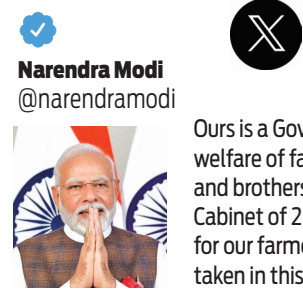


Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication

Srinagar • Thursday 02, January 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 02 • Page: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998



Kashmir Braces For More Rain, Snowfall



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Cold wave tightened its grip on the Kashmir Valley as the Meteorological (MeT) office on Wednesday forecast light snowfall and rain in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

A MeT department statement said, "Two western Disturbances (WD) are passing over J&K in quick succession from 1st January onwards. On 1-2nd Jan (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 Jammu/snow at most places of J&K with peak activity on 4th to 6th January (a/n). On 7th-10th January: Generally cloudy with dry weather."

The MeT Department also issued an advisory, saying that in view of fresh snowfall, sub-freezing temperatures and icy conditions over roads (plains/higher reaches), tourists/travellers/transporters are advised to plan accordingly and follow administration and traffic advisory. ● P-06

MHA Report Suggests New Ways To Crush Terror In J&K

'People's Participation In Lok Sabha, Assembly Elections Shows They Have Full Faith In Democracy'



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has stated that the government is committed to crushing terrorism by using innovative ways.

The 2024 annual report of the MHA states: "The government is committed to setting an example by cracking down on terrorists through innovative means. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Zero Tolerance Policy

against terrorism, the goal of 'terror free Jammu and Kashmir' will be achieved at the earliest."

"PM Modi led government is building a terror-free J&K. While the security forces are waging a full-blown war against terror on the ground, the MHA is empowering them by banning individuals and organizations involved in terror and anti-India activities."

The report states that due to the sustained and coordinated efforts of the Union Government, ● P-06

'ERA Of Recommendations Over In J&K'

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has stated that the era of recommendations in Jammu and Kashmir is over and now all appointments are made on merit basis.

The 2024 annual report of the MHA states: "Instead of terrorism, bomb blasts, firing, stone pelting, and strikes, now education, technical institutions, industries, and infrastructure are being seen in Jammu & Kashmir."

The MHA report stated that the recruitment processes in J&K have become transparent and clean. "The Union Home Minister distributed more than 1000 appointment letters for J&K Combined Examination-2024 and compassionate appointments through video conferencing from New Delhi," the report states.

Referring to the launch of e-buses the report states that to make commuting easy Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched 100 air-conditioned eco-friendly buses in Jammu region. ● P-06

BSF Fires Warning Shots Along IB



AGENCIES

JAMMU: Alert troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday opened fire after noticing suspicious movement on the international border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's R.S. Pura sector.

BSF spokesperson said that alert troops opened fire upon detecting suspicious movement at the IB in the R.S.Pura sector this morning.

"The incident occurred when the BSF sentry observed movement originating from the Pakistani side prompting immediate action. Over a dozen rounds were fired to deter any potential intrusion. Following the incident, a search operation was launched in the forward areas," the spokesman said. ● P-06

CM Omar Hopes 2025 Is Kinder To Him

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah hoped that 2025 would be kinder and easier for him than the year that went by.

Taking to X, the CM said, "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!"

He was recalling the trying times he personally underwent in 2024. He had a double victory in the Legislative Assembly elections. He won both from Ganderbal and Budgam constituencies shocking his opponents. Omar Abdullah had suffered a humiliating defeat before his double victory when the incarcerated leader, Engineer Rashid defeated him by over two lakh votes in the Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla constituency.

It was in 2024 that Omar said he would not stand for the Assembly elections as long as J&K remained a union territory. He had to change his stand and finally chose to stand for the Assembly polls.

Despite remaining steadfast in his political commitment to fight for regaining J&K, what



his party, the National Conference (NC) calls its 'unconstitutionally usurped rights', neither Omar Abdullah nor any of his party leaders expected to win 42 seats out of the 90 seats which went to polls for the Legislative Assembly.

The NC's decision to form a pre-poll alliance with the Congress party stemmed from the fact that the NC was not sure about winning a simple majority on its own.

The decision completely backfired. As the Congress won five seats conceded to it in the Valley by the NC, it could not go beyond one seat in the Jammu division.

The NC had left even those seats for the Congress to fight against the BJP in ● P-06

Direct Rail To Kashmir....

Final Inspection On Katra-Reasi Rail Link On Jan 7, 8

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) is set to conduct the final inspection of the Katra-Reasi section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link on January 7 and 8, as part of the effort to complete the rail link from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, officials said.

Northern Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Himanshu Shekhar Upadhya said the CRS (Northern Circle) is expected to inspect the 16.501 km Katra-Reasi section under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla New BG Rail Link Project before January 15.

The chief PRO said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the Jammu Railway Division from New Delhi on January 6.

Sources in Northern Railways told a local news agency KNO that after the inaugu-



ration of the Jammu Railway Division, the CRS will conduct the final inspection on January 7 and 8. Senior officials, including the CAO/

USBRL, CBE, CSE, COM-G, CEGE from HQ, DRM/FZR, and other officers, will accompany the CRS during the inspection. ● P-06

STATEHOOD RESTORATION

2 Independent MLAs Start Signature Campaign



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Amid ongoing political debate over the demand of restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, the two independent Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Rajouri and Surankote constituencies, Wednesday launched a signature campaign.

The MLAs include Muzaffar Iqbal Khan representing Rajouri Assembly Constituency and Choudahry Muham-

mad Akram, representing Surankote AC.

On the occasion, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, MLA Rajouri while speaking to the media, said the initiative aims to gather one crore signatures over the next three months to present before the assembly.

He said that there was a discontent in the region regarding the changes implemented after August 5, 2019.

The independent MLA said their campaign stands of democratic nature, stating, ● P-06

8-Day Long Protest In Katra Town To End

AGENCIES

JAMMU: A breakthrough was achieved on Wednesday that would end the continuing protests in Jammu and Kashmir's Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine base camp town of Katra.

Shopkeepers, hoteliers, transport operators, Pony and Palki wallahs have been in protest for the last eight days against the proposed Rs 300-crore ropeway project from Tarakote Marg in Katra to Sanji Chhat at the Mata's cave shrine.

The administration formed a 4-member team on Tuesday to engage in discussions with the protesters. The administration has already announced its decision to release all detained protesters, including the Samiti leaders.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, told reporters that the decisions were taken after holding detailed discussions with members of the civil society.

"After the discussions, it was decided that all those detained would be ● P-06

Govt Asks IAS Officers To File IPRs

Warns 'Disciplinary Proceedings' Over Failure



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Government on Wednesday asked all the IAS officers working in connection with the affairs of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir to file Immovable Property Returns (IPR) online by January ending, underlining that failure constitutes "good and sufficient" reason for institution of disciplinary proceedings.

"Pursuant to the instructions issued by Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government

of India, regarding filing of Immovable Property Returns (IPR) by the IAS Officers, various circular instructions have been issued by the GAD from time to time," reads a government circular.

"In terms of Rule 16(2) of AIS (Conduct) Rules, 1968, every member of the service is required to submit his/her annual Immovable Property Returns (IPR) by 31 January of this year, failure whereof constitutes good and sufficient reason for institution of disciplinary proceedings," it said, adding, "Moreover, vide notification dated 30.12.2021, Rule 3(1) of IAS (Pay) Rules, ● P-06

4 Jaish Associates Held In Awantipora: Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

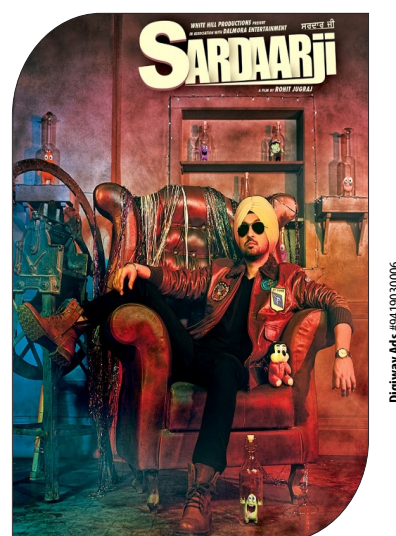
SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested four Jaish-e-Mohammad Militant Associates in South Kashmir's Awantipora.

In a handout, the police said that it along Security forces have arrested four terrorist associates of proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad in Tral. They have been identified as Mudasir Ahmad Naik S/o Farooq Ahmad Naik R/o Tral Payeen, Umar Nazir Sheikh S/o Nazir Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kuchmulla and inayat Firdoos Rather S/o Firdoos Ahmad Rather R/o Tral Payeen, Salman Nazir Lone S/o Nazir Ahmad Lone R/o Kounserbal Tral.

Incriminating materials of proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad, ● P-06



Upcoming Movie Releases



Advance Bookings Open

Releasing Friday, 3rd January

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

Call 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets

CS launches YUVA survey to identify 1.37 lakh entrepreneurs

Control Rooms to assist Surveyors, Supervisors on real time basis

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today launched the much anticipated UT wide baseline survey under Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan).

The survey, to be done jointly by Labour & Employment (L&E) and Planning Departments, aims identification of around 1.37 lakh potential entrepreneurs besides seeking feedback from the existing enterprises.

Present on the occasion were Vice Chancellors of UT Universities, Secretary, L&E Department, DG, E&S, Director, IIM Jammu, MD, JK Bank, MD, JKRLM and representatives from IIT Jammu, NABARD, BISAG-N besides other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners joined the event through video conferencing.

Addressing on the occasion, the Chief Secretary highlighted the significance of this survey besides the original motive of handholding the youth ready to adopt entrepreneurship and self employment as job avenues. He called upon the concerned departments to ensure accurate through regular monitoring of the whole exercise. He suggested the Vice-Chancellors of different Universities to further utilise this data in accomplishing various research



papers.

Dulloo also enjoined upon the Labour & Employment department to constitute a team of experts from concerned departments with faculty members from different Universities and National Institutes. This will help in laying an analytical framework to develop a well meaning document out of these analytics at the end of this survey, he added. He emphasised upon them to reach out to each household in every village/panchayat through their IEC activities in order to create necessary awareness among the people

about the importance of this survey. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to extend full support to the teams on ground besides giving their feedback about the functioning of the online application so that, any technical glitch faced by the investigators is resolved instantly.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed functioning of this survey app developed by BISAG-N in consultation with the department. He underscored the importance of control rooms in resolving the issues faced besides making the exercise smooth and seamless.

In a presentation, Secretary, L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, informed the meeting that this activity has two major components aiming survey of the existing enterprises for looking into their challenges they besides identifying the potential entrepreneurs. He added that the department has already accomplished the task of training the Master Trainers at divisional level and around 1000 supervisors and nearly 17,000 investigators at district level. It was added that a pilot survey is currently going on in which nearly 90,000 entries had been made across the districts.

The roles and responsibilities of each concerned were explained during the meeting with Deputy Commissioners envisaged to monitor the whole process in their respective districts. Besides, Dos and Don'ts for investigators were discussed and the significance of Supervisors in verifying each detail entered in the application by the surveyors was deliberated upon.

It was informed that the objective of this month long exercise is to foster entrepreneurship culture and desirable ecosystem for helping those in the age group of 18-49 years to start at least 1.37 lakh new enterprises thereby generating around 4.25 lakh job opportunities in next 5 years in J&K.

