

Road to Cave Shrine

Widened Tracks Meant For Yatris, Not Vehicles: BRO



KO File Photo | Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Border Roads Organisation on Friday said it widened the "narrow and vulnerable" tracks leading up to the Amarnath shrine to make the movement of yatris travelling on foot/palkis/ponies more comfortable and convenient.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) recently released a video that showed the first set of vehicles reaching Amarnath after the road connectivity up to the cave shrine was expanded.

"Project Beacon is involved in the restoration and improvement of Amarnath Yatra tracks. Border Roads (Organisation) personnel completed the formidable task and created history with the first set of vehicles reaching the holy cave," the BRO had said in the post on its official handle on X.

The news of vehicles reaching the cave shrine, however, triggered huge criticism. Political parties demanded a relook into allowing vehicles near the cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas and said the move would be detrimental to the environment.

In a statement on Friday, the BRO clarified that it had been

quoted in print and social media as having stated that the pilgrims visiting Amarnath would soon be able to access the cave shrine through the vehicular road.

"Rebutting the news, the BRO quoted this to be factually incorrect," the statement said.

The work assigned to the BRO for maintenance and upgradation of the yatra track by the Union Territory government in September 2022 is going on at a steady pace during the working window available, it said.

"The work of widening of tracks leading to the holy cave has been undertaken in line with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India," it added.

The Supreme Court, on a writ petition filed in 2012, inter alia issued directions for sufficient widening of the tracks to facilitate pedestrian traffic and address congestion, improvement of critical stretches of the existing track, and providing safety railings and retaining walls along the vulnerable stretches, keeping in view the environmental concerns, it added.

"In line with the above, the BRO has undertaken widening of the tracks **More on P6**

J&K Has Potential To Lead India As Ayurveda Hub: LG

Observer News Service

Akhnoor: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to lead the country as a wellness and Ayurveda hub, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Friday that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the ancient wisdom of Yoga and Ayurveda for holistic well being of all is benefitting the entire humanity.

Sinha made these remarks at the Pran Pratishtha Ceremony of Bhagwan Dhanvantari at Government Ayurvedic Medical College & Hospital, here to mark the 8th National Ayurveda Day.

He said the integration of Yoga, Ayurveda and other Indian Systems of Medicine into the mainstream of the public health system to secure



a healthy life for our citizens requires the undivided attention of doctors and other stakeholders.

"It is our collective responsibility to promote the best practices of traditional

medicine systems and sensitize students, farmers and the public on Ayurveda to build a more resilient and sustainable healthcare ecosystem," he said.

Lauding the leadership of

PM Modi, Sinha said that the ancient wisdom of Yoga and Ayurveda for holistic well being of all is benefitting the entire humanity.

He also reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to strengthen the preventive and holistic care infrastructure, creating a conducive environment and extending necessary support to Ayurveda Startups.

"Jammu Kashmir has the potential to lead the country as a wellness and Ayurveda hub. Efforts towards this goal can be greatly augmented with the help of Startups by young entrepreneurs and Ayurveda graduates," the LG said, adding that J&K is bestowed with a wide range of medicinal and aromatic plants, which are valuable commodities.

"We need to run **More on P6**

Development Of Border Villages Priority: Shah

'Drop Of 72% In Terror Related Deaths In Kashmir' Press Trust Of India

Dehradun: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Centre has prioritised the task of creating the best facilities in border villages by introducing the concept of vibrant villages so that their population is not just sustained but also increased.

"The security of border villages will be tough if they become empty," Shah said addressing the 62nd Raising Day ceremony of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) here.

The Centre wants the border villages to be treated as first villages not just geographically but also in terms of facilities, he said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced the concept of vibrant villages to provide best facilities to people living in the border villages so that their population is not just sustained but also increased," Shah said.

A budgetary **More on P6**

'Non-Application Of Mind': HC Quashes 2 PSA Orders

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed two orders under Public Safety Act, observing that if the detention order is a verbatim copy of the dossier, it speaks about "non-application of mind by the detaining authority."

Quashing detention order (No. 50/DMK/PSA/2022), dated 25 June 2022 by District Magistrate Kulgam against Shabir Ahmad Khanday of Bugam Kulgam, a bench of Justice M A Chowdhary referred to a Supreme Court's judgment, observing that "liberty of a subject is a serious matter and is not to be trifled with in this casual, indifferent and routine manner."

"In a case titled 'Jai Singh & Ors. v. State of Jammu & Kashmir' reported as AIR 1985 SC 764, it has been observed that if the detention order is verbatim copy of the dossier, it speaks about non-application of mind by the detaining authority," the court said and ordered Khanday's release

forthwith provided he is not required in connection with any other case(s).

The court also quashed the detention order (No. 02/DMP/PSA/22) dated 7 April 2022 passed by District Magistrate Pulwama by virtue of Aamir Amin Dar of Noorabad Tral was booked under PSA.

"The law is well settled that if the order of detention comes to an end either by revocation or by the expiry of the period of order of detention, there must be fresh facts for passing a subsequent order of detention," the court said, adding, "When the detention order has been quashed by the Court, the grounds of said detention order are not to be taken into consideration either as a whole or in part even along with the fresh grounds of detention in order to pass a fresh detention order and, if such previous grounds of detention are taken into consideration while passing a fresh detention order, the order of detention will be vitiated." While quashing the detention order, the court also ordered Amir's release forthwith **More on P6**



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

THE WORK OF WIDENING OF TRACKS leading to the holy cave has been undertaken in line with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India."

HC Seeks Details On Steps Taken To Deal With Traffic Accidents

By Correspondent

Jammu, Nov 10: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has sought an additional affidavit from Commissioner Secretary, Transport Department, regarding various steps taken and use of the equipment to deal with the traffic accidents and other violations which lead to fatal mishaps.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi passed the order after perusal of an affidavit filed by the government, mentioning certain steps taken for "proper management of traffic and also to prevent accidents."

However, the court said, in the affidavit filed by

Commissioner/Secretary, Transport Department, "who is in a better position to apprise this Court about the various steps taken, these details are lacking, and, there is reference to purchase of certain equipments under Road Safety Measures during the financial year 2018-19."

"Since we are on the verge of the completion of year 2023, we would like to have an additional affidavit from Commissioner/Secretary, Transport Department as to the various steps taken and also purchase and use of the equipments to deal with the traffic accidents and other violations which lead to fatal accidents," the court said, adding, "Let the same be done within a period of one month." **More on P6**

Fresh Snowfall Dips Mercury, Blocks Highways Around 200 Vehicles Stranded Along Srinagar-Jammu Highway

Many areas, especially the higher reaches, of Kashmir received snowfall while rains lashed the plains on Friday, leading to the closure of national highways connecting the valley with the rest of the country, officials said.

Light to moderate snowfall was reported over the higher reaches at most places of Jammu and Kashmir, the Meteorological Department officials said. They said light snowfall was recorded in

many areas in the plains as well. The higher reaches which received snowfall included the famous tourist destination of Gulmarg, Gurez, Sonamarg, Zojilua Axis, Sadhna Pass, Machil, Pharkian Gali, **More on P6**

18 Children 'Missing' From Orphanage Sparks Controversy

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A major controversy erupted on Friday between Child Welfare Committee (CWC) chairperson Dr Khair-un-Nisa and the administrators of an "unregistered" orphanage after a group of around 18 children reportedly went missing from Bemina area of this capital city.

While Dr Khair-un-Nisa, a well known child rights activist alleged that 18 children were missing from an orphanage at Nundreshi Colony Bemina mysteriously, police refuted the allegation, saying all the 18 children are safe and have been shifted to some other facility in the same locality.

Dr Nisa said the children

were inexplicably missing from an unregistered orphanage namely Al-Miskeen Yateem Trust Friday afternoon.

She went on to say that the administrators of the orphanage were intimidated many a time to get the trust registered under Juvenile Justice Act. However, the trustees showed no regard in following the law of the land.

Refuting the allegations that 18 children are missing from the orphanage as baseless, Abid Ali one of the trustees of Al-Miskeen Yateem Trust said the children are safe and have been moved to another facility within the same locality.

"We have a proper registration from the Department of Society Registration. **More on P6**

Trouble Mounts For Ex-J&K Minister

Lal Singh Illegally Acquired Land For Wife's Trust: ED

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The ED on Friday alleged former Jammu and Kashmir minister Choudhary Lal Singh "connived" with a revenue department official in 2011 to "forcibly" transfer a land in the name of an educational trust run by his wife and a part of this plot was used to run a DPS school.

The former MP was arrested by the federal probe agency on November 7 in Jammu. He is in ED custody at present.

The money laundering case of the ED, filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), stems



from a CBI FIR and charge sheet filed against Singh's wife Kanta Andotra (chairperson of RBET or RB Education Trust) and a former 'patwari' (revenue official),

Ravinder Singh. The probe found, the agency claimed, Singh "in connivance with the then revenue official posted at Kathua **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

BJP Leader Assaults Official, Booked

A member of the District Development Council has been booked for assaulting and using unparliamentary language against a government official during a meeting in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. Wajid Bashir was booked under section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 504 (intentionally insults) of the IPC on a complaint of Mohammad Jahangir Khan, the FIR stated. **More on P6**

CRPF Jawan Shoots Self Dead

A CRPF jawan committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said. The motive behind the trooper taking the extreme step was not immediately known, they said. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper was on duty near the Jawahar Tunnel in the Qazigund area of the south Kashmir district. He died on the spot, they said. The body was taken to a hospital for a post-mortem, officials said.

