

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday 14 January 2025 | Srinagar | Vol: 28 | Issue: 14 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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'JKB's Performance Improved In Last 4 Yrs'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the improved performance of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, with its business growing from Rs1.6 lakh crore to Rs 2.3 lakh crore in the past four years. He remarked that the bank's increased capacity to provide loans benefits the youth, farmers, orchardists, shopkeepers, and entrepreneurs in the region. Concluding his address, the Prime Minister assured the people that he will support them unflinchingly in all their endeavours and extended his heartfelt congratulations to every family in Jammu and Kashmir for the development projects.

- » J&K scripting a new chapter of development.
- » Sonamarg Tunnel ensures all-weather connectivity.
- » Despite challenges, we completed this engineering feat.
- » Tunnel bypasses landslide-prone zones.
- » Sonamarg: a year-round destination.
- » From defense logistics to tourism, all benefiting.
- » Kashmir is regaining its identity as 'Paradise on Earth.'



Youth are shaping a new future for J&K.

Gulmarg is India's winter sports capital.

Khelo India centers empowering 4,500 youth.

Tourism is driving economic growth in J&K.

Local businesses and artisans are thriving.

Chenab Bridge: an engineering marvel.

Kashmir Valley will soon have rail connectivity.

'Gulmarg Winter Sports Capital Of India'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir's skiing resort Gulmarg, which is preparing to host the fifth edition of Khelo India Winter Games, has become the winter sports capital of the country. "Gulmarg has become the winter games capital of India, having hosted four Khelo India Winter Games, with the fifth edition starting next month," the prime minister said after inaugurating the Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district. Asserting that it was truly a new era of Jammu and Kashmir's history, Modi said an international | [More on P6](#)

All Praises For PM, Omar Pushes for Statehood



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a public display of bonhomie, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday exchanged warm gestures with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah who is an ally of the opposition INDIA bloc.

Modi was in Sonamarg to inaugurate the 6.5-km Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district to provide round-the-year connectivity to the hill resort along the 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway.

This was the first visit of the prime minister to J&K after the formation of the Omar-led National Conference government in October last year.

On reaching the stage after dedicating the tunnel to the people of J&K, Modi was presented Kashmir's famous Sozni shawl by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and a papier mache painting by the chief minister.

Omar was the first to address the well-attended gathering and was warmly

clapped by the prime minister who also shook hands with him before he returned to his seat close to Modi.

The chief minister, in his speech, praised Prime Minister Modi for his efforts in bridging the gap between "Dil (heart) and Delhi" and holding assembly polls in the Union Territory while exuding confidence that the statehood restoration promise would soon be fulfilled.

Omar referred to Modi's speech made on International Yoga Day last year and said, "You gave three very important points in your programme. You talked about 'dil ki duri' (distance between hearts) and 'Dilli se duri' (distance of people of Jammu and Kashmir with Delhi) and said you are trying to eliminate both these things."

He said it was an honour to have the prime minister inaugurating two important projects in Jammu and Kashmir within a span

'All-year Connectivity To Sonamarg'

J&K BECOMING HUB OF TUNNELS & BRIDGES: PM

'Kashmir Is Crown Of India, Key To Achieve Viksit Bharat'



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of tunnels, high bridges, and ropeways, with some of the world's highest

tunnels and highest rail-road bridges being constructed here.

The Prime Minister was speaking after inaugurating the newly constructed Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg located in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the world is in

awe after witnessing the marvellous engineering of the Chenab Bridge.

PM Modi said, "Our Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of tunnels, bridges and ropeways. The highest tunnel in the world is being | [More on P6](#)

Sonamarg Tunnel New Chapter In J&K's History: LG

'PM Modi Has Brought J&K Out Of Darkness'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought Jammu and Kashmir out of the darkness of despair and set it on the path to a bright future, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said after the Z-Morh tunnel was inaugurated on Monday.

Sinha said the tunnel marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir as it will not only transform the fortunes of the tourism sector in Sonamarg but also improve the social and economic conditions of the area.

PM Modi on Monday inaugurated the strategically important Z-Morh tunnel in the Sonamarg area, ensuring year-round access to the tourist destination. After inaugurating the 2,700 crore project, the prime minister inspected the tunnel and interacted



J&K IS NO LONGER SYNONYMOUS with terrorism but has become a hub for tourism."

with project officials.

"I can say that the Prime Minister has lifted Jammu and Kashmir out of the darkness of despair and set it on the path to a bright future. From the swamp of hopelessness, he has led the region toward a new journey of shining development," Sinha said while | [More on P6](#)

Good Roads Lead To Progressive Nation: Gadkari

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said infrastructure development is imperative to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat, as the economy depends on good transport and communication facilities.

"The Prime Minister has given us a mission of developed and prosperous India. If we have to achieve a Viksit Bharat, we will have to improve the country's infrastructure.

"Until water, power, transport, and communication do not develop, industry, business, and tourism will not get a boost," Gadkari said, addressing



a rally after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sonamarg tunnel here.

The Union Minister said Modi has taken a pledge to develop J&K along with the country.

"He has given us the task of developing this infrastructure. Good roads make a country | [More on P6](#)

Omar Doing Everything To Normalise Art 370 Revocation: Mufti

Observer News Service

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of doing "everything" to normalise the Centre's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

In a post on X, Mehbooba

said Omar's conduct has been so different from that of her father's, late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a former chief minister.

"Difference between a shortsighted politician & a true statesman. In 2003 then BJP PM Vajpayee during his visit to Srinagar showed great

'Yeh Modi Hai, Wada Karta Hai Toh Nibhata Hai'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that he would keep promises he had made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, a statement seen as an oblique reference to the demand for restoration of statehood voiced strongly by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"Yeh Modi hai, wada karta

hai toh nibhata hai. Har kaam ka ek samay hai, aur sahi samay pe sahi kaam bhi hone wala hai (This is Modi who keeps his promises. And right things are going to happen at the right time)," the prime minister said at a large public meeting where he shared the stage with Omar after inaugurating a strategic 6.4-km tunnel between Srinagar

with Sonamarg.

Terming Kashmir as India's crown, Prime Minister Modi also said the dream of 'Viksit Bharat' will be achieved only when this crown is bedecked with jewels.

Speaking earlier at the function, Omar pressed for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as promised by the prime minister | [More on P6](#)

UGC-NET Scheduled For Jan 15 Postponed

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The UGC-National Eligibility Test (NET) scheduled for January 15 has been postponed on account of festivals, including Makar Sankranti and Pongal, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Monday.

The exam for admission to PhD programmes, awarding Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and appointment as assistant professors is being conducted from January 3 to January 16 for 85 subjects in the Computer Based Test (CBT) mode.

"The NTA has received representations to postpone the exam on January 15 on account of festivals, including Pongal and Makar Sankranti. In the interest of the aspirants, the exam has been postponed and a new date will be announced later," Rajesh Kumar, Director (Exams), NTA, said.

"The exam on January 16 will be conducted as per the earlier schedule," he added.

On January 15, | [More on P6](#)

'Luxury Vehicles, Multiple Bank Accounts' ACB Files Case Against Ex PWD Engineer

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday said to have registered a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case against the retired Superintending Engineer of PWD (R&B).

"Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau conducted a verification into the allegation that Riyaz Ahmad Parrey, retired Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), resident of Hygam Baramulla has amassed huge assets, by indulging in corrupt practices," a statement reads.

The verification revealed that the suspect public servant during service period has acquired properties in shape of immovable/movable at Hygam, Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi and has also made huge investments/

expenditures which are disproportionate to his known sources of income, the statement reads.

"It was found during probe that the accused public servant has intentionally enriched himself illicitly during the period of his office & the expenditures incurred and the value of assets acquired/raised by the accused during service period have been found prima facie disproportionate to his known sources of income. Accordingly, a Case FIR No. 01/2025 under section 13 (1) (b) r/w 13 (2) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (As amended in 2018) was registered at PS ACB Baramulla against the accused Riyaz Ahmad Parrey, retired Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) and the investigation of the case was initiated," the ACB statement added. | [More on P6](#)

80% Terrorists In J&K Are Pakistanis: Army Chief

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Indian Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Monday termed Pakistan as the epicentre of terrorism and said that 80 percent of terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir are Pakistanis.

In his annual Army Day press conference, Gen Dwivedi blamed Pakistan for the violence levels in the Union Territory saying it was being orchestrated by the epicentre of terrorism that is Pakistan.

"If the support is not forthcoming the way India is looking at it, this kind of terrorist infiltration will continue to be



there," he said.

The Army Chief said that the parliamentary elections and assembly elections in the

Union Territory both had nearly 60% voting.

"It means that the local population is going with peace. People of Jammu and Kashmir are shunning violence and violence is being orchestrated by our Western adversary Pakistan," the chief said.

Gen Dwivedi, who has handled counter-terrorist operations very closely as Northern Army Commander, said that as of now, "We have inducted 15,000 additional troops in the year 2024 and that is why you will find that the violence level has gone down where we have been able to neutralize 73 terrorists out of | [More on P6](#)

'LAC Situation Sensitive But Stable'

The situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is sensitive but stable, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Monday. Addressing a press conference ahead of the Army Day, Gen Dwivedi said there is still a degree of standoff in the region and efforts are needed to restore trust between the Indian and the Chinese militaries. The Army chief said patrolling and grazing in traditional areas | [More on P6](#)

Snow Likely At Kashmir Higher Reaches

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The weather in the valley will be mostly cloudy but dry till January 18 with a possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches on January 15 and 16, the meteorological department said.

Minimum temperatures dropped across Kashmir as the skies cleared up with Pahalgam being the coldest place in the valley at minus 8.4 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said on Monday.

The valley is likely to witness mainly dry weather over the next few days, it said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 5.1 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, down from the previous night's minus 3 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department.

North Kashmir's tourist resort of | [More on P6](#)



'Surgical Infection Rate Higher In India Than Many High-Income Countries'

Press Trust Of India

The Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) rate among three major hospitals in India was found to be higher than in many high-income countries, an ICMR study has revealed. The study was conducted in a cohort of 3,020 patients from three hospitals. SSIs are among the most prevalent healthcare-associated infections. Debridement surgery, carried out with either an amputation, open reduction internal fixation surgery (ORIF), or closed reduction internal fixation (CRIF) surgery, had the highest SSI rate of 54.2 per cent. SSIs cause significant morbidity, leading to excess health expenditures and increased length of hospital stay. There is a lack of data on post-discharge SSIs from low-and middle-income countries. In India, there exists no surveillance system of SSIs that covers the post-discharge period.

"Therefore, we proposed a multicentric analysis to estimate the proportion and identify the risk factors associated with SSIs occurring during hospital stay and after discharge," the study said. A prospective multicentric cohort study was conducted at Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre (JPNATC), Kasturba Hospital (KMC) in Manipal, and Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) in Mumbai. The study showed the SSI rate to be higher at the three hospitals as compared to many high-income countries, where it varies

typically between 1.2 and 5.2 per cent. "The rate in our study was lower than that reported in Gujarat (8.95 per cent) and higher than the one from Dehradun (5 per cent) in India, as well as Iran (17.4 per cent), Egypt (17 per cent) and Pakistan (7.3 per cent)," one of the researchers said.

