike previous generations, Gen Z faces the additional pressure of presenting a polished, marketable version of ourselves on social media—whether we're making friends, dating, applying to schools, or seeking jobs.

wrong generation." While this sentiment is understandable, it's not unique to Gen Z. Every generation looks back longingly on what feels like a simpler, freer time, often as they transition into adulthood and face new responsibilities. Millennials felt a similar yearning for a world they hadn't lived through—cue songs like Sandi Thom's "I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker" with its idealized view of earlier eras. It's human nature to crave those carefree years, even if each "simpler time" had its own set of challenges. The early 2000s were iconic, but like any other decade, they weren't free of global issues.

Part of nostalgia, maybe, is the sheer speed and exposure of modern life. We can experi-

ence the world with a scroll or a swipe, which brings endless opportunities but also relentless comparisons. Social media shows us constant highlights, making it easy to feel that "yesterday" was brighter than today.

Documenting every moment is both a gift and a burden: we can cherish memories, yet we constantly measure them against the curated snapshots of others.

Unlike previous generations, Gen Z faces the additional pressure of presenting a polished, marketable version of ourselves on social media—whether we're making friends, dating, applying to schools, or seeking jobs. This need to "sell" ourselves can make even meaningful moments feel lacklustre if they don't measure up

to the endless parade of life's "best" scenes. It's no surprise that Gen Z reports higher levels of stress, anxiety, and depression than previous generations.

It wasn't always this way. In the 70s, 80s, 90s, and early 2000s, people weren't flooded with images of past decades or perpetual comparisons. They simply lived each moment, free from the looming shadow of a virtual audience. They had more room to savour the uniqueness of their present without the fear of falling short.

But social media is only part of the equation. For much of Gen Z, crucial moments of adolescence were overshadowed or stolen by a global pandemic. In addition, we face a housing crisis, inflation, and global warfare playing out on our screens, amplifying the weight of these challenges. Our generation stands at the intersection of hyper-individualism and a deep commitment to social justice, which creates a unique tension: while we're encouraged to craft distinct personal identities online, we're also more aware than ever of the world's problems, from systemic inequalities to environmental crises.

This awareness is intensified by the ways history and current events are documented and shared with us. Through our phones, we have access to images, testimonies, and news of injustices across the world in real-time. The past isn't a distant memory—it's alive in our feeds, in stories that spotlight both the struggles and victories of previous generations.

We inherit these documented memories and feel their weight, seeing not only how the world once was but also how much remains unchanged. With resources and platforms that allow us to organize and mobilize, we often feel both empowered and pressured to fix wrong things and to advocate for a better future.

Maybe nostalgia isn't just

an escape; it's a response to what's missing. While we're surrounded by options and technology that connect us more than ever, this hyper-connected world can also feel fragmented and detached. With everything seemingly for sale, it's difficult to find meaning in what's organic and real. Capitalism's endless drive for progress and consumption can make our lives feel driven by metrics, achievements, and aesthetics, rather than genuine connection or fulfilment. In revisiting the past, we find a grounding sense of authenticity—a bridge between eras that gives us a safe space to recharge and a glimpse of life outside the pressures of the modern world. For Gen Z, nostalgia offers a way to cope with today's complex pressures and to hold onto a vision of simpler times. It's no surprise, then, that even in an age of endless innovation, the past still feels like home.

(Rida Ali is a passionate master's student at SOAS, delving into the intersections of media, Muslim identity, and South Asia in her academic pursuits. Having previously resided in New York, she earned her undergraduate degree from NYU, where she studied Global studies and Media. As a Pakistani Shia Muslim, Rida is interested in the rights of minorities in Pakistan and how media impacts social change. You can find her on social media @reespiritrida, where she creates content based around the topics of heritage, culture, identity, and history. Beyond her academic and advocacy work, Rida finds joy in exploring new cultures through travel, film photography, trying new food, and rejoicing in community. Rida seeks to contribute to meaningful conversations and bridge understanding through her diverse interests and experiences)

How What You Eat Reveals Your Personality

Research finds that personality traits affect food preferences and habits

VINITA MEHTA

Can your personality affect your eating habits and healthy lifestyle choices? These were the main questions of a study conducted by Ioannis Tsartsapakis and Aglaia Zafeiroudi of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Thessaly, respectively, in Greece.

More specifically, the researchers were interested in how the Big Five Personality Traits, a widely accepted model believed to encompass basic dimensions of personality, influenced food consumption and healthy eating habits. The five traits are: Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism.

To investigate the influence of the Big Five on eating, the research team performed a literature review of studies that focused on the role of these personality factors in dietary habits and preferences. Their effort yielded a whopping 2237 relevant articles, but in the final tally, just 21 studies met the inclusion criteria. From there, they analyzed the findings.

The results were striking. Tsartsapakis and Zafeiroudi found that each of the Big Five traits was associated with dietary preferences and habits. Their findings are summarized below:

- **Conscientiousness** involves self-control, setting goals, planning ahead, and sticking to rules. People high in conscientiousness are more likely to make healthier food choices, maintain a healthy body weight through good eating



habits, and stick to overall healthy behaviors.

- **Openness to experience** refers to curiosity, creativity, and open-mindedness. People high in openness enjoy new experiences, appreciate art, and are in touch with their feelings. By contrast, people low in openness prefer established routines and beliefs—and may be regarded as close-minded or conventional. People high in openness demonstrate healthier habits, like eating more fruits and vegetables and following a balanced diet, particularly as they get older. Open individuals were also less likely to suffer from "food neophobia," or the avoidance or fear of eating new foods.

- **Agreeableness** captures how a person interacts with others and their general attitude toward people. Individuals high

on this trait are open to others, altruistic, trusting, and compassionate. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this trait was linked to low

and how much they enjoy socializing. It also relates to how positive, energetic, and lively someone feels across different social con-



- **meat consumption.** Extraversion refers to how people interact with others

texts. People high in this trait are typically social, talkative, and energetic.

They thrive in social settings, seek fun, and are optimistic. Moreover, they enjoy adventurous activities, including dangerous sports. Extraversion was linked to the consumption of sweet and salty foods, meat, and soda. People high in extraversion often make unhealthy food choices, the investigators say, because they believe they're in good health—and are more likely to engage in risky behaviours.

- **Neuroticism** speaks to how a person handles emotions and how stable they feel. People high in neuroticism tend to experience more negative emotions, emotional instability, hypochondriasis, and stress. They may also struggle with feelings of inadequacy, nervousness, and anxiety. People high in this trait demonstrated unhealthy eating habits, including lower fruit and vegetable intake, and high sugar and saturated fat consumption.

Nearly 200 years ago, Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin wrote in his book *The Physiology of Taste*: "Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you who you are." The findings of this modern-day study suggest that he was right.

(Vinita Mehta, Ph.D., Ed.M., is a clinical psychologist and journalist. She was formerly the Development Producer and Science Editor of PBS's *This Emotional Life*. Article was first published in *The Psychology Today*)

Sweden is a nearly cashless society

HERE'S HOW IT AFFECTS PEOPLE WHO ARE LEFT OUT

MOA PETERSEN
LINA HALLDENIUS

Around the world, cards and apps are the default way to pay – but nowhere is the transition away from cash more obvious than in Sweden. The Bank of Sweden notes that the amount of cash in circulation in the country has halved since 2007.

Part of this is due to a unique Swedish law that prioritises “freedom of contract” above any legal requirement to accept cash. In other words, it is up to businesses – including banks – whether they take cash. Public transport, stores and services typically do not accept cash as payment, and there is no infrastructure for paying bills over the counter.