Absconder Arrested In Rajouri

A notorious absconder wanted in a case for four years has been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri, officials said. Imran Ali alias Lucky was accused of assaulting a public servant in Rajouri, they said. A team of police carried out a successful operation and nabbed Ali and he will be produced in the court soon, they said.

Driver Arrested For Overloading Bus

The driver of a mini bus was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday for allegedly overloading the vehicle and endangering the lives of passengers, police said. A police team was on routine patrolling on a highway stretch in the Manjakote police station area when it intercepted a mini bus and found it overloaded with passengers, they said. The vehicle was found occupying forty five passengers. While twenty passengers **More on P6**

Minor Killed In Katra Road Accident

A minor boy was killed and three other people injured on Friday when a tempo traveler carrying pilgrims to the shrine of Mata Vaishnu Devi slipped into a gorge on Katra-Jammu road in Reasi district. As per police, the accident took place in wee hours on Friday when a tempo JK02AX 4681 on way to Jammu from Reasi fell in the gorge leading to injuries to four pilgrims of Shri Mata Vaishnu Devi shrine. All the four injured were shifted to CHC Katra where **More on P6**

SIA Conducts Raids In Funding Case

The Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency on Friday carried out raids in the valley in a terror funding case, officials said. The raids were conducted at a few locations in Anantnag and Pulwama districts, the agency said. The case pertains to the illegal raising, layering and laundering of proceeds of crime by the accused people, they said. The proceeds of crime might subsequently have been used in unlawful activities, including **More on P6**



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Cutting-Edge Tech Unveiled At IIT Open House: Robotic Device Detects Slippery Floors

Press Trust Of India

A robotic device to detect slippery floorings, a wearable pressure sensor to analyze gait patterns and postural deformities, an engineered micro-biome and a digital microscope, are among the key technologies showcased at the annual Open House at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

The 16th edition of the Open House, its flagship event for school students, was conducted on Saturday wherein some of the cutting-edge research works were displayed for them by the institute faculty and students.

"The objective of the Open House is to show school students what IIT Delhi is doing in science and technology and showcase our work in the areas that impact the real world. The whole idea of the Open House, where

interactive sessions and lectures were also organised, is to encourage school students to make informed decisions about their future," IIT Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee said.

Around 2,000 school students from more than 40 schools in the Delhi-NCR visited the Open House which exhibited an extensive collection of innovative research and product development projects.

The researchers showcased around 50 functional demos and 100 research posters highlighting cutting-edge technologies.

Kusum Saini, a PhD Scholar Vasant Matsagar (Dogra Chair and Professor) from the Department of Civil Engineering displayed a new approach developed by them for utilising solid waste like agro-residues for making sustainable and affordable homes to contribute towards the solution of problems above, and to fulfil

the vision of India toward a green future, while effectively addressing the air pollution issues, making the construction practices environment friendly, and at-large ensuring sustainability and climate actions.

The Injury Mechanics Lab (DIML) has developed a novel cost-effective, portable and biofidelic floor friction tester to accurately evaluate the effectiveness of the slip resistance ability of floorings.

"This robotic device mimics the actual human slipping motion and calculates the available friction during its motion. The device's structure is highly modular and is fully programmable for its slipping speeds, normal loads, and slipping angles to take into account different slipping scenarios," said Arnab Chanda, Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Engineering.

CONDOLENCE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of Engineer Gh. Mohammad Shah S/o Late Gh. Qadir Shah Ex. Joint Director Industries, on Wednesday, the 8th of November, 2023. (Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioun) His congregational fateh khwani shall be held at our graveyard Near Dumuth, 90 ft Road, Soura at 11. A. M on Sunday the 12th of Nov. 2023. Thereafter a prayer meeting shall be held at our residence
 Shahi Mohalla Owanti Bawan Soura

BEREAVED

Ab. Rashid Shah (Brother), Attequallah Hamdani, Sajad A. Wani
 Zia Chowdry, Sheikh Basharat, (Son in laws) Prof. Wajaht Amin Shah (Nephew) and other members of bereaved family.

Ph No. 7006191306, 9419666555 mfs

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am a permanent resident of J&K UT and I am not involved in anti-national or anti-social activities. Moreover neither I nor any of my family members are working in any Tanzeem and we are not involved in any case.

Ghulam Nabi Dar
 R/o Meripora Berwah Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8th pass Discharge Certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt High School Hardushorish within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shakeela Akhter bmg
 D/o Khazir Mohammad Ganie R/o Hardushorish Khag

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.
MACHINERY DIVISION, SRINAGAR
 (Mechanical & Hospital Engineering
 Department Department Kashmir)
 email: xenmds@gmail.com

Corrigendum 1

Subject: Outsourcing of Manpower for various Divisions of Mechanical & Hospital Engineering, Department, Kashmir for winter season 2023-24.

References:

- This office eNIT No. MDS/TS/2023-24/ 14 /e-tendering Date: 09 .11.2023 issued vide No: MDS/TS/1659-66 Date: 09.11.2023
- Tender ID: 2023_PWDJK_236400_1

In context to above cited subject and references, the prospective bidders may note that terms and conditions of the eNIT under reference has been amended & a corrigendum has been issued and uploaded on eportal. The bidders are requested to visit the portal www.jktenders.gov.in for the same.

All other terms & conditions of the eNIT shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/1683-85
 DIPK-11974/23 Date: 10/11/2023. sd/
 Executive Engineer,
 Machinery Division Srinagar

Subject: - Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & style M/s "Heavenly Haven Tours" Situated at Gojwara Main Chowk, Near Downtown Cafe

Public Notice

Whereas, I Mr. Ilaf Nisar R/O Hamambal Khanyar Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style M/s "Heavenly Haven Tours" Situated at Gojwara Main Chowk, Near Downtown Cafe 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 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

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/Bank/Organization, 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/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and parentage has been wrongly written in my passport as Pirzada Ghulam Rasool S/o Sona Pirzada while my correct name and parentage is Gh. Rasool Pir S/o Sona ullah Pir which need to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the regional passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh. Rasool Pir S/o Sona ullah Pir idb
 R/o Bramre Teh. Drugmulla Distt Kupwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in my passport has been wrongly entered as Wani Shahnawaz Sultan instead of Shahnawaz Sultan S/o Mohd Sultan Wani R/o Repora Namtihal. Now I am applying for its correction. If anybody have any objection in this regard, he may contact the same at Passport office Srinagar within 07 days from the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice	
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.	
1) Auction Catalogue No	EAZR-MPS23-3
Auction Date & Time	20-11-23 at 12:30 Hrs
Name of Work	Allotment of Multi-Purpose stall (MPS) at Phagwara Railway Station.
2) Auction Catalogue No	EAZR-PnU23-18
Auction Date & Time	20-11-23 at 13:00 Hrs
Name of Work	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Batala Railway Station.
3) Auction Catalogue No	EAZR-PRKG23-27
Auction Date & Time	20-11-23 at 13:30 Hrs
Name of Work	Allotment of contract for Mixed Parking at Batala Railway Station
4) Auction Catalogue No	EAZR-OSD-23-1
Auction Date & Time	23-11-23 at 12:30 Hrs
Name of Work	Contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through 51" LEDs at Railway Station Beas & Pathankot Cantt.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in	
3535/2023	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KUNZER

 (PUBLIC NOTICE).

Subject: Provisional Selection List of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Kunzer.

In pursuance to Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023, and approval conveyed by Mission Director Poshan J&K Srinagar vide No: MD/Poshan/Estt/13281-94 Dated: 08-05-2023, and post advertisement by this office Notice No. CDPO/Poshan/Adv/2023/795-813 dated: 17-10-2023 for selection of (01) Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for (01) Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Kunzer. In response to said advertisement notice, 05 application forms were received from (01) Panch Wards within cut-off date i.e. 31-10-2023 and merit list of candidates has been prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023 and Selection list has been framed on the basis of merit list herewith as Annexure-B, comprising of 07 candidates selected as Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers). The Selection List for (01) Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Kunzer is annexed herewith as Annexure-A. Both Selection List and Merit List are hereby published for information of general public and inviting appeal/objections if any.

The appeal/objection if any against the said selection list, shall be filed in the office of Poshan Project Kunzer against proper receipt by or before 20-11-2023 up to 4:00 P.m., no appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filling appeal/objections.