The authors claimed their study was India's first multicentric systematic surveillance effort, which monitored patients for six months after they had undergone various conventional surgical procedures. A total of 161 out of 3,090 patients acquired SSI, resulting in a 5.2 per cent SSI incidence.



Therefore, We proposed a multicentric analysis to estimate the proportion and identify the risk factors associated with SSIs occurring during hospital stay and after discharge

Clean, polluted wound class and surgeries lasting longer than 120 minutes were substantially linked to an increased risk of SSI. The study revealed that patients who developed SSIs experienced longer hospital stays. Post-discharge surveillance helped with the detection of 66 per cent of SSI cases. Combination surgeries were seen to increase the risk of SSIs in patients. So post-discharge surveillance assisted in diagnosing 50 per cent of SSI patients.

NOTICE

It is informed to general public that in my passport bearing number S8409305 my DOB was wrongly entered as 15/02/1968 instead of 15/02/1964. Now it needs to be corrected. So in this regard have any body any objection he/she may file his/her objection at Regional Passport Office Srinagar within one week of period, from the date of publication of this notice after due date no objection will/ shall be accepted or entertained. Name: Ghulam Mohi U Din Dar. S/O: Abdul Rahim Dar. R/O: Samboora Pampore. District: Pulwama. fko

NOTICE

It is informed to general public that in my previous passport bearing passport No. M4891651 my name and DOB was wrongly entered as Mehmooda Akhter and DOB as 01-06-1966 instead of Shah Mehmooda and DOB 06-07-1970 now it is expired and now I have to apply for the reissue of passport. So, they need to be corrected. So in this regard have anybody any objection he/she may file his/her objection at Regional passport office Srinagar within the period of one week from the date of publication of this notice after due date no objection will/ shall be accepted or entertained. Name: Shah Mehmooda. W/O: Fayaz Ahmad Shah. Father's Name: Gh Ahmad Shah. Mother's Name: Aisha Begum. R/O: New colony Kakapora. District: Pulwama. fko

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK EMPLOYEES UNION (KASHMIR)
AFFILIATED TO ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION THROUGH AIJKBEF AND KASHMIR BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION M A LINK ROAD SRINAGAR KASHMIR 190001

Ref No: JKBEU/25-02

DATED: 12th Jan 2025

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the notification no: JKBEU/25-1, dated 08-Jan-2025, a meeting of general members of the union was held today, the 12-Jan-2025, Sunday at Srinagar to transact the notified agenda. The members unanimously framed an adhoc body for the office of the union to run the day to day affairs and also conduct elections for the office in terms of Article 20 of the constitution within a period of Six months starting from 13-January-2025. The office bearer body reads as under:

S.No	Name of the Office Bearer	Code No	Post
1	Mohammad Rafi Shah	21001	President
2	Mohd Muzafar Dar	23374	Senior Vice President
3	Umar Syed Killoo	014654	Vice President
4	Farhan Masuood	014481	General Secretary
5	Javaid Ahmad rather	015482	Assistant General Secretary
6	Ghulam Jeelani	21612	Secretary 1st
7	Abdul Rashid Sheikh	24204	Secretary-2nd
8	Bashir Ahmad Dar	8597	Organizing Secretary
9	Bilal Ahmad Sheikh	21014	Treasurer
10	Bashir Ahmad Pandit	22643	Assistant Treasurer

Besides the session also nominated below mentioned comrades to the Executive committee of the union under Article 15 of the constitution.

S.No	Name of the Office Bearer	Code No	Post
1	Riyaz Ahmad Dar	21136	Executive Member
2	Mohammad Yaseen Gadda	8633	Executive Member
3	Hilal Ahmad Bhat	21415	Executive Member
4	Mohammad Younis Wani	24102	Executive Member
5	Sheikh Bashir Ahmad	22697	Executive Member
6	Basharat Ahmad Bhat	24658	Executive Member
7	Niyaz Ahmad Khangroo	24104	Executive Member

Further all the District Secretaries nominated by the Office bearers will be the part of the Executive Committee.

..... Sd/-.....
Farhan Masuood
General Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AASIM SHABIR S/O SHABIR AHMAD BHAT R/O SA-LOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 11/06 /2017 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko Executive Magistrate 1st Class kreeri

COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS
PATTAN, BARAMULLA, KASHMIR

Case File No.	Date of Institution	Date of Order	CNR No.
69/N.1	22.05.2024	10.12.2024	JKBA110004202024

In the case of:-
Vikash Kumar Son of Vijay Mandal
R/O, Bihar presently residing at Rattan Baramulla
Complainant

VERSUS

Aaqib Bhat
Son of Mohammad Shafiq Bhat
R/o Aargam Bandipora near Grameen Bank
Accused

In the matter of :- Complaint in terms of Section 138 N.I.Act
PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR.PC
Coram: - Altaf Hussain Khan U.I.D No JK00187

The above captioned complaint under section 138 N.I.Act has been presented before this court by the complainant named above. Same is pending adjudication before this court. Despite issuance of non-bailable warrants you have remained absent. The warrant issued against you has been returned unexecuted with the endorsement that you are concealing your presence in order to avoid execution of warrant. This court satisfied that you are willfully concealing yourself in order to avoid the execution of warrant issued against you. As such, through this proclamation you are directed/ required to appear before this court on or before this court 20-01-2025 issued today on 12th December 2024 Under the seal of this court

Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pattan

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
J&K Bank
Serving To Empower
IAPM Department, Zonal Office Srinagar, M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir. 0194-2452658, Ext.:132 ;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

Possession Notice
Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Mohammad Yahya Banday, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Rules Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 06.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/s Kakaji Super Mart Mart (Prop: Riyaz Ahmad Wani) S/O Abdul Gaffar Wani R/o: Housing Colony Near Jamia Masjid Baghe Mehtab Srinagar to repay an amount of Rs.70,26,404.22 (Rupees Seventy Lac Twenty Six Thousand Four Hundred Four & Paise Twenty Two Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31-05-2023 in the counts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 10 day of 01 of the year 2025

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject e charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating Rs.70,26,404.22 (Rupees Seventy Twenty Six Thousand Four Hundred Four & Paise Twenty Two Only) together with future est thereon from 01-06-2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
Equitable Mortgage of Residential House along with Land measuring 12 1/2 underneath and appurtenant thereto comprising of Khewat No. 344, Khata No. 421 & Khasra No. 39-min situated in Estate Mouchowa Tehsil B.K.Pora District Budgam.

Dated: 10.01.2025
Place: Srinagar

Authorized Officer

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JAVOID NEWS AGENCY	KULGAM
MALIK NEWS AGENCY	AERWANI
IRSHAD NEWS AGENCY	KOKERNAG
RAYEES NEWS AGNECY	AWANTIPORA
PAMPORE NEW AGENCY	PAMPORE
SANGAM NEWS AGENCY	SANGAM
GAZI KHURSHED NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
MANZOOR NEWS AGENCY	PUWLAMA
ALTAZ NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
MANZOOR NEWS AGENCY	NORPORA
JAVOID NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
LONE NEW/ADVT AGENCY	RATNIPORA, PULWAMA
BOOZE NEWS AGNECY	AWANTIPORA
3 WAY TRAL NEWS AGENCY	TRAL
SYED MAQBOOL NEWS AGNECY	TRAL
DAR NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
SHAFI NEWS AGENCY	RAJPORA
REYZ NEWS AGENCY	PAMPORE
QUDOOS NEWS AGENCY	SHOPIAN
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FAROOQ NEWS AGENCY	KAKAPORA PULWAMA
JAVOID NEWS AGENCY	QAZIGUND
NISAR NEWS AGENCY	BANIHAL

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Police Arrests 2 Drug Peddlers With Contraband Substances

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In its relentless efforts to contain the drug menace, Police in Srinagar have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Police team of PS Chanapora at a checkpoint established at Chanapora intercepted a vehicle (Tempo Traveller) bearing registration number JK02AF-1776, with two persons on board. They have been identified as Umer Manzoor Rather resident of Natipora and

Yawer Ahmad Bhat resident of Baghat Kanipora. During the search, a substantial quantity of contraband substance was recovered from their possession.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 03/2025 under NDPS Act has been registered at PS Chanapora and investigation initiated.

J&K Police yet again appeals to the general public to assist them in the fight against drug trafficking by sharing any relevant information. Together, we can work towards creating a safer, drug-free society.

Govt Constitutes Committee To Regulate Quality, Pricing Of Diagnostic Tests

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Health & Medical Education Department has constituted a committee for regulating and standardising the quality and rates of diagnostic tests and pathological examinations done in private laboratories across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per an order issued by H&ME Department, Principal GMC Srinagar will be the chairperson of the committee.

The members of the committee include HOD Pathology GMC, Srinagar,

HOD Pathology, GMC, Jammu, HOD Microbiology GMC, Jammu, HOD Biochemistry, (JVC Medical College), Bemina, HOD Radiology, GMC Udhampur and Director Health Services, Kashmir.

"The committee shall have the mandate to frame pricing of diagnostic tests/pathological examinations by way of measuring the impact of the cost of medical equipment, instruments and patent procurements to make these examinations affordable and accessible," the order states.

Man Climbs Car Stopper Pole To Escape Stray Dogs

Agencies

Srinagar: In a shocking incident highlighting the growing stray dog menace in Srinagar city, a man was seen climbing a car stopper pole at Lal Chowk to escape a pack of stray dogs.

The video of the inci-

dent has gone viral on social media, drawing widespread criticism from netizens.

Citizens took to social media to slam the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Smart City Srinagar project for failing to address the issue despite repeated complaints.



Srinagar Smart City Scam More Arrests, Raids Expected As Probe Deepens

Agencies

Srinagar: The recent arrest of two senior officials from Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) on corruption charges has unveiled a web of financial irregularities, with investigators signaling the possibility of more arrests in the coming days.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) is reportedly digging deep into suspicious bank transactions linked to the two officials, Executive Engineer Zahoor Dar and Chief Financial Officer Sajid Yousuf Bhat.

Reliable sources within the ACB said that the investigation has uncovered a series of questionable financial transactions involving accounts of relatives and associates of the arrested officials. "The trail of transactions suggests a larger network of individuals benefiting from these corrupt practices," they said.

The probe is focusing on

tracing how public funds were misappropriated, with investigators also examining the motives and directives behind certain expenditure decisions. Contracts awarded under the guise of "beau-

were spent.

"These so-called beautification projects seem to have been a front for embezzlement," a source within the ACB stated, adding that the investigation seeks to de-

The trail of transactions suggests a larger network of individuals benefiting from these corrupt practices

termining the officials' roles and the beneficiaries of these contracts. As investigators delve deeper into the case, they have identified additional individuals potentially linked to the corruption scandal. These individuals, some of whom are believed to be relatives or close associates of the arrested officials, are suspected of receiving public funds through fraudulent means.

Sources added that a thorough and unbiased investigation is underway, with further arrests anticipated as new evidence comes to light. [KNT]

termine the officials' roles and the beneficiaries of these contracts. As investigators delve deeper into the case, they have identified additional individuals potentially linked to the corruption scandal. These individuals, some of whom are believed to be relatives or close associates of the arrested officials, are suspected of receiving public funds through fraudulent means.