The transition to cashlessness accelerated when a group of banks created the mobile payment app Swish in 2012. By 2017, Sweden was using less cash than other European countries. Today, more than 80% of the population has a Swish account.

For most Swedes, the cashless economy is swift and convenient. As long as you have a bank account and can access the technology, you probably live a cashless life already. But for the few people who still depend on cash, life is getting harder.

Our recent research shows how this affects the worst-off groups in Sweden's cashless society. Our interviewees live in poverty-induced cash dependence, meaning they rely on cash payments because they are unbanked, lack credit or cannot afford digital technology.

While it is difficult to measure just how many people depend on



cash, older people, particularly, are struggling to pay bills digitally.

Some of those we interviewed are homeless or have mental health issues. Others live on a very low income. The obstacles they face are both practical and cultural. They feel like delinquents, undervalued and locked out of participating in much of daily life.

Being cash-dependent in Sweden

If cash is the only money you have or the only money you can manage without help, you are

confined to “cash bubbles”. Cash works like a local currency, isolated from the rest of the economy.

In the cash bubble, you can buy necessities and go to no-frills cafes, but you can't pay for parking and you can't pay bills without help. Volunteers at local community groups told us that they spend most of their time doing people's banking for them.

A Ukrainian refugee, who can't get a bank account because of their migration status, worried about a bill from the local health clinic that they had no technical means of paying.

Homeless people who sleep in cars can't use the cashless parking meters, so an illicit market has emerged where people with smartphones and bank accounts pay for their parking at a substantial extra cost. It's expensive to be digitally poor.

Our interviewees felt left behind in a society that does not care about their ability to participate. With a mix of shame, anger and resignation, they described everyday humiliations. One woman saved up to buy her grandchild a gift she wanted, only to be told at the till – grandchild

in hand – that they didn't accept her money. “I felt like a thief,” she told us.

Sweden's cashless transition

Swedes are known to be early and uncritical adopters of technology – this has become part of the country's self-image. In 2017, business researchers predicted that cash would be irrelevant in Sweden by March 2023. It didn't quite happen, but near enough.

Over the last 150 years, technological innovations and entrepreneurship have propelled the country from severe poverty to

being one of the richest in Europe. The Swedish case is even more special due to the pervasive role of banks in the payment and identification infrastructure. Banks created the widely used payment app Swish, and also issued the electronic ID needed to access public services like the tax authority and benefits for illness, disability and unemployment.

Consequently, if you are not a bank customer, you can't access these public services.

During the pandemic, fears of contamination made handling physical money seem like a health hazard. “I hate cash. It's dirty,” as one Swedish tech entrepreneur put it.

All of these factors combined have led to a modern Swedish society where digital money is good and cash is associated with crime and dirt. For people who still depend on cash payments, this stigma adds to their sense of being left out.

In Sweden, as in many other countries, a fully cashless economy feels inevitable in the coming years. But as we have found, people who rely on cash due to poverty are left without the means to manage independently or even to pay their bills.

This is not just a practical issue, but an emotional one. There is a sense of loneliness, of loss of community and human connection in the digital economy. As one of our interviewees said: “It's not just cashlessness. I feel that human beings have disappeared. We live like robots; click here, click that. Digitisation has made people lonely.”

(The article was first published in *Theconversation.com*)

7 Ways to Increase Barakah in Your Life

AYA EL-DASSOUKI

Do you ever plan your day ahead in the hopes of getting as many tasks done as possible, yet time slips away and the tasks and responsibilities remain unfulfilled? While this can be due to a test from Allah swt – in the case of an illness, for example –, the lack of barakah in our lives can also play a significant role in this.

The concept of Barakah is mentioned multiple times in the Qur'an such as: “Had the people of those societies been faithful and mindful 'of Allah', We would have overwhelmed them with blessings from heaven and earth. But they disbelieved, so We seized them for what they used to commit.” (Qur'an 7:96)

Although Barakah is loosely translated as ‘blessings’, it has three significant meanings in the Arabic language. The first definition is “Al namaa wal ziyada” which means “growth and increase”, the second is “Al istimrariyya” meaning continuity, and the third stems from the phrase “ibtarakah al jamal” which translates to “the camel has knelt” and refers to the fact that when camels kneel, they usually remain in the same position for lengthy periods. So, an action or item containing barakah is one which continually increases and remains in the same place as though it sticks. Thus, a small action with barakah can result in a significant reaction, opposing Newton's third law of motion: “for every action (force) in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction”.

Barakah is a central value in Islam that represents the abundance and blessings that come from Allah (SWT). It encompasses several mindsets that we as Muslims need to embody in order to benefit from its presence in our lives. These include:

Moderation: To avoid excess-

siveness in all matters and seek the middle path.

Generosity: To give others from our time, wealth, knowledge, and experience (while expecting nothing in return).

Uprightness: To do what's moral, ethical and honest in all situations. These values are not only important for individual growth but also for the well-being of the society and community.

The Prophet's ﷺ Life and Barakah:

Barakah is growth and increase, which some of Allah's servants enjoy, and our Prophet ﷺ made dua for at various points, and for a number of companions including Anas ibn Malik (ra). The Prophet ﷺ said, “O God, increase his wealth and his children and bless him with what you gave him.” [Sahih Bukhari 6344]

Allah SWT accepted the supplication of His Prophet ﷺ, such that Anas became the wealthiest of the Ansar and the most abundant of them, to the extent that he saw more than a hundred of his children and granddaughters. Allah also blessed him in his life until he lived a full century and three years above it. [Sowar min hayat al sahaba]

In addition, books of hadith and biography have recorded several miraculous incidents of the Messenger ﷺ where Allah instilled Barakah in his actions. For example, the food of one person became sufficient for two, sometimes four or much more. Particularly during the battle of Khandaq, the Prophet ﷺ was able to feed a thousand people from a small sheep. [Sahih Bukhari 3070]

Here are some ways, according to the Qur'an and Sunnah, that we can bring barakah into our lives as Muslims:

1. Begin with the name of Allah: Allah begins and ends Surah Al-Rahman, with His name. In addition, the verse relating to



gratitude and glorification of Allah is repeated 31 times. This implies that the name of Allah SWT is full of Barakah, thus if we seek to bring barakah to any work that we try to do, it is essential to begin and end whatever we are doing with His name.

- Perform Salah regularly and on time: Allah SWT says, “Enjoin prayer on your family (and people), and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for provision: We provide it for you. And the rewards of the Hereafter are for [those of] righteousness.” [Qur'an 20:132].
- Read and reflect on the Qur'an: The Qur'an is the speech of Allah (SWT) and a source of guidance and wisdom for Muslims. Allah says, “And this is a Book which We have sent down, bringing blessings, and confirming (the revelations) which came before it...” [Qur'an 6:92] So when we regularly



Allah SWT accepted the supplication of His Prophet ﷺ, such that Anas became the wealthiest of the Ansar and the most abundant of them, to the extent that he saw more than a hundred of his children and granddaughters. Allah also blessed him in his life until he lived a full century and three years above it. [Sowar min hayat al sahaba]

engage with the Quran, it opens up pathways for blessings in our lives.