Selection List of Candidates for the post of Sanginis (AWWs) for Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Kunzer advertised vide notice No. CDPO/Poshan/ Adv/2023/741-759 Dated: 10-10-2023
 (ANNEXURE-A)

S NO.	INDEX NO.	NAM OF SELECTED CANDIDATE WITH PARANTAGE	RESIDENT OF Panch Ward No.	QUALIFICATION	DATE OF BIRTH	MARKS IN CLASS 12th	% of MARKS OF CLASS 12TH	Additional 2% Points o/a of family of retired AWW	Total Merit Points	Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which candidate is selected
1		Shabnam Mehraj D/o Mehraj Uddin Najar	07	12th	05/04/2003	334/500	66.80	Nil	66.80	Llapora Pethkhal-A Ward no. 07

Child Dev. Project Officer
 Poshan Kunzer

No: CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2023/260-278
 Dated:-01-06-2023

ANNEXURE-B

Merit List of Candidates who have applied for the post of Sanginis (AWW) in response to advertisement notice No. CDPO/Poshan/ Adv/2023/795-813 Dated: 17-10-2023

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sanginis (AWW) against the location AWC :Lalpora Pethkhal-A Ward No:07

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parentage/W/o	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Highest Qualification	Marks in 10+2	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with retired AWW/AWH	Additional 2 points	Total Merit
1	03/108	Shabnum Mehraj	D/o Mehraj Ud Din Najar	Lalpora	07	5/4/2003	12th	334	66.80%	66.80	No	0	66.80
2	05/108	Saima Rasool	D/o Ghulam Rasool	Lalpora	07	7/8/2004	12th	311	62.20%	62.20	No	0	62.20
3	01/108	Ishrat Manzoor	D/o Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh	Lalpora	07	4/2/1991	Graduation	431	57.47%	57.47	No	0	57.47
4	04/108	Mayasir Manzoor	W/o Peer Muneer Ahmad	Lalpora	07	25/12/1994	Graduation	271	54.20%	54.20	No	0	54.20
5	02/108	Ruqaya Hamid	W/o Gh Hassan Ganale	Lalpora	07	12/6/1990	12th	292	38.93%	38.93	No	0	38.93

DIPK-12029/23
 dated: 10-11-2023

Child Dev. Project Officer
 Poshan Kunzer

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION LANGATE

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No:- 20/834-843/2023-24/RnB/Langate Dated 09/11/2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Registered With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments on JKPWDOMS for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest money. (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
01.	Transportation of attachments for snow machinery from Mechanical Engineering Department Srinagar to RnB Division Langate	Rs. 0.32 Lacs	640/-	200/-	2 days	"ALL"

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

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	09-11-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-11-2023 to 15-11-2023 4:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	09-11-2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	15-11-2023 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	16-11-2023 upto 11:00AM (in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate)

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

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

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

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-

- any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.

7.6. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format)

7.7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/ receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rates inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

11. Price escalation & taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

14.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids

a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of business.

b. Valid GST No. & Pan No. along with the latest GST Return form GST-3/GSTR-3B of the preceding month i.e. September/Quarter (April-June) 2023.

c. Earnest money/bid security & tender document fee indicating name of work/NIT No. therein.

d. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format).

14.2. The bidders at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

14.3. Nonattendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.

14.4. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language

15. The contractor shall have to purchase the required material of approve brand [i.e. cement 43grade OPC, steel Fe-415] & specifications prescribed to be certified by Assistant Executive Engineer incharge after getting non-availability certificate from Executive Engineer & shall not be entitled for any type of excessive rates on this account and also shall have no bearing on stipulated date of completion & other terms and conditions of the contract.

15.1. The department will not be responsible for any damage/destruction caused to the work or any material for the work during its execution (by flood, fire, earthquake/ theft or any other reason what so ever and other natural climates) contractor has to arrange watch & ward of the material and shall be responsible for the safety/ custody of departmental supplies from the time of issuance to its consumption at site.

16. The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.

17. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No:- RnB/L/834-843

DIPK-11972/23
 Dated:- 10/11/2023

Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Langate

Open Garbage, Biomass Burning Emits Toxic Gases, Says PCB Scientist

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Urgent measures are needed to stop open garbage and biomass burning as they release toxic gases contributing to air pollution and adversely affecting public health, said a senior scientist at the Pollution Control Board in Srinagar.

Dr Bilqees Ara said that according to data shared with the Central Pollution Control Board, Srinagar ranks as the fourth cleanest air city in India.

However, she stressed the importance of addressing the two primary sources of air pollution during autumn: open burning of garbage and biomass.

"Open burning of biomass and garbage introduces toxic gases into the air, with the added concern of plastic, rubber, and other harmful materials present in the waste. The emission of toxic gases contributes to air pollution, impacting the health of the general public," Dr Ara said while urging the youth to actively participate in preventing open burning and creating awareness among the public.

She said there is a need for proper ventilation in homes to mitigate the effects of indoor air pollution. Com-

bustion pollutants released during activities such as cooking with wood can have detrimental effects on health. Major indoor combustion pollutants include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), fine and ultrafine particles, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and formaldehyde, she informed.

Dr Bilqees also mentioned the risks associated with smoking in enclosed spaces, saying toxic elements generated by smoking not only harm smokers but also pose risks to the other people present there. So, collective efforts are needed to maintain a pollution-free environment and air, she stressed.

In August this year, Srinagar secured 4th position among Top Ranking Cities of India in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan - 2023 (Clean Air Survey) conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) under its National Clean Air Program.

Srinagar has the fourth spot among clean air cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs. The city follows Indore, Agra and Thane City, which secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranks respectively.



Mercury dips as widespread rains lash Kashmir valley including Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo.

Mushrooming Of Clinics In Srinagar Admin Conducts Surprise Inspection Of IVF Centers, Clinical Establishments

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Administration Srinagar Friday undertook a surprise inspection of various Clinical establishments operating in the City in order to ensure proper regulation and operationalization of Clinical Establishments in Srinagar District and contain the mushrooming of Clinics.

The inspection was carried out on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad to stop mushrooming growth of ill equipped pathological and microbiological laboratories and other clinical establishments lacking in infrastructure and technical expertise to ensure up to mark healthcare facilities to the patients in the District.

The inspection teams headed by Sub Divisional Magistrate East, Murtaza Ahmad and Sub Divisional

Magistrate West, Primroze Bashir accompanied by District Health Officer, Dr Rubeeha, Nodal Officer for Clinical Establishments, Dr Asifa, Zonal Medical Officers, Doctors from JLN & Gousia Hospital, Officers from Legal Metrology, Health Department and other concerned.

During the scrutiny, the inspection team undertook a thorough inspection of various IVF Centers located at Bemina, Hyderpora, Lal Chowk, Rajbagh, Magarmal Bagh and Methen Bye pass during which the inspection teams found infirmities and deficiencies in some IVF centers. The centers were directed to complete their deficiencies and fulfill the criteria as per the medical codes and norms within a week's time failing which sealing orders will be issued against the violators.

In order to prevent any overcharging for diagnostic/ tests at these centers, the rates of different pathologic

tests were also checked.

Speaking regarding the drive, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad stressed on intensifying such inspections of the clinical establishments in Srinagar to ensure that such establishments are running according to laid down guidelines and regulations to the best satisfaction of the patients.

The DC urged the medical practitioners in the private sector, chemists, and druggists to strictly follow the guidelines, norms and medical ethics while discharging their professional duties and responsibilities.

He also asked the Health Department to conduct frequent inspections to ensure that the rules in vogue are followed in letter and spirit by these medical establishments.

"The patient care has to be given the top most priority", the DC Srinagar added.

Academician Prof. (DR.) G. M. Untoo Delivers Lecture At Islamia College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of academic activity, a special lecture was today delivered by Professor (Dr.) G.M.Untoo, former Principal Department of Higher Education, Government of J&K (UT) at Islamia College Srinagar.

At the outset, Principal of the host College, Professor (Dr.) Khurshed A. Khan welcomed the chief guest Prof. (Dr) G.M.Untoo to the College. He said that interaction with Prof. G.M. Untoo will help the students in particular and staff in general.

Principal added that leaders and academicians have been sharing great ideas and capturing the human imagination. Every

leader has, in one way or another, influenced us to visualize a better future. But academicians like Prof. Untoo has entirely changed the way we see the world in the arena of higher education. He is the one who has inspired teachers and students the most.

Staff Secretary of the college Professor Ab. Majid said that such interactions by eminent personalities will help our students to understand how to overcome stress and look for a better future.

The Chief Guest Professor (Dr.) G.M.Untoo in his crisp presentation gave the broader vision about higher education, its strategies and policies for sustainable management of human resources and student intake.

Rains Inundate Several Roads In City, Residents Aghast

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents of Natipora, Gopalpora, Dalgate, Sonwar, Khanyar and surrounding areas caught themselves in helpless situation in view of the submerging of several roads due to rainfall on Friday.

Locals said the water level rose

quickly, transforming the street into pools. "It's disheartening to see the roads in such a pathetic state as we can't even move out of our house because the roads are filled with mud and rain water," said Zahid Ahmad resident of Natipora.

"The unrelenting downpour, which began yesterday late night

and continued through the night, has transformed roads into waterlogged thoroughfares, creating inconvenience for the local populace," said Jibran from Sonwar.