Sources added that a thorough and unbiased investigation is underway, with further arrests anticipated as new evidence comes to light. [KNT]

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Closed)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

Table with Hijri Calendar (13 Rajab 1446) and Prayers (FAJR 6:08, ZUHR 12:39, ASR 4:04, Magrib 5:46, ISHA 7:11)

This Day In History

- 1641 - United East Indian Company conquers city of Malacca, 7,000 killed
1761 - Third Battle of Panipat: In one of the largest battles of the century, the mostly Muslim Afghan Durani Empire defeats the mostly Hindu Maratha Empire in Northern India. An estimated 60,000-70,000 were killed in the fighting and about 40,000 Maratha prisoners massacred afterwards.
1784 - US Revolutionary War ends with the US Congress of the Confederation ratifying the Treaty of Paris
1814 - King of Denmark cedes Norway to King of Sweden by treaty of Kiel
1914 - The Gandhi-Smuts Agreement is reached between Gen. J.C. Smuts and Mahatma Gandhi, regarding voluntary registration, poll tax, recognition of Indian marriages and other matters
1929 - Afghan King Amanullah forced to resign
1943 - World War II: Japan begins Operation Ke, withdrawal of its troops from Guadalcanal
1943 - World War II: Casablanca Conference begins between Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt
1944 - Soviet army begins offensive at Oranienbaum/Wolchow
1950 - UN recalls all consular officials from China
1956 - Jordan government refuses to join Pact of Baghdad
1969 - 25 members of US aircraft carrier Enterprise die during maneuvers
1969 - Soyuz 4 launched; rendezvous with Soyuz 5 two days later
1974 - World Football League founded
1975 - USSR breaks trade agreement with US
1990 - UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says he has lost all hope for peace in Gulf
1994 - Russian manned space craft TM-17, lands
1998 - Researchers in Dallas, Texas present findings about an enzyme that slows aging and cell death (apoptosis)
2000 - A United Nations tribunal sentences five Bosnian Croats to up to 25 years for the 1993 killing of over 100 Muslims in a Bosnian village.
2005- Landing of the Huygens probe on Saturn's moon Titan
2008 - MESSENGER spacecraft performs a Mercury flyby
2010 - Yemen declares war on al-Qaeda

From KO Archives

Only PM Can Represent Us: Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah today questioned the usefulness of Hurriyat delegation to Paki- stan in sorting out problems in Kashmir and said only direct talks between prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan chief executive General Pervez Musharraf would be purposeful for bringing peace in the region.

"Kashmir is part of India and only the prime minister can represent us in any dia-logue", Dr. Abdullah said after inaugurating a B. Ed college in private sector at Tarore, 22 kilometers from here this morning. He however, added that no authority, even the prime minister, can never afford to think of parting with an inch of Kashmir, "which was, is and will remain proud part of the nation".

The chief minister said that after failing to annex Kashmir in favour wars, Islamabad has switched over to proxy war for the past about 12 years. He said the foreigners are attacking security pickets and targeting nationalist forces. Everyday National Conference workers, village defence committee members and SPOs are killed. They are also after those who have laid their arms after real-ising the futility of gun, Dr. Abdullah said.

"Pakistanis out to eliminate those carrying tricolour in Kashmir thereby snapping the relationship the people of the valley have tied with rest of the nation, but we are determined to give them a befitting fight" Even if Farooq is killed, Kash- mir will never go to Pakistan", he declared.

According to NAFA, the chief minister said APHC lacked mass support. "It has only militant support. If that support is withdrawn, it will collapse. Why are they eager to go to Paki- stan? They are already in touch with Pak through its mission in India. In fact, the APHC is the creation of Pakistan, he said. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 14 JANUARY, 2001)

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name, M/S Begining Holidays Tour and Travels " situated at Nowpora Saki Dafar Srinagar

Public notice

Whereas I Mr. Iqra Amin D/o Mohammad Amin Akhooon R/o Nowpora Safakadal Srinagar, Tour and Travels intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style " M/s Begining Holidays Tour and Travels " situated at Nowpora Saki Dafar, Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/ Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed Homestay under the name, M/s AKBAR COLLECTIONS Homestay " situated at Indra Nagar Sonwar, Srinagar

Public notice

Whereas I Mr./ Marufa Boktoo C/o Muzaffer Boktoo R/o Kallah Mohalla Lal Bazar Srinagar intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Homestay under the name and style " AKBAR COLLECTIONS Homestay situated at, Indra Nagar Sonwar Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/ Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

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KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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What JKBOSE Can Learn from CBSE

A Conspectus for Progressive Education

Nowshena Mushtaq



“
There is really no alternative to adopting the best practices of CBSE to humanize and offer more flexibility, accessibility, and student-centric education

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) is indeed a key player in establishing the education pattern in the region however, there is still a lot more to learn from different educational systems like the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), as everything is changing regarding education all over the world. Activity-based holistic learning aspects of CBSE have set such standards that JKBOSE can follow for achieving effective education.

Activity Based Learning

A basic difference between CBSE and JKBOSE is the activity-oriented education. The courses in CBSE provide for practical activities, project works, and experiments to allow students to learn things based on what they see and do, instead of just on memory. For example: CBSE has such a science lesson with experiments in a laboratory, group discussion, and field trips.

More or less, it could also facilitate such activities in JKBOSE – facilitating more interactive talk sessions in classrooms, like:

Science fairs, exhibitions that would be mainly directed towards developing an atmosphere lively.

Group activities in subjects such as social studies to promote teamwork.

Integration of art and craft with drama for enhanced creative expression.

Pictorial Representations, Engaging Books, and Better Paper Quality

All textbooks under CBSE make proper and most effective use of colourful illustrations, charts, and infographics that greatly help in simplifying complex concepts learned by students. All these use pictures, diagrams, and infographics are essential to developing a strong and high learning perception and retention and are particularly essential for younger learners.

Always open-ended enough

to show such shortcomings, JKBOSE books are never short of such lascivious riches. JKBOSE could have better-designed textbooks by adding colorful illustrations, stepwise diagrams, and story-based visuals. More importantly, bringing creative furniture layout and catchy designs could make textbooks tools for poorly equipped wonders and incitement among students.

Another important parameter is the quality of paper in which textbooks are made. Most CBSE books have suited good quality and durable paper, which will be long-lasting and ensure a better reading experience. JKBOSE can also upgrade their books paper-wise in a way that makes them much more durable against wear and tear in the region, where students handle them in conditions that are less than ideal.

Well designed, visually attractive, and long-lasting books can make the study effective, yet learning can be more enjoyable, hence deepening a lock in between the student and their studies.

A Holistic Approach Towards Development

In addition to academics, the CBSE also focuses on a number of co-curricular activities such as sports, yoga, music, and dance. These ensure the development of relevant life skills, emotional intelligence, and physical fitness in students.

JKBOSE should include an organized framework into its co-curricular programs. The events like debates, cultural programs, sports meets should be mandatory for the annual happenings to allow every student to showcase talent.

Teacher Training and Development

Training of teachers is another point on which CBSE pinches money as it needs to make teachers use the modern-day teaching

tools and methodologies. Workshops, online courses, certifications are usually organized for all CBSE-affiliated schools.

Similarly, JKBOSE needs to prioritize this teacher training agenda to improve the quality of teaching through digital literacy, creative pedagogical strategies, and classroom management.

Digital Integration

All CBSE schools have smart classrooms, online learning formats, and digital tools offering education at all levels. JKBOSE must cross this digital divide, providing e-learning modules to reach even the most remote areas with quality education.

Localized Curriculum with Global Vision

CBSE did consume international perspectives in its curriculum, but it comprises notions of regional diversity. It must be defined by JKBOSE to have a curriculum that is not only culturally infused in Jammu and Kashmir but also fills students with global skills for competition.

Conclusion

There is really no alternative to adopting the best practices of CBSE to humanize and offer more flexibility, accessibility, and student-centric education. Change is the first custodial step towards preparing the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to be empowered in the skills and knowledge vital for survival in the 21st century. Education today depends on innovation and adaptability, and now is the time for transformation.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author has completed her masters in English literature from central University of Kashmir and is currently an educator

KO VIEW

PM opens Z-Morh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the much-anticipated Z-Morh Tunnel in Sonamarg, Ganderbal district, on Monday, marking a significant milestone in Jammu and Kashmir's infrastructure development. Z-Morh project comprises a 6.5-km tunnel, a 6-km approach road, two major bridges and one minor bridge. It includes a 14.15-km tunnel, an 18-km approach road between Z-Morh and Zoji-la tunnel as a single integrated package, besides carriageway, two snow galleries, four major bridges and 18 avalanche-protection dams. Though the work on the tunnel had been ongoing for several years, it came to a sudden stop in September 2018 after the non-banking finance company IL&FS that financed it went bust. However, in January NHIDCL awarded the Z-Morh Tunnel to APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway Pvt Ltd. An all-weather road has become critical for India's access to Ladakh in recent years, more so in the wake of new developments along the LAC with China. In the absence of a tunnel, the road to Ladakh remains buried under 10 feet of snow in winter, disconnecting the region from the rest of the country for six months.

That said, the prime minister's inauguration of the project was a big occasion. Accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Modi highlighted the project's strategic importance and potential to boost tourism. "This tunnel is a testament to India's commitment to modern infrastructure and development in Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked. As the PM rightly said the tunnel has both economic and strategic dimensions: It is poised to transform Sonamarg into a year-round destination, bolstering winter tourism and local economic development. Strategically, it strengthens connectivity to Ladakh, crucial for both civilian and military movement.

With CM Abdullah also broaching the statehood issue in his speech on the occasion the tunnel inauguration acquired a political dimension. In response, the Prime Minister reaffirmed his promises to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "This is Modi, and he keeps his promises. The right things will happen at the right time," he said, without directly addressing the statehood demand. This was a reiteration of the PM's oft-repeated assurance about the restoration of statehood to J&K "at an appropriate time." What, however, the central government has not given so far is a timeline. So, there is a section of people in J&K who believe that statehood might take longer than expected. There is thus an urgent need for a timeline. The crown of India, as the Prime Minister aptly described Jammu and Kashmir, will shine brightest when its people are politically and economically empowered and their dignity upheld.



Did you know?

The Importance of Balancing Money and Mental Health

Irshad Mushtaq

In today's fast-paced world, the pursuit of money often overshadows the essential aspects of life, including mental health and our humanity. It's vital to recognize that life is short; we are here temporarily. While money is undoubtedly needed for survival and comfort, it should not be our sole focus.

Money as a Byproduct

Instead of directly chasing after money, we should understand that it comes as a byproduct of our efforts, skills, and meaningful work. Emphasizing personal growth, knowledge acquisition, and skill development can lead to financial success more organically. When we dedicate ourselves to learning and improving, money will often follow.

The Importance of Mindset

To thrive, we need a positive mindset regarding work and finances. Focusing solely on monetary gain can lead to stress, burnout, and a lack of fulfillment. Instead, we should work with passion and commitment, believing that our hard work will be rewarded. This approach cultivates a healthier mental state, as it allows us to enjoy the journey rather than just the end goal.

Financial Awareness and Responsibilities

While striving for success, it's crucial to manage our finances wisely. Money should be seen as a tool for building a better future rather than a target. Learning to save and invest responsibly is fundamental. For instance, consider setting aside funds for significant life events like weddings, children's education, or buying a home. Thoughtful spending on quality education and personal development is an investment in a better quality of life.

