

Dy CM advocates introduction of innovative teaching-learning methods



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Highlighting the need for making education broad based with proper understanding to connect the younger generation with moral and practical aspects of life, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, said that this would enable youth to contribute more effectively in nation building.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at an annual day function organised by Birla Open Minds International School here today.

The Deputy Chief Minister further said that imparting education be made more holistic rather than confining it to test and assessment. "Knowledge with proper understanding and

guidance is imperative to connect the youth with moral values besides practical aspects of life," he added.

Emphasizing on developing a productive teaching ecosystem where teachers are not restricted to curriculum, the Deputy Chief Minister said that they should also come up with innovative ideas for imparting education.

The Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the school in nurturing young minds while emphasising the importance of cultural and educational events in shaping the future.

The event also celebrated the achievements of students during the Achievers' Felicitation Ceremony, recognizing their hard work and dedication in the field of sports.

The highlight of the evening was the thematic play, Anurakt, which captivated the audience with its powerful storytelling and vibrant performances, showcasing the students' talent and creativity. The play represented the importance of guidance of our parents in our life with emphasis on a stronger parents and children relationship.

Earlier, Chairman of All J&K Transport Welfare Association, Karan Singh Wazir, called on Deputy Chief Minister at civil secretariat to extend congratulations and address pressing issues affecting the region's transport sector. This high-level interaction underscored the growing concerns within the transportation community and highlighted the urgent need for policy reform and

infrastructural upgrades.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the delegation that the government is committed towards addressing these issues. He reiterated administration's focus on enhancing urban mobility and infrastructure as part of the broader development agenda.

The dialogue is expected to pave the way for collaborative efforts between the government and the transport community, aimed at devising pragmatic solutions to revitalize the sector.

A deputation of Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools Association led by Deepak Handa (Senior Vice President) and Gaurav Charak met the Deputy CM apprising him of delay in fixation and regulation of fee of private schools by the FFRC.

FADA Releases Nov'24 Vehicle Retail Data for UT of Jammu and Kashmir

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The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) today released Vehicle Retail Data for Nov'24 for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The 2-Wheeler category witnessed a downfall of -10.72% at 7,818 units in November 2024, as compared to 8,757 units in November 2023. The 3-Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 7.03% at 1,294 units in November 2024, as compared to 1,209 units in November 2023. The Commercial Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -13.91% at 786 units in November 2024, as compared to 913 units in November 2023. The Passenger Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -12.57% at 4,589 units in November 2024, as compared to 5,249 units in November 2023. The Tractor Vehicle category witnessed a growth of 37.99% at 316 units in November 2024, as compared to 229 units in November 2023.

In total the retail is 14,803 in NOVEMBER'24

compared to it is 16,357 in NOVEMBER'23 thereby registering a downfall of -9.50.

Mr Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations Jammu said that "While November was initially expected to build on its prior momentum, particularly due to the marriage season, dealer's feedback suggests that this segment underperformed overall expectations. Although rural markets offered some support, primarily in the two-wheeler category, marriage-related sales remained subdued. The late occurrence of Deepawali at the end of October also caused a spill over of festive registrations into November, affecting the month's sales trajectory.

Commenting on how Nov'24 performed in UT of J & K, Mr Sanjay Aggarwal said, In J & K only Tractor Vehicle category witnessed a good growth of 37.99% as compared to last November, rest of the categories witnessed degrowth with 2 Wheeler category witnessed a downfall of 10.72%, Passenger Vehicle downfall of 12.57%, Com-

mercial vehicle downfall of 13.91%. However, 3 Wheeler Category witnessed a slight growth of 7.03%.

Mr Aggarwal said that, looking ahead with prospects of a bumper Kharif harvest likely to temper food inflation, the broader macroeconomic environment appears set to improve, potentially aiding consumer sentiment in the months ahead. However, the immediate December outlook derived from dealer feedback is mixed. 2Wheeler Dealers suggest that while some buyers remain hesitant—either awaiting new-year models or influenced by subdued post-festive sentiment—others could be drawn by potential year-end discounts and stable rural demand. Although momentum may not be robust, incremental schemes and easing inflation could lend mild support, placing 2W on a cautiously positive footing.