Likewise, commuters and residents alike faced challenges of navigating through flooded streets, as the water levels rose knee-deep.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
26 Rabi-ul-Sani
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 35
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 52
Magrib	5:32
ISHA	7: 54

This Day In History

- 1945 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Cordell Hull (establishing UN)
- 1953 - David Ben-Gurion, resigns as Prime Minister of Israel
- 1963 - Train crash in Japan, kills 164
- 1970 - Scientists perform 1st artificial synthesis of a live cell
- 1974 - A salmon is discovered in the River Thames, England, for the first time since 1833.
- 1979 - US President Carter announces a halts to Iranian oil imports & freezes Iranian assets
- 1981 - 2nd shuttle mission-1st time spacecraft launched twice (Columbia 2)
- 1981 - Great Britain performs nuclear test
- 1984 - Space shuttle astronauts snared a satellite 1st space salvage
- 1985 - STS 61-B vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1989 - Brazil holds its 1st free presidential election in 29 years
- 1990 - Crown Prince Akihito is formally installed as Emperor Akihito of Japan, becoming the 125th Japanese monarch.
- 1990 - Tim Berners-Lee publishes a formal proposal for the World Wide Web
- 1991 Atlanta Brave Tom Glavine wins NL Cy Young Award
- 1991 - Dili Massacre, Indonesian forces open fire on a crowd of protesters in Dili, East Timor, killing at least 250
- 1995 - STS 74 (Atlantis 15), launches into orbit
- 2001 - Taliban forces abandon Afghanistan's capital Kabul, ahead of advancing Afghan Northern Alliance troops
- 2001 - In New York City, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 on its way to the Dominican Republic, crashes minutes after takeoff from John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 on board and five on the ground.

From KO Archives

US Election Drama Drags On; Trailing Gore Wants Hand Count, Loses Faith In Machines

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Republican George W. Bush's lead over Democrat Vice-President Al-Gore has been pegged at 327 votes after a final unofficial recount in Florida, prompting the Bush camp to ask Gore to concede defeat but the outcome of the US Presidential election will not be known till next week as several thousand postal ballots are expected from abroad.

Vice president Al-Gore, who the recounts showed was trailing by 327-votes to Republican George W. Bush has demanded more vote recounts in crucial Florida state particularly hand counts in four of the 67 counties. Saying machines make mistakes.

Meanwhile, news reports said a court in Palm Beach had ordered a freeze on the recount process in the county pending a hearing next week on alleged irregularities that could hurt Gore.

Three days after the voting, the election to the White House was mired in uncertainty facing legal challenges and the world yet to know as to who is the next incumbent.

The unofficial count by the Associated Press county-by-county slightly boosted Bush's tally after earlier counts had showed the margin as 225 votes.

The recount shoved Bush won Florida, Bush's communication director Karen Hughes claimed in a statement in Austin, Texas, asking Gore to concede.

The Gore camp hit back saying contrary to claims by the rival side this election is not over.

Again we want the true and accurate will of the people to prevail and that means the legal system to run its course. If at the end of that process, George Bush is the victor, we will respect that result. Gore campaign chairman William Daley said in a statement.

(Kashmir Observer, November 11, 2000)

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Baramulla
Amargarth, Sopore
E: amid.zobara@jkbmail.com
T: www.jkbank.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.Arshad Nazir, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 06.06.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Firdous Ahmad Ganai S/O. Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Ganai R/O. Check Hygam Sopore to repay an amount of Rs 25,02,035.60 (Rupees Twenty Five Lacs Two Thousand Thirty Five & Paise Sixty Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.05.2023 in the accounts of the Borrowers, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. 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 04th day of November, 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs 26,42,847.60 (Rupees Twenty Six Lacs Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Seven & Paise Sixty Only) being balance outstanding as on 31.10.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2023 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 of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
Land measuring 14 Kanals & 02 Marlas under Khasra No.'s 171 (02 Kanals & 01 Marla), Khasra No.196 (05 Kanals & 01 Marla), Khasra No. 197 (01 Kanal & 19 Marlas) & Khasra No.201 (05 Kanals & 01 Marla) with Khata No. 284 & Khawat No.111 situated at Mouza Bulgam, Tehsil Sopore, District Baramulla J&K standing in the name of Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Ganai S/o. Mr. Abdul Gaffar Ganai R/o. Chek Haigam Sopore (Mortgagor).

Authorized Officer

Dated:04.11.2023
Place :Sopore
Abbas Add

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Baramulla
Amargarth, Sopore
E: amid.zobara@jkbmail.com
T: www.jkbank.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.Shabir Ahmad Bulla, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 09.06.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Shahnawaz Muzaffar Mir S/o. Mr. Mohammad Muzaffar Mir R/o. Sagipora Sopore to repay an amount of Rs26,73,166.44 (Rupees Twenty Six Lacs Seventy Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty Six & Forty Four Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.05.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. 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 04th day of November, 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs32,11,809.44 (Rupees Thirty Two Lacs Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Nine and Paise Forty Four Only) being balance outstanding as on 31.10.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property
Land measuring 03 kanals & 08 Marlas situated at Mouza Sagipora, Tehsil Sopore (Now Tehsil Zaingeer Bomai), District Baramulla J&K belonging to Mr. Nabir Mir S/O. Mr. Mohammed Mir R/O. Sagipora, presently Green Town Bye Pass, Sopore.

DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

Khasra No.	Khata No	.Khwat No	.KANALS	MARLAS
318 min	513	112	01	08
311 min	536	113	01	03
314/1 min	541	113	00	07
317 min	542	113	00	10
TOTAL			03Kanals 08 Marlas	

Authorized Officer

Dated:04.11.2023
Place :Sopore
Abbas Add#7006444730



Ensuring Right To Education In J&K: Challenges And Imperatives

Ummar Jamal

“The recent directions by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh indicate a recognition of the challenges and a call for more stringent enforcement. To truly uphold educational equity in the region, it is imperative that all stakeholders, including the government and private schools, collaborate to ensure that every child can access the education they deserve

Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal development, serving as a powerful catalyst for positive change. Access to education ensures that opportunities are not limited by socio-economic status, gender, or other societal barriers. It is a transformative force that empowers individuals to reach their full potential. It equips them with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities necessary to navigate life's challenges. Access to education provides a pathway out of poverty, enabling individuals to break the cycle of deprivation and contribute meaningfully to their communities. A society that values education for all is inherently more just and equitable.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, was a pivotal step pertaining to the concept of education for all. It aimed at ensuring that every child in India, regardless of their socio-economic background, had access to quality education. Section 12(1) C of this act mandated unaided private schools to reserve 25% of their entry-level seats for children from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. It recognized education as a fundamental right and sought to ensure that all children, regardless of their economic background, had access to quality education. The Act aimed to eradicate illiteracy, promote inclusive education, and bridge socio-economic gaps.

In April 2012, the Supreme Court while affirming the constitutionality of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, directed all schools, including those privately operated, to provide free education immediately to students from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds from class-I until they reach the age of 14 years. The bench, comprised of Chief Justice S H Kapadia and Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Swatanter Kumar, specified that private unaided minority schools would be an excep-

tion to the RTE Act, relieving them from the mandate that 25% of their student body must consist of boys and girls from economically underprivileged families.

As of the 2021 report from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the specified provision has been put into practice in 16 states and Union Territories [UTs] nationwide (NCP-CR, 2021). Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh have implemented this particular section.

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the RTE Act was extended in 2019 under section 95 and the fifth schedule, Table-1. However, its implementation has fallen short, denying underprivileged students their fundamental right to education.

Despite the RTE Act's noble objectives, it has faced numerous challenges in Jammu & Kashmir. The government and private schools have not taken adequate steps to enforce the Act's provisions, resulting in the continued exclusion of disadvantaged students from the benefits of the Act. Section 12(1)C, a provision that was intended to bring about socio-economic equality, has largely remained unfulfilled in the region. The act's implementation raises serious concerns about the government's commitment to ensuring that every child receives the education they deserve.

People from different quarters have raised their concerns over the violations of the provisions of RTE Act from time to time. In December 2022, AAP leader and former education minister Harsh Dev Singh, on Friday, voiced his concern over the failure to implement the foremost provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. Highlighting the obligation of private schools under the RTE Act to enroll a minimum of 25% students from economically weaker sections (EWS), Harsh Dev

Singh expressed disappointment over the insufficient execution of these provisions by the UT administration RTE Act in J&K.

Adding to the chorus of concern in 2022, Young Lawyers Forum, filed a PIL before the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, seeking the implementation of the Act in J&K. In response to the PIL, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in March this year took action by ordering the government to provide a status report on the steps taken to implement the RTE Act in Jammu and Kashmir. The fact that such legal action was necessary underscores the pressing need for more rigorous enforcement of the RTE Act in the region to safeguard children's right to education and promote a more equitable society.

The promising initiative of the RTE Act, designed to provide quality education to all children in India, faces a critical juncture in Jammu and Kashmir. The recent directions by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh indicate a recognition of the challenges and a call for more stringent enforcement. To truly uphold educational equity in the region, it is imperative that all stakeholders, including the government and private schools, collaborate to ensure that every child can access the education they deserve. Through a united effort, we can promote inclusive education and lay the foundation for a more equitable society.