Smart Investment Strategies

In our pursuit of wealth, we must also be cautious about how we invest. Engaging in high-risk schemes or short-term gains, such as gambling or speculative trading, can lead to financial losses and emotional distress. We should focus on strategies that prioritize stability and growth. Following the adage, "Rule number one is never lose money," emphasizes the importance of safeguarding our finances.

Instead of reckless pursuits, look into diverse investment options like mutual funds or systematic investment plans (SIPs). These approaches are regulated, flexible, and can lead to healthier financial growth over time.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while money is necessary for a comfortable life, it should not be our primary focus. A balanced life emphasizes personal growth, skill enhancement, and wise financial management. By adopting this mindset, we can lead fulfilling lives without compromising our mental health or humanity. Ultimately, money will follow when we invest in our skills and make thoughtful financial decisions.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com



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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Erosion Of Respect For Parents

In a world where familial bonds should ideally embody unconditional love and respect, a distressing video from Nowgam has cast a long shadow over our perceptions of these relationships. The footage, depicting a son violently beating his parents with a slipper, has shocked viewers and ignited a profound introspection about the state of respect within our homes.

The unsettling imagery from Nowgam, a locality that was once seen as a haven of traditional values, portrays a scenario so disturbing that it challenges the very essence of what we consider acceptable behavior towards our parents. This harrowing incident has prompted a broader conversation about the treatment of parents and the erosion of reverence that has historically characterized familial relationships.

For many, like myself, this distressing video has had a deeply per-

sonal impact. Since witnessing the disturbing scene, an overwhelming heaviness has settled in my heart, and I find it difficult to meet my own father's eyes. The contrast between the gentle hands that once comforted me and the brutality displayed in the video is stark and jarring. The sense of betrayal is palpable, not just towards the parents involved in the Nowgam incident, but to all parents who dedicate their lives to nurturing their children.

This situation serves as a stark reminder of how fragile our relationships can be. It underscores a growing disconnect between the expectations we have of our parents and the respect we often afford them. The silent sacrifices made by parents, their unspoken prayers for our well-being, and their endless expressions of love are too often taken for granted. This tragic event has brought to light how important it is to acknowledge and

appreciate the sacrifices made by our parents.

The Nowgam video is not merely an isolated incident; it represents a troubling trend of diminishing respect and empathy towards those who have given us so much. It raises urgent questions about how we, as a society, have arrived at a point where such actions are conceivable, and what can be done to restore the reverence that should be inherent in our relationships with our parents.

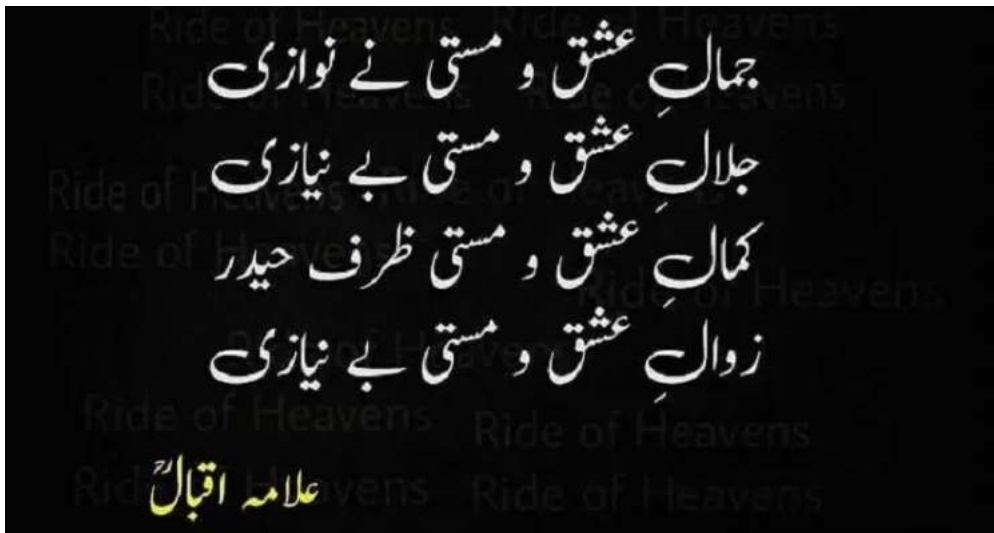
In reflecting on my own experiences, I recognize the many moments when I have failed to honor the love and care my father has given me. The video from Nowgam has made me acutely aware of the ways in which I have taken my father's sacrifices for granted, and it has deepened my resolve to change. I owe it to my father and to all parents to express my gratitude and to strive to show the respect that has been so freely given to me.

As we grapple with the implications of this disturbing video, let it serve as a catalyst for a renewed commitment to valuing and respecting our parents. They are the unsung heroes of our lives, and it is incumbent upon us to honor them with the love and respect they so rightly deserve. To my father, and to every parent who has ever felt overlooked or undervalued, I offer my deepest apologies and a heartfelt promise to better acknowledge and appreciate the immeasurable contributions you make to our lives.

The Nowgam incident may be a painful reminder, but it is also an opportunity for all of us to reaffirm our dedication to fostering relationships grounded in respect, gratitude, and love.

Showkat Ali
showkatati07@yahoo.com

Muslim-e-Awwal Shahe Mardan Ali: Dr Iqbal On Hazrat Ali



KO Web Desk

13TH of Rajab is the birth anniversary of Ali Ibn Abi Talib, the first Imam and fourth Caliph of Muslims. Thinker of The East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal who spearheaded the Muslim Renaissance in British India had a profound love for the progeny of Prophet (Pbuh). In one of his books, *Asrar-e-Khudi*, Iqbal had expressed his respectful love and admiration for Imam Hazrat Ali. Some of its extracts are reproduced below:

*Muslim e awwal shahe mardan Ali
Ishq ra sarmaya e iman Ali*
Ali is the first Muslim and the king of men, In Love's eyes, Ali is the Treasure of the faith

*Az wilae dood manish zinda um
Dar jahan misle guhar tabinda um*
Devotion to his family inspires me with life, so I am shining like a pearl

*Az rukhe uo faal Paighambar grift
Millat e Haq az shikohish far grift*
From Ali's face, the Prophet drew many a fair omen, by his majesty the true religion is glorified

*Quwwat e deen e mubeen farmudaish
Kainaat aen pizeer az doodaish*
His commandments are the strength of Islam, all things pay allegiance to his House

*Mursal e Haq kard namish Bu Turab
Haq Yad Allah khawnad dar Ummul Kitab*
The Apostle of God gave him the name Bu Turab (Father of soil), God in the Quran called him The Hand of Allah"

Sher e Haq ien khaak ra taskheer kard

**6 HARK E DAR AFAAQ GARDAD BU TURAB
BAAZ GARDANAD ZA MAGHRIB AFTAAB**
Whosoever in the world if become a Bu Turab, turns back the Sun from West

Ien gile tareek ra akseer kard
Ali, The Lion of God subdued the body's clay and transmuted this dark Earth to gold

*Murtaza kaz taigh e uo Haq raushan ast
Bu Turab az fathe aqleem e tan ast*
Murtaza(a), by whose sword the splendor of truth was revealed, is named

*Bu Turab from his conquest of the empire of body (clay)
Hark e dar afaaq gardad Bu Turab
Baaz gardanad za maghrib aftaab*
Whosoever in the world if become a Bu Turab, turns back the Sun from West

*Zaire paashien jia shikohe Khyber ast
Dast e uo Unja khaseem e Kauser ast*
Here the Might of Khyber is under his feet and in Hereafter his hand will distribute the water of Kauser.

*Az khud aagahi Yadullahi kunad
Az Yadullahi shahinshahi kunad*
Through self-knowledge, he acts as God's Hand and by virtue of being God's Hand/ he reigns over everything

*Zaat e uo darwaza e shahre uloom
Zair e farmanish Hijaz o Cheen o Room*
He is the Gateway of the City of Knowledge; Arabia, China, and Greece are under his governance

Deadlock Ends on Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel Project

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

With the inauguration of the Z Morh Tunnel in Sonamarg today, a new era of infrastructure development has begun. This long-awaited project which commenced in 2015, has now reached its significant milestone opening its doors to traffic. The event was graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Cabinet Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, MOS, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister of J&K, Chairman NHIDCL and other distinguished guests

During the ceremony, several dignitaries shared their perspectives on the ongoing and future development projects in Jammu and Kashmir. Chief Minister UT of J&K, Omar Abdullah began by honoring the victims of a terrorist attack near the Z-Morh Tunnel project site last year, paying tribute to their sacrifices. P.M Narendra Modi underscored the significance of infrastructure projects in the region's development. He highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is transforming into a hub for tunnels, bridges, and ropeways, with projects like the world's highest tunnel, railroad bridge, and rail lines being constructed. PM Modi expressed his desire to see Jammu and Kashmir as a "beautiful and prosperous" region, referring to it as the "Crown of the Country."

In his speech, Minister Nitin Gadkari praised the newly completed Sonamarg Tunnel, which was built at a remarkable cost of ₹2,717 crore. He emphasized that the tunnel not only reduces travel distances but also ensures all-weather connectivity for the region. Gadkari also highlighted several major infrastructure projects that are either underway or in the pipeline, including the Shankaracharya Ropeway in Srinagar, a modern bus stand in Jammu, and various tunnels along NH-44. These projects, along with initiatives like the Srinagar Ring Road, Jammu Ring Road, and the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, aim to bolster the region's connectivity.

Many newspapers have failed to fully quote Minister Nitin Gadkari's recent remarks about the infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir. While they reported on his discussion about ongoing and future developments, they overlooked a crucial part of his speech regarding specific road corridors. Gadkari began by mentioning the various road corridors currently under execution, including the Khanabal-Anantnag-Chenani corridor on NH-244. He indirectly referred to five upcoming tunnels planned for this corridor, including the Sudhmahadev Twin Tube Tunnels and the Singhpora Vailoo Twin Tube Tunnel.



The only operational tunnel on NH-244 at present is the bidirectional Khelani Tunnel in Doda.

The Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel Project was quoted by TLL-Evrascon JV at a 26% lower price than the tendered cost. This ambitious project involves the construction of a twin-tube tunnel spanning 10.3 km, along with an approach road of 13 km on the Anantnag side and 18 km on the Kishtwar side. The estimated cost of the project at that time was ₹3500 Cr. Following its initial tender in 2023, the project faced cancellation in 2024 for unspecified reasons leaving its future uncertain. However, with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's remarks today and the positive developments on the Parivesh Portal, it appears that the deadlock has been resolved. According to the Parivesh Portal, the first stage of forest land clearance has already been granted by the end of 2024, while the second stage approval is expected by the end of February 2025. The tendering process will begin in March 2025 with construction slated to start by June 2025



The Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel and other projects along this corridor will provide significant benefits to the people of Kashmir and the Chenab Valley, especially by bypassing the treacherous Sinthan Top route, which frequently remains closed due to heavy snow in winter

as told by the minister in his Sonamarg speech. Earlier last month, Mian Altaf, the Member of Parliament for the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, also indicated that the stalled Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel Project would be resuming soon following discussions with NHIDCL officials in Delhi, he confirmed that steps are being taken to restart the project. These combined updates point toward a positive future for this vital infrastructure project.

The Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel and other projects along this corridor will provide significant benefits to the people of Kashmir and the Chenab Valley, especially by bypassing the treacherous Sinthan Top route, which frequently remains closed due to heavy snow in winter. The successful completion of these tunnels will improve all-weather connectivity, reduce travel times, and enhance the region's infrastructure.

The author is researcher planning and contracts

Can Food Change Your Personality?

Austin Perlmutter

Personality often feels like an unchanging foundation of who we are—whether we're extroverted, agreeable, or open to new experiences. But what if personality is more malleable than we think? Emerging research suggests that diet may influence personality traits through its influence on the gut, neuroplasticity, and immunity. This raises fascinating questions about how the food we eat might shape who we are.

Personality: Dynamic and Changeable

Personality encompasses enduring patterns in thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, influencing everything from relationships to career success. While often perceived as fixed, research shows personality traits can change over time. Traits like conscientiousness and emotional stability increase into middle adulthood, and major events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, have been linked to shifts in traits such as extraversion and conscientiousness.

Genetics account for 30-40 percent of personality, but environmental factors—including diet—play a substantial role. This opens the door to exploring how the foods we consume may impact personality.

The Gut-Brain Axis and Personality

The gut-brain axis, a communication network between the gut and brain, is central to understanding diet's influence on personality. The gut microbiome—trillions of microorganisms in

the digestive system—plays a key role in regulating mood, stress, and inflammation. Healthy gut microbiomes are associated with lower anxiety and better emotional stability, while imbalances can contribute to irritability and neuroticism.

Diet is a major factor in shaping the gut microbiome. Fiber-rich foods and minimally processed foods support beneficial bacteria, while diets high in sugar and unhealthy fats promote harmful bacteria. Interestingly,

Diet is a major factor in shaping the gut microbiome. Fiber-rich foods and minimally processed foods support beneficial bacteria, while diets high in sugar and unhealthy fats promote harmful bacteria

personality traits like neuroticism correlate with less healthy dietary choices, highlighting a feedback loop between diet and personality.



Neuroplasticity and Personality

Neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to adapt and form new connections, is another mechanism linking diet to personality. Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids, like salmon, promote neuronal growth, while antioxidants from fruits and vegetables may protect brain cells. These nutrients may foster traits such as adaptability, creativity, and emotional resilience.

Emerging research on psych-

delics underscores diet's potential to influence personality. Psilocybin, which can be consumed in certain mushrooms, has been shown to increase openness to experience and reduce neuroticism, potentially through its effects on neuroplasticity.

Metabolism, Diet, and Personality

Diet affects metabolism, which in turn influences personality. Blood sugar regulation, a key aspect of metabolic health, impacts

brain function and mood. Dysregulated blood sugar, common in conditions like diabetes, has been linked to higher neuroticism and lower openness to experience. Notably, personality traits such as impulsivity may increase following significant weight gain, further illustrating the connection between metabolic health and personality.

Inflammation and Personality

Chronic low-grade inflammation, often driven by poor diet,

impacts brain health and may shape personality. Studies link higher inflammation levels to lower conscientiousness and extraversion. Conversely, reducing inflammation through a healthy diet might support positive personality traits.

Recent findings suggest the relationship is bidirectional: personality traits can predict future inflammation levels, and inflammation-related genetic variants may influence personality. This dynamic highlights the complex interplay between diet, immunity, and personality.

The Extent of Change

While diet's effects on mood and behavior are well-established, its influence on long-term personality traits is still being explored. Most studies show correlations rather than causation, making it difficult to determine the exact extent to which diet can change personality.

Nonetheless, nourishing the body with the right nutrients creates biological conditions that support psychological well-being, potentially fostering subtle shifts in personality over time.

In summary, the relationship between diet and personality is an emerging area of science that underscores our capacity for change. By making thoughtful dietary choices, we may not only improve physical health but also shape the traits that define who we are. Next time you choose a meal, consider that it's not just feeding your body—it might also be influencing your mind.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Gulmarg Winter

cricket league was held in the region after forty years, besides car racing scenes around the beautiful Dal Lake.

Over the past two years, the prime minister noted that 2,500 athletes from across the country have participated in various sports tournaments in Jammu and Kashmir.

He highlighted the establishment of over 90 Khelo India centres in the region, providing training to 4,500 local youth.

All Praises For

of 15 days. Last week, Modi virtually inaugurated the Jammu railway division.

"With such projects, not only the distance of the hearts but the distance from Delhi is also reduced," Omar said, thanking the PM for staying true to his words.

The chief minister said that people often meet him and ask when Jammu and Kashmir's statehood would be restored.

"The second promise of conducting assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir was also fulfilled as the people, who turned up in large numbers after getting a chance to elect their representatives with no complaints of rigging and other related things. That's why I am here today," he said.

However, he stated that the third promise of restoring statehood to J&K has not been fulfilled yet and the people here including the media persons usually ask him the questions related to it.

"My heart says that very soon, Prime Minister, you will fulfil your third promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. And Jammu and Kashmir will once again get the status of a state," he said.

He also acknowledged the Centre's efforts in bringing peace to the borders in J&K and said far flung areas like Machil, Gurez, Karnah and Keran along the Line of Control have benefited with development and tourism. "We cannot imagine how many tourists are enjoying the beauty of these places."

Modi also repeatedly referred to the chief minister during his nearly half-an-hour long speech and said he became impatient after Omar shared a video and the pictures of the Z-Morh tunnel on his social media account on the eve of its inauguration.

"The weather, snow and the beautiful mountains are enough to make hearts happy...As Omar said I have a long association with this region as I remember spending time as an ordinary worker of BJP in Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Ganderbal and Baramulla.

"I have walked for hours together in the snow but was always warmly welcomed by the people who never allowed me to feel cold," the prime minister said.

He talked about the 'Chilai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter which is going to end later this month, and said the people are bravely facing this period and serving tourists.

In his speech, Modi also referred to the participation of Omar in Kashmir's first-ever International Marathon in October last year and said his video has gone viral. "I personally congratulated him when he met me in Delhi. He was full of enthusiasm."

Omar made history by participating in the marathon, completing the 21-km run with an impressive average pace of 5 minutes 54 seconds per kilometre.

"I assure you that Modi will walk with you side-by-side and will remove all the hurdles which are coming in your dreams. Duri (distance) is over and we have to work together to fulfil our dreams and achieve our goals," the prime minister said.

Omar Doing Everything

faith in Mufti sahab's vision of peace with dignity even though PDP had a mere 16 MLAs.

"Today our CM despite 50 MLAs did everything to appease & normalise Delhi's unilateral actions in August 2019 that cleaved & robbed J&K of its special status," Mehbooba said in the post.

In response to Mehbooba Mufti's recent post, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) stated that the 'PDP is in no position to effect any change'.

The party expressed that the PDP's reaction to the Chief Minister's call for the restoration of statehood, made directly to the Prime Minister, is an 'indication of their growing unease'.

"PDP is not in a position to do anything. They are just getting unnerved by the CM urging the PM for statehood restoration... without mixing any words. Don't mislead people. Well actually, you can't mislead people now, coz no one listens to you. Keep on tearing your vocal cords," NC's state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar, wrote in a post on X.

Earlier in a post on X, Mehbooba said Abdullah's conduct has been so different from that of her father's, late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a former chief minister.

"Difference between a shortsighted politician & a true statesman. In 2003 then BJP PM Vajpayee during his visit to Srinagar showed great faith in Mufti sahab's vision of peace with dignity even though PDP had a mere 16 MLAs.

"Today our CM despite 50 MLAs did everything to appease & normalise Delhi's unilateral actions in August 2019 that cleaved & robbed J&K of its special status," Mehbooba said in the post.

J&K Becoming

built here. The highest railroad bridge in the world is being built here. The highest rail lines in the world are being built here. The world is in awe after seeing the engineering of the Chenab Bridge."

Asserting that Kashmir is the crown of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday reaffirmed his commitment to make it even more beautiful.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Z-Morh Tunnel here in Central Kashmir PM Modi said, "Kashmir is the crown of India, and I want this crown to become even more

beautiful," PM Modi said.

"The dream of a developed India will be realized when its crown, Kashmir, is adorned with the jewels of progress," he added.

PM Modi expressed his desire for Kashmir to become even more beautiful and prosperous. "The continuous support from the youth, elders, and children of the region has helped me to build Naya Jammu and Kashmir."

The Prime Minister emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are working diligently to turn their dreams into reality, contributing to the progress of the region and the nation.

He said that the Z-Morh Tunnel, constructed at a cost of Rs 2,700 crore, will prove to be a game changer. "This tunnel is not just a piece of infrastructure; it is a game changer that will boost tourism and provide new opportunities for the people," said PM Modi.

He noted that his government began the construction of this tunnel in 2015 and completed it within its tenure, staying true to its policy of inaugurating what it starts.

The Prime Minister spoke about the recent foundation stone laying of the Jammu Rail Division. He remarked that this was a long-standing demand of the people. He said the Sonamarg Tunnel was a long-standing demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. "This tunnel will significantly ease the lives of people in Sonamarg, Kargil, and Leh. It will reduce the difficulties faced during avalanches, heavy snowfall and landslides, which often led to road closures," PM Modi said, adding, "The tunnel will improve access to major hospitals and ensure the availability of essential supplies, thereby reducing the challenges faced by the residents."

The Prime Minister also highlighted the progress on the Zojila Tunnel, which will further enhance connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh. He paid rich tributes to the seven individuals of the Z-Morh Tunnel project who lost their lives in a terror attack in Gagangeer in October last year. "Despite being targeted, workers remained steadfast on their resolve to complete this important project."

He praised the construction workers for their commitment and sincerity. Hailing the beautiful snow-covered mountains and the delightful weather, PM Modi said that his eagerness to visit Jammu & Kashmir increased after seeing the recent pictures shared by the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir on social media.

The Prime Minister reminisced about his earlier days when he frequently visited the region while working for his party. He mentioned spending considerable time in areas like Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Ganderbal, and Baramulla, often walking for hours and covering several kilometres.

He added that despite the heavy snowfall, the warmth of the people of Jammu and Kashmir made the cold unnoticeable.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the challenging 40-day period of Chillaikalan in Kashmir and praised the resilience of the people. He highlighted that this season brings new opportunities for tourist destinations like Sonamarg, attracting visitors from across the country who enjoy the hospitality of the people of Kashmir.

The Prime Minister said that numerous road and rail connectivity projects are set to be completed in Jammu and Kashmir in the coming days.

He mentioned another major connectivity project underway nearby and noted the excitement surrounding the upcoming rail connection to Kashmir.

The Prime Minister highlighted the development of new roads, railways, hospitals, and colleges as part of the new Jammu and Kashmir.

He detailed the transformative projects undertaken in J&K, including Rs 42,000 crore worth of road connectivity projects, 14 tunnels under construction, and the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River.

The Prime Minister mentioned several key projects, including the cable bridge enhancing Kashmir's railway connectivity, the Zojila, Chenani Nashri, and Sonamarg tunnel projects, and the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the schemes for the Shankaracharya Temple, Shivkhori, and Baltal-Amarnath ropeways, as well as the Katra-Delhi expressway.