- Honesty in trading and income: Sincerity when conducting business is a way to increase barakah in your income. The Prophet ﷺ said, “The buyer and the seller have the option of cancelling or confirming the bargain unless they separate, and if they spoke the truth and made clear the defects of the goods, then they would be blessed in their bargain, and if they told lies and hid some facts, their bargain would be deprived of Allah's blessings.” [Sahih al-Bukhari 2047]
- Istighfar and repentance: Allah says, “Seek your Lord's forgiveness, 'for' He is truly Most Forgiving. He will shower you with abundant rain, supply you with wealth and children, and give you gardens as well as rivers.” [Qur'an 71:10-12]

- Make du'a: Set aside some time from your day to make a sincere du'a to Allah, and ask Him to grant you barakah in your affairs. Allah SWT says, “When my servants ask you concerning me, (tell them) I am indeed close (to them). I listen to the prayer of every suppliant person when he calls on me.” [Qur'an 2:186]
- Be patient: Patience is a key component of faith and it is something that we must all strive to attain. By being patient in the face of difficulties and hardships, we are showing our trust in Allah (SWT) and this brings barakah into our lives.

Zayd ibn Arqam said, “I had a pain in my eyes and the Prophet ﷺ, visited me and said, ‘Zayd, if your eyes were to go blind because of their illness, what would you do?’ I said, ‘I would be steadfast and reckon my reward to be with Allah.’ He ﷺ said, ‘If that happens to your eyes and you are stead-

fast and reckon your reward to be with Allah, then your reward will be jannah.” [Al-Adab Al-Mufrad 532]

Those who possess a mindset of barakah are said to have a positive outlook on life and are focused on gratitude and generosity. They are also thought to be less affected by the ups and downs of life and to have a greater ability to find contentment in difficult situations. The mindset of barakah is important as an Islamic spiritual practice and is viewed as a key to achieving spiritual growth and closeness to Allah.

Here are some du'as to bring barakah into our lives:

- Rabbi innee limaa anzalta ilayya min khayrin faqeer (My Lord, indeed I am in need of whatever good You would send down to me) [Qur'an 28:24]
- Allahumma barik lana fi ma razaqtana wa qina adaba al nar (Oh Allah, bless us in our sustenance and grant us independence and save us from the hellfire) [Ibn as-Sunni]
- Rabbi hab lee minas-saaliheen (My Lord, grant me from among the righteous) [Qur'an 37:100]
- Allahumma inni as'aluka 'afiyata fil-hayat wa fil-mamat (Oh Allah, I ask you for health in this life and the next) [Sahih Book 34, Hadith 45]

It is important to note that making dua and asking Allah for blessings is a fundamental aspect of Islamic worship and should be done with humility, sincerity, and a sense of reliance on Allah.

(Aya El-Dassouki is a first-year computer science student at York University. She is 19 years old seeking more knowledge and trying to spread the knowledge she has to benefit others. The article was first published in *Amaliah.com*)

9 Tips To Help You Manage Migraines During Monsoon Season

Migraines are intense, often debilitating headaches characterised by throbbing pain, typically on one side of the head, and may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light and sound. Monsoon weather can exacerbate migraines due to fluctuations in atmospheric pressure, increased humidity, and sudden weather changes. These environmental changes can trigger migraines in susceptible individuals by causing chemical imbalances in the brain, affecting the levels of serotonin and other neurotransmitters. Additionally, the monsoon season may increase exposure to allergens and mould, further triggering migraine episodes. Fortunately, some tips may be helpful in reducing it. Keep reading as we share a list of tips to help overcome migraines in monsoon.

Tips to help manage migraines during this season

1. Stay hydrated
Dehydration is a common trigger for migraines. Staying hydrated helps maintain proper fluid balance in the body, reducing the risk of migraines. Drink at least 8-10 glasses of water daily. Avoid caffeinated and sugary drinks as they can cause dehydration. Consider carrying a water bottle to ensure consistent hydration.

2. Maintain a sleep schedule
Irregular sleep patterns can trigger migraines. Consistent sleep helps regulate the body's internal clock, reducing the likelihood of migraines. Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on weekends. Create a relaxing bedtime routine to promote better sleep.

3. Manage stress
Stress is a significant migraine trigger. Managing stress can help reduce the frequency and severity of migraines. Practice relaxation techniques such as deep



breathing, meditation, or yoga. Regular exercise can also help

manage stress levels.

4. Monitor weather changes

Sudden weather changes, common during the monsoon,

can trigger migraines. Being aware of weather patterns can help in taking preventive measures. Use weather apps to track changes in atmospheric pressure and humidity. Consider staying indoors during sudden weather changes or when a migraine is likely.

5. Avoid trigger foods
Certain foods can trigger migraines. Identifying and avoiding these foods can reduce migraine occurrences. Keep a food diary to identify potential trigger foods. Common triggers include processed foods, aged cheeses, chocolate, caffeine, and alcohol.

6. Maintain a balanced diet
Skipping meals or having an unbalanced diet can trigger migraines. A balanced diet ensures a steady supply of nutrients and energy. Eat regular meals with a balance of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. Include plenty of fruits and vegetables in your diet.

7. Practice good posture
Poor posture can lead to ten-

sion in the neck and shoulders, which can trigger migraines. Good posture reduces muscle strain and tension. Sit and stand with your back straight and shoulders relaxed.

8. Use essential oils
Some essential oils, such as peppermint and lavender, have calming and pain-relieving properties that can help alleviate migraine symptoms. Dilute essential oils with a carrier oil and apply to your temples and neck or use a diffuser.

9. Limit screen time
Prolonged screen time can cause eye strain and trigger migraines. Reducing screen time can help prevent this. Take regular breaks from screens and use blue light filters on screens.

Implementing these tips can help manage migraines during the monsoon season effectively. It's important to remember that triggers can vary from person to person, so identifying and understanding personal triggers is crucial for optimal management.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Centre Gives

in J&K to non-residents on forged documents.

Between 2012 and 2016, deputy commissioners of various districts in J&K had fraudulently and illegally issued bulk arms licences in lieu of monetary consideration, the probe found—(KNO)

Cold Wave Intensifies

period of intense cold called the 'Chillai Kalan' that started on December 21 will end on January 30.

Doctors have advised people especially elders and children to protect themselves from intense cold as hypothermia coupled with respiratory ailments is a major cause of death in cold regions of the Valley.

People have been advised to avoid as far as possible long exposure to sub-zero temperatures.

There have been some deaths of high-risk age group patients during the recent days and these are attributed by cardiologists to constricted blood vessels resulting in myocardial infarction, heart attack and heart failure.

BRO To Maintain

"The BRO has a dedicated workforce, resources, and expertise that make it the most competent organization to operate in challenging weather conditions and harsh terrain," the Deputy Commissioner stated.

This collaborative effort aims to ensure that the Mughal Road remains safe and accessible throughout the winter season, ultimately benefiting the local community and enhancing strategic mobility in the district.

J&K Gets NGT

Lalpora and the former Sarpanch of Sonium village are accused of cutting down 1000 trees, including 600 willow trees, 300 poplar trees, around 100 acacia and rubina trees, and 10 walnut trees.

Also, part of the Badyari stream was diverted to pave the way for the playground. This action is reportedly in violation of the Jammu and Kashmir Preservation of Specified Trees Act, 1969, and the National Water Policy 2012.

According to a local news agency KNO, it was also noted that the BDO had sought a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the diversion, but the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department rejected the request on February 23, 2024. The Engineer instructed the BDO to stop the unauthorized activities and restore the stream to its original course, but these directions were reportedly ignored.

The issue was raised before the NGT by RTI and climate activist Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, who submitted a representation to the authorities on October 14, 2024, without receiving a response.

He provided evidence of his communications to various government officials, including the Chief Secretary and the BDO.