Ensuring that every child has equal access to quality education is not just a legal obligation but a moral imperative that needs to be upheld. Addressing the challenges and extending the reach of this provision is essential for the holistic development of our nation's future generations, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a J&K based columnist

The WEEK That Was

KO Web Desk

Fresh Snowfall In Higher Reaches Of Kashmir, Rains Lash Plains

By KO Web Desk

The higher reaches of the Kashmir on Friday morning experienced a fresh spell of snowfall, while the plains received rains, leading to a significant drop in the maximum temperature. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the higher reaches of the Valley including Razdan Pass, Pir Ki Gali, Zojjila Pass, Sinthan Top, Sonamarg and Gulmarg experienced snowfall, while plains saw heavy downpour. He said that due to continuous snowfall several roads including Razdan, Zojjila, Kishtiwari-Anantnag and Mugal road have been closed for traffic movement.

Amarnath Cave Shrine In Kashmir Himalayas Gets Motorable Road

By Press Trust of India

In a first, vehicles have reached the Amarnath cave as the Border Roads Organisation has expanded road connectivity up to the cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas, Press Trust Of India quoting officials reported on Monday.

The widening of the road from Dumail to the Amarnath cave situated at an altitude of 3,888 meters via Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir has been completed, the officials said.

They said the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) personnel completed the formidable task and created history by expanding road connectivity up to the Amarnath cave shrine.

Diplomatic Efforts To Pause Fighting Gain Steam As Israeli Ground Troops Push Toward Gaza City

By Agencies

Israel's ground troops advanced toward Gaza City on Thursday, as the US and Arab countries intensified diplomatic efforts to ease the siege of the Hamas-ruled enclave and bring about at least a brief stop to the fighting to help civilians. President Joe Biden suggested a humanitarian "pause" on Wednesday, as hundreds of foreign passport holders and wounded Palestinians were allowed out of Gaza for the first time, exiting via Egypt's Rafah crossing. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected back in the region on Friday. Arab countries, including those allied with the US and at peace with Israel, have expressed mounting unease with the war.

Women are Working More. But Is It Good News?

By Ishan Bakshi for The Indian Express

Most of these new entrants in the work force were engaged not in regular salaried wage employment or casual wage labour. Rather, they were rather self-employed, either in "own account enterprises" or as a "helper in household enterprises". This indicates the absence of wage/salaried employment opportunities.

Should Indians Work Longer Hours?

By Sonikka Loginathan for The Hindu

The current employment structure is worrying, with a modern economy expected to have more wage labour and less self-employment. Yet, self-employed individuals make up 57% of the workforce, of which 18% are 'unpaid helpers'. The organised sector, despite only employing 10% of the workforce, contributes 45% of the output and needs expansion to boost productivity. In a subsistence crisis, work hours may increase under pressure, necessitating strict enforcement of labour laws or external interventions to maintain work-life balance.

For Peacemakers, a Nobel prize is the Carrot at the End of the Stick

By KP Nayar for Deccan Herald

Given that foreign policy rarely amounts to much in US presidential elections, it seems bizarre that Biden may lose his re-election bid next year on account of his stand on the ongo-

ing Israel-Palestine conflict.

It's Not Kids With the Cellphone Problem, It's Parents

By Pamela Paul for New York Times

It's not the school's job to police kids' phone habits, something parents are acutely aware isn't easy. And that gets to the thorny crux of the issue: Parents are often the problem. When one group of parents in my district confronted the administration about its lax policy toward cellphones, the principal said whenever he raised the issue, parents were the ones who complained. How would they reach their children?

The Must-Do List for Autumn in Kashmir

KO Web Desk

Autumns in Kashmir are nothing short of a picturesque performance. Every single thing breathes the essence of the season into itself. As a result, autumn seems like a harmonious symphony in Kashmir. The surroundings compliment everything – the people, the places as well as the sentiments.

Needless to say, this is an unmissable time in Kashmir. Here are some things you could do before autumn swiftly disappears into winter:

A Photo Session at University of Kashmir: Stepping onto the campus of the University of Kashmir in autumn is like entering a realm of enchantment. The air is crisp, carrying the subtle fragrance of fallen leaves, and the campus is adorned with a vibrant tapestry of colors. One cannot help but be captivated by the stunning crimson chinar trees that line the pathways, their leaves ablaze with the hues of autumn.

As you traverse the campus grounds, the soft crunch of fallen leaves beneath your feet creates a symphony, blending seamlessly with the distant whispers of the breeze. The chinar trees, with their intricate branches and fiery foliage, stand as majestic sentinels guarding the academic sanctuaries. The contrast between the azure sky and the warm tones of the leaves creates a picturesque backdrop, inviting you to capture the fleeting beauty with your camera.

Armed with a camera, each step becomes a deliberate journey to immortalize the essence of autumn at the University of Kashmir. The play of light and shadow through the branches casts a spell, creating a dance of colors that seems almost surreal. The campus pathways become an exploration of nature's canvas, with the chinar trees serving as the focal point of this seasonal masterpiece.

As you click pictures, the vibrant reds and oranges of the chinar leaves are frozen in time, preserving the magic of autumn. The camera lens



becomes a storyteller, capturing the transient beauty that graces the university during this season. Students, immersed in their studies, occasionally pause to absorb the natural spectacle, and you find camaraderie in shared admiration for the breathtaking scenery.

Go for a Drive: Embarking on a drive along the foreshore and boulevard road in Srinagar during autumn is a sensory journey that seamlessly weaves together the solemn beauty of Dal Lake and the vibrant hues of chinar trees. The landscape transforms into a masterpiece, with the lake mirroring the melancholic sky and the chinar leaves blazing in shades of red and gold, creating a picturesque panorama.

As you navigate the scenic route, the tranquility of Dal Lake adds a serene undertone to the journey. The water, appearing still and reflective, mirrors the surrounding

chinar trees and the distant mountains, creating a mesmerizing symphony of colors. The lakeside boulevard, flanked by these majestic trees, becomes a corridor of natural splendor, inviting you to immerse yourself in the autumnal aura.

The drive unfolds like a cinematic experience, with each turn revealing a new perspective of the enchanting scenery. Amidst the serene ambiance, the newly opened Chakosi Makosi restaurant beck-

ons as a haven for those seeking a culinary escape.

Alternatively, one can opt for a more laid-back stop at the Barista cafe, where the aroma of freshly brewed coffee mingles with the crisp autumn air. The cafe, with its cozy setting, provides a perfect vantage point to enjoy the changing colors of the surroundings while sipping on a warm beverage.

For those inclined towards a rustic experience, the Makai Point of

fers an ideal spot to halt. Here, the tantalizing scent of barbecue wafts through the air, and one can relish a grilled feast against the backdrop of the breathtaking Dal Lake and the rustling chinar leaves.

In this picturesque blend of nature and culinary delights, a drive along the foreshore and boulevard road in Srinagar during autumn becomes a sensory escapade, leaving indelible memories of the serene Dal Lake and the resplendent chinar trees.

Find a Spot, Read a Book: Nestled along the banks of the iconic Dal Lake or on the banks of Jehlum river in Srinagar, reading a book is a tranquil escape into a world of literary bliss. The air is crisp with the fragrance of fallen chinar leaves, and the surrounding landscape transforms into a symphony of warm hues. Choosing the right spot, perhaps with a view of the distant mountains or the reflection of colorful shikaras in the water, sets the stage for an immersive reading experience.

As the temperature gently dips during autumn in Kashmir, it's essential to cocoon oneself in enough warm layers. A cozy sweater, a scarf, and perhaps a cup of steaming kahwa (traditional Kashmiri tea) become essential companions. The chill in the air contrasts with the warmth of the words on the pages, creating a perfect equilibrium.

Time seems to slow down as you turn the pages, engrossed in the narrative, occasionally glancing up to soak in the breathtaking autumnal scenery. In this picturesque setting, reading becomes a sensory experience, merging the captivating words on the pages with the serene beauty

of Srinagar's autumnal landscape along the bund.

Shop Winter, Shop Local: Embarking on a shopping expedition along Residency Road in Srinagar is not just a retail experience; it's a journey into the rich tapestry of Kashmiri culture and craftsmanship. The bustling market, flanked by shops adorned with vibrant displays, offers a treasure trove of traditional wear and handwoven textiles. With a commitment to championing local fashion and promoting the region's economy, the focus turns to acquiring quintessentially Kashmiri garments – the pheran and shawls.

The myriad of shops along Residency Road showcases an array of pherans, each a testament to the skilled craftsmanship passed down through generations. The intricate embroidery and unique designs tell stories of Kashmir's cultural heritage, making each piece not just a garment but a wearable piece of art. By choosing to invest in these locally crafted pherans, you become a patron of tradition, helping sustain the livelihoods of the skilled artisans who create these masterpieces.

A venture into downtown Srinagar unveils a world of traditional artisans. The narrow lanes of the downtown area are lined with shops where local craftsmen meticulously create handmade artifacts. Investing in these handicraft pieces not only brings home a piece of Kashmir's cultural identity but also supports the livelihoods of the artisans who have honed their skills over generations.

One can also stop by and buy Kangris. God knows a Kashmiri can't do without it in winters!

As winter approaches, these timeless handicrafts add warmth not just to the home but also to the heart, knowing that the purchase contributes to the preservation of Kashmir's cultural heritage and the sustenance of local artisans. In this way, the act of shopping transforms into a meaningful endeavor to support and celebrate the unique identity of Kashmir.