High Court Quashes PSA Detention of Maqbool Bhat's Brother, Orders Immediate Release

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh has quashed the detention of Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, the brother of slain Maqbool Bhat, under the Public Safety Act. Bhat, a resident of Mirpora, Threagam village in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, had been detained since 2022 and was lodged in Karnal Jail, Haryana.

The court's decision came after Advocate Bashir Ahmad Tak, representing Bhat, argued that the detention order was issued arbitrarily and lacked substantive grounds. Advocate Tak contended that the allegations mentioned in the detention order had no connection to Bhat and were fabricated to justify the detention. He further asserted that the grounds of detention were vague and insufficient for a fair

representation, violating the safeguards provided under the law.

"The entire material forming the basis of the detention order was not provided to my client, and his representation against the detention was not considered," Advocate Tak as per the news agency Kashmir News Trust argued in court.

In response, the authorities defended their decision, stating that Bhat's activities were "highly

prejudicial to the security of the State" and that his detention was necessary due to his involvement in serious offences detailed in registered FIRs.

After hearing both sides, Justice Sanjay Dhar quashed the PSA detention, declaring it invalid. The court directed the authorities to release Bhat from custody immediately unless he is required in connection with any other pending case. [KNT]

Locals of Nawa Demand Functional Medical Services at PHC, Warn of Protests



MUSHTAQ PULWAMI

PULWAMA: The residents of Nawa village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district are grappling with severe challenges due to the non-functional medical equipment and lack of specialized staff at the Primary Health Centre Nawa.

The villagers told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that despite the installation of USG and X-ray machines in 2021, these critical facilities have remained non-operational for the past two years. "The absence of a Radiologist has rendered the USG machine unusable, compelling patients to travel to the District Hospital Pulwama or other healthcare centers for essential diagnostic tests," they said.

Adding to the residents' woes is the unavailability of

a Gynaecologist at the PHC, leaving pregnant women and those requiring maternal care in dire straits.

"This is unacceptable. Patients are suffering due to the absence of basic healthcare facilities, and pregnant women are the worst affected," said a local resident.

The distressed residents have called upon the District Development Commissioner Pulwama and the Director of Health Services Kashmir to intervene immediately. They urged the authorities to make the X-ray and USG machines operational and ensure the appointment of a gynaecologist at the PHC without further delay.

"If these issues are not addressed promptly, we will have no option but to protest on the streets," warned the locals. [KNT]

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) gets License for Community Radio Station FM 91.2 MHz

GMK NEWS NETWORK

AWANTIPORA: In a significant development, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has been granted a license by the Ministry of Communication, Govt. of India to launch a dedicated community radio station on its campus. The IUST Community Radio Station, FM 91.2 MHz will serve as a vital platform for conveying the university's vision and mission, fostering engagement with society, and promoting community outreach. The station will broadcast a range of programs, including campus news, admission highlights, student-centric content, disaster awareness, environmental concerns, and socio-economic issues, ensuring relevance and engagement with a wide audience.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, congratulated the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication on this remarkable achievement and extended special appreciation to Dr. Ruheela Hasan, Dean Outreach, for spearheading this initiative.

He said that the Com-

munity Radio Station will pave the way for effective community outreach and further strengthen IUST's connection with society. He emphasized that the approval of the community radio station is a testament to IUST's commitment to community engagement and social responsibility.

Prof. Romshoo highlighted IUST's active involvement in various community outreach programs, and expressed confidence that the radio station will further enhance these efforts to promote societal engagement and economic development. He also assured that IUST shall work with local stakeholders, community groups, and individuals to create a platform that promotes social cohesion, cultural diversity, and community empowerment.

The community radio station will provide a unique opportunity for IUST's Mass Media students to gain hands-on experience and practical knowledge in radio broadcasting. The station will also serve as a platform for local artists, writers, and musicians to showcase their talent.

Syed Mohamamd Altaf Bukhari stresses need to protect agricultural land in the valley

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Stressing the importance of protecting agricultural and horticultural land in Kashmir, Apni Party President Syed Mohamamd Altaf Bukhari stated that the valley has already lost a large portion of this land to the construction of houses, commercial buildings, and urbanization, causing irreparable damage.

He called on the government to engage with the experts, the stakeholders, and conduct a thorough assessment of the potential loss of land before proceeding with large developmental projects in the valley.

In his statement issued here, Syed Mohamamd Altaf Bukhari said, "Agriculture and allied sectors, besides providing employment to a large section of the population, contribute significantly to J&K's GDP. However, unfortunately, we are rapidly losing land to urbanization and building constructions. Significant damage has already been done in this regard. Therefore, it is imperative that we remain highly vigilant in protecting farmland and orchards."

"The government must take the opinions of experts and stakeholders into consideration and conduct a thorough assessment of the potential loss of land before proceeding with large developmental projects, including the proposed Pahalgal rail project, the proposed NIT campus in Nawa Pulwama, and the construction of satellite colonies along the Ring Road. In all these projects, the valley could potentially lose a significant portion of fertile farmland and orchards, leaving affected people grappling with permanent losses and creating devastating consequences," he added.

Heavy Snowfall Alert Issued for Bandipora: Public Urged to Stay Cautious

AADIL ABDULLAH

BANDIPORA: The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Bandipora, has issued a weather advisory following a heavy snowfall forecast from January 1 to January 6, as per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Srinagar.

According to an advisory a copy of which lies with the news agency—JKNS residents are urged to follow safety guidelines and avoid unnecessary travel during this period to ensure their safety and minimize disruptions caused by snowfall.

It reads as, the Deputy Commissioner of Bandipora has instructed all concerned departments to remain prepared for snow clearance and related logistical requirements. District and sectoral officers have been directed to stay stationed at their headquarters to provide immediate assistance if needed.

The advisory also reads as

the emergency Contact numbers for assistance during this period, the public can reach out as District Emergency Control Room Bandipora: 01957-225232, 7006526985, 7006630771 Fire and Emergency Services, Bandipora: 01957-225222, 01957-225320, 6005181577 Police Control Room, Bandipora: 01957-225278, 9596767430, SDRF Unit, Bandipora: 6005123176, PMGSY: 7780924618, 7780911178 and Mechanical Engineering Department: Bandipora: 7780801745, Sumbal: 7006416229, Gurez: 6006187048, R&B/PWD: Bandipora: 9797726549, Sumbal: 8803031946, Gurez: 7006583262

It also reads as, PHE number as: Bandipora: 8899974389, Sumbal: 9018479902, Gurez: 6006327798 and PDD: Bandipora: 7006844763, Sumbal: 9596369806 and Gurez: 7006844763 while residents are advised to stay updated on weather conditions and cooperate with authorities to ensure public safety. —(JKNS)

New Year Celebrations Light Up Kashmir Valley

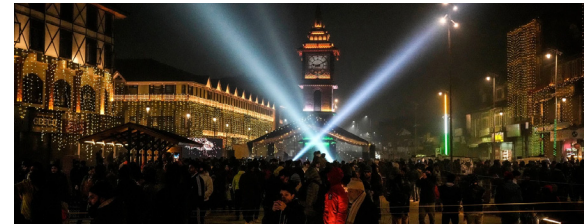
'Tourists and locals unite in joyful celebrations amid winter festivities'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Valley welcomed the New Year with bright celebrations and festive fervour as people from all walks of life welcomed 2025 with joy and enthusiasm, including tourists from parts of India and outside.

Across towns and villages, including tourist destinations, the spirit of renewal and hope resonated amid cold winter nights.

According to the details available with the news agency—JKNS the Srinagar city saw a notable celebration devoid of any tension amid as people danced near



Boulevard Srinagar and other parts of the valley to express their Joy.

Beautiful lakes and landmarks have been illuminated, like the Dal Lake for a splendid view of beauty to visitors during this festival period.

Hotels, restaurants and cafes organized programmes for special menus

with traditional delicacies of the state, some cultural music besides others.

Notably, the tourism industry also witnessed a boost as visitors from outside the region thronged to Gulmarg and Pahalgal, and other places where resorts hosted bonfires and fireworks to mark the occasion. Similarly, the people used

social media to disseminate messages of hope, unity, and a brighter future.

"It is a good feeling to share this New Year with the world and especially being in Kashmir," said Sameer Ahmad, a visitor from Delhi. He said despite the challenges, celebrations remind us of how resilient and beautiful Kashmir is," he said.

Notably, while the festivities remained joyous, officials ensured adequate security arrangements across the valley, and the celebrations concluded on a positive note. As the valley steps into 2025, the mood remains hopeful for progress, harmony, and opportunities. —(JKNS)

Gear up for upcoming Panchayat, ULB Polls in J&K: Ajay Sadhotra

Only NC can ensure inclusive development, grassroots empowerment, says Rattan Lal Gupta

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former Minister of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), today urged party workers to intensify their preparations for the forthcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Body (ULB) elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for collective efforts to strengthen grassroots democracy and ensure the victory of JKNC candidates.

Addressing a gathering of party workers at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, Ajay Sadhotra strongly criticized the previous government led by the BJP, alleging its failure to deliver basic amenities to rural areas. He pointed out the lack of development and public welfare initiatives under the BJP administration, which, he said, had adversely affected the lives of people in villages and far-flung regions.

"The BJP government has failed to meet the expectations of

the rural population. The promises of improved infrastructure, clean drinking water, electricity, and better road connectivity remain unfulfilled," he stated, adding that the neglect of rural areas during the BJP's tenure reflects poorly on its governance.

Today's meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Chandar Mohan Sharma, District President Jammu Urban JKNC. The event commenced with the cutting of a cake to mark the New Year 2025. In the meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, MLA Gulabgarh Er Khurshid, Babu Rampaul former Minister and Central Zone President, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial secretary and other party workers were present.

Chander Mohan Sharma greeted the party workers and briefed senior functionaries about the problems being faced by the people of Jammu due to the anti-people policies adopted by the previous



government.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu, in his address, emphasized the importance of strengthening democracy through active participation in the upcoming polls. He highlighted that the JKNC, under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has always championed the cause of inclusive development and grassroots empowerment.

The Provincial President asserted that the programmes like "Back

to Village" conducted under the BJP regime proved as a superficial initiative that failed to yield any tangible benefits for the people. He argued that these programs were mere photo-ops and lacked meaningful follow-through, leaving the pressing problems of those living in remote and rural areas unresolved. He highlighted that despite repeated assurances, issues such as poor road connectivity, lack of drinking water, inadequate healthcare facilities, and unreliable electricity supply continued to plague

these regions.

Rattan Lal Gupta urged party workers to reach out to every voter, highlighting JKNC's commitment to inclusive development and the welfare of all sections of society.

Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi Zone, emphasized the need to connect with the masses and address their concerns effectively. "The upcoming elections are an opportunity for the people to voice their discontent and place their trust in a party that has always stood for unity, progress, and the welfare of all sections of society," he said.

MLA Gulabgarh Er Khurshid emphasized the Party's unwavering commitment to public welfare and grassroots development. He highlighted the need for unity among party cadres to counter the challenges faced by the people.

Babu Ram, former Minister reiterated NC's legacy of inclusive governance and dedication to address-

ing the aspirations of every section of society. He called for a renewed focus on connecting with voters to strengthen the party's presence across the Union Territory.