The NGT's two-member bench, comprising Justice A K Tyagi and Dr. Senthil Veil, considered the petition and noted that the case raises environmental concerns under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

The bench directed that notices be issued to the respondents, requiring them to file their replies by March 25, 2025. Dr. Bhat has been instructed to serve the notices via email and registered post and file an affidavit of service within 15 days. The next hearing has been scheduled for April 1, 2025.

Terror Handler's

9.25 Marlas), was identified as proceeds of terrorism.

The property belongs to Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, son of Gh Mohiuddin Mir, a resident of Hilalabad Nesbal Sumbal, who is reportedly operating as a terror handler from Pakistan.

"The attachment was carried out after the individual was declared a proclaimed offender in connection with Case FIR No. 37/2024 under

the UA(P) Act, IA Act, and E&IMCO Act of Police Station Pethkote," statement reads.

This operation reaffirms the Bandipora Police's commitment to combating terrorism and dismantling its financial networks, it reads.

ACB Filed 87

spokesperson said that 42521 vigilance clearances through online Vigilance Clearance Portal were issued by ACB during the year 2024. The Vigilance clearance is sought for the purpose of promotion, regularization, retirement and for obtaining NOC to go abroad etc.

While continuing its tirade against the unholy nexus of revenue officers and land mafia, the ACB spokesperson said that 16 FIRs were registered in the year, wherein Custodian land in Asarwan, Mishriwala and Bhalwal area of Jammu district has been found usurped by the land mafia in connivance with the officers/officials of Custodian/ Revenue and Police department.

He added that to improve the investigation skills of officers of ACB capacity building programme for staff undertaken at CBI Academy Ghaziabad with tailor made programme to do hands on study of Trap/DA/Abuse of official position. This will improve the investigation skills of IOs. Also, internal workshops were held on various topics for better appreciation of evidence in cases.

ACB, the spokesperson said, receives various complaints through Satrak Nagrik Mobile Application, ACB whatsapp helpline, email, through post, by hand etc. These complaints are then examined at ACB.

"This year 2772 case were sent to DVOs and 2434 were disposed off by DVOs. 06 DVO conferences 03 each at Jammu and Srinagar respectively were held this year to review the pendency of matters with DVOs, issues relating to disposal of DVO matters and timely submission of information. 27 JSCs, 29 PEs, 116 Misc verifications and 128 Verifications were also disposed off during the year," he said.

"Tackling corruption is not just the job of the government and the Anti-Corruption Bureau; individual and collaborative engagement at all levels is required. It is every citizen's duty to play their role in exposing and combating corruption within the legal boundaries. Every citizen is a partner in the anti-corruption effort, and their cooperation in reporting instances of demand for bribes and other corruption practices is vital to stamp out the evil of corruption. The Anti-Corruption Bureau actively seeks and encourages the cooperation of public-spirited citizens to report instances of corruption. Whenever a citizen reports an instance of demand for a bribe, immediate action is taken by organizing a raid on the corrupt official, followed by the registration of a case, arrest, and trial of such official," he added.

PM Wishes Nation

into 2025," said the Prime Minister as he leads the nation into 2025.

The PM's New Year post also carried a 2.41-minute video animation clip depicting the achievements made in an eventful 2024. The milestones depicted in the video included the country's space launches, super-computing, a boost in defense manufacturing, growth in the aviation industry, and infra marvels like the underwater Howrah Maidan Metro, Rameswaram rail bridge, and Vande Bharat rail.

The video also highlighted increased medical colleges and improved health facilities for the public, Atal Pension scheme, PM Awas, the first temple in Abu Dhabi, and the introduction of the three new criminal laws.

In a virtual report card of the government's performance in 2024, the animation clip had special information on the economy.

Besides highlighting the \$700 billion foreign reserves, it also showcased the country's emergence as the third biggest force in Asia and 24.82 crore people emerging from poverty.

On the job creation front, the video highlighted the Rs 2 lakh crore package for 4.1 crore youth.

In the sports domain, the PM's video on 2024 highlighted the record 29 medals won by India in the Para-Olympics.

For the environment, the PM's video gave the message of "Ek ped Maa ke Naam" which has led to the plantation of 102 crore saplings

and highlighted the boost in India's green power generation capacity.

Known to celebrate his September 17 birthday with military jawans, PM Modi also likes to wish countrymen the New Year hoping that it would bring forth prosperity, peace and health for all

LG Greets People

The commencement of the New Year reminds us to renew our pledge towards building a society that is peaceful and compassionate. Let us also commit ourselves to the vision of Viksit Bharat and taking Jammu Kashmir to pinnacle of development and prosperity. Let us celebrate the diversity of our rich culture and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood in our society.

May the New Year 2025 bring happiness, health and prosperity to all".

Union Home Secy

Sources said that the Union Home Secretary took the feedback from the Commissioner Secretaries on the implementation of the ongoing centrally sponsored flagship schemes including 'One Nation, One Ration Card,' PM Mudra Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Bharat Jal Jeevan Mission, Smart City Mission, Broadband connectivity and other schemes.

They said that the Commissioner Secretaries apprised the Union Home Secretary about the progress achieved and steps being taken to complete the targets of reaching out to the last deserving person in the queue.

The Union Home Secretary, sources said, stressed on the need to focus on ensuring that common people in J&K get direct benefits of the centrally sponsored schemes.

After chairing the meeting at SKICC on the banks of Dal Lake here, the Union Home Secretary concluded his 2-day Kashmir visit and left for New Delhi.

Pertinently, the Union Home Secretary had arrived in Srinagar on Monday. He had chaired a security review meeting which was attended by the top brass of the security forces.

The Union Home Secretary had called on the security top brass to work towards achieving the goal of 'terror-free Jammu and Kashmir' at the earliest and emphasized on the need to act tough against the terrorists and their supporters. He had reiterated the government's resolve about zero tolerance towards terrorism.

The Union Home Secretary had appreciated the security agencies for working in close coordination with each other in the decisive action against the terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. He had stressed on the need to implement "Area Domination Plan" and "Zero Terror Plan" in mission mode—(KNO)

Kashmir's Patron

God. With the advent of Sufism, a fundamental change of perception came along that the great wisdom that the sages held was meant for common people to practice for their relevance to be truly justified; and for that, the rishis must return to society and be open to interaction with the masses.

So, the Rishi era was marked by the return of rishis to society to share their wisdom with commoners because wisdom is meant to be applied by people for the greater good of humanity. Though not out of alignment with mainstream belief system, the rishi's teachings were about transcending common religious practices guided by the clergy to the spiritual realm of faith.

However, Kashmir has witnessed a host of epochal changes over the past seven centuries. Notwithstanding the sweeps of these changes, Adfar vouches for the relevance of this saint in contemporary times. "Great men are always great," he said. "His teachings are for humanity, and what was right for humanity at one point will always be right," he asserted.

Sharing one of Nund Rishi's timeless messages, Adfar recounted that at the UN Conference on Human Environment in 1972. Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in her address drew from a verse of Nund Rishi that translates as "food is safe till forests are preserved." Spot-lighting one's personal quality of being just

to another human, the author explained the saint's teaching that believing in the Almighty and acting with the spirit of justice together is held higher than dutifully engaging in prayers.

The international airport at Srinagar is named after this saint. In 2006, a year after the airport turned international, the defence airport was renamed Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport. In 2020, there was a proposal to rename the facility after Major Somnath Sharma he had secured this airport with his life in November 1947, and stopped Pakistani militia from invading further into India the first recipient of India's highest military decoration, the Param Vir Chakra.

Stir over school book

Sajad Gani Lone, a Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference legislator and a prominent voice of opposition, strongly rebuked J&K's Board of School Education (BOSE) for omitting the chapter on Kashmir's patron saint. Taking to X, Lone expressed: "BOSE has removed a chapter based on the saintly life of the greatly revered saint of Kashmir Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali, from text books of class 9."