Emphasising the extensive infrastructure development from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, the Prime Minister remarked that Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of tunnels, high bridges, and ropeways, with some of the world's highest tunnels and highest rail-road bridges being constructed here.

Tourism Boom In J&K
PM Modi emphasized on tourism thriving in Jammu and Kashmir. "In 2024, more than 2 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir, with Sonamarg seeing a sixfold increase in tourists over the past ten years," noted PM Modi.

He emphasized that this growth has benefited local businesses, including hotels, homestays, dhabas, clothing shops, and taxi services.

He underlined the significant contribution of the tourism sector to India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. "The improved connectivity will allow tourists to reach previously untouched and unexplored areas of J&K," he said.

He noted the peace and progress achieved in Jammu and Kashmir over the past decade has benefited the tourism sector.

He said, "Kashmir has regained its identity as the paradise on earth. Lal Chowk remains vibrant even during the night."

"Jammu and Kashmir of the 21st century is scripting a new chapter of development. It's leaving behind the difficult days of the past. People now enjoy ice cream at Lal Chowk even at night, and the area remains lively," the Prime Minister said.

He praised the local artists for transforming

Polo View Market into a new habitat center, with musicians, artists, and singers frequently performing there.

The Prime Minister observed that people in Srinagar now comfortably watch movies with their families in cinema halls and shop with ease.

He emphasized that such significant changes cannot be achieved by the government alone and credited the people of Jammu and Kashmir for strengthening democracy and securing their future.

'Yeh Modi Hai,

before the assembly elections in September last year and said, "My heart believes that you will fulfil this promise soon".

"You also promised (assembly) elections within four months and you stayed true to your words," he said.

Without making a direct reference to the issue of statehood, Modi assured the gathering that all promises would be kept and the right things would happen at the right time.

The prime minister said he wishes Jammu and Kashmir to be beautiful and prosperous. "There is an atmosphere of peace in Jammu and Kashmir and we have seen its effect on tourism. Kashmir is writing a new saga of development today," he said.

"Jammu and Kashmir of the 21st century is scripting a new chapter of development," he said and remarked that the region is regaining its identity as "Paradise on Earth", leaving behind the difficult days of the past.

Modi said the Kashmir Valley will soon be connected by train and there is enthusiasm among people about it.

He also paid tributes to the seven people who were killed in a terror attack near the tunnel here on October 20 last year.

After inaugurating the project, the prime minister went inside the tunnel and interacted with project officials. He also met construction workers who worked meticulously amid harsh conditions to complete the tunnel.

He thanked the labourers who worked hard and also put their lives at stake for the development of Jammu and Kashmir and India.

"Despite the challenges, our resolve did not waver," the prime minister said while lauding the labourers for their resolve and commitment.

Admiring the beautiful snow-covered mountains and the delightful weather, Modi said that his eagerness to visit Jammu and Kashmir increased after seeing the recent pictures shared by the chief minister on social media.

He reminisced about his earlier days when he frequently visited the region while working for the BJP and mentioned spending considerable time in areas like Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Ganderbal and Baramulla, often walking for hours and covering several kilometres.

Despite the heavy snowfall, the warmth of the people of Jammu and Kashmir made the cold unnoticeable, the prime minister said as the audience broke into applause.

Modi also spoke about the recent foundation stone laying of the Jammu Rail Division, a long-standing demand of the people.

He highlighted that the tunnel will significantly ease the lives of people in Sonamarg, Kargil and Leh.

The prime minister remarked that the tunnel will reduce the difficulties faced during avalanches, heavy snowfall and landslides, which often lead to road closures.

The prime minister noted that the actual construction of the Sonamarg Tunnel began in 2015 after his government came into power and said he was pleased that the tunnel's construction was completed under their administration.

"I have this mantra whatever project we announce, we only inaugurate those," he said and made it clear that the days are gone when projects were announced but nobody used to follow up on them.

Sonamarg Tunnel

addressing a public meeting after the inauguration.

Sinha praised the prime minister's role in rebuilding a new Jammu and Kashmir. "You (the people) had countless dreams of progress. Step by step, I believe the Prime Minister has worked to make all your dreams come true," he said.

Referring to Kashmir as a paradise once confined to books, the LG said "Under his leadership, the paradise being discussed in books has been turned into reality on this land."

He added that by eliminating terrorism and separatism, the prime minister has instilled a new sense of self-confidence and self-reliance in the region.

"The guidance and support for building a new Jammu and Kashmir have created a solid foundation for the bright future of women and youth here. From sports to agriculture, there has been a revolution of change. From cities to villages, a wave of equitable, multi-sectoral development has given every citizen of this region the opportunity to live with dignity and respect," he added.

The LG also paid homage to the seven individuals who lost their lives in a terror attack near the tunnel last October, acknowledging their sacrifice as the foundation for transformative projects in the region.

"This tunnel is a game changer, not only for winter tourism but also for the socio-economic development of the Sonamarg region," he said.

Highlighting the region's transformation, Sinha said J&K is no longer synonymous with terrorism but has become a hub for tourism. In 2024, the region welcomed 2.5 crore tourists, up from 2 crore in 2023.

"With significant infrastructure expansion, new industrial policies, extended highways, grassroots-level democracy, and holistic development in agriculture and horticulture, a

new wave of revolution has transformed the social and economic landscape here," he said.

"The prime minister has given the people of Jammu and Kashmir a dignified life, instilling confidence and hope," the LG said.

He added that initiatives under Modi's leadership have revolutionized agriculture, sports, and grassroots democracy, bringing equitable development across cities and villages.

The LG outlined significant infrastructure projects, including Rs 1.5 lakh crore worth of national highways under construction, the Amritsar-Katra Expressway, and the upcoming Udhampur-Srinagar rail link, which aims to connect Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Eight tunnel projects are also nearing completion, with a deadline of December 2025, he said.

Sinha further stated that the Zoji-La Tunnel, slated for completion by 2026, will provide year-round connectivity to Leh and Ladakh, further integrating remote areas. "Over 99 per cent of villages with a population of over 250 have already been connected under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, with efforts underway to include the remaining ones," he said.

Sinha credited Modi for laying the groundwork for a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir's youth and women, and emphasized opportunities for underprivileged groups like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs. "From the swamp of hopelessness, he has led the region toward shining development," the LG remarked.

Good Roads Lead

developed and prosperous. We are working on a mission to make J&K developed and prosperous so that industries are established here, tourism increases, employment opportunities are created for the youth and poverty is eradicated. With that view, we are developing the infrastructure in J&K," he added.

Gadkari said the inauguration of the Sonamarg tunnel, which was previously known as the Z-Morh tunnel, was historic and would provide all-weather connectivity to the tourist resort town.

"Today is a historic day that the Sonamarg tunnel is being inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Due to the closure of this road (due to heavy snowfall), some areas remained closed for five to six months per year.

"It was started in 2012, but there were several difficulties. Today, I am happy that the work has been completed. By the opening of this tunnel -- Srinagar to Ladakh, Leh highway will especially be connected, which used to remain shut for 5-6 months," he noted.

He said the work on the nearby Zojila tunnel was going on and once open, it will reduce the travel time from Srinagar to Leh by 3.5 hours and keep the road open throughout the year.

"Zojila tunnel, which is 14 km with 18 km approach road, is being constructed at a cost of Rs 6,800 crore. When we floated the tender for the project for the fifth time, the government had fixed its cost at Rs 12,000 crore. However, I am happy to tell you (PM) that we are completing it under Rs 6,800 crore and have saved around Rs 5,000 crore," the minister said.

"Zojila tunnel is the highest tunnel in Asia, which will reduce the travel time between Srinagar and Leh by 3.5 hours and will give the people an all-season connectivity which will bring ease in their lives."

Speaking about other developmental projects in J-K, Gadkari said his ministry is building four corridors in the Union Territory at the cost of Rs 50,000 crore.

Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar corridor, which is 250 km long, will be built at a cost of Rs 16,000 crores. We are trying to finish the project by the end of this year.

"There will be 33 tunnels in this corridor, out of which 15 have been completed, while 18 more are to be built in which the work is underway. It will reduce the distance by 70 km and save five hours of journey time. The 9 tunnels will be completed by December 2025," he said.

The second corridor is Jammu-Chenani-Anantnag, which is 202 km long and is being built at Rs 14,000 crore. It will be completed by December 2025, the minister said.

Five tunnels in this project will reduce the distance by 68 km, he added.

The third corridor is the Surankote-Shopian-Baramulla-Uri, which is 303 km long, being constructed at the cost of Rs 10,000 crore and will be completed by 2027, Gadkari said.

The fourth one is the Jammu-Akhnoor-Surankote-Poonch corridor, which is 203 km, and the project cost is Rs 5,000 crore. The DPR process has been started, he said, adding that all these corridors will be the lifeline of J&K.

He also announced that the DPR process has been started for another important corridor -- Kathua-Basohli-Bhaderwah-Doda.

It is a four-lane, 250 km long project at the cost of Rs 3,400 crore. People from Punjab can go directly from Kathua to Srinagar without having to go to Jammu once it is completed, the minister informed.

He also mentioned that the Srinagar ring road is to be built at a cost of Rs 7,200 crore.

It is a 104-km four-lane road and will be completed by this year-end, the minister announced.

People going to Gurez, Baramulla, or Ladakh will not have to enter Srinagar once this project is completed, Gadkari said.

Referring to Modi's dream of connecting Kashmir with Delhi and reducing the distance between hearts, Gadkari said the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra greenfield express highway, which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 41,000 crore and is 670 km long, will be completed by the year-end.

We are working to have you dedicate it to the nation by this year-end, he added.

"On your assurance to the people of J&K to reduce the distance between them and Delhi, I assure you that this dream will be realised

soon and the road journey between Delhi to Srinagar will be completed in 8-8.5 hours soon, and this project will be completed in 1.5 years," Gadkari added.

He also said the government is undertaking five ropeway projects in J&K, including the Shankaracharya ropeway in Srinagar, Baltal to Amarnath cave shrine ropeway, and Sonamarg-Thajiwars ropeway.

The work will start soon, he said.

"Your (PM's) focus is on improving road and rail connectivity. The people here say they had never even dreamt of having such a road and railway network, which has been done under your leadership," Gadkari said.

He also lauded the engineers and contractors for the completion of the Sonamarg tunnel project despite challenging circumstances.

"I congratulate the people of J&K for this," he added.

UGC-NET Scheduled

the exam was scheduled for 17 subjects, including mass communication and journalism, Sanskrit, Nepali, law, Japanese, women studies, Malayalam, Urdu, Konkani, criminology, folk literature, electronic science, environmental science and Indian knowledge system.

The UGC-NET was also postponed last year after the education ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam might be compromised

ACB Files Case

During the course of investigation search warrants were obtained from court and searches were conducted at all locations inside as well as outside UT of J&K at Delhi, Jammu, during which various incriminating documents related to property acquisition were collected and seized in presence of independent witnesses, the statement added.