Among those who were present included: Qazi Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, Ayub Malik, Pardeep Bali, Arif Mir Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Nar Singh President Labour Wing, Zaffarullah Rather District President Doda, Abid Magrey District President Ramban, Shabir Sambyal District Vice President Jammu Urban, Farman Ali, Anoop Sharma District Secretaries Jammu Urban, Ashok Kumar Attri Vice President Central Zone, Master Aslam, Sandesh Shan Secretaries Central Zone, Rajesh Bakashi, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban

Women Wing, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, S. Parvinder Singh Block President Gandhi Nagar A, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, S. Sandeep Singh Wazir Block President Gandhi Nagar B, S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Rakesh Sharma District President Jammu Rural A YNC, Vivek Gupta, Anju Grover Block President Jammu East Women wing, Bhadur Lal, Dr. Rameshwar, Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone, Sumita Bhan, Satpal Karloia former Corporator, Hameed Choudhary, Arunpal Singh Working Block President NCSU, S.Nirmal Singh, Nitish Gowsami Provincial Secretary YNC, Dr. Gazala, Ajay Kumar, Pryanika, Seema, Sahil Kerni, Sahil Chib, Jatinder Singh Lucky, Jatinder Kumar District President Jammu Rural "B" SC Cell, Som Raj Taroch, Parbhat Kapai, Karan Singh, S. Harcharan Singh, Abhi Jamwal and others.

JKHARA Delegation Led by President Babar Chowdhary Meets CS Atal Dulloo

Calls for immediate Reforms to revolutionize tourism sector raised in the meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A high-level delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Hotels and Restaurants Association (JKHARA), led by its President Babar Chowdhary, held a pivotal meeting with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar. The discussion centered on urgent issues and reforms needed to rejuvenate the hotel and restaurant industry in Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation, comprising Senior Vice President Dr. Lateef Ahmad Lone, Junior Vice President Sheikh Imran, Secretary General Ayesha Saleem and Joint Secretary Mohammad Shafi Beigh, presented a comprehensive agenda for the tourism sector's revival.

President Babar Chowdhary stressed the importance of reinstating the industrial status for the tourism sector to allow hotels and restaurants to benefit from subsidized power tariffs. He also advocated for the revival of financial benefits under the 2018-19 scheme, which would strengthen the sector and drive its growth.

Chowdhary called for streamlined procedures to ease operations for existing businesses, attract new investments, and create employment opportunities for J&K's youth.

The delegation welcomed the J&K Bank's One-Time Settlement



(OTS) scheme for NPA account holders but requested an extension of the repayment tenure from three months to two years. Additionally, it was suggested that the current OTS scheme, which is presently capped at ₹5 crore, should be expanded to include accounts up to ₹15 crore.

A proposal to extend leases for hotels, restaurants, and guest houses was also made, along with a suggestion to set up modern tent accommodations to cater to the anticipated growth in tourism due to new train services.

Babar Chowdhary urged the J&K government to construct additional public washrooms at tourist destination sites.

Senior Vice President Dr. Lateef Ahmad Lone highlighted challenges faced by older hotels, res-

taurants and guest house establishments, urging easier registration renewals based on previous rules. He also emphasized the need for clarity in obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from departments like LCMA and Tourism department.

Dr. Lone stressed the importance of streamlining these processes to promote hassle-free operations and support the hospitality sector's growth. He called for a collaborative approach between stakeholders and authorities to address these long-standing issues effectively.

Junior Vice President Sheikh Imran has called for significant reforms in the registration and renewal processes for the J&K tourism industry, highlighting the pressing challenges faced by hoteliers and restaurants. He

also pointed out proposed extending the validity of registration certificates to a minimum of 10 years, similar like to passports and driving licenses. This will reduce the burden and ensure a more efficient operational environment for the hospitality sector.

Imran further emphasized the need to streamline the renewal process by eliminating redundant requirements, such as obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and undertaking affidavits from judicial magistrates annually. These repetitive and often cumbersome procedures, he noted, add unnecessary delays and financial strain on hotel and restaurant owners, many of whom are already grappling with the economic impact and natural calamities in the region.

that these reforms are essential to boost investor confidence and create a conducive environment for the growth of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Simplifying regulatory frameworks.

Imran called upon policymakers to engage in meaningful dialogue with stakeholders and introduce reforms that reflect the ground realities of the industry.

Secretary General Ayesha Saleem advocated for renovating old budget hotels and guest houses in Srinagar's Civil Lines and Downtown areas. She emphasized the need to permit tent facilities at tourist spots to cater to budget travellers in the region.

Joint Secretary Mohammad Shafi Beigh raised concerns about the steep hike in sanitation fees imposed by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). He called for a rationalized and affordable fee structure.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo assured the delegation that their concerns and suggestions would be addressed. He expressed his commitment to resolving grievances and promised to evaluate the proposed reforms for the tourism and hospitality sector.

The JKHARA delegation extended their gratitude to the Chief Secretary for his time and attention, particularly during the challenging winter season.

DC reviews implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in Kishtwar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) implementation in the district while chairing a multi department meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer Kishtwar Development Authority, ACD and Executive Engineer PWD were directed to install male and female toilets, benches, and a kiosk near the FCI Store in Kuleed under the Town Beautification initiative.

Additionally, the DC discussed the action plan for

maintaining clean, hygienic and plastic-free conditions in townships and rural areas. He directed the EO Municipality, NHIDCL, GREF, and Rural Development Department to carry out the immediate desilting of drains in the town and surrounding areas, stressing the need for a modular and proactive approach while encouraging full community cooperation in rural areas.

The ACD and Municipality authorities were instructed to submit a list of both functional and non-functional toilets along with a list of Non-Functioning Street lights both in the towns and rural areas.

NHIDCL was directed to inspect the working of streetlights from Hasti to Malipeth and repair any non-functional units. Furthermore, they were instructed to construct drains from Thathri to Sinthan Top to prevent water stagnation on roads, while GREF was instructed to construct drains from Kuleed to Sansari Nallah.

The DC also emphasized the aesthetic beautification of public spaces and key crossings across the district, such as Hidayal Chowk, Viewpoint Malipeth and Bindraban. The meeting decided to create Selfie points at these sites.

PDP Criticizes NC Government for Ignoring Key Historical Holidays

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has criticized the National Conference (NC) government for its failure to restore holidays commemorating Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and the martyrs of July 13, calling it a disregard for Kashmir's historical legacy.

PDP General Secretary Khurshid Alam expressed his disappointment with the NC government, stating that despite enjoying a huge mandate, the party has neglected an essential aspect of the valley's history.

Speaking on New Year's Day, Alam highlighted the

importance of remembering the sacrifices of the martyrs of July 13, who hold a significant place in the hearts of Kashmiris.

"The people of Kashmir still remember the martyrs of July 13 by heart, but unfortunately, the NC government has failed to make efforts to restore the holidays for Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and July 13," he said.

Reaffirming the PDP's commitment, Alam stressed that his party stands firmly in upholding the values and legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and those who laid down their lives for the cause of Kashmir. (KNS)

"Wishing all of you a happy and peaceful 2025": CM Omar Abdullah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his desire for a smoother and more favourable year ahead.

In a post on X, CM wrote, "Jammu and Kashmir 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 & healthy 2025. May the flames of this bonfire fill your lives with the warmth of love & happiness." he added. (KNS)

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 NEWS 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 postoperative 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 Engi-

neer, 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 dormi-

tory 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 Rohmoo 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. (KNS)

Chief Justice visits Muskan 'Home for Children' at Channi Rama; reviews facilities



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Aiming enhanced care and protection of children residing in various Child Care Institutions across the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Tashi Rabstan, accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Anusya Jamwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Jammu, who also serves as Executive Secretary, District Red Cross Society, Jammu, today visited Muskan, Home for Children at Channi Rama, Jammu.

During the visit, the Chief Justice interacted with the children and distributed sweets and gifts among them. This inter-

action provided an opportunity to understand the children's living conditions and their specific needs.

The Chief Justice Tashi interacted with the staff members of the Children Home and issued directions for enhancing the amenities and facilities being provided to the inmates. He emphasised the importance of a supportive and nurturing environment for holistic development of the children.

The ADC Jammu assured the Chief Justice that the suggestions for improvement would be implemented promptly. She highlighted the current facilities being provided at the Children Home, which included regular medical check-ups, special education classes facilitated under Samagra Shiksha initiative and physical and motor development with activities organised by the

Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu. Additionally, weekly visits by physiotherapists and psychologists are being conducted to ensure the mental and physical well-being of children, reflecting a comprehensive approach towards their care and development.

The Chief Justice appreciated the efforts of the administration and staff in ensuring welfare of the children. He commended their commitment for addressing any shortcomings and called for continued efforts to uphold the dignity and rights of the children residing there.

This visit underscores the commitment of the judiciary and the J&K Legal Services Authority to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable sections of the society and ensure that their needs are met with compassion and care.

Comtech Group Unveils 2025 Calendars and Diaries at Grand Launch Ceremony



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Comtech Group, a prominent leader renowned for its innovation and excellence, recently celebrated the launch of its 2025 calendars and diaries during an impressive ceremony. The event, attended by esteemed dignitaries and guests, exemplified the company's commitment to fostering creativity and quality in all its endeavours.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of Dr. Sajjad Shafi, MLA Uri, who served as the Guest of Honour. His participation added prestige to the occasion, highlighting the significance of community collaboration and corporate responsibility. Dr. Sajjad Shafi commended Comtech Group for its dedication in providing Employment in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sheikh Imtiaz Ahmad, the visionary CEO of

Comtech Group, presided over the launch, emphasizing the company's mission to continually push the boundaries of design and functionality. In his address, he shared insights into the creative process behind the 2025 calendars and diaries, highlighting the meticulous attention to detail and the collaborative efforts of the team. On this occasion MD Comtech group Sheikh Imtiaz Ahmed, Bureau chief daily Excelsior Newspaper Fayaz Bukhari and other dignitaries were also present.

The launch event saw enthusiastic participation from employees, partners, and stakeholders, all of whom applauded Comtech Group's efforts in establishing high standards within the industry. This initiative aligns with the company's overarching vision of delivering excellence while cultivating meaningful relationships with its customers and the community.

Police solves extortion case in Srinagar; 03 accused persons arrested

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant achievement, Police in Srinagar have solved a case of extortion and physical assault with the arrest of three individuals involved in the commission of crime.

On 23/12/2024, an individual namely Gh Mohiuddin son of Gh Hassan Sheikh resident of Firdous Abad Batamaloo, approached PS Maisuma in an injured condition and submitted a written complaint stating therein that on 21st/22nd December, at around 0200 hours, while he was enroute to

Budshah Chowk for sanitation work, he was wrongfully restrained by a group of assailants. The miscreants physically assaulted him and forcibly took some cash from his wallet before fleeing the scene.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 30/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered in PS Maisuma and investigation initiated.

Through meticulous efforts, including analysis of CCTV footage and other technical evidence, the investigating team arrested the individuals involved in the commission of crime. They have been

identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Dar @Ish Mut son of Khurshed Ahmad Dar resident of Nishat Khaki Mohalla, Srinagar, Tahir Ahmad Mir @90, son of Sonaulah Mir resident of Bangladesh Colony Rainawari, A/P Palpora Noorbagh, Srinagar and Arsalan Mush-taq Wandroo @Karihul, son of Mushtaq Ahmad resident of Hasibath Rainawari, Srinagar.

The timely and effective response from J&K Police underscores their commitment to maintaining law and order in the region and ensuring the safety and security of the public. (KNS)

ACB J&K Adopts E-Challan System to Boost Transparency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Jammu and Kashmir is taking a significant step towards enhancing transparency and efficiency in its operations by transitioning to a fully electronic challan system.