"We have all revered him, and people irrespective of religion hold him in highest esteem. This is pure cultural terrorism. It is an assault on our culture and ethos. I as a Kashmiri strongly condemn it," he asserted.

Highlighting the significance of the Sufi saint and the indelible impression it has on Kashmiri culture, Lone said: "More than any time in the past, the current times are smudged with violence, greed and hatred. In these times our great Saint is a beacon of hope and role model for emulation. And for the BOSE removers. Our great saint and his saintly ways were etched in our hearts and minds much before BOSE came into existence."

Repeatedly tried reaching the concerned authority at BOSE, but in the absence of a credible voice, it remains unclear why such a decision was made at all and what led to its reversal. On the surface, what comes across as a mere alteration in the J&K state board's syllabus is seen as a much more serious thing with greater implications in the larger context of a sequence of events over the last few years, according to valley-based writer and activist Mushtaq Sikandar.

He views it as a development akin to introducing changes in other parts of India where "Muslim history is being systematically erased from textbooks. It is alleged that the same policy is implemented in Kashmir." "It is also viewed as an attack on cultural identity," he said. However, chapters on Nund Rishi remain intact for Kashmiri and Urdu languages curricula for other classes. But the call to delete the said lesson for the English syllabus is seen as an attempt at "Hinduising Kashmiri society," as Sikandar said.

"There is an apprehension among the masses that by bringing in demographic change planned for over a long period of time, the intent is Hinduisation of Kashmiri culture," he said, making a reference to certain landmark episodes in recent history such as Amarnath land row (2008) and abrogation of Article 370 (2019), along with systemic changes like giving land lease, hotel contracts in the famous tourist destination of Pahalgam, Srinagar smart city project contracts conspicuously to outsiders.

Shedding light on general public perception, the critic said that the state institutions are at work to "deislamise" and create an environment of threat and fear for Muslims, "that's how the common Kashmiri sees it." "But the resistance does not show openly as the state agencies for the past years have been under the control of the Central government," Sikandar said, adding "The undercurrent of Right wing Hindu ideology is rendering the Omar Abdullah government helpless."

However, as announced by the Chief Minister after objections were raised from across party lines, that the chapter will be reinstated, it remains to be seen if the textbooks will have any surprises when the academic session resumes in March after the winter break. Until then, for a society so deeply in reverence of a saint, whose values are expected to be instilled in Kashmiri ethos irrespective of school curriculum or faith, how much does the symbolism of a chapter in a school book mean?

"It is a matter of ethics to pass to the younger generations the knowledge of great people, our ancestors and forefathers so that they too live up to their teachings. So, it has a place in the curriculum, just as Gandhi ji is known to all irrespectively of textbook chapters based on him," said senior scholar Adfar. (IANS)

Year Ender: India took big strides in creating futuristic technologies across sectors

IAN S

NEW DELHI : India's manufacturing sector is making its presence felt on the global stage across industries ranging from electronics to steel, with the country emerging as the world's third-largest smartphone exporter and net exporter of steel for the first time.



Driven by government initiatives and strategic investments over the last decade, the country steadily positioned itself as a global manufacturing hub. From producing record volumes of crude steel to meeting rising domestic and global demands, to pioneering advancements in electric vehicles and consumer electronics. Sectors once considered niche, like toys, are experiencing unprecedented expansion with exports increasing by a whopping 239 per cent and imports declining by 52 per cent.

India's pharmaceutical industry, too, now boasts of 748 USFDA-approved sites, a testament to its world-class manufacturing capabilities. The surge in the production of solar panels and wind turbines reflects India's growing commitment to renewable energy.

India's manufacturing sector has witnessed remarkable growth in 2024, underscoring its transformation into a global powerhouse. The year also marked 10 years of Make in India under which remarkable strides have been made to turn India into a manufacturing giant.

Over the last decade, India's manufacturing sector has undergone a significant transformation, largely propelled by the Make in India initiative. Key developments include the introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes across 14 sectors, attracting investments of

over Rs 1.28 lakh crore and generating more than 8.5 lakh jobs. These initiatives have spurred growth in electronics, steel, pharmaceuticals, and defence manufacturing, with notable achievements in toy exports and a 600 per cent rise in mobile phone production.

India has become a net exporter of steel, with production doubling, and has significantly reduced import dependency on pharmaceuticals and telecom equipment. Defence exports have soared, reaching over 85 countries, while the country has also made strides in semiconductor manufacturing and renewable energy, enhancing its global manufacturing stature by 2024.

FY2023-24 saw an economic growth of 8.2 per cent, which was bolstered by an industrial growth rate of 9.5 per cent, with the manufacturing and construction sectors nearing double-digit expansion.

A host of initiatives have further streamlined India's manufacturing ecosystem across sectors in 2024. These include the Jan Vishwas 2.0 Bill, the development of plug-and-play industrial parks near 100 cities that

attracted investments. India achieved its highest-ever steel production and consumption levels in FY24, becoming a net exporter of finished steel, with production increasing by 50 per cent since 2014.

The pharmaceutical industry, valued at \$50 billion, remains the world's third-largest by volume. Investments worth Rs 30,000 crore under PLI schemes have catalyzed growth in biosimilars, vaccines, and generic drugs, cementing India's global leadership in affordable healthcare solutions.

The labour-intensive Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) remain the backbone of India's manufacturing sector, contributing 35 per cent of the total output and 45 per cent of exports. As of 2024, 4.7 crore MSMEs are registered on the Udyam Portal, benefiting from credit schemes that provided 92 lakh guarantees worth Rs 6.78 lakh crore.

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme also supported over 89,000 micro-entrepreneurs, creating employment for 7.13 lakh people in FY24. India's Production Linked

Incentive (PLI) schemes have played a transformative role in accelerating the country's manufacturing sector, making it a global hub for industrial production.

The PLI schemes have enabled investments of over Rs 1.28 lakh crore, generating 8.5 lakh jobs, and boosting exports by Rs 4 lakh crore. This has led to production and sales worth Rs 10.8 lakh crore, demonstrating the significant impact of the policy.

The electronics manufacturing sector, in particular, witnessed exponential growth, with domestic production increasing by 400 per cent from Rs 1.9 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 8.22 lakh crore in FY23.

This includes the mobile phone segment, where the direct workforce has more than tripled between FY17 and FY22, significantly benefiting female workers.

The pharmaceutical sector has also greatly benefited, with Rs 30,000 crore in investments under the scheme. This has strengthened India's capabilities in the production of APIs, vaccines, biosimilars, and biologics, consolidating its position as the world's third-largest pharmaceutical market by volume. Similarly, PLI support for white goods like air conditioners and LED lights has reduced import dependency, enhanced domestic production, and created jobs.

The steel sector has seen a remarkable transformation, with production increasing by 70 per cent since 2014, making India a net exporter of finished steel. The success of the PLI schemes has also extended to newer areas, with 2024 witnessing the introduction of incentives for biomanufacturing and the launch of the Critical Mineral Mission, aimed at securing resources essential for manufacturing sectors like

EVs and semiconductors.

By fostering large-scale investments, creating employment opportunities, and boosting exports, the PLI schemes have positioned India as a critical player in global value chains.

The electronics manufacturing cluster scheme attracted Rs 40,000 crore in investments, generating 5 lakh jobs, while solar capacity increased 25-fold since 2014, demonstrating India's clean energy commitments.