It was found that suspect has raised /accumulated properties and made various expenditures, some of the details include Flat 3 BHK at Greater Kailash Jammu, Flat 3 BHK at Chhatarpur enclave phase 2nd Delhi, House at Residency road Jammu, House at Hygam, Sopore, Palatial House at Bagh-e-Mehtab Srinagar, Shopping Complex at Hygam Sopore housing some business establishments including J&K Bank Branch Hygam, 04 Shops at Hygam housing business units, Land measuring 2 Kanals at National Highway Baramulla village Bulgam, Land measuring 17 Kanals 9.5 Marlas at Dodan Hygam Baramulla, Land measuring 2 Kanals 9 Marlas situated at Kaidub Hygam Baramulla

Possession of vehicles- TATA Safari, Hyundai i10, Wagnor & Tractor John Deere, Five FDs amounting to Rs. 88 lacs in J&K bank, HDFC Bank, Policies amounting to Rs 35.Lac, Health insurance policies amounting to Rs 10 lac and huge expenditures incurred on repayments of bank loans etc.

Further investigation in the case is going on, the statement added.

80% Terrorists

which 60% were Pakistan terrorists."

Acknowledging an increase in terrorist activities in north Kashmir and the Doda-Kishtwar belt, he said overall violence levels remain under control. He added that terror infrastructure remains intact, infiltration continues, and drones are increasingly being used to transfer narcotics.

General Dwivedi stressed the importance of the media in national security, saying, "Mass media and security forces have great potential to converge towards nation-building and national security."

He concluded by reiterating his mission: "My mission is to ensure full-spectrum preparedness while transforming the Indian Army into an self-reliant, future-ready force, a key pillar of national security that contributes meaningfully to nation-building."

'LAC Situation

have started in Dipsang and Demchok, the two friction points from where the two sides have disengaged in October.

Our deployment is balanced and robust and we are capable of handling any situation, he said.

We are focusing on boosting border infrastructure and capability development, the Army chief said on the overall LAC situation.

On the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he said it is overall under control and the ceasefire pact with Pakistani side is holding up along the Line of Control.

At the same time, the Army chief said infiltration attempts are continuing and the terror infrastructure on the Pakistani side is intact.

In the last year, 60 per cent of terrorists eliminated were of Pakistan origin, he said.

On Manipur, the Army chief said synergised efforts by security forces and proactive government initiatives have brought the situation in the state under control.

However, the Army chief said cyclic incidents of violence continue in Manipur and the armed forces are trying to bring peace to the region.

Along the Indo-Myanmar border, enhanced surveillance and domination is in place to deal with any possibility of spillover of situation in Myanmar, he said.

Snow Likely At

Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 5.6 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 8.4 degrees Celsius, down from minus 6.2 degrees Celsius the night before.

The minimum temperature was minus 6.4 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 5.5 degrees Celsius in Konibal in Pampore town, minus 5.5 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and minus 3.4 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

CM Omar, Jitendra Singh Fly Together To Z-Morh Tunnel



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh posted visuals of his aerial journey from Srinagar to Sonamarg on X, as he was accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the inauguration of the Z-Morh Tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Through the glaciers, a scenic heli-flight from Srinagar to #Sonamarg. Accompanied by CM #Jammu And Kashmir Sh Omar Abdullah ji, enroute to the venue of inauguration of the landmark Z-Morh Tunnel by PM Sh Narendra Modi ji," Dr Singh posted on the X. The minister posted images of the snow-covered landscape

from the helicopter ride, highlighting the strategic importance of the project, which will ensure all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg. The Z-Morh Tunnel, a 6.5 km stretch, is part of a broader infrastructure initiative aimed at enhancing connectivity to Ladakh and boosting regional development. Prime Minister Modi is set to inaugurate the tunnel in a high-security event attended by senior officials, including Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. The ceremony marks a critical step in improving year-round access to the region, which has long faced disruptions during winters due to heavy snowfall.

3 Drug Peddlers Arrested: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police on Monday said to have arrested three drug peddlers in Awantipora & Sopore and recovered contraband substances from their possession.



A Police team at a checkpoint established at Datpora Dogripora, arrested 02 drug peddlers, identified as Bilal Ahmad Lohrihanji son of Ali Mohd Lohrihanji resident of Gund Prang Hajin Bandipora and Reyaz Ahmad Mir son of Ab Gani Mir resident of Datpora Dogripora. During the search, 1.460 Kgs of grinded Cannabis Powder was recovered from their possession, a police spokesman said in a statement.

resident of Harwan Sopore. During the search, 137 grams of Charas was recovered from his possession, police said. All the accused have been arrested and cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated, police said.

"We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said.

Meanwhile in Sopore, during patrolling at Harwan Sopore, a Police team led by SHO PS Bommai under the supervision of SDPO Sopore, intercepted a drug peddler identified as Manzoor Ahmad Mochi son of Mohammad Shaban Mochi

Orientation Program On Registration Processes Held



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Registration Department Jammu and Kashmir Monday organized a one day orientation program on the registration processes in Jammu and Kashmir at TRC Srinagar.

Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Additional Inspector General of Registration, Kashmir highlighted the significance of transitioning to a paperless registration system, stating, "This is a landmark step towards digitization, reducing paperwork and delays while enhancing service quality and environmental sustainability."

The training programme was attended by AIGR Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Sub Registrars of Kashmir Division along with their staff, experts from SDU NIC Pune and Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd, Stamp vendors, Deed writers etc. During the orientation program, detailed discussions were held regarding the existing system of document registration in J&K.

He also threw light on the initiatives which have either been taken or are in the pipeline for a more transparent and citizen friendly registration.

It was revealed that within a short span of time, the Registration Department has made remarkable progress and emerged as a vital revenue generating institution. Annually around 700 crores of rupees is generated by the department to the state exchequer. The sessions covered the use of advanced digital tools, e-documentation, e-signatures, and secure online platforms designed for efficient property and document registration.

The technical experts from SCHIL (Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited) also participated and gave detailed presentations on the steps involved in operation/ usage of e-stamping system, do's and don'ts of the processes involved to enhance transparency.

The department also provided hands-on training on handling digital registrations, troubleshooting common issues, and maintaining data security to instill confidence among the staff in adopting the new system.

The program witnessed active participation and enthusiasm from attendees, who expressed their readiness to implement the learnings in their respective offices. This training marks a significant step in the department's journey toward achieving a fully digital, eco-friendly, and citizen-centric registration process.

Zojila Tunnel: MEIL Completes Excavation Of 10.4 KM

Agencies

SRINAGAR- Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd. (MEIL) has achieved a significant milestone in the construction of the Zojila Tunnel. According to the details available, the MEIL out of 13 kilometers length of the strategic tunnel has completed the excavation of 10.4 kms.



The Zojila tunnel, located amidst mountainous terrain on Srinagar-Leh National Highway, is set to become one of the longest and most crucial tunnels in the region.

Officials said that the excavation is a major step towards completing the Zojila Tunnel. "MEIL's success in overcoming the challenging terrain is a big achievement," they added. "We are proud to have reached this significant milestone. The Zojila Tunnel project will not only enhance connectivity but also contribute to the development and security of the region," a senior official from Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd told KNO.

Pertinently, MEIL is constructing the tunnel using the new Austrian tunneling method on completion, the tunnel will provide year-long connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh, cutting the travel time from 3.5 hours on Zojila Pass to 45 minutes.

All weather connectivity will help in the financial and cultural development of Srinagar and Ladakh regions—(KNO)

'BSNL Ensured Seamless Telecom Connectivity During Z-Morh Tunnel Inauguration'

Agencies

SRINAGAR- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) said it played a crucial role in providing seamless telecom connectivity during the inauguration of the 6.5-kilometre-long Z-Morh tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. BSNL J&K, General Manager, Arvind Pandey said they played a major role in providing seamless telecom connectivity during the much-awaited inauguration of the 6.5-kilometre-long Z-Morh tunnel by PM Modi.



He said the BSNL swiftly established leased lines, hotlines, FTTH and other services at key locations, including the Z-Morh tunnel, Truck Yard, Neelgrar Helipad at Sonamarg, the Technical Airport and SKICC in Srinagar.

"The connectivity setup was completed in just two to three days, ensuring uninterrupted communication for the historic event," he said, adding that where all other operators took a step back, BSNL came forward and established seamless connectivity. Pandey highlighted BSNL's commitment to extending services in remote areas, saying they always step up during critical times to ensure connectivity, even in challenging terrains.

J&K Lacks Robotic Surgical Systems

Agencies

SRINAGAR- Amid a revolution in healthcare facilities worldwide, Jammu and Kashmir continues to lack a robotic surgical system, forcing patients to seek advanced treatment outside the Union Territory.



Robot-assisted surgery uses specialised technology that enhances a surgeon's capabilities by enabling precise movements, improved magnification and access to hard-to-reach areas through small incisions. Several doctors said robotic surgical systems are urgently needed at tertiary care health facilities in J&K. They said that advanced procedures such as heart surgery, gastrointestinal surgery, general surgery, gynecologic surgery, thoracic surgery, urologic surgery and others could benefit from this technology.

place at the earliest because it is the future of surgery, without which surgeons will become obsolete," he said. Dr Sajad added that robotic surgical systems are highly effective for urological, gynaecological, colorectal, neurosurgical and cardiothoracic procedures, delivering excellent results. "Even kidney transplants and open-heart surgeries are performed with superior outcomes using robotic systems," he added.

Doctors suggested that establishing robotic surgical systems at institutions such as SKIMS, GMC Srinagar and other tertiary care hospitals would eliminate the need for patients to travel outside J&K for treatment. Noted urologist Dr Sajad said robotic surgical systems offer numerous benefits, including precision, miniaturisation, small incisions, reduced blood loss, less pain and quicker healing times. "It is the need of the hour to have such a system in

artificial intelligence in robotic-assisted surgery, saying it supports better patient outcomes and enhances surgical efficiency. "These advanced technologies lead to quicker recoveries, minimal complications, shorter hospital stays, and affordable treatment options for patients in J&K," he said.

Several doctors revealed that their departments have repeatedly requested the government to procure robotic surgical systems for J&K. Notably, SKIMS, GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu virtually trained surgeons for robotic-assisted surgeries last year; however, the facilities are yet to be implemented.

Meanwhile, a senior official said that tenders for procuring robotic surgical systems at GMC were floated a few years ago but did not materialise. "Efforts are underway to bring these advanced facilities to J&K at the earliest," he said—(KNO)

Dr Sushil, a surgeon, said robotic-assisted surgery is revolutionising healthcare globally. "Robots enable surgeons to perform more accurate and precise surgeries, focusing on patient care with greater efficiency. For instance, a surgeon can perform an eight-hour robotic-assisted surgery without experiencing fatigue," he said. Dr Showkat from GMC Srinagar highlighted the role of

Press Club Mourns Death Of Mother Of Journalist Ashwani Kumar

Agencies

SRINAGAR- The executive members of the Press Club of Kashmir held an emergency meeting today at their office in Amira Kadal, Srinagar, to mourn the passing of Sunita Chandra, wife of senior journalist Ashwani Kumar, former Bureau Chief of Aaj Tak news channel and ex-president of the press club of Jammu. During the meeting, led

by President M Saleem Pandit, the members expressed their heartfelt condolences and prayed for courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss. Sunita Chandra was admitted to AIIMS where she died on 11 January 2024. She was 61 and is survived by her husband and two daughters. Chandra was a social worker and used to work with street children under the Pahal project of Damodar Sati Udyog Sanstha. She educated more than 2000 children from the slum areas from different parts of the country including Jammu. (ANB)



ADGP Reviews Security Scenario In Samba, Kathua



Observer News Service

JAMMU- Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain conducted a comprehensive late night checking review of the present security and Border Management arrangements in Samba & Kathua districts.

on ground duties of the Jawans and boosted up their morale.