In a statement issued here to news agency JKNS reads, Effective January 1st, 2025, all ACB branches will discontinue the use of manual registration of FIRs and submit their respective challan elec-

tronically through the Crime & Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS).

This initiative aims to streamline the challan filing process, improve record-keeping, and facilitate faster case management. All Investigating Officers (IOs) within the ACB will be required to submit specific forms within the CCTNS system for each case challan, it reads.

To facilitate this transition, CCTNS labs have been established in all eight ACB police stations across Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally,

18 officials have undergone training to ensure smooth operation of the CCTNS platform. Supervisory officers are instructed to withhold approval of any challan until all necessary information is entered into the CCTNS.

Statement further reads, ACB J&K is committed to leveraging technology for improved efficiency and transparency in its fight against corruption. This transition to the CCTNS system marks a significant step towards achieving these goals. (JKNS)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Snowfall prediction

Ghulam Ali Majboor, the first choice satirist of the 90s Doordarshan Srinagar and All India Radio's Srinagar station, while criticising the official version of shock and awe at 'sudden snowfall' had once famously remarked that the snowfall in winter never comes with an invitation card ahead of schedule, it is always sudden and can occur anytime. Winter in Kashmir is indeed the season of snowfall, it falls when it has to fall. The first snowfall of the season was quite emblematic of this fact.. The snowfall occurred suddenly and it enveloped the whole valley in white blanket.

In the aftermath of the snowfall what followed were the two glorious and diametrically opposite versions of the same incident - one was the tourists enjoying in Gulmarg, Dodhpathri and Pahalgam and the other was of remote areas of almost all districts where the snow was not removed from the roads for days together. In the capital city there are always the posh colonies, VIP areas and the main thoroughfares where the snowfall is often removed at first instance. And at the same time there are areas where the administration's snow clearing machines take days to reach. The same is true of almost all other districts of the valley. While the snow is removed from the district headquarters and the major district roads the villages to the periphery and deep into hinterland are left to fend for themselves. There are reports pouring in numerous areas of scute loadshedding post snowfall. Even within Srinagar there are dozens of areas where the already published schedule is not adhered to in letter and spirit. The same can be said of adjacent Budgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal and Baramulla districts.

Now let us come to the recent prediction of back to back spells of snowfall in the first and initial days of the second week of January, 2025. Looks like nature wants to show its true colours to us right in the first week of January. Well, all in fairness as the snowfall now on the hilltops would be immensely beneficial for the agricultural sector in the summer months. However, in the immediate aftermath of this snowfall the problems faced by the people are immense and we can ill afford to lose sight of the deficit in the quality of administration exhibited by the administration.

Now that the official weather sources have predicted massive snowfall for the coming five to six days we hope the administration takes a cue from that and is prepared in advance. For this time, unlike the first time, the snowfall is indeed coming with an official 'invitation card' in hand ahead of the schedule!

Social Media – Boon Or A Curse?



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Every human first should be civilized and have the basic knowledge of how he or she may communicate her thoughts with others in a very impressive way. The whole world is heading towards other planets where there is no sign of life, and there is no component that supports life like water, air, trees, fertile land, or feasible temperature. Humans have great hope that there is nothing impossible on this earth, and humans are utterly capable of making impossible things possible. When we have little things to do, most of our kinsfolk encourage us, stating that this is not rocket science and that we can do it.

We are encouraging our youth, all age groups, keeping no gender bias. We are civilized in our country; every individual can participate at any level in any field. The sky's the limit for every individual living in the country. There are people in our country who are relentlessly making their efforts to make impossible things possible for the sake of humanity and for the upliftment of his or her nation. Great people never keep in their minds, like their nation, kins, and great people always do the great things for the whole of humanity. A human is one who always prioritizes the welfare of all humanity and fights for the whole of humanity. Development is certain for any nation, and every individual has a responsibility to take part in and know what is happening in the nation.

Today in this article I am going to share my opinion regarding why the social media platform is promoting what it should not be promoting. I have mentioned in the article that the world has immense goals for the development of great ideas and innovations and inventions for the welfare of all of humanity. Means every individual must be part of every

bit of what is happening in the world or in the nation and encouraging the people who are consuming their energy to have only one cause to benefit

ful; our body language should be sound in all respects.

Kashmir is known as Resh Waer, which means the valley of Sufi saints. Sufi

Today every individual has a chance to create a channel or account on social media and share his or her great thoughts and what he or she is having for

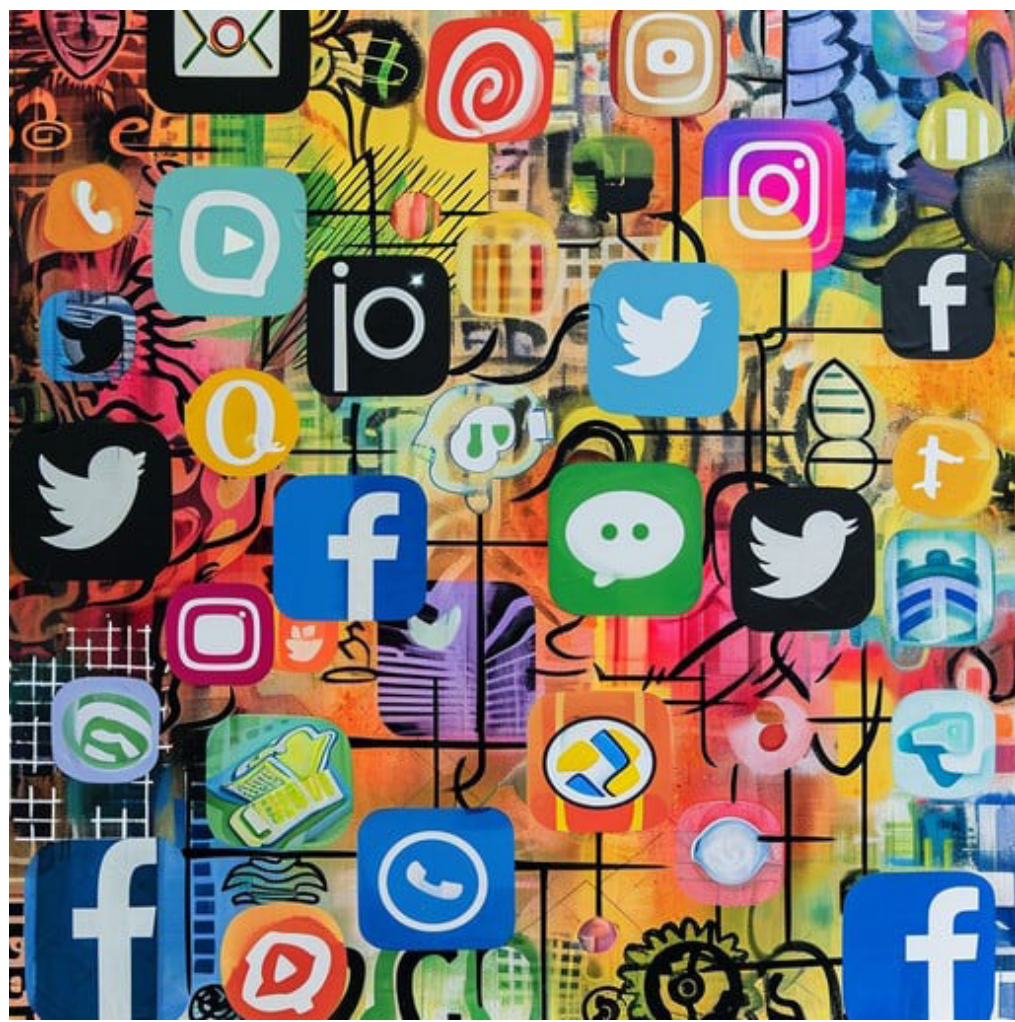
came to know better, developed and economically sound is our country too. Social media is well aware of what we upload; well-known, dignified people are there who notice and experience our behaviour and know how much we are in water. Most importantly, everyone among the country is so we have to be aware that we should never place abusive, irrelevant, curt, and hurtful comments on anyone's content. If you think of any content, you are able to see in feedback, never judge one's potential without having prior knowledge related to any subject.

Social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and WhatsApp are getting great fame and charm after every passing day. These days, every individual has come to know how to operate such platforms with adequate security and privacy. Actually, sports activities are emerging in the Kashmir Valley. Most of the youth and children are attracted to such activities as cricket, soccer, gym, etc.

This is a great thing that our beloved youth are rushing towards sports activities and not after drugs. As we are well aware, drugs are spoiling the careers and futures of our youth. So, we have to provide what they need to engage in sports activities, and we should encourage them by giving them awards, time, and some assistance like money, uniforms, and equipment, and the government administration has a great responsibility to provide sophisticated sports stadiums at every panchayat level in rural areas and in urban areas as well.

Today, videos are getting attention where our youth are using abusive words with their counterparts and sharing them on social media platforms. Such activities should be stopped, and I hope your talent will pay attention and you will get a reward. Discipline itself has great scope in any field.

(The author Sahil Manzoor can be reached at sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com. The views expressed in the write up are author's own and do not in any way corroborate with the views of the publication)



the whole humanity and take the nation into new heights, and at the same time there are people with dignified degrees sitting idle, blaming their fate, blaming the system, and spoiling the country's dignity.

Intelligent is not one who is scoring 100 out of 100; intelligent is one who is the hope of thousands of people. Intelligent people always find a way out from the people who are struggling, who have no hope for their future, who are hopeless.

On social media, people can do any stuff for a million views and can do any stupid thing for getting viral. Stupid people do stupid stuff like using abusive language and promoting stupid things. When we have goals to make Mars our home, we have to be vigilant, smart, and hope-

saints spread the knowledge of prophet Muhammad (saw), and they were concerned regarding all humanity; they were concerned regarding conflicts on the basis of religious facts. They spread the knowledge of peace and give the whole humanity a message of brotherhood. And there are people who are spoiling the taste of language in Kashmir using abusive language and sharing it on social media platforms.

Social media is beneficial in several ways and is a great platform, and we can use it; we can share our thoughts. In the early days there were people who had talent, but they did not get any platform to show her or his talent, like poetry, singing, drawing, mimicry, and their talent never came out.

the upliftment of the whole of humanity, and every individual must have the pain of people who are suffering by this and that way. Every account holder on social media has a responsibility to condemn the stupid stuff and stop sharing such useless content. We should not share stupid videos containing abusive, curt words as we are experiencing today.

Social media plays an important role in today's world; people are connecting with each other globally and sharing each other's thoughts and opinions. Social media brought into our concern the culture, heritage, developmental aspects, educational progress, economic strength, literacy rate, and several other aspects of any country, and we

A Mother's Blind Love

The Consequences of Irresponsible Parenting



SYED MAJID GILANI

Growing up, I was fortunate to be surrounded by a close-knit community of family, neighbors, and relatives who deeply valued the art of storytelling. These tales, rich with lessons, guided us in shaping our morals and ethics. Among the storytellers was my grandmother, the late Syeda Sakina Gilani, whose wisdom and life experiences left an indelible mark on me. An educated woman of great moral principle, she not only shared valuable insights but lived by the values she imparted. What made her stories even more special was that she reserved them for our family, making them personal and deeply meaningful.

One of her stories, in particular, stands out as a haunting reminder of how unchecked indulgence and misguided love can lead to devastating consequences. In a quiet village, a woman lived with her husband and their only son. The husband worked tirelessly, often traveling long distances to provide for his family, while the wife's toxic behavior subtly pushed him further away from home. She created an unbearable environment, compelling him to spend most of his time working in distant places. Despite his efforts to provide,

the wife took sole control of the household, regarding their son as the center of her world, lavishing him with her undivided affection and attention. In her eyes, the son was her possession, while the husband was merely a provider, denied any meaningful role in their child's life.