In the PV segment, heavy discounting and improved product availability are expected to help offset weak consumer sentiment and a general year-end lull.

While some customers are deferring purchases for new-year models, overall interest could pick up due to aggressive offers and end-of year promotions. This sets a tone of cautious optimism, with a moderate chance of improved sales compared to November.

The CV category faces a more challenging environment. Factors such as subdued infrastructure activity and customers holding back for newer model-year vehicles continue to dampen demand. Nonetheless, selective OEM schemes and year-end offers may provide a limited lift. On balance, while the CV segment's expectations are not uniformly positive, there is some hope that targeted incentives and stable financing conditions could prevent a sharper decline.

Summing up Mr Aggarwal said that, while the near-term outlook for December is not overwhelmingly strong across segments, it leans towards stability with pockets of potential growth, underlining a sentiment that remains overall remains cautiously optimistic.

GMC Srinagar hosts Annual Forensic Quiz

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The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar Tuesday hosted the Annual Forensic Quiz-2024 to bridge the gap between medicine and law, highlighting their vital integration in real-life scenarios.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean of GMC Srinagar, who was also the chief guest. Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator, HODs, faculty, UG/PG students, medical and paramedical staff, SHO Karan Nagar, prosecuting officers, and officers from police and prosecution ensured their

attendance.

The Court Room Enactment was a highlight of the event, where students participated in a mock court session, arguing cases related to forensic medicine. The students demonstrated their knowledge of forensic medicine and its application in legal proceedings.

The Crime Scene Enactments were another exciting aspect of the event. Students recreated crime scenes, demonstrating their knowledge of forensic evidence collection and analysis. The enactments showcased the students' understanding of the importance of preserving crime scenes and collecting evidence.

The Buzzer Round was a rapid-fire question-answer session that tested the students' knowledge of foren-

sic medicine. The students demonstrated their expertise in forensic medicine, answering questions on various topics, including toxicology, DNA analysis, and forensic pathology.

The Poster Presentation session provided a platform for students to showcase their research and knowledge on various topics in forensic medicine. The students presented posters on topics such as forensic anthropology, forensic odontology, and forensic psychiatry.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar said that this annual event provides a platform for students to showcase their knowledge and skills in forensic medicine. She further said that GMC Srinagar is committed to providing students with

the best possible education and training in forensic medicine.

The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at GMC Srinagar is dedicated to providing excellence in education, research, and service in the field of forensic medicine, she added.

Speaking on the occasion DR.Arsalan HOD Forensic Medicine said that this annual event provides a platform for our students to showcase their knowledge and skills in forensic medicine.

Forensic medicine is a vital component of the justice system, and it is essential that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to apply forensic principles in real-life scenarios, he added.

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Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a pre-budget meeting at Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to discuss Revised Estimates (RE) 2024-25, Budget Estimates (BE) 2025-26 besides reviewing the ongoing development activities.

Present in the meeting were senior officers of the Tourism Department, Director Tourism Kashmir,

MD JKTDCA and heads of Tourism Development Authorities.

During the discussion, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised the need for optimal utilisation of allocated funds and timely completion of ongoing works. She asked the agencies to ensure that projects scheduled for the current financial year are completed without delay. Savings under RE 2024-25, if any, should be proposed for reallocation to projects requiring additional funds to maximize financial effi-

ciency, she added.

The Commissioner Secretary also directed the agencies to prioritise repair and renovation of internal roads at tourist destinations under BE 2025-26. She emphasized addressing basic amenities for tourists, ensuring that pending power bill payments are cleared on priority. Further, she stressed the importance of selecting projects with visible impacts that could enhance tourist attractions, proposing new initiatives to create fresh tourist experiences,

and ensuring that existing non-functional assets are made operational instead of focusing on new constructions.

The review included an assessment of works approved under the Capex Budget 2024-25. Agencies were asked to provide details of approved projects where funds have not yet been released. All agencies were instructed to submit revised RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 proposals by tomorrow, incorporating the directives issued during the meeting.