A statement issued reads that Shiv Kumar DIG JSK Range, Shobit Saxena SSP Kathua, Virender Manhas SSP Samba and other officers were also present on the occasion.

The ADGP took a review of the overall law and order situation and reviewed the readiness of the police force in terms of manpower, logistics, and resources. He instructed the officers to maintain high visibility in their respective jurisdictions and ensure that security checks and patrols are intensified.

During the checking, Anand Jain, emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and security throughout the area.

He also checked the joint Naka of BSF and Border Police Posts and advised the officers to enhanced them. During his review he checked Sherpur Nala, Babbar Nala, Mawa, Nandpur etc.

He directed all officers to remain extra vigilant and proactive in ensuring that the Republic day celebrations were conducted in a free, fair, and peaceful manner.

Anand Jain also underscored the importance of community engagement and building trust between the police and the public. DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar IPS urged officers to engage with communities and ensure their cooperation in maintaining law and order if and when any critical situation may arise.

The ADGP highlighted the need for robust coordination between different security agencies to address any potential challenges that may arise during the VVIP visit and Republic Day 2025.

The checking focused on the security arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the forthcoming Republic Day/VVIP visit. The ADGP sought inputs from the officers and planned to ensure safe and secure Republic Day 2025 celebrations, the statement reads.

Anand Jain reviewed the deployment plans and directed that additional forces be mobilized in sensitive and vulnerable areas to prevent any untoward incidents. He also stressed the significance of intelligence gathering and timely sharing of information to prompt any security threats. He also reviewed the performance of the

DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar briefed the ADGP Jammu Zone about the present security scenario and measures taken for maintaining peace and law & order in JSK Range—(KNO)

Ulema, Scholars & Activists Unite Against Drug Abuse In Kashmir

Agencies

HANDWARA- A seminar addressing the growing menace of drug addiction and issues affecting women in Kashmir was held at the Community Center Kralgund in North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Organized by Abu Baseer Karwaan J&K, the event brought together Ulema, scholars, Imams, civil society activists, and students to collectively confront these pressing social challenges. In his inaugural speech, Mufi Hilal expressed deep concern over the rising prevalence of drug abuse among both boys and girls in the Valley, citing its easy availability as a critical issue. "This seminar aims to unite us in combating drug addiction, which threatens the future of our society," he said.

He also highlighted the alarming rates of domestic violence and gender-based discrimination in a predominantly Muslim society that upholds the dignity and rights of women. "It is the responsibility of Ulema, Imams, and Khateeb to raise awareness about women's rights and foster respect for them as enshrined in Islam," he added.

Speakers emphasized the harmful effects of drug addiction, urging collective efforts to eradicate the menace. Students were encouraged to abstain from drugs and other social evils, instead becoming role models in education, sports, and other pursuits. Awareness was also raised about the causes and consequences of drug abuse and the importance of rehabilitation centers in recovery.

Prominent attendees included Tehsildar Kralgund Ghulam Rasool Bhat as the chief guest, BDO Qaziabad Naveed Altaf as the guest of honor, and DySP Dr. Abdul Majid. Other key participants included Waseem Ahmad Shah, SHO Kralgund, members of Abu Baseer Karwaan such as Mufi Shakir Ahmad, Mufi Irfan, and Qari Owais, and representatives from the Elite Institute of Excellence, including Er. Tawseef Nazir Lone and Bilal Ahmad Malik.

The seminar, moderated by Mufi Rayees Ahmad, concluded with a call for collective responsibility in addressing drug addiction and social evils to build a healthier and more equitable society in Kashmir. [KNT]

"Drug addiction is creating severe health problems for our youth, with the student community being particularly vulnerable," said one speaker.

Claim by NC Of Following Gandhi's Vision False: Brig Gupta

Agencies

JAMMU- The result of the recently held assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir proved beyond doubt that the voting was not done on regional basis but religious basis because of the successfully played communal card by National Conference.

only the throne. Sheikh was interested only in Kashmir Valley and had neither any interest nor any stake in the rest of the princely state," alleged Brig Gupta.

Brig Anil Gupta, Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party in a press release issued said that Gandhi Ji was a firm believer of inclusivity and secularism, the two ideals NC never adhered to since its inception.

Elaborating further Brig Gupta said that the secular claim of NC got busted when Sheikh refused the Sikh refugees from Muzaffarabad and nearby areas to settle in Kashmir Valley.

"The Maharaja was called a 'Kafir' by Abdul Qadir in his fiery speech in 1939 where Sheikh Abdullah was the Stage Secretary. The Quit Kashmir call given by the latter in 1946 was manifestation of the same ideology because Sheikh wanted the Hindu Dogra ruler to leave Kashmir Valley, a Muslim majority area. The demand was not to relinquish

It was further exposed when the Uygur & Balti Muslim refugees were granted citizenship while the Hindu refugees from West Pakistan were refused the same. The icing on the cake was the refusal of NC to insert the word secular in the then State's Constitution while it was inserted in the Indian Constitution. Exclusivity has been the hallmark of NC politics. Why was the state administrative service and radio services named KAS and Radio Kashmir and not JKAS and Radio Jammu Kashmir questioned by the NC leadership?

Real Kashmir Returns Home, Faces Sreenidi At TRC Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After a gap of over a month, the 2024-25 I-League matches are once again being played in Kashmir, with Real Kashmir FC set to face Sreenidi Deccan FC on Tuesday at the TRC Ground here. The game kicks off at 2:00 PM.

The Snow Leopards last played on their home ground on December 9, after which the team competed in three matches across various parts of the country. They lost two and drew one in the process.

Now, the team is excited to return to their home turf and take on Sreenidi Deccan on Tuesday.



Addressing a pre-match press conference on Monday, Real Kashmir head coach Ishfaq Ahmad expressed enthusiasm about playing in front of the home crowd.

"Fans are our strength. We hope people will come in large numbers to support their home team. We aim not to disappoint them," he said. Regarding the upcoming

match, he said the team is prepared to face Sreenidi Deccan.

"Sreenidi Deccan is a strong team. Although we didn't get much time to prepare as we returned to Kashmir just a day ago, adapting to the colder weather is a challenge. However, as professional footballers, we must face and overcome these challenges," he said.

When asked about the team's struggles in the recent away matches, he explained, "Unfortunately, we lost two matches, and one ended in a draw. We dominated these games but couldn't convert our chances into goals."

J&K Bank Enters Christmas Gold Cup Final

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank XI entered the finals of 18th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2024-25 on Monday with a thumping 5-0 win over Young Hero FC at Mini Stadium Parade Ground in Jammu.

The tournament is being organised by All J&K Sports & Cultural Welfare Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and J&K Football Association.

Monday's match was the first semi-final of the competition and saw J&K Bank XI dismantle Young Hero FC. Gautam Mehra



opened the scoring in the 45th minute of the first half, before Adnan Ayoub made it 2-0 in the 48th. The second half of the

match saw captain Aakif Reshi score a brace in the 50th and 56th minute. Furqaan also scored in the 54th to round out a com-

prehensive win. In the second semi-final on Tuesday, J&K Police XI will lock horns with Shaheen FC at 3:00 PM.

AJKMF Holds Ice Climbing Workshop In Pahalgam



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A two-day Ice Climbing workshop was recently organised by the All J&K Mountaineering Foundation at Pahalgam. The workshop attracted 15 enthusiastic climbers from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir, offering them a rare chance to engage in ice climbing, a challenging and technical sport.

Throughout the workshop, participants were introduced to various ice climbing techniques, such as proper use of ice axes, crampons, and the essential safety protocols involved in ascending frozen

surfaces. Experienced trainers and instructors led the sessions, providing expert guidance on the fundamentals of ice climbing, including rope handling, belaying, and emergency rescue techniques.

The practical sessions were held in Pahalgam's winter terrain, which offered the perfect backdrop for the participants to practice their skills in real-world conditions. The rugged ice formations and snow-covered landscapes of the area proved to be an excellent learning environment, enhancing the experience for all involved.

Kang Sings Lift Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Title



Observer News Service

LEH: Defending champions Kang Sings successfully retained their Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League title in the men's category on Monday, overpowering last year's runners-up, Changthang Shans, with a commanding 5-2 victory.

Captain Mushtaq Ahmed and Stanzin Angchok led from the front, each scoring twice to help their team secure back-to-back championships.

The Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2, organised in collaboration with the UT Administra-

tion of Ladakh and the Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh, concluded with a grand closing ceremony packed to capacity at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Stadium.

The 10-day tournament, which featured 30 fiercely competitive matches, concluded with a grand finale that highlighted the growing popularity of Ice Hockey in Ladakh.

The winners were awarded the coveted championship trophy along with a cash prize of INR 2.5 Lakhs, while the runners-up received a trophy and a cash prize of INR 1.5 Lakhs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK EMPLOYEES UNION (KASHMIR)

AFFILIATED TO ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION THROUGH AIKBEF AND KASHMIR BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION M A LINK ROAD SRINAGAR KASHMIR 190001

RefNo: JKBEU/25-02 DATED: 12th Jan 2025

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the notification no: JKBEU/25-1, dated 08-Jan-2025, a meeting of general members of the union was held today, the 12-Jan-2025, Sunday at Srinagar to transact the notified agenda. The members unanimously framed an adhoc body for the office of the union to run the day to day affairs and also conduct elections for the office in terms of Article 20 of the constitution within a period of Six months starting from 13-January-2025. The office bearer body reads as under:

S.No	Name of the Office Bearer	Code No	Post
1	Mohammad Rafi Shah	21001	President
2	Mohd Muzafar Dar	23374	Senior Vice President
3	Umar Syed Killoo	014654	Vice President
4	Farhan Masuood	014481	General Secretary
5	Javaid Ahmad rather	015482	Assistant General Secretary
6	Ghulam Jeelani	21612	Secretary 1st
7	Abdul Rashid Sheikh	24204	Secretary-2nd
8	Bashir Ahmad Dar	8597	Organizing Secretary
9	Bilal Ahmad Sheikh	21014	Treasurer
10	Bashir Ahmad Pandit	22643	Assistant Treasurer

Besides the session also nominated below mentioned comrades to the Executive committee of the union under Article 15 of the constitution.

S.No	Name of the Office Bearer	Code No	Post
1	Riyaz Ahmad Dar	21136	Executive Member
2	Mohammad Yaseen Gadda	8633	Executive Member
3	Hilal Ahmad Bhat	21415	Executive Member
4	Mohammad Younis Wani	24102	Executive Member
5	Sheikh Bashir Ahmad	22697	Executive Member
6	Basharat Ahmad Bhat	24658	Executive Member
7	Niyaz Ahmad Khangroo	24104	Executive Member

Further all the District Secretaries nominated by the Office bearers will be the part of the Executive Committee.

..... Sd/-.....
Farhan Masuood
General Secretary

28th year OF PUBLICATION

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OR SCAN

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

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