As the boy began attending a local school, his behavior began to show signs of trouble. He had learned these disruptive and irregular behaviors directly from his mother, who deliberately taught him to act in ways that went against the norms. This saddened and troubled his noble, innocent father, who had always strived to raise him with integrity and discipline. One day, he brought home an extra pencil and confessed to his mother that he had taken it from a classmate's bag without permission. Rather than correcting him or explaining the gravity of stealing, his mother dismissed the incident with silence. This small but significant moment marked the beginning of a path that would lead to ruin.

Not long after, the boy got into a fight with a classmate and was summoned to the principal's office. When his mother was called to address the situation, she shockingly defended her son, arguing that the classmate had provoked him. Instead of holding him accountable, she justified his actions, inadvertently encouraging his behavior. The boy began to perceive his mother's defense as approval, and his misdeeds grew bolder with time.

As the years passed, the

boy's actions became increasingly troubling. One day, he was caught smoking by his classmates, who reported him to the school authorities. Hoping to prevent him from developing a harmful habit, the school called his mother to discuss the matter. Yet again,

father, now too old to travel for work, stayed home to manage local business. He was horrified to see his son's wayward path but found himself powerless to reverse the damage.

The turning point came one fateful night when the boy, during a robbery, was



she dismissed the issue, claiming that smoking was insignificant compared to the worse habits others of his age were indulging in, such as gambling and committing more serious offenses. Her normalization of his behavior only reinforced his belief that he could act without consequence.

By the time he was a teenager, the boy had dropped out of school and turned to theft. Under his mother's tacit approval, he became skilled at robbery, often targeting homes in the village. Meanwhile, his

confronted by a homeowner. A scuffle ensued, and the boy ended up killing the man. The authorities swiftly arrested him, and he was sentenced to death by hanging. As per custom, the condemned man was granted a final wish. To everyone's shock, he requested that his mother be hanged alongside him.

When the King, perplexed by this request, asked the boy to explain, he recounted the story of his downfall. He described how his mother's silence and justification during his child-

hood incidents—starting with the stolen pencil—had planted the seeds of his destructive behavior. He blamed her for normalizing his misdeeds and undermining his disciplined father's attempts to instill discipline. He spoke of how her refusal to correct him had emboldened him, ultimately leading him down a path of crime and destruction.

Overcome with grief, the mother realized the gravity of her mistakes. Her misplaced love, coupled with her failure to set boundaries, had cost her son his life and destroyed her family. The King, bound by tradition, granted the son's wish. As the mother and son stood together on the gallows, the son's final words served as a chilling reminder of the consequences of unchecked indulgence and a lack of accountability.

This tale, passed down through generations, remains a powerful lesson about the importance of responsible parenting and the dangers of enabling destructive behavior. My grandmother would often conclude this story with a reminder that love, while essential, must be balanced with discipline and accountability. It is through this balance that we guide the younger generation to become responsible and compassionate individuals, capable of building a harmonious society.

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

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

THANK-YOU 2024 MY YEAR OF LEARNING



I said goodbye to some people in 2024 who left when I needed them, giving me the strength to pursue dreams that, despite being difficult to unpack, were worthwhile, highlighting the benefits these hardships would eventually bring, and enabling me to become emotionally independent.

MUZAMIL ARIF

2024-WAS THE YEAR!

The year I made the difficult choices and followed through, found acceptance in my imperfections, and regained my courage. In 2024, I made the decision to start afresh. I was able to pull myself out of the depths of hell, feel the sun on my skin again, learn that I had recovered from the snake bite I had sustained so long ago, and emerge from behind that shield of protection.

I was able to follow my aspirations, overcome my anxieties, laugh in the face of self-sabotage,

and realise that I had been damaged for years. I also learned that there was more to me than survival mode, and I was able to regain my independence in 2024.

I said goodbye to some people in 2024 who left when I needed them, giving me the strength to pursue dreams that, despite being difficult to unpack, were worthwhile, highlighting the benefits these hardships would eventually bring, and enabling me to become emotionally independent.

In 2024, I encountered situations I never would have imagined surviving, endured the worst of my anxieties, filled a torrent with tears, prayed for kindness from the universe, and was successful.

In 2024, I learned that even after those depressing evenings when I thought I couldn't go on, the sun would still beam down on me the following day, removing the chill from my veins, wiping away my tears, and easing my pain, dancing through the chaos and destroying my anxieties, and proving to me that I could continue after all.

2024 was a year filled with devastating heartbreaks that I didn't deserve, but I also learned to toughen a soft shoulder blade, sharpen my moral compass, make the most difficult decisions of my life, work toward closure, close doors that have been open for far too long, and accept that what

will be.

The year was 2024! The year I faced obstacles, brick walls, and curveballs while pursuing independence. When I faltered, I got back up again; when I was about to give up, I clung to it. I finally realised this year that I already have all I needed within myself.

I regained my life, strength, and courage in 2024; it was the year where I reclaimed myself.
•GOOD BYE 2024 WELCOME 2025 A NEW BEGINNING•

(Muzamil Arif is a Kashmir based thinker. The views expressed in the write up are his personal views)

India's Diplomatic Milestones: A Landmark Year in 2024

India's diplomacy in 2024 showcased the nation's growing influence and strategic leadership on the global stage. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has solidified its position as a proactive, compassionate, and purposeful global player. From groundbreaking agreements to historic visits, here are the key highlights of India's diplomatic achievements in 2024:

Strengthening Global Partnerships

India's ability to engage with world leaders on equal footing was evident during the 75th Republic Day celebrations, which featured French President Emmanuel Macron as the chief guest. This followed PM Modi's attendance at Bastille Day in France, reflecting deepening ties between the two nations.

Advocacy for Indian Nationals

A significant diplomatic victory was the release of eight Indian Navy veterans from Qatar, achieved through PM Modi's direct intervention. This milestone underscored India's commitment to protecting its citizens abroad and marked a shift from its historically passive stance.

Resolving Long-Standing Issues

India's strategic completion of the Shahpur Kandi Barrage on the Ravi River halted excess water flow to Pakistan, asserting its rights under the Indus Water Treaty. This move not only addressed national security concerns but also promised agricultural benefits for Jammu and Kashmir.

Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution

India's balanced approach to the Russia-Ukraine war positioned it as a potential mediator. PM Modi engaged in direct discussions with leaders from both nations, emphasizing the need for peace talks and offering India's support in restoring stability.

Leadership in Global Forums

India hosted the third Voice of Global South Summit, strengthening ties with developing nations. At the G7 Summit in Italy, PM Modi's participation highlighted India's growing stature as a stable and influential global leader.

Humanitarian and Rescue Operations

India's commitment to humanitarian aid was evident in operations like "Indravati" in Haiti and "Sadbhav" in Southeast Asia. These efforts showcased India's readiness to assist during crises, reinforcing its image as a responsible global power.

Cultural Diplomacy

The inauguration of the BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi exemplified India's cultural outreach, fostering goodwill in the Middle East. Additionally, the return of 1,400 looted artifacts from the United States highlighted India's efforts to preserve its heritage.

Strengthening Regional Ties

Historic visits to nations like Guyana, Nigeria, and Ukraine marked a renewed focus on enhancing bilateral relationships. The reset of India-Maldives relations further demonstrated India's ability to navigate complex diplomatic dynamics.

Recognition of Leadership

PM Modi's leadership was celebrated globally with prestigious awards, including the "Order of the Druk Gyalpo" from Bhutan, "Order of Excellence" from Guyana, and "Dominica Award of Honour." These accolades reflect India's rising influence and respect on the world stage.

India's diplomatic achievements in 2024 underscore its emergence as a global leader committed to fostering peace, strengthening partnerships, and advancing its national interests with integrity and purpose. As India continues to navigate the complexities of international relations, its vision of a harmonious and prosperous global community remains steadfast.

Snowfall In Valley A Winter Wonderland



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

On 27th of December, both plain areas as well as the hill stations witnessed a moderate to very heavy snowfall. This all happened on unexpected lines of the predictions of the meteorological department.

The long dry spell thus ended after the entire valley was wrapped by a thick layer of snow. As per the data available with the weather department, such a huge snowfall was recorded three years ago in January 2023. The last couple of years had remained almost snowless and rainless, due to which the agricultural and farming sector was badly affected. This year, while the snow has fallen heavily, farmers and orcharders are hopefully expecting a greater yield as watering is prerequisite to a good crop.

Our water resources like lakes, rivers, ponds and wells had dried up many months ago, to infuse life into them, it was of utmost importance that the dry spell must end at an earliest. The white covering has transformed the entire valley into a winter wonderland. The moment snow started falling, passengers and tourists came out from their vehicles, engaged in taking selfies amidst falling snowflakes and uploaded the same on social media. Tourists both local and foreign were overjoyed to enjoy skiing at world famous Gulmarg the meadow of flowers.

As the new year celebrations are approaching, domestic and foreign



people are busy these days in making bookings for Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Gulmarg and other health and hill resorts of the valley. Winter tourism will get a boost through this welcomed major snowfall. During the period of long dry spell, special prayers were being held continuously in mosques, shrines and other khanqahs across the valley to invoke rain and snow. The thirst of our arid and dry lands has now been quenched, birds are singing the melodious songs to express their gratitude to Almighty and an ever-green smile is evident on the faces of the people.

Snow is deeply rooted in our cultural heritage, decades ago our winters would be very displeasing and annoying as communication and transportation remained disrupted for months together and daily lives

of the common people too were badly hit due to closure of major routes. However, with the advancement of technology and better road conditions, our winters aren't as disturbing now as they used to be in the past. Previously we were relying on sun dried vegetables like bottle guards, spinach, tomatoes, dandelion, collard greens and beans only but nowadays due to better road conditions and commissioning of the major tunnels, the Jammu Srinagar national highway the vital link connecting Kashmir valley with rest of the world is restored within hours even after a heavy snowfall to supply the fresh goods and vegetable stock imported from other regions of the country.

However, due to sudden major snowfall, almost all the routes across the valley were blocked, power supply remained affected

and water supply also got badly hampered. As a result, people's sufferings increased manifold, patients found it difficult to be brought timely to the nearest hospitals and poor people who hadn't stocked their eatables in advance had to bear the brunt of sudden inclement weather conditions. People were seen returning to their homes by walking on snow surfaces as public vehicular movement halted immediately after the accumulation of a few inches of snow that made the roads slippery. Private vehicles were running at snail's pace which took them hours to cover very short distances. Many 33KV and 11KV transmission lines were down as the big towers couldn't resist the massive damage caused by mighty snowfall. Many transports in rural areas got completely damaged which further aggravated the situ-

ation and made electricity almost impossible to restore swiftly. While I am writing this write-up, news about the death of an infant after the woman was forced to deliver at home due to road closure in Koker-nag is making rounds on the internet. Access to district headquarters from rural areas has completely been snapped, both rural and urban areas are reeling under darkness and birds are finding it challenging to get grains. Thus, it becomes imperative to look after and take care of these two-legged creatures by feeding them and protecting them while they are entangled and lost. In a true example of hospitality, the local people and civil society members of Gund Ganderbal opened the doors of the mosque to provide shelter to the stranded tourists.