Over the past decade, textiles and apparel exports have grown by 20 per cent, reaching Rs 2.97 lakh crore, making India a top-five global exporter in the sector.

India's semiconductor industry reached a historic turning point in 2024. The country is set to achieve an annual capacity of 2,500 crore chips, producing semiconductors for applications ranging from automotive and electric vehicles to consumer electronics and telecom.

The establishment of India's first semiconductor fabrication plant, with an investment of \$100 billion, will facilitate the production of 50,000 wafer starts per month, serving sectors like defence, EVs, and high-performance computing. Indian companies have also started producing silicon carbide devices to address the global surge in demand for advanced chips.

In parallel, research in semiconductor manufacturing has scaled to new heights with initiatives like the National Research Foundation, which allocated Rs 1 lakh crore to foster private-sector-driven innovation.

Additionally, the upcoming Bharat Semiconductor Research Center and partnerships between Semiconductor GCCs and IITs are upskilling engineers and advancing next-generation chip development.

India assures support for Kerala's Nimisha Priya sentenced to death in Yemen

IAN S

NEW DELHI : India on Tuesday announced that it is providing "all possible help" to Kerala nurse Nimisha Priya, who has been sentenced to death in Yemen for the murder of a Yemeni national.

In a statement, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We are aware of the sentencing of Ms. Nimisha Priya in Yemen. We understand that the family of Ms Priya is exploring relevant options. The government is extending all possible help in the matter."

The statement follows the recent approval of Nimisha Priya's death sentence by Yemen's President Rashad al-Alimi. Reports indicate that the execution could take place within a month, leaving the family in shock and racing against

time to save her. Nimisha's mother, Prema Kumari, 57, has been making relentless efforts to secure a waiver of the death penalty. Earlier this year, she travelled to Sanaa, Yemen's capital, to negotiate the payment of diya (blood money) to the victim's family with the assistance of the Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council, an organisation of NRI social workers based in Yemen.

Nimisha Priya, a nurse from Kollengode in Kerala's Palakkad district, had moved to Yemen in 2008 to support her daily-wage labourer parents. She worked in several hospitals and eventually decided to open her own clinic. In 2017, a dispute arose between her and her Yemeni business partner, Talal Abdo Mahdi, after she reportedly opposed his alleged attempts to misappropriate funds.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for pesticide license under name and style "Khan Agro Chemicals situated at Sariwarpora Pattan in this regard if any body is having any kind of objection may file the same to plant protection Office Agriculture Department Lal Mandi Srinagar within the period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained

Sartaj Hussain Khan.
S/o Gh Hassan Khan. R/o Sariwarpora Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for fertilizer license under name and style "Khan Agro Chemicals situated at Sariwarpora Pattan in this regard if any body is having any kind of objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Office Baramulla within the period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained

Sartaj Hussain Khan.
S/o Gh Hassan Khan. R/o Sariwarpora Pattan

PM Modi's journey through 2024 in pictures

IAN S

NEW DELHI : The year 2024 witnessed a series of momentous occasions which will be etched in the annals of history with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the forefront.

These historical accomplishments have been presented in a beautiful pictorial format listing each event that has made a remarkable impact on national and world politics.

It is PM Modi's journey through 2024 in pictures which highlight 58 major happenings and capture his most iconic moments throughout the year. The picture album released on his official site offers glimpses of his political, diplomatic as well as personal life.

As most Indians see PM Modi as a very hard-working Prime Minister, the album offers an opportunity to view moments in his private life. It has pictures of 7, Lok

Kalyan Marg (LKM), his official residence -- one with cows in the lawns, and the other shows his personal temple space.

The album starts with a picture of PM Modi, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval on board a train to Ukraine from Poland, engaged in a deep conversation. The picture can satisfy those curious minds who always desire to see how the discussions take place among the top leaders.

The album portrays PM Modi's deep connection with the Armed Forces, alongside his swift crisis management during natural disasters, which stands out as a hallmark of leadership.

A celebration of India's cultural diversity is reflected in images of him participating in the Pran Pratishtha of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya and performing 'Seva' at Patna Sahib Gurudwara.

On the global stage, the G20 Summit and other diplomatic events showcase his efforts in elevating India's international stature and fostering stronger global partnerships.

At home, PM Modi's focus on governance and infrastructure development shines through photos of him inaugurating new infrastructure and other development projects.

His commitment to the environment is captured in moments such as tree plantation drives, while images highlighting space technology triumphs and digital infrastructure advancements reveal his forward-looking vision for innovation.

The album also showcases his connection with the people. In one picture, PM Modi is welcomed with a traditional 'Jahva' during his visit to Jharkhand. In another picture, he seeks blessings from an elderly woman ahead of address-

ing a rally in Kandhamal, Odisha.

In a picture taken at a public meeting in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, PM Modi shares an emotional moment as elderly supporters embrace him.

One of the pictures captures a rare moment where PM Modi cradles a baby in his arms after casting his vote in Ahmedabad.

Then there is a picture of PM Modi meeting His Holiness Pope Francis in Italy. In another, PM Modi performed 'Sashtang Dandavat Pranam' before Shri Ram Lalla and there is also a photo of PM Modi engaged in 'Seva' at Gurudwara Patna Sahib.

There is another picture that captures the perfect moment of joy on the face of PM Modi after he dived into the submerged city of Dwarka.

The collection of 58 pictures is informative as well as enjoyable and brings cheer as people look forward to more in 2025.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

electricdivisionrmb@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION KASHMIR, ENGINEERING COMPLEX SRINAGAR RAJBAGH, NEAR SILK FACTORY SRINAGAR- 190008.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No.138/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/7216-26 DATED:28-12-2024. For and on behalf of The Government of J&K(U/T)-tenders(in Double cover system)are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ UT/ Central Government Departments for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Repairs of Lights at Nagbal and Yousmarg and electrification of Chowkidar quarter near Solid Waste Management Plant at Yousmarg BWD repairs replacement of existing damaged street lights by NEW street Lights from Gate near Bus stand to Control Room to Doondhganga.	Rs. 14.04/= Lacs	Rs. 600/=	Rs. 28080/=	30 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	Capex Budget 2023-24	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Executive officer Tourism Development Authority Yousmarg vide order No.02-YDA of 2023-24 Dated:-26-06-2023

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-12-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28-12-2024 from 06.00PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	28-12-2024 from 06:00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	07-01-2025 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08-01-2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), 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:

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft copy. As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018which reads as under:-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
- The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit.
- The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned Percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:-

S. No.	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate.	Additional Performance security to be Deposited on quoted bid by L1
1.	Upto and including 15%	NIL
2.	Greater than 15% upto & including 20%	5%
3.	Greater than 20% upto & including 25%	10%
4.	Greater than 25% upto & including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

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 the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders.
- The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The earnest money may be forfeited if-
 - Any bidder/ tendered with draws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must insure to upload can need copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and Taxes:-The percentage quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the percentage rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to stores much documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance, security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

No.ERB/7216-26
DATED:- 28-12-2024

DIPK-10254-24
DT: 31/12/2024

Sd/= Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir
Engineering Complex Srinagar
Rajbagh

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (JAL SHAKTI) PHE, MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SGR.

ABSTRACT OF E-TENDER.