AS WINTER APPROACHES, THESE TIMELESS HANDICRAFTS ADD WARMTH NOT JUST TO THE HOME BUT ALSO TO THE HEART, knowing that the purchase contributes to the preservation of Kashmir's cultural heritage and the sustenance of local artisans. In this way, the act of shopping transforms into a meaningful endeavor to support and celebrate the unique identity of Kashmir

How Do We Measure Well-Being?

Henry S. Richardson
Erik Schokkaert

Opinions differ on the definition of well-being. Yet there's a growing consensus that it cannot be reduced to material consumption and that other aspects of life, such as health and good social relations, are essential to being well.

Increasing well-being is generally accepted as one of the essential components of social progress, but if different aspects of life all contribute to well-being, can or should we construct an overall measure of it? For example, is "happiness" a good measure?

Before we can begin to monitor social progress in terms of well-being, we need more clarity on the concept itself.

MEASURING HAPPINESS

One possibility is to use large opinion surveys in which individuals answer simple questions on their degree of happiness or life satisfaction. These have revealed robust patterns, confirming that economic growth has a weaker than expected effect on satisfaction, and that other aspects of life, such as health and unemployment, are important.

These simple survey measures seem credible. But according to psychologists, happiness and life satisfaction do not coincide. Life satisfaction has a cognitive component – individuals have to step back to assess their lives – while happiness reflects positive and negative emotions that fluctuate.

A focus on positive and negative emotions can lead to understanding well-being in an "hedonic" way, based in pleasure and the absence of pain. Looking instead to individuals' judgements about what is worth seeking suggests a

preference-based approach (a possibility we discuss below). People judge all sorts of different things to be worth seeking.

In other words, happiness may be an element in evaluating one's well-being, but it is not the only one.

THE CAPABILITY APPROACH

Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen has pointed out that understanding well-being on the basis of feelings of satisfaction, pleasure, or happiness have two problems.

The first he calls "physical-condition neglect". Human beings adapt at least partially to unfavourable situations, meaning the poor and the sick can still be relatively happy. One striking study by a team of Belgian and French physicians has shown that even in a cohort of patients with chronic locked-in syndrome, a majority reported being happy.

The second problem is "valuation neglect". Valuing a life is a reflective activity that should not be reduced to feeling happy or unhappy. Of course, Sen admits, "it would be odd to claim that a person broken down by pain and misery is doing very well".

We should therefore not fully neglect the importance of feeling well, but also acknowledge it is not the only thing people care about.

Together with Martha Nussbaum, Sen formulated an alternative: the capability approach, which stipulates that both personal characteristics and social circumstances affect what people can achieve with a given amount of resources.

Giving books to a person who cannot read does not increase their well-being (probably the opposite), just as providing them with a car does not increase mobility if there are no decent roads.

According to Sen, what the person manages to do or to be – such as being well-nourished or being able to appear in public without shame – are what really matter for well-being. Sen calls these achievements the "functionings" of the person. However, he further claims that defining well-being only in terms of functioning is insufficient, because well-being also includes freedom.

His classic example involves the comparison between two

policy often think that rationally dealing with trade-offs requires having one single ultimate measure. Adherents of the capability approach who succumb to this thought often mistrust individual preferences and apply instead a set of indicators that are common to all individuals.

So-called "composite indicators" – like the United Nations' Human Development Index, which adds together consumption, life expectancy and educational performance

of different life dimensions.

Some people think that hard work is necessary to have a valuable life while others prefer to spend more time with family. Some think that going out with friends is key, while others prefer reading a book in a quiet place.

The "preference-based" perspective starts from the idea that people are better off when their reality matches better what they themselves consider to be important.

Preferences thus have a



undernourished individuals. The first person is poor and cannot afford food; the second is wealthy but chooses to fast for religious reasons. While they achieve the same level of nourishment, they cannot be said to enjoy the same level of well-being.

Therefore, Sen suggests that well-being should be understood in terms of people's real opportunities – that is, all possible combinations of functionings from which they can choose.

The capability approach is inherently multidimensional; but those seeking to guide

at the country level – are a frequent outcome of this kind of thinking. They have become popular in policy circles, but they fall victim to simply adding up scores on different dimensions, all deemed equally important.

TAKING INDIVIDUAL CONVICTIONS SERIOUSLY

Beyond the subjective approach and the capability approach, a third perspective – the preference-based approach to well-being – takes into account that people disagree about the relative importance

cognitive "valuational" component: they reflect people's well-informed and well-considered ideas about what a good life is, not merely their market behaviour.

This does not coincide with subjective life satisfaction. Recall the example of patients with the locked-in syndrome reporting high levels of satisfaction because they have adapted to their situation. This does not mean that they would not prefer to have their health back – and it certainly does not mean that citizens without locked-in syndrome would not

mind falling ill with it.

One example of a preference-based measure, advocated by the French economist Marc Fleurbaey, directs people to choose reference values for all non-income aspects of life (such as health or number of hours worked). These reference values will depend on the individual: everyone probably agrees that not being ill is the best possible state, but a workaholic lawyer is likely to place a very different value on work hours than someone with an arduous and hazardous factory job.

Fleurbaey then suggests that people define a salary that, combined with the non-income-based reference value, would satisfy the individual as much as their current situation.

The amount by which this "equivalent income" differs from the person's actual work-based income can help answer the question: "How much income you would be willing to give up for better health or more free time?"

Some psychologists are sceptical about preference-based approaches because they assume that human beings have well-informed and well-considered ideas about what makes a good life. Even if such rational preferences exist, one struggles to measure them because these are aspects of life – family time, health – that are not traded on markets.

DOES ALL THIS MATTER IN PRACTICE?

The following table, compiled by the Belgian economists Koen Decancq and Erik Schokkaert, shows how differing approaches to well-being can have practical consequences.

It ranks 18 European countries in 2010 (just after the financial crisis) according to three possible measures: average income, average life satis-

faction and average "equivalent income" (taking into account health, unemployment, safety and the quality of social interactions).

Some results are striking. Danes are much more satisfied than they are wealthy, while France is the opposite. These large divergences are not seen when comparing equivalent incomes, however, which suggests that satisfaction in these two countries is heavily influenced by cultural differences.

Germany and the Netherlands also do worse on satisfaction than on income, but their equivalent income rankings confirm that they do relatively worse on the non-income dimensions.

Greece has a remarkably low level of life satisfaction. Cultural factors may play a role here, but Greece is also characterised by high income inequality, which is not captured by the averages in the table.

These differences among various measures of well-being hint at the important issues involved in deciding which measure of well-being – if any – to select. If we want to use the measure to rank nations' performance at providing well-being, then we will be pulled towards a single, simple measure, such as subjective happiness. If we seek to keep track, for policy purposes, of whether individuals are doing well in the respects that really matter, we will be pulled towards a more multi-dimensional assessment, such as that offered by the capability approach. And if we are most impressed by disagreement among individuals as to what matters, we will have reason to understand well-being along the lines suggested by the preference-based approach.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Pitching For Drug-Free Society, J&K Bank Launches 'Project Najaath'

The Idea Is To Make Positivity Thrive Among Our Youth: MD & CEO

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Nov 10: With a view to address the growing issue of tobacco and drug addiction in J&K under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Jammu and Kashmir Bank today inaugurated 'Project Najaath - An initiative for Tobacco and Drug-free Society'.

The Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash launched the project in presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Director Health (Kashmir) Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Joint Director Education (Kashmir) Rouf-ur-Rahman, Bank's General Managers, other senior officers and media-persons besides officials of the directorates of health and education. Director Health (Jammu) Dr Rajeev Kumar, Director Education (Jammu) Ashok Kumar Sharma and Bank's Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar joined the launch-event via video-conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "As the premier and responsible financial institution interwoven with the social fabric of the region, J&K Bank continues to spend a part of its profits for the well-being of the people under its CSR especially in J&K. Since no society can afford the menace of drug and substance abuse among its youth, who are the future of our nation, the initiative launched today is very important and timely."

"In this campaign, we need the support and cooperation of the Departments of Health and Education. The idea is to make positivity thrive among



our youth to be full of dreams and aspirations so that they participate constructively and creatively in building of future society that is tobacco and drug-free," he added.

On the occasion, he also requested the media persons to highlight the importance of such projects in J&K so that these campaigns result in fostering a support system required to meet the challenge of such great proportions.

Expressing hope that the campaign will achieve its objectives to satisfaction of all the stakeholders, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "Drug menace has attained dangerous proportions and by launching this campaign under CSR, we

aim to compliment the efforts of Government institutions and other NGOs towards eradication of drug and other substance abuse."

Praising the aptly captured theme of the project 'Najaath' - meaning 'to get rid of' - Director Health Services (Kashmir) Dr Mushtaq hailed the project as "a very good awareness-cum-curative initiative."

He said, "Being the stakeholders in the well-being of this society, we need to work in co-ordination as a whole to counter the challenge of tobacco-addiction and drug-menace. We need to sensitise our youth about the dangerous implications of drug-abuse while working towards removal of

stigma around the issues of mental health in our societies." Director Health Services (Jammu) Dr Rajeev Kumar also appreciated the Bank's initiative and assured of total cooperation in the implementation of the project as it is aimed at "securing the future well-being of our own children and society."