On Friday most of the residents

through social media messages invited the tourists to be accommodated by them in their homes. They shared their contact numbers to welcome non local passengers in their homes thus displaying real philanthropy. Kashmir university postponed most of the exams scheduled for next two days, while JKSSB also postponed the written test scheduled on Sunday. IGNOU, the world's largest university, didn't alter its already announced exam dates. Police and local people were seen providing a helping hand to needy people especially patients to reach their hospitals and stranded passengers by helping them to move their vehicles.

In Agroo village of Devsar, an eight-month pregnant lady was safely taken to hospital by a team of local police station for her safe delivery. Meanwhile all the flights at Srinagar international airport were cancelled due to erratic weather conditions and none of the planes could either take off or land on Saturday. From Navayug Tunnel to Mirbazar, hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on the NH-44 due to slippery road conditions and accumulation of heavy snow, no green signal was given by the road authorities and it is yet to be restored. Sangaldan Baramulla rail link also remained disrupted which serves as the main connection line between the two regions and helps thousands of daily passengers to commute. Though this heavy and unexpected snowfall brought normal life to a standstill, people across the length and breadth of the valley expressed their excitement and were thrilled to embrace the season's first major snowfall. Now in the coming year, we hope our water resources will be enriched by plenty of water, agriculture and horticulture sectors to thrive and tourism to get a boost.

(Rayees Ahmad Kumar is a Writer is a columnist hailing from Qazigund Kashmir. The views expressed in the article are his own)

Despite Rich Literary History, Bandipora Awaits Modern Library

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a land known for 'Alim (knowledge, Adab (literature) and Aab (water)', the students and aspirants in north Kashmir's Bandipora district face difficulties as there is no modern district-level library.

The district has a tehsil-level library, established in 1972, which operates in private accommodation with limited study materials and no internet access. Its location is unknown to some students, and many are unaware of its existence.

The lack of a modern district-level library forces civil service aspirants to travel to

Srinagar for library access.

Students said, "Had the facility been available in Bandipora, it would save poor students a significant amount of money."

"The library consists of only two rooms, one serving as a reading area and the other for office staff. It is only open during office hours, limiting study time for students," they said.

Since its establishment, the tehsil library has been relocated multiple times. Initially located in the main market, it was destroyed by fire in 1974.

It was then moved to different locations, including near Noor Masjid and the Board office.

The library lacks essential resources.

Mariya, a student, said that while some books are available, there is a need for improvements in infrastructure. During her visit, she felt it resembled an old bookshop more than a library.

Although the district is known for its historical association with knowledge, literature and water, the lack of an upgraded library is a concern.

Locals have requested that the library be developed with modern technology and a 24-hour reading room for students preparing for competitive exams.

Sahil Bhat, a student, said the library's limited hours and poor seating arrangements are major issues. He questioned why intellectuals had not advocated for improvements over the years. Many aspirants find it difficult to study in groups due to limited space.

Another significant problem is the lack of access to e-books and online resources. Students from the outskirts also face challenges in visiting the library and have asked for online access to books.

The library is housed in private accommodation, and the people have urged the government to find a permanent loca-

tion for its establishment.

An official said that higher authorities had approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) with a budget of 5.5 crore rupees, and construction is expected to start in March 2024. The site for the new library has already been identified, he said.

However, locals are concerned about the time taken to initiate construction and request that the government prioritize a suitable location for the library.

Mushtaq Ahmad, another student, said that local ministers had neglected this issue during their tenures. He urged

the government and district authorities to prioritize the construction of a modern library with modern technology.

In Hajin, a town with a history of scholars, the local library, established in 1977, operates from a rented building. The library faces challenges like an insufficient collection of new books and a lack of modern infrastructure.

The library's holdings were last updated in 2018, and there have been no additions since. The library's resources are limited to two local newspapers, excluding national newspapers that are necessary for civil service aspirants.

The absence of national papers highlights the gap in resources. The infrastructure of the library is in need of repair.

The lack of resources and operational issues have forced students like Mir to consider moving to Srinagar for better facilities. The library's failure to meet the needs of students underlines the urgency for improvement.

The absence of electricity hampers technological advancements, and the lack of cooling or heating systems makes it difficult to study during extreme weather conditions—(KNO)

J&K Bank Rolls Out Its 'Special One Time Settlement Scheme'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR- In line with its ongoing efforts to reduce Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) while addressing the genuine challenges faced by borrowers in repaying their loans, J&K Bank today rolled-out its scheme titled 'J&K Bank's Special One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs/RLAs (KARZ SE UKT)'.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee today formally unveiled the scheme in the presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers and other senior officers here at a ceremony held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Notably, the scheme has been tailored to provide an opportunity to the borrowers with NPA accounts classified as Doubtful-I,

Doubtful-II, Doubtful-III & Loss/RLAs with Principal NPA/RLA outstanding balance upto Rs 5 Crore as on September 30, 2024.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "JKB Special OTS -2024 Scheme reflects our commitment to extend a helping hand to the borrowers who are unable to repay their loans on time due to genuine constraints. This attractive scheme provides an exceptional opportunity for eligible borrowers to settle their accounts with the best possible incentives and concessions. I encourage all account holders eligible under this scheme to seize this golden opportunity and benefit from this comprehensive relief package."

He further emphasized upon the proactive outreach, saying, "I urge

all our teams to directly engage with borrowers, explain the scheme's benefits in detail, and work collaboratively for its effective implementation to achieve maximum resolutions."

He expressed confidence that the scheme would help borrowers resolve their liabilities and strengthen the Bank's NPA recovery efforts. Addressing concerns of various stakeholders including trade bodies, he reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to support the genuinely stressed borrowers while maintaining the Bank's strong financial performance.

Earlier, General Manager (IAPMD) Rajesh Malla Tickoo provided an overview of the Bank's NPA scenario, highlighting how the steep reduction in the Bank's GNPA ratio – from nearly 9% few years ago to 3.95% in September 2024

– underscores the Bank's focused approach to asset quality. He described the Special OTS scheme as a key step in furthering this success.

A detailed presentation outlining the scheme's features and implementation plan was also shared with participants during the launch. The function concluded with the participants expressing confidence and assuring active participation from operative levels to ensure the scheme's success.

Pertinently, valid for three months ending on 31st March – 2025, the scheme is non-discretionary and non-discriminatory, offering incentives for early repayment of OTS amount. As per the scheme, the sanction will be accorded and conveyed within 7 days from the date of receipt of application.

MLA Saifullah reviews development profile of Trehgam constituency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Trehgam today chaired an interactive meeting with officers and people at block headquarter Kralpora to review the development scenario of Trehgam Assembly Constituency.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, M Rof Rehman; ACD, CMO, CAO, CHO, DSHO, Dy. CEO, Executive Engineers of R&B, PMGSY, I&FC, besides, block level officers and general public were present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, MLA Trehgam said that the aim of holding the joint meeting of officers and the people was to bridge the gap between the people and administration for resolution of the public grievances and problems. He impressed upon the offi-

cers to work with utmost sincerity and dedication for the welfare of the common people to leave no gap for the grievances.

The MLA urged the Officers to increase their connection with the people at grassroots level to ease their sufferings. He emphasized the need for mass awareness of various Government schemes especially pertaining to Agriculture and allied departments and directed the concerned officers to monitor their schemes at ground level so that benefits reach to the deserving people.

On the occasion, the MLA took a detailed review of all departments and assessed their performance and progress.

Reviewing PMGSY, the Executive Engineer briefed the MLA about different ongoing road projects in

the area. The MLA directed the Ex. Engineer to take up projects connecting unconnected habitations of Jumagund and Keran area which will facilitate the local population living in these pockets.

Regarding PHE, the MLA directed the AEE concerned to personally visit the areas having issues of water supply and fix responsibilities on his subordinate staff including JEs and Linemen so that the people do not suffer due to non-availability of water supply.

Reviewing RDD, the ACD informed that estimates of around 1500 works pertaining to the area have been done and progress exceeding 100% have been registered for man-days generation. The MLA asked the concerned officers to ensure the work is distributed equally so that the income status of

people in large numbers is improved.

Reviewing Power sector, the MLA directed the concerned officials to ensure power supply strictly as per the curtailment schedule so that the people do not face any inconvenience in this bone chilling winter period.

The MLA also took a review of other departments including Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry and firewood status.

ADC Kupwara also spoke and assured all possible support from the District Administration regarding the redressal of grievances of the people.

Earlier, prominent and senior citizens of Trehgam constituency put forth various developmental issues of different villages before the chair which were heard patiently by the MLA.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Braces For

"Possibility of heavy snow at isolated higher reaches during 4th & 5th January," said the MeT office.

Srinagar recorded minus 4.4, Gulmarg minus 8.8 and Pahalgam minus 7.6 as the minimum temperature on Wednesday.

Jammu city recorded 8.4, Katra town 5.7, Batote 2.5, Banihal minus 1.3 and Baderwah minus 0.4 as the night's lowest temperature.

Dal Lake in Srinagar city and all other lakes in the Valley are partially frozen these days.

The 40-day-long period of intense winter cold started on December 21 and will end on January 30.

The health department has issued an advisory asking people to guard themselves from long exposure to intense cold. Children and elderly have been specially warned to keep themselves warm during the cold winter days and nights.

The head of the cardiology department at Government Medical College Srinagar has said that international research has attributed winter deaths to constriction of blood vessels leading to myocardial infarction resulting in heart attack and heart failure. Respiratory ailments combined with constricted blood vessels are the major cause of thousands of deaths during winter months globally.

MHA Report Suggests

the ecosystem of terrorism in J&K has almost ended. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, according to the report, has directed agencies to replicate the successes achieved in Kashmir through the "Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan" in the Jammu division.

"The government is committed to setting an example by cracking down on terrorists through innovative means. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Zero Tolerance Policy against terrorism, the goal of 'terror free Jammu and Kashmir' will be achieved at the earliest," the report states.

Referring to the successful back-to-back elections held in J&K in 2024 without any boycott call or fear of separatists and terrorists, the MHA report states: "Unprecedented participation of the J&K people in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections shows that they have full faith in democracy."

"In the 2024 Lok Sabha election J&K secured 35-year-high voter turnout at 58.46%. In the 2024 assembly election, J&K witnessed a meteoric 63.88% voter turnout," it added—(KNO)

ERA Of Recommendations

The report states that in pursuit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh, MHA decided to create 5 new districts in the Union Territory.

The new districts, namely Zanskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang, will take the benefits meant for the people to their doorsteps by bolstering governance in every nook and cranny.

"There will now be a total of seven districts in Ladakh, including Leh and Kargil. Being extremely difficult and inaccessible, at present district administration is facing many difficulties in reaching the grassroots level," the report states, adding, "After the formation of these

districts more and more people have been able to take advantage of all the public welfare schemes of the Central Government and Ladakh Administration."

BSF Fires

The Army and the BSF guarding the Line of Control (LoC) and the IB in J&K are maintaining high alert to ensure that no infiltration takes place from the Pakistani side to vitiate peace in the union territory.

A heightened alert is also maintained by police and the security forces along the border and the hinterland after reports that terrorists are waiting to infiltrate the Indian side from the Pakistan side of the border.

Intelligence agencies believe that after peaceful and people-participative Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections in J&K, the handlers of terrorism in Pakistan have got frustrated and have directed the terrorists to give the dying terrorism in the union territory its last push.

It was against this backdrop that two terrorists, a foreign mercenary and a local terrorist fired indiscriminately inside the workers' camp in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal district on October 20 last year.

Seven civilians, including six non-local workers of an infrastructure development company and a local doctor, were killed in the Gagangir attack.