E-N.I.T. No: - PHE/MRD/TS/ 92 of 12/2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, E-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railway and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work: -

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	P/F/T/C of Switch Gear Protection panel, 200KVA HT/LT Transformer with allied accessories at WSS	Zoorigund (Ompora) JStage 1 st	9.30	500/=	21 days	UT Capex

AAA: Accorded

Technical Sanction: Granted Critical Dates/Information;

1.	Publishing Date	30-12-2024 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	30-12-2024 (5:00 PM) to 07-01-2025 (11.00 A.M)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	30-12-2024 (5:00 PM) to 07-01-2025 (11.00 A.M)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	07-01-2025 at (12:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	
9.	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/ FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No: -PHE/MRD/TS/ 4499-4503

DT: - 30/12/2024.

DIPK-10220-24

DT: 31/12/2024

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE)
Mechanical Rural Division
Srinagar.

Ahmed Taha Masoody Shines at 5th Junior World Pencak Silat Championship

GMK NEW NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a proud moment for India, Ahmed Taha Masoody, a young martial artist from Srinagar, brought laurels to the nation by securing a bronze medal at the prestigious 5th Junior World Pencak Silat Championship. The championship was held from 18th to 22nd December 2024 at the Sports City ADNEC Center in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The event saw participation from 1,100 athletes representing 55 countries, making it one of the most competitive tournaments in the world.

Ahmed's incredible performance stood out among a field of highly skilled athletes from across the globe. By clinching the bronze medal, he showcased not only his talent but also the growing presence of Indian athletes in Pencak Silat on the world stage.

This achievement was made possible through Ahmed's unwavering dedication, the unflinching support of his family, and the guidance of his coaches, especially Mr. Mohd Iqbal, the Coach of the Pencak Silat Federation of India. Mr. Iqbal has been instrumental in identifying and nurturing young talent in the country. His mentor-



ship and encouragement have played a pivotal role in Ahmed's rise as a prominent athlete in the sport.

Ahmed's success at the world championship follows an exceptional performance in November 2024, where he secured four gold medals in two national-level Pencak Silat championships. These back-to-back victories at the national level were a precursor to his remarkable success on the international stage, cementing his reputation as one of the brightest young talents in the sport.

Hailing from the picturesque valley of Kashmir, Ahmed's journey to global recognition is a testament to resilience and determination. Despite facing chal-

lenges such as limited facilities and resources in his home state, Ahmed's passion for Pencak Silat, combined with the support of his family and coaches, has propelled him to extraordinary heights.

The championship, organized under the auspices of the international Pencak Silat federation, was a grand celebration of martial arts. Athletes from traditional Pencak Silat powerhouses such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines dominated the event. Despite this, Ahmed showcased exceptional skill, grit, and determination to secure his place on the podium, earning admiration and respect from participants and spectators alike.

Ahmed expressed his gratitude to his family, coaches, and Mr. Mohd Iqbal for their constant support. "Winning a medal at the world championship has been a dream come true. It wouldn't have been possible without the encouragement of my family and the mentorship of Mr. Iqbal, who has been a guiding light throughout my journey," he said.

Ahmed's accomplishments have brought immense pride not only to his family but also to the entire nation. His success is a source of inspiration for countless young athletes, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, where his journey serves as a reminder of the immense potential waiting to be harnessed.

As Ahmed continues to rise in the world of Pencak Silat, his achievements underline the importance of nurturing young talent and supporting athletes at the grassroots level. His story is a shining example of how perseverance, passion, and the right support system can lead to global recognition.

With his determination and talent, Ahmed Taha Masoody is poised for even greater achievements in the future, bringing more glory to India and inspiring the next generation of athletes. (ANB)

160-bedded state-of-the-art orthopaedic block at B&J hospital completed: CEO ERA

Tenders to be floated soon for additional Gynae block at LD Hospital'

GMK NEW NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA), Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Tuesday said that the additional block comprising 160 beds at Bone and Joint (B&J) Hospital in Barzulla, Srinagar, has been completed, and the trial run of the new facility is presently underway.

Chairing a meeting to review the progress of the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), CEO highlighted the advanced features of the new Orthopaedic hospital block, which has been constructed using modern earthquake-resilient technology.

The state-of-the-art building includes modular operation theatres, a laminar flow system, a Theatre Sterile Supply Unit (TSSU), Intensive Care Units (ICU), pre- and post-operation care wards, a Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD), specialized laundry facilities, a pneumatic tube system, and a waste collection system. Additionally, the building has received certification from the India Green Building Council (IGBC) and features a biomedical waste management facility.

CEO Asad emphasized that the completion of this facility



marks a significant milestone in enhancing healthcare infrastructure in the region, providing advanced medical services and ensuring better patient care.

"The use of earthquake-resilient technology ensures the safety and stability of the hospital, making it a robust addition to the healthcare facilities in Srinagar," he said.

The CEO directed the Chief Engineer, R&B, which is the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for this prestigious health sector project, to expedite the tendering process for crucial health sector projects under the World Bank-funded JTFRP and ensure their completion as per the agreed timelines.

Aijaz Asad also informed that tenders will soon be floated for the construction of an additional Gynae block at Lal Ded Hospital. He added that the bid document for the new block has been updated in line with the inputs provided by concerned stakeholders and submitted to the World Bank for approval. Once approved, the project

will be tendered.

CEO ERA stated that the new block at Lal Ded Hospital will address critical infrastructural needs for maternal and child care. It will also feature a dedicated oncology care section, equipped with a modern air conditioning system and state-of-the-art healthcare architecture and equipment.

Er. Sajad Naqeeb, Chief Engineer, R&B (Central), reported that the work on the Bone and Joint Hospital project has been completed, and the process of handing over the new building to hospital authorities has been initiated.

The Medical Superintendent of Bone and Joint Hospital noted that the trial run for the new building is underway, with an examination recently conducted in the facility. He commended JKERA, the World Bank, and PIU (PWD) for completing the project.

Er. Susheel Kumar, Director Technical, JTFRP, provided updates on the construction of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Ompura, noting

that work on the dormitory building is nearing completion and will soon be handed over to the concerned department.

He also informed that tenders for the balance work on one of the four bridges in North Kashmir have been issued, while tenders for the remaining three bridges will be floated shortly.

The Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) South, stated that the superstructure of the Rohmo Bridge has been substantially completed, except for bituminous works, which will be taken up in the next working season. Fabrication work on the Trenz Bridge is also underway.

Officers from Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) informed that work on upgrading 49 dewatering stations in Srinagar is at an advanced stage, with 45 stations completed and work ongoing on the remaining ones. CEO ERA directed SMC officers to expedite the work and ensure its earliest completion.

Officers from JKMSCL reported that 44 additional critical care ambulances have been procured under the project.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Sajad Wani, Chief Accounts Officer, and senior officers from SMC, PWD (R&B), Industries and Commerce, JKMSCL, Health and Medical Education, JKERA, and JTFRP.

DLRC meeting held in Rajouri

DDC reviews performance of banks in priority sector lending

GMK NEW NETWORK

RAJOURI: The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting was chaired today by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma here in the Conference Hall of the PWD Dak Bungalow to review the performance of banks and other financial institutions.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed; Lead District Manager Sanjeev Bhasin; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Khalid Hussain; District Sheep Husbandry Officer P.P. Sagotral Assistant Director Fisheries Bodh Raj and officers from various banks



operating in the District.

The DDC directed banks to enhance priority sector lending and emphasized improvement in the Credit Deposit (CD) ratio, which currently stands at 54 percent. He urged all stakeholders to take concrete steps to enhance the ratio

for the economic growth of the district.

Key progress under credit linked schemes was reviewed in detail. The meeting was informed that 1906 cases have been disbursed under KCC (Animal Husbandry) against 2230 sponsored cases, while

under KCC (Sheep Husbandry) 36 cases were disbursed out of 87 sponsored cases. Similarly 21 cases were disbursed under KCC (Fisheries) against 30 sponsored cases. The DDC instructed banks to ensure the timely disbursement of pending cases.