Describing the project Najaath as an apt and well-conceived initiative aimed at getting the youth out of the grave challenge of tobacco addiction and drug abuse, Director Education Jammu Ashok Kumar assured his complete support for successful implementation of the project by facilitating access of counsellors and subject experts

to various schools across Jammu division.

Extending the department's total support to the project Najaath, Joint Director Education extended gratitude to the Bank's management for the initiative saying, "J&K Bank is the biggest institution here that can give greater impetus to efforts - along with the departments of Health and Education - being made to counter the drug menace in J&K as every home is connected with us one way or the other."

"We will stand beside you all the way throughout this campaign and take this project to its primary target audience i.e. youth in our high schools and higher secondary institutions", he said.

Earlier in his welcome address, General Manager (CSR) Syed Rais Maqbool gave a brief overview of the project and its objectives. He said, "The 'Project Najaath' has been conceived as a sustained multi-year campaign to get rid of tobacco-addiction and drug-abuse through multiple levels of social engagements beginning with awareness and counselling to treatment and finally rehabilitation of the victims."

"In the first phase, we shall be conducting programs in Jammu and Pulwama districts focussing on awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco-addiction and drug-abuse, which will be extended to six districts of the UT by the end March, 2023", he added.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks by DGM (CSR) Ashok Gupta.

Roundtable Chalks Roadmap For Leveraging Kashmir's Untapped Potential Through Skill Development And Innovation Driven Entrepreneurship

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India in association with University of Kashmir and NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council - NIFentreC, organised a workshop in Srinagar on 8th November 2023 at Kashmir University with an objective to on-board all stakeholders, primarily the enablers for Innovation and Entrepreneurship ecosystem in the valley.

Stakeholders from multiple organizations deliberated on a roadmap to improve the prospects for growth and development, through innovation and entrepreneurship by harnessing Jammu and Kashmir's untapped potential as well as the major challenges and lessons from key milestones achieved, at a day long roundtable titled "Inclusive Development through Entrepreneurial Advancement (IDEA)".

"The time has come when entrepreneurs with the support of eco-system builders can push their boundaries to grow exponentially and in this process could harness their own potential in superior ways," said Dr. Vipin Kumar, Chief Scientist, NIF.

Dr Praveen Roy, Head - NEB Division, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India stressed that modern day start-ups believe in pivoting their businesses as opposed to labelling them as failures.

Chetan Krishnaswamy, Vice President, Public Policy, Amazon India, pointed out that vibrant J&K is home to

entrepreneurs who have the talent to create leading global brands by being part of our flagship programs like Karigar, Saheli, and Global Selling.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir, Registrar, University of Kashmir familiarized participants on the significant recent initiatives that the University has undertaken so as to strengthen innovation in the valley.

Grassroots innovators spoke about some of their accomplishments and also about the challenges related to achieving scale in their respective businesses. GR8 SPORTS India, an entrepreneur representing the formal sector and also other entrepreneurs shared the growing expectations that enterprises particularly those driven by the first generation entrepreneurs have from the Government specially from the perspective of ease of doing business and also what steps are to be taken so as to create a bridge so as to address the gaps and build resilience.

The roundtable which facilitated a listening mind kind of environment wherein the beneficiaries could share their experiences with respect to access and leveraging of various schemes, facilities, incentives and so on was attended by representatives of multiple organizations, both within and outside the valley, representing a wide array of work areas like Ministries and Government organizations (Central/State/Local), Financial Institutions, Marketplaces, Investor services organizations, Technology Business Incubators, Media, Entrepreneurs, and Innovators (particularly those at the grassroots).

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Widened Tracks

meant for the movement of yatrins on foot, by palkis/dandies and on ponies," it said.

After the handing over of the yatra tracks by the Union Territory government in September 2022, the BRO has undertaken the work on widening the tracks in many stretches, improving the gradients, providing stronger safety railings and retaining walls on vulnerable stretches, keeping in view the environmental concerns, it added.

"This contributed to substantial improvement in satisfaction level of the yatrins, and making the movement of yatrins on tracks safer," it said.

In order to continue with the work, which could not be completed before the last yatra, the organisation, by engaging men and machinery, has widened many remaining portions of the tracks that were narrow and vulnerable, the BRO said.

"This will make the movement of yatrins visiting the holy shrine on foot/palkis/dandies and ponies more comfortable and convenient," it added.

J&K Has Potential

a sustained campaign to make the farmers aware about the huge potential of herbs and medicinal plants so that they can harvest fruits of new green revolution," Sinha said.

He also assured all necessary support from the administration to augment the facilities at the Government Ayurvedic Medical College & Hospital and asked the College Administration to start the PG Courses.

Earlier, the LG extended his felicitations to the people on the occasion. He said the theme of this year's Ayurveda Day, 'Ayurveda for One Health', is aligned with the theme of India's G20 Presidency 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal GMC Jammu; Dr. Mohan Singh, Director, AYUSH highlighted the efforts for promoting Ayurveda and Indian Systems of Medicine in Jammu Kashmir.

Development Of Border

allocation of Rs 4,800 crore has been made to create adequate infrastructural, health and educational facilities in 662 border villages of 19 districts, Shah said.

ITBP could also be made the nodal agency for carrying out developmental work in the border villages, he said.

Before 2014, Rs 4,000 crore used to be spent on the India-China border which has risen three-fold in 2022-23 to Rs 12,340 crore, he said.

He said the country salutes the ITBP Himveers for the dedication and courage with which they perform their duties in sub-zero temperatures and inaccessible terrains.

"With the ITBP securing our boundaries, no one can even think of grabbing even an inch of our land. The entire nation salutes you for your courage

and dedication," he said.

He asked the ITBP personnel to focus on their duties and assured them that the Centre will take care of their families. A quota for CAPF personnel in flights and trains as availed by the defence personnel has also been fixed by the Narendra modi government.

Shah also e-inaugurated a Self-Sustainable Energy Building (SSEB) for ITBP personnel deployed at a height of 17,000 feet and a drone service for taking supplies of medicines and vegetables to high altitude Border Out Posts, saying they will serve as symbols of a self-reliant India.

"The SSEB will keep our jawans safe at a temperature of 18-19 degrees at altitudes where it drops up to minus 45 degrees, while a drone service to take medicine and eatable supplies to high altitude BOPs will not just be immensely useful for our personnel but also for people living in the border village. It is a great new beginning," Shah said.

For the first time in the history of ITBP, the prime minister has approved seven battalions together for the force, which four will shortly be deployed, he said.

He expressed happiness at the fact that Him Veeranganas are also working now shoulder to shoulder with the Him Veers.

Shah said the 25 years of Amrit Kaal is a period for fulfilling the pledge of making India the number one country in every field by 2047.

The home minister also said the country's internal security has been strengthened over the past nine years. The situation has been controlled in the three hotspots of terrorism, naxalism and militancy, he said.

While India has succeeded completely in controlling terrorism in Kashmir with the abrogation of Article 370, it has also succeeded substantially in reducing left-wing extremist activities in the affected areas and improving the situation in the northeast.

"There has been a drop of 72 per cent in terror related deaths in Kashmir, 65 per cent in the northeast and 80 per cent in left-wing extremism affected areas," Shah said.

Fresh Snowfall Dips

Razdan Top, Z-Gali, Sinthan Pass, and Margan Top, the officials said.

They said the plains in Kulgam and Budgam also received light snowfall, they added.

Most other areas in the plains of the valley were lashed by rains.

In plains of the Jammu region, there was heavy rainfall since early hours of this morning thereby bringing down the temperature and triggered cold conditions, they said.

In Jammu city, heavy rains broke the month-long dry spell.

The upper reaches of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar,

Ramban, Kathua experienced snowfall. The Banihal town also experienced the season's first snowfall.

The inclement weather led to the closure of vital roads connecting various far-off places with Srinagar as well as national highways connecting the valley with the rest of the country, the officials said.

The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed for traffic due to mud-slides at Mehar area in Ramban and heavy snowfall forced closure of the Mughal Road, an alternative link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, officials said.

"The highway is blocked for vehicular movement at Mehar in Ramban. All types of vehicular movement are stopped. Commuters are advised not to travel till restoration is carried out," a traffic police officer said.

More than 200 vehicles are stranded at various places enroute and have been asked to halt their vehicles at safe places, they said.

The Mughal road, which connects the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with south Kashmir's Shopian district, is closed for vehicular traffic for a second consecutive day in view of the snowfall between Poshana and Peer Ki Gali, they said.

The Srinagar-Leh highway was shut for traffic due to snowfall and slippery conditions along the Zojilla Axis, the

officials said.

The Gurez-Bandipora road, as well as the Sinthan Top were also closed for traffic due to the accumulation of snow.

The MeT office has said that from November 11 to 17, the weather would stay mainly dry with warmer days, according to the forecast.

Non-Application

if not required in any other case.

18 Children 'Missing'

I strongly refute the allegations of any children having gone missing from the orphanage. They are safe, we have actually shifted to Hamdania Colony Bemina and the issues sprang up as a result of the miscommunication," he said.

Of the eighteen children who had been reported missing, he claimed, ten had returned home, seven were still in the orphanage, and one lives close by.