On October 24, 2024, terrorists ambushed an army vehicle in the Botapathri area of Gulmarg. Three soldiers and two civilian porters were killed in that attack.

On November 2, 2024, terrorists hurled a grenade at the busy Sunday Market near the tourist reception centre (TRC) in Srinagar.

A 42-year-old woman, a mother of three children, was killed in that attack and nine other civilians were injured.

CM Omar Hopes

the Jammu division, where it had a strong political presence. The result was that the BJP won 29 seats out of the 43 seats in the Jammu division.

Some grace to the INDIA bloc alliance was given by the NC by winning some seats in the Poonch, Ramban and Rajouri districts of the Jammu division.

With hindsight, the NC believes it could have won at least four more seats had it not left the seats uncontested in favour of the Congress.

Omar Abdullah has said in the past that it has been his experience that during electoral alliances, party vote banks do not get converted to favour the alliance partners.

This is what precisely happened to the NC-Congress pre-poll alliance in J&K. The seats left for the Congress by the NC in Jammu division resulted in a BJP-Congress direct contest.

The fact is that Omar Abdullah's belief about vote banks not getting converted to favour alliances proved right in the Jammu division.

While tasting the victory of winning 42 Assembly seats, the NC was left with a bitter aftertaste of having conceded seats to the Congress it could have safely won itself.

There were other worrisome developments for Omar Abdullah in 2024 after coming to power. His fight for restoration of statehood remained on.

Omar Abdullah hopes 2025 will be softer, smoother

and kinder to him politically and administratively.

He is the chief minister of J&K for the second time, but times have changed as Article 370 has been abrogated and J&K is a union territory.

Final Inspection On

Indian Railways is set to introduce a new Vande Bharat train and two Mail/Express trains for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These trains will operate between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (SVDK) and Srinagar railway stations and will be maintained by the Northern Railway zone.

As per a communication from Northern Railways Vande Bharat Train will depart from Katra (SVDK) at 8:10 am. and arrive at Srinagar Railway Station at 11:20 am., Mail/Express Train 1 will depart from Katra at 9:50 am. and arrive at Srinagar Railway Station at 1:10 pm. and Mail/Express Train 2 will depart from Katra at 3:00 pm. and arrive at Srinagar Railway Station at 6:20 pm.

The 17-km Katra-Reasi section's final phase, including the challenging T-33 tunnel, has been completed. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project, initiated in 2005-06, includes several sections: the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section (2009), the 18 km Banihal-Qazigund (2013), and the 25 km Udhampur-Katra (2014). In February, a successful electric train trial run was held on the 40 km Banihal-Sangaldan track, and normal train operations are currently running on this section.

The railway line features 38 tunnels, including the T-49, India's longest at 12.75 km, and 927 bridges, including the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River and the only cable-stayed rail bridge in India over the Anji River in Reasi.

2 Independent MLAs

"This campaign marks the beginning of our demand that we want to present our request to the Union Government in a constitutional and democratic way," Khan said.

He also criticized claims that certain individuals who, according to him, have misled people into believing that they were happy with the current circumstances in the region.

The MLA further stated, "We want the Union Government to understand that no one in Jammu and Kashmir is satisfied with snatching of statehood and the changes imposed after August 5, 2019."

Khan said the campaign would take the form of a constitutional movement, and that would reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. "We will take this campaign to the people throughout Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Khan highlighted the importance of the initiative, noting that it was a way to show that the people of the region are not happy with the changes brought after the August 5, 2019, decision.

"This is an indication that what happened to us on that day was wrong, and we are not happy with it," he said—(KNO)

8-Day Long

released and the market will be reopened. Secondly, the work on the ropeway will remain suspended until

Happy 2025: President Murmu, PM Modi extend New Year greetings

NEW DELHI : President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended their New Year greetings on Wednesday to the nation, hoping that 2025 brings new opportunities, success, and joy to all.

Constitution makers. "Warm greetings to all citizens as we enter 2025 – a momentous juncture in our republic's journey.

dra Modi extended his New Year greetings, hoping that 2025 brings new opportunities and success to all. Taking to X, he wished

acquaintances. Several leaders took to social media to greet the people on the occasion



She wrote on X, "Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year! May the year 2025 bring joy, harmony and prosperity to all! On this occasion, let us renew our commitment to work together for creating a brighter, more inclusive and sustainable future for India and the world."

This year marks our entry into the final quarter of our Constitution's centenary. Time for us to rededicate ourselves towards realizing the vision of our #Constitution makers while advancing towards #ViksitBharat in 2047.

that all be blessed with good health and prosperity. "May this year bring everyone new opportunities, success and endless joy. May everybody be blessed with wonderful health and prosperity," the PM wrote on his X handle.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on X, "Happy New Year to everyone! May this year be filled with happiness, prosperity and good health."

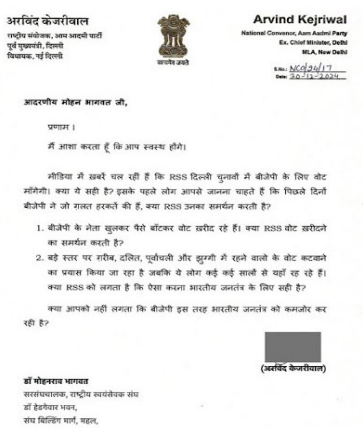
Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said this year marks the nation's entry into the final quarter of our Constitution's centenary and is the time to rededicate ourselves towards realizing the vision of our

with determination, nurturing democratic values with resolve to keep the nation first. Wishing all a happy and purposeful," he wrote on X.

The nation welcomed the year 2025 with various celebrations. Some prayed to enter the New Year offerings at temples and other religious places and many took to the streets to celebrate with friends and

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari wrote on X, "Wishing a joyful and prosperous 2025! May this year bring abundant joy and good health to all."

Attempt to divert attention: BJP slams Kejriwal over letter to RSS chief



NEW DELHI : Reacting to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal's letter to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, BJP General Secretary Dushyant Gautam said that the former Delhi CM was attempting to divert attention from real issues.

elections approach, he suddenly remembers priests and granthis. The public sees through his lies and will respond accordingly," he said.

the voter list) are being cut on a large scale. Does RSS think this is good for democracy? Doesn't the RSS feel that the BJP is weakening democracy?"

band-baaja politics of letters is just an attempt to save themselves as public trust in them has eroded."

Chugh added, "Your deceit will no longer work. The people are ready to rise and say, 'Vacate the throne!'"

Earlier in the day, Kejriwal wrote a letter to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat seeking answers to some questions on BJP's politics.

On the ongoing exchange of letters between Delhi CM Atishi and Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, Gautam criticised AAP's governance, stating, "AAP has betrayed the trust of the people. Their schemes (Pujari-Granthi Samman Yojana and other such schemes) are mere theatrics with no results on the ground. They claim to have built schools, but where are these schools? In Delhi, tanker mafias are flourishing, and water remains scarce. Whatever AAP says, assume the opposite to be true."

Highlighting the BJP's achievements, Dushyant Gautam remarked, "We have provided homes to four crore people in the city, and in the next five years, we will provide homes to three crore more people, starting with Delhi."

"Those who haven't done any work for 10-12 years are now resorting to such tactics," he told IANS adding that AAP came to loot and destroy Delhiites.

He further added, "This

He further added, "This

He further added, "This

'Election stunt': Muslim religious leaders slam AAP govt over Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana

NEW DELHI : Undeterred by the storm over the Mahila Samman Yojana, AAP leader and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced yet another financial assistance scheme, this time for temple and gurdwara priests who will get Rs 18,000 a month. The political slugfest between the AAP, BJP and the Congress over this scheme is likely to continue before the Assembly polls scheduled to take place in Delhi in February this year.

They (AAP) have done this for the elections. The question is, Delhi's Muslim community was already aligned with him (Arvind Kejriwal), frustrated with Congress and having no other options, they gave their full support to Kejriwal and voted for him in large numbers... This is the reason that the AAP won twice in the 2020 and 2015 Delhi Assembly polls."

Rashidi further added: "Now for the upcoming Assembly polls it is projected that the Muslim community is likely to shift away from the AAP towards the Congress. Therefore, the AAP has announced the Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana to influence the Hindu and Sikh vote bank in Delhi towards it. Earlier, the AAP had announced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana for the women in the city which was ultimately declared "non-existent" by Delhi's Women and Child Development Department. The AAP had first

announced to give a monthly assistance to women residing in the national capital of Rs 1,000 which was then increased to Rs 2,100. If the AAP government

felt that this was the right step to take then they should have first passed this scheme in the Assembly and then officially made the announcement.

He also said that if the AAP government was serious about the welfare of Pujaris and Granthis then they should have passed the Pujari Granthi

Samman Yojana in the Assembly first and allocated a budget for this scheme before making the official announcement.

by Arvind Kejriwal yesterday. However, we do not agree with the 18,000 rupees figure because it does not cover the priests of temples, granthis of gurudwaras, or imams of mosques... This amount is quite meagre as compared to people employed in labour work who get paid salaries between Rs 18,000 to Rs 24,000 every month. Merely giving Rs 18,000 per month as promised by the AAP government is an insult to Imams, pujaris, granthis, priests, etc. For every kind of religious and auspicious occasion, people need pujaris, imams or granthis, etc to conduct religious rituals whether it is related to birth, death or a pious occasion. The Arvind Kejriwal government has announced this scheme which is a welcome step but it must not remain a promise on paper only. This scheme has only been announced now by the AAP government as it was first announced for Imams in mosques."



Lucknow horror: Man confesses to killing mother, four sisters in hotel with father's help

LUCKNOW : In a horrific start to the new year, Lucknow Police arrested a 24-year-old man, Arshad, on Wednesday for allegedly murdering his mother and four sisters in a city hotel.

confession, the family was first taken to Ajmer and then brought to Lucknow a day before the killings.

"Arshad has alleged that his father assisted in the crime. However, the extent of his father's involvement is still under investigation. We have contacted the Agra Police for further inquiries," DCP Tyagi added.

The accused explained that he first killed his mother and then attacked his sisters while they were asleep in the hotel room. A video clip shows Arshad describing the crime and revealing that his actions were driven by long-standing frustrations over family disputes.

Delhi cafe owner commits suicide amid ongoing divorce case; family alleges harassment by wife

NEW DELHI : Just days after a Bengaluru techie took his own life over alleged harassment by his wife amid divorce and child custody proceedings, another tragic case has emerged from the Model Town area of Delhi.

Puneet Khurana, a 39-year-old cafe owner, was found dead at his residence in Kalyan Vihar on Tuesday afternoon.

Four workers killed in fire at Hazira steel plant in Surat

SURAT : At least four contractual workers were killed while another was left after a fire broke out at the Arcelormittal Nippon Steel India's (AM/NS India) plant on Tuesday evening at Hazira industrial area in Gujarat's Surat, according to officials.

ing a shutdown.

The killings, reportedly carried out with the assistance of his father, have sent shockwaves across the region.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Central Raveena Tyagi told IANS, "We received information from the Thana Naka area that five dead bodies were found in a room at Hotel Sharanjeet. The accused, Arshad, has been taken into custody. He confessed to killing his mother and four sisters --some by slitting their throats and others by cutting their wrist nerves."

Forensic teams sealed the crime scene and gathered evidence while senior police officials visited the hotel to oversee the investigation. The victims' bodies were sent for post-mortem examination to confirm the cause of death and provide further clarity on the case.

Puneet, who was fighting an acrimonious divorce case with his wife Manika, reportedly faced continuous threats and pressure, according to his family and friends.