One-day Bankers Meet organised by J&K KVIB at Shopian

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 10: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today attended a one-day banker's meet organized by J&K KVIB at Shirmal Shopian.

The event aimed to discuss JKREGP (Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme) issues with bankers, focusing on generating employment opportunities for the youth.

Various vital issues for the ease of sponsorship of cases of the district were deliberated during the meeting by top officers of J&K Bank and J&K KVIB and Branch heads.

The speakers emphasised the role of banks for generating profit making enterprises.

During the meeting, DC



emphasized the importance of massive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns by departments and banks. These campaigns would help popularize the schemes among the

youth, ultimately leading to better employment opportunities.

The DC highlighted the crucial role banks play in the economy and community progress. He encouraged banks to support the

youth, recognizing their potential in generating employment opportunities.

Shahid assured the District Administration's support to the banks on coordination and collaboration with line departments.

DC Srinagar chairs Regional Transport Authority meet

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 10:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also Chairman Regional Transport Authority Tuesday chaired the meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) in his Office Chamber here to discuss the matters related to public transport.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held on finalization of different agenda points including, approval for contract carriage fresh permits in view of the Government SO-653, change in the current permit system for stage-carriage commercial vehicles



and approval of vehicle replacement for permits released from scrapped three-wheeler autos.

The proposal with regard to proper regulation and infrastructure development for E-Rickshaws in Srinagar District was also deliberated threadbare.

On the occasion, the Chairman RTA Srinagar, after having a threadbare discussion, accorded approval to several decisions in order to ensure reliable and better transport facilities to the public in the District.

The Chairman RTA

stressed on ensuring robust Public Transport services to the public in the City. He emphasized on measures to overcome traffic jams for smooth regulation of traffic movement in the City. He also asked for creating a structured and sustainable framework for E-rickshaw operations in the City while maintaining safety and order on the roads.

Besides, SSP Traffic, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, GM SRTC, Showkat Ahmad, the meeting was attended by other concerned.

Mega event marks culmination of 'World Toilet Day-2024' Campaign in J&K

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A mega event to observe the culmination of the 'World Toilet Day-2024' campaign, celebrated under the theme 'Toilets: A Basic Right for Every Citizen,' was today organized at Block Khonmoh of Srinagar District by the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Jammu & Kashmir.

The event, presided over by Anoo Malhotra, Director General Rural Sanitation, J&K was also attended by Shabir Hussain Bhat, Director Rural Development, Kashmir; Dr Mantasha Binti Rasheed, Deputy Director Rural Sanitation Kashmir, senior officials of the department, stakeholders, and locals.

The campaign highlighted the significance of ensuring access to safe sanitation as a fundamental human right, aligning with the culmination of the 21 days- long campaign on World Human Rights Day.

It also aimed at raising awareness about sustainable sanitation, equitable access to toilets, and strengthening community participation.



hta pledges, cleanliness campaigns, and community-led sanitation initiatives, were carried out across the Union Territory.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers lauded the efforts of the Directorate of Rural Sanitation and stakeholders for their dedication toward achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G). They emphasized the importance of collective action to ensure sanitation for all, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

"Access to clean and safe toilets is not just about sanitation; it is about dignity, equality, and human rights. I commend the dedication

of all stakeholders, from the grassroots level to policymakers, in driving this mission forward," said the DG Rural Sanitation.

The campaign witnessed active participation from local communities, social workers, school children, and civil society organizations. Special focus was laid on behavioral change through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) initiatives.

Key highlights of the event included health camp for sanitation workers, felicitation of Swachhta Workers who made exemplary contributions to promoting sanitation practices, nomination of Swachhata Ambassadors,

unveiling of Booklet on the World Toilet Day 2024 Campaign- highlighting initiatives taken across all the 20 districts of J&K during the 21-day long campaign, distribution of sanitation kits among the workers and skit play by a theatre group.

Exhibition of products produced from biodegradable waste was among the products displayed for the visitors at the Community Center, Khonmoh.

The event concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to the sustenance of ODF Plus Model under SBM-G, ensuring sustainable sanitation and zero landfill practices across Jammu & Kashmir.