It was further informed that 52 cases have been disbursed under the Prime Minister's Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME). Noting slow disbursement under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), the DDC directed concerned officers to take immediate corrective measures.

Reviewing the progress under the self-employment schemes, the chair

was informed that disbursement has been made against 73 proposals sponsored under PMEGP. The DDC directed the District Industries Centre to motivate the maximum number of youth for self employment by promoting PMEGP and other like schemes.

The DDC also reviewed the progress under Mission Youth, RSETI, NRLM and other schemes, urging all departments to expedite sponsorship and disbursement to meet targets.

The DDC reiterated the need for enhanced coordination between banks and government departments to ensure the benefits of these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries promptly.

Ganderbal Cyber Cell Resolves 56 Cases of Blackmail and Social Media Hacking in 9 Months

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Cyber Cell of Ganderbal Police has made significant strides in combating cybercrime, recovering lost property, and addressing financial frauds within a short span of nine months. Since its establishment in March 2024, the Cyber Cell has recovered mobile phones worth Rs 16 lakhs and accounted for Rs 17 lakhs in financial fraud cases.

In its operations, Cyber Cell Ganderbal retrieved 87 mobile phones from various locations, which had been lost or stolen. Of these, 74 devices were returned to their rightful owners earlier, while the remaining 13 were handed

over during a formal meeting held today. The total value of the recovered mobile phones stands at INR 16 lakhs.

In addition to recovering lost property, the Cyber Cell effectively tackled financial fraud cases amounting to Rs 17 lakhs. Out of this, Rs 3,78,527 has already been credited back to the victims' accounts, offering much-needed relief to those affected by online scams.

The Cyber Cell also resolved more than 56 cases related to blackmail and social media account hacking, providing a sense of security and relief to victims.

According to the Ganderbal Police, during an event where 13 recov-

ered mobile phones were returned to their owners, the victims expressed gratitude for the diligent efforts of Ganderbal Police.

Speaking at the occasion, SSP Ganderbal emphasized the department's commitment to curbing cybercrimes and urged the public to report such incidents without hesitation. He assured that complaints would be addressed with utmost sincerity and sensitivity.

To enhance accessibility and public support, SSP Ganderbal also announced the launch of a dedicated 24/7 cyber helpline for the region. The helpline, reachable at 9541786772, aims to provide prompt assistance for any cyber-related issues. [KNT]

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari extends New Year greetings to the people of J&K

Prays for the peace, stability, and prosperity in the region

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of the New Year.

In his message, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of

Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of the beginning of the New Year. May the year 2025 be filled with a spirit of peace and well-being for everyone, and may it bring with it a renewed sense of hope for the future."

"The people of J&K have suffered immensely in the past due to the persistent uncertainty and instability in this region. May the Almighty usher in a new era of peace, hope, and well-being for everyone here."

Property of PAK based terrorist handler worth 52.5 lakhs Attached in Bandipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Bandipora Police attached residential land worth ₹52.5 lakhs belonging to a terror handler at Hilalabad Nesbal Sumbal on Monday

Police spokesperson in a statement issued here to news agency JKNS reads, the property, measuring 2 Kanals and 7.5 Marlas, was attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The land, registered under Survey Nos. 898 (1.5 Marlas), 862 (7.75 Marlas), and 938 (1 Kanal 9.25 Marlas), was identified as proceeds of terrorism. The property belongs to

Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, son of Gh Mohiuddin Mir, a resident of Hilalabad Nesbal Sumbal, who is reportedly operating as a terror handler from Pakistan.

"The attachment was carried out after the individual was declared a proclaimed offender in connection with Case FIR No. 37/2024 under the UA(P) Act, IA Act, and E&IMCO Act of Police Station Pethkote," the statement reads.

This operation reaffirms the Bandipora Police's commitment to combating terrorism and dismantling its financial networks, it reads. (JKNS)

DC Kupwara reviews progress under HADP, DAKSH Kisan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today held a meeting of concerned officers to review the status of implementation of different agricultural schemes in the district.

On the occasion, the DC took a comprehensive review of the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP), DAKSH Kisan, Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) and other schemes.

She stressed upon the concerned officers to gear up the pace of enrolment of farmers to achieve the desired targets under Daksh Kisan and HADP. The officers were directed to facilitate the registration and enrolment of farmers to meet the targets as early as possible.

It was informed in the meeting that 33427 applications under HADP were received by Agriculture, Horticulture P&M, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and Sericulture departments. Out of these, 27053 applications have been approved. Under DAKSH Kisan, 12853 farmers out of the target 21749 have been registered so far and 6185 farmers have completed the course.

To improve the overall enrolment of farmers under the DAKSH Kisan, the Agriculture & allied departments were assigned targets. Each Kisan Khidmat Ghar will have to register 1000 farmers in their respective areas on DAKSH Kisan portal. Besides, each Area Extension Officer and BVO have been given

a target of 300 and 400 registrations respectively. Similarly, the Fisheries department will make 149 farmer registrations.

The DC impressed upon the officers to ensure 100% coverage of the HADP scheme adding that district Kupwara has a vast potential for agriculture and allied activities which will boost its employment generation scenario.

Meanwhile, the Officers were directed to mobilize field staff and Krishi Udayamis to achieve these targets in a time-bound manner and support farmers throughout the registration and certification process.

The meeting was attended by CPO, CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, AD Fisheries and other concerned officers.

DC Pulwama reviews preparations for Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired a review meeting on Tuesday to assess the final preparations for the launch of Mission YUVA, a program aimed at empowering youth, fostering entrepreneurship and creating job opportunities across the district.

The DC described Mission YUVA as a transformative initiative designed to channelize the immense potential of young individuals, enabling them to become job providers rather than mere job seekers. He highlighted the importance of nurturing first-generation entre-

preneurs, empowering women and supporting low-income groups as part of the program's commitment to inclusive and equitable growth.

Dr. Basharat emphasized the pivotal role of supervisors in ensuring the effective implementation of the program. As part of Phase 1, a district-wide survey will commence on January 1, where enumerators will conduct door-to-door surveys across every Panchayat and Ward in urban areas assigned to them. This survey is critical for gathering data on existing enterprises and identifying potential entrepreneurs.

The DC directed officers to work diligently and col-

laboratively to guarantee the program's success, highlighting the importance of this initiative in fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth in the district.

The meeting reiterated the program's dual focus on supporting new enterprises and strengthening existing businesses, creating a robust ecosystem for job generation and economic progress.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, DSEO Pulwama, AD Employment, along with other district and sectoral officers, who expressed their commitment to making Mission YUVA a resounding success in the district.

DC Kulgam chairs DLC meeting of HADP, approves 690 cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) for the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was held today at the Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam.

During the meeting, the committee chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan reviewed and approved 690 cases under various projects and components of the HADP.

Later, the DC assessed the

implementation status of various agricultural and developmental schemes in Agriculture & allied sectors in the district.

He reviewed progress under HADP, DAKSH Kisan, Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), JK Comprehensive agriculture and allied Implementation Projects (JKIP), and Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) etc.

Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kulgam presented a comprehen-

sive report on the progress of these schemes. It was informed that 17817 applications have been approved so far under HADP. Under DAKSH Kisan scheme, 12821 farmers were registered, and 9609 farmers completed training.

Additionally, 10534 farmers were registered on the Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKG) App, and 178 Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (KSA) sessions were conducted during phase-3. The DC instructed all departments to work towards achieving 100% target under all HADP Projects.