The couple had been married for eight years and were partners in their cafe business. However, they had been living apart for the last two years following frequent disputes.

On Tuesday afternoon, Puneet was found hanging in his home. Family members rushed him to a hospital, but doctors declared him dead.

The police have taken Puneet's body for post-mortem and seized his mobile phone for further investigation. Officials are examining the evidence, including the audio clip, to ascertain the events leading to his death.

Authorities, including the police and the factory Inspector, have initiated a detailed investigation into the incident.

The victims were identified as Alia (9), Alshia (19), Aksa (16), Rahmeen (18), and their mother, Asma. The brutal killings were discovered when hotel staff alerted the police after finding the bodies in a room.

The exact details of the motive and circumstances will be revealed after further investigation and the post-mortem results," DCP Tyagi said.

Another friend added, "Puneet was a strong person, but the threats targeting his parents placed him under immense pressure."

Puneet's sister echoed similar sentiments, revealing that despite

the settlement of financial and business disputes between the couple, he continued to receive threats from his wife's family.

Three of the victims' bodies have been transported to a civil hospital for post-mortem examinations, while the fourth is yet to be confirmed.

In a statement, a spokesperson for AM/NS India expressed regret over the accident, attributing it to equipment failure at the plant's Corex unit.

The spokesperson said that the incident occurred at around 6 p.m. during the restart of the unit following a shutdown.

Arshad, a resident of Islam Nagar, Tedi Bagiya, Kuberpur, Agra, reportedly admitted during questioning that the murders were triggered by a family dispute involving neighbours. According to the

the company has initiated an internal investigation to determine the root cause of the accident and is collaborating closely with relevant authorities.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

He expressed concern that Manika's family might harm his father and other relatives. We

the couple, who had no children, were in the process of divorcing with mutual consent. The ongoing investigation will focus on the claims of harassment and threats, as well as the content of Puneet's recordings.

The spokesperson said that the incident occurred at around 6 p.m. during the restart of the unit following

the company has initiated an internal investigation to determine the root cause of the accident and is collaborating closely with relevant authorities.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

According to the

the company has initiated an internal investigation to determine the root cause of the accident and is collaborating closely with relevant authorities.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

the couple, who had no children, were in the process of divorcing with mutual consent. The ongoing investigation will focus on the claims of harassment and threats, as well as the content of Puneet's recordings.

The spokesperson said that the incident occurred at around 6 p.m. during the restart of the unit following

the company has initiated an internal investigation to determine the root cause of the accident and is collaborating closely with relevant authorities.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

According to the

the company has initiated an internal investigation to determine the root cause of the accident and is collaborating closely with relevant authorities.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

the couple, who had no children, were in the process of divorcing with mutual consent. The ongoing investigation will focus on the claims of harassment and threats, as well as the content of Puneet's recordings.

The spokesperson said that the incident occurred at around 6 p.m. during the restart of the unit following

the company has initiated an internal investigation to determine the root cause of the accident and is collaborating closely with relevant authorities.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

The spokesperson also emphasised the company's commitment to supporting the affected families.

BGT: Don't think Australia will go with Marsh in Sydney Test, says Finch

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Former Australia white-ball captain Aaron Finch believes the hosts' will not go in with Mitchell Marsh in their playing eleven for the upcoming final Test against India at Sydney, and wishes to see uncapped Beau Webster in his place.

Marsh has bowled just 33 overs in the series and picked only three wickets. With the bat, Marsh has endured a lean time, scoring just 73 runs at an average of 10.42, with the highest score being 47 in the second innings in Perth Test.

"Well, I think probably with the amount of overs that he's bowling at the moment, you'd have to make a case that he wouldn't be. Just a pure output of runs, averaging 10, I think, for the series - it's not up to the mark. I heard Andrew McDonald the other day said it's not what they were wanting from Mitch, especially in that number six role



where you can have such an impact on a game."

"But I mean, the team's winning, and what winning does is it allows you to stick longer with players that might be slightly out of form because you've seen them at their absolute best. So for me, I think it'd be a really hard decision, but I don't think that they'll go with him and I think that Beau Webster will come in," said Finch on ESPN's 'Around the Wicket' show.

Similar views were expressed by former Aus-

tralia player Callum Ferguson. "I think that's my gut call as well. You've got to look at the workload that the bowlers have shared throughout the series, and there was a Test match there where we lost Josh Hazlewood early in the Test. So the guys had to pick up a huge workload there. So I think for the fast bowling brigade, I think they need that extra support going into this Test match."

Asked if left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc would be

fine after clutching his side in the fag end of Australia's thrilling 184-run victory in the fourth Test in Melbourne, which gave them a 2-1 series lead, Finch stated, "I don't think that he'll miss. He said that once it warmed up and Pat agreed that when you do have a little niggle and particularly if it's not a muscle injury, once it warms up, it's fine."

"But it's just that first couple of balls that you bowl - he looked in excruciating pain there for a while. I mean, he would have got through on adrenaline in that last session in particular when he was up in the mid 140s at the back end of the fourth Test match with a high workload. So I think he'll definitely play."

To this, Ferguson replied, "I mean, you've really got to be managing this very carefully. We've got a Sri Lanka series coming up and that'll come around quick too. I don't think you can look forward to that though."

In response to Ferguson,

Finch commented, "No, I agree with that. Because this series is so important, and this Test match is so important. So I think that yes, whilst the Sri Lankan series is important, I think that's a selection for next week."

Quizzed on if Marsh can play after Starc is picked, Finch said, "I don't think so, purely for the workload. Nathan Lyon will have a bigger workload obviously with the turn in Sydney. Travis Head might be able to pick up some slack."

"But I think if you're going in with somebody under a slight injury cloud and Mitch just hasn't bowled the amount of overs that you would expect from the fourth seamer, that'd be tough. If someone went down, I mean, you can't bowl in a couple of overs."

Ferguson signed off by saying, "You're right, Finch. I think if we're going into this one with Starc, I think we need to find someone who's got more overs up their sleeve."

Bumrah surpasses Ashwin to become highest-ranked Indian bowler in Test ranking history



IAN S

DUBAI : Jasprit Bumrah's scintillating performance in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia has elevated him to the highest rating points ever achieved by an Indian bowler in Test cricket as he consolidated his lead as the No. 1 bowler in the recent rankings update.

With rating points of 907, Bumrah moved past Ravichandran Ashwin's 904 rating points, achieved in December 2016, and makes him the highest-ever ranked Indian Test bowler in ICC rankings history.

The 907 points placed the pacer as joint-17th in the all-time list - with Derek Underwood of England.

Australian skipper Pat Cummins also benefitted from his Boxing Day heroics and jumped 15 rating points and went up by a place to sit at No. 3 in the bowling rankings.

Cummins also secures

a third place in the Test All-Rounder Rankings, on the back of the above bowling exploits and 90 crucial runs during Australia's stellar win in Melbourne.

South African pacer Marco Jansen continued his rise in the Test arena, moving up six places to claim the fifth spot. His seven-wicket haul against Pakistan in the Centurion Boxing Day Test pushed him past the 800-point mark for the first time.

In the batting rankings, several players made notable strides. South Africa's Aiden Markram climbed back into the top 20, thanks to his resilient knocks of 89 and 37 in the Centurion Test. His efforts were key to South Africa's victory over Pakistan, which secured their spot in the ICC Test Championship final.

India's Yashasvi Jaiswal continued his meteoric rise, moving up one spot to a career-best fourth position. Pakistan's Saud Shakeel also reached a personal

milestone, jumping three places to a career-best sixth, while Australia's Steve Smith climbed to seventh after his gritty innings in the Boxing Day Test.

Nitish Kumar Reddy of India made the most dramatic leap, rising 20 places to 53rd in the Test batting rankings after a stellar performance in the Melbourne Test.

Meanwhile, in the Zimbabwe-Afghanistan Boxing Day Test, double hundreds by Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi propelled them to 52nd and 57th places, respectively, in the rankings.

Zimbabwean batters Sean Williams (19th) and Craig Ervine (47th) also made gains, with Williams achieving the best rating for a Zimbabwean batter since Brendan Taylor in 2014.

In T20I, New Zealand's Mitchell Santner entered the top 10 of the T20I bowling rankings, while Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka closed in on the top five batters.

United Cup: Kazakhstan stun Germany to reach SF; Poland battles past Czechia for QF spot

IAN S

PERTH : Kazakhstan secured a spot in the United Cup semi-finals as it knocked out the defending champions Germany with a 2-0 unassailable lead in the quarterfinal tie on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Alexander Shevchenko rallied to defeat Daniel Masur 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-2 in a physical battle in Perth, moving Kazakhstan to an unassailable 2-0 lead in the quarter final tie after Elena Rybakina's commanding 6-3, 6-1 victory over Laura Siegemund in the first match of the tournament's knockout stages.

Masur had come in to replace World No. 2 Alexander Zverev, who withdrew due to a bicep strain but was unable to forge a memorable upset to keep Germany alive.

"I'm really proud that I found

this win for our team, because I was fighting hard. I saw the faces of my team, and they didn't want to go to a decision. I was also a little bit nervous, because I knew if I won, the tie was over," Shevchenko said.

Kazakhstan will travel to Sydney for the semifinals. It was knocked out of the United Cup on tournament debut in 2023 with a 0-2 record, but now has the chance to reach the title tilt.

Meanwhile, Hubert Hurkacz and Iga Swiatek clinched Poland's place atop Group B on Wednesday, defeating Czechia's Tomas Machac and Karolina Muchova 7-6(3), 6-3 to seal the critical tie 2-1 and a place in the quarterfinal of the United Cup.

Machac had moved Czechia to the brink of the quarterfinals at the start of the tie with a tense 7-5, 3-6, 6-4

win against Hurkacz, before Iga Swiatek forced the deciding mixed doubles with a hard-fought 6-3, 6-4 victory over Muchova.

Hurkacz delivered his duo's 11th ace of the match to emerge victorious after one hour and 25 minutes. The Poles broke serve five times from 11 chances against the Czechs.

"Honestly, I was sure they were going to play amazing tennis because they always have great teams in doubles and mixed doubles. They are kind of raised that way. But I knew that we had the game to win it. For sure we were leading from the beginning. In the first set it got tight at the end, but I kind of felt that we were leading anyway so in the tie-break we just used that. In the end it seemed that we had everything under control," Swiatek said.

Carey confident of Starc playing decisive Sydney Test amid fitness concerns

IAN S

SYDNEY : Australian wicketkeeper Alex Carey expressed confidence that pacer Mitchell Starc will be fit to play in the fifth Test despite battling rib soreness during the Boxing Day Test, which Australia won by 184 runs.

Starc was battling rib and back soreness during the Boxing Day Test, and later underwent precautionary scans. The left-arm pacer sent down 131.2 overs in the four Tests against India.

"He's one of the toughest cricketers I've played with. He'll grimace, he'll grab his ribs no doubt at times... But he'll be ready for the contest," Carey told

reporters on Wednesday as quoted by The Sydney Morning Herald.

Although Starc took just one wicket in the fourth Test, claiming the crucial scalp of Virat Kohli during India's second-innings chase, Carey was still impressed with the 34-year-old's performance at the MCG.

"I thought that first spell, without the reward, was some of the best bowling I've seen in this series from him. He's got an opportunity now to help this team win a Test match. He'll be up for the contest," he added.

The typically wet weather in Sydney around the SCG Test appears to be improved this year, with only light rain predicted for days four and five.

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