"I visit the orphanage on and off to inquire about the well being of the children. I requested the trustees to get the orphanage registered under JJA time and again and they initially sought time but could not get the unlicensed orphanage registered later" Dr Nisa told Kashmir Observer.

She also admitted that the missing children have been recovered by the police and are safe. However, she

insisted on having custody of all 18 children and threatened to sue the trustees if they did not comply.

"I will initiate legal action against the trustees of Al-Miskeen Yateem Trust, in case they fail to hand over the custody of children. I cannot let the children be there anymore as the trust operates without registration," she added.

A police official from Bemina police post told Kashmir Observer that the children were moved to some other facility within the same locality.

"All 18 children are safe. Actually they were moved to a safer facility in the same locality. Matter is under investigation at the moment and details, if any, in this regard would be shared in accordance with the findings of the current inquiry," he added.

Lal Singh Illegally

in 2011 got transferred the said land forcibly in the name of RBET."

"A part of this land so acquired is being used in running a DPS School. According to the investigation, the R B Education Trust was found to have acquired land in excess of permissible limit of 100 standard kanals, to the extent of 328 kanals," it said.

Singh is also the Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan Party (DSSP) chairman.

HC Seeks Details

The petitioner, Smile Social Youth Club of J&K, will also file response to the affidavit as regards the steps taken as indicated in it, the court added.

BJP Leader Assaults

Bashir is a BJP leader.

In the complaint, Khan said that DDC member abused and assaulted him during a meeting in Mendhar on Thursday, it said.

Driver Arrested

were over the approved capacity, eight were sitting in the driver's cabin and a few were hanging in the exit door, the police said.

The overloading of passengers could have endangered their lives, they said.

Mohd Yaseen, the vehicle's driver and owner, was booked for his negligent act, which endangered the safety of passengers and arrested from the spot, they added.

Minor Killed

seven-year-old Manan son of Karan Tripathi resident of Uttam Nagar, Delhi was declared dead.

Three injured who are under treatment in CHC Katra include Mohini (32), Mukta (18) and Priya (7)

SIA Conducts

secessionism and terrorism, according to the agency.

NARCO-TERROR MODULE CASE

SIA Searches House Of Key Accused In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday searched the house of a key accused in a narco-terror module case in a hamlet near the Line of Control in Poonch district, officials said.

A SIA team had taken accused Mohammad Iqbal, who was arrested from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district in October, along with it to Karmara, they said.

The case pertains to cross-border smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotics into Poonch, the officials said.

Three accomplices of Iqbal were caught with a huge cache of arms, explosives and narcotics near the border fence in Poonch's Karmara area on the intervening night of May 30 and 31, they said. Iqbal was at large since then.

He had fled from the area, and using technical surveillance as well as



intelligence inputs, it was found that he was hiding in Mandi district, the officials said and added that he was arrested by SIA in October.

The handler of the module, Mohammad Javed, who was also absconding, was arrested on August 19 by the SIA in an operation in Delhi. This further led to the arrest of another accused, Liyaqat, on August 25 from Poonch, they said.

During investigation, it was found that people of other countries were in-

involved in the operations of the narco-terror module, the officials said.

So far, six arrests have been made in the case and forward and backward linkages of the module are being established, they said.

Further SIA investigation into aspects of cross-border operations of the module, which smuggled arms, explosives and narcotics, is underway, the officials said.

In May, Mohd Farooq (26), Mohd Riaz (23) and

Mohd Zubair (22) were arrested and an AK assault rifle, two pistols, six grenades, a 10-kg IED and 20 packets of suspected heroin, which they were trying to smuggle into the country, were seized.

The accused persons were intercepted by army personnel and there was an exchange of fire between them, in which a soldier and a terrorist had suffered injuries.

The SIA had also conducted raids at several places in Poonch for three consecutive days from July 26 to 28, following the recovery of seven kg of heroin, more than Rs 2 crore cash and a pistol along with some ammunition from the house of a drug smuggler Rafiq Lala in Danna Doyiyar area of Sathra on March 3.

Lala was arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA). However, the SIA tool his remand on July 1 for questioning over his alleged links across the border.

POWER WOES

J&K's AT&C Losses One Of The Highest In India



Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss of Power Development Department is one of the highest in India—causing a gap between power purchase cost and revenue realisation.

Currently, the AT&C losses are of the order of 50 percent against the national average of 19.73 percent. The official documents states, "The AT&C losses of J&K Power Development Department are one of the highest in the country."

"The present AT&C losses are of the order of 50 percent against the national average of 19.73 percent. Due to these losses, the gap between power purchase cost and revenue realisation is huge," it reads. It further said that there was a high cost of power supply to the exchequer due to the scattered and remote location of Households. The document states that

in Jammu and Kashmir, a substantial quantum of electricity is lost as electrical efficiency (I²R) loss leading to high cost of power supply.

"Due to the existence of long Low Tension (LT) lines carrying electricity to distant and scattered households over mountain tops, a substantial quantum of electricity is lost as I²R loss leading to high cost of power supply," it reads.

It also states that the electricity demand was surging in the UT of J&K with a continual growth of around 8-10 percent year on year, attributable mainly to the rapid pace of urbanisation and addition of a large number of households through recent electrification schemes.

The document further reveals that the upsurge in the usage of electronic and electrical appliances and improvement in the standard of living was also adding to the electricity demand in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO

'Patients Shiver With Cold'

DAK Urges Admin To Start Heating System In Kashmir Hospitals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Urging Jammu and Kashmir (JK) administration to start heating system in Kashmir hospitals, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said patients are shivering with cold as heating systems of hospitals have not been started yet.

With temperatures dipping, DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan said patients face huge inconvenience as heating systems of hospitals are not operational yet.

Dr Hassan said lack of heating in hospitals is putting the lives of patients at risk.

"Cardiac and Stroke patients in hospitals are at increased risk of death as cold thickens blood and constricts the arteries," he said.

"Even the condition of Asthmatics and patients with Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases worsens in hospitals because of cold conditions," he added.

The DAK President said the cold conditions in hospitals increase the risk of expectant mothers having premature delivery.

"Children and elderly are especially prone to hypothermia that can lead to respiratory and cardiac dysfunction and even death," he said.

Dr Nisar said it is difficult for doctors, nurses and paramedical staff to work in cold conditions especially during night hours when temperatures fall sharply.

"The majority of the peripheral hospitals are without inbuilt central heating systems and they rely on traditional heaters without vent which do more harm than good to patients," he said.

Urs Of Shah Asrar-Ud-Din (RA) Celebrated With Fervor In Kishtwar

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: The annual Urs of Hazarat Shah Asrar-ud-Din (RA) was observed Friday with religious fervor as devotees from across the District Kishtwar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir visited the Sufi Shrine and participated in special prayers.

One of the most revered saints of the Kishtwar District, Shah Asrar (RA) is equally venerated by all communities depicting the innate composite culture of Jammu and Kashmir. Every year thousands of devotees from all walks of life and different regions through the shrine of the Shah Asrar-ud-Din (RA) to pay their reverence to the Seventeenth Century Sufi Saint and seek his blessings.

District administration, in collaboration with the Waqf Board J&K, has made elaborate arrangements for the convenience of devotees who had come all the way from different parts of J&K to be part of the spiritual congregation.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav along with the senior functionaries of the Civil and police administration including Administrator Waqf Board Zakir Hussain visited the shrine and the complex area to inspect the arrangements, besides seeking blessings after paying obeisance at the shrine.

All the line departments were directed by the DC to provide all facilities to the devotees like uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, essential items, security, transport, sanitation.

A control room was established by the district Administration in collaboration with the Police Department and District Information Centre, to facilitate the pilgrims.

Industrial Tour Of IUST Students To Lelafe

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Department of Computer Science IUST, under the aegis of Dean Outreach and Industry Connect, conducted an industrial visit of its students to LeLafe IT Solutions Pvt. Limited,

with the aim to offer insights into the IT industry, bridging the gap between academia and industry.

The visit served as a bridge between academia and industry, reinforcing the importance of experiential learning and foster-

ing a spirit of innovation among the students of IUST. During their visit, the IUST team had the opportunity to engage with IT experts and learn from their experiences. The visiting group gained valuable insights into the industry's workings, techno-

logical advancements, and real-world applications.

Coordinated by Dr. Rumaan Bashir, In-Charge Dean, School of Engineering and Technology IUST, the group included several faculty members and students of Computer Sciences and IT.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: Provisional Selection List for the posts of Driver/Driver-I/Driver-II & Tractor Driver, advertised vide Notification No. 04, 05, 06 & 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 & 03 of 2021 UT/Division/District Cadre.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, various indenting departments forwarded the requisitions for making direct recruitment against 298 posts of Driver/Driver-I/Driver-II & Tractor Driver, as per the details as indicated below:

Sr. No	Department	Total Posts
1.	Agriculture	64
2.	ARI & Trainings	1
3.	Cooperative	15
4.	Culture	1
5.	Finance	11
6.	Forest	5
7.	Health & ME	37
8.	Home	5
9.	Horticulture	22
10.	Hosp. & Protocol	1
11.	Information	12
12.	Labour & Employment	5
13.	Revenue	60
14.	Science & Technology	5
15.	Skill Development	3
16.	Transport	50
17.	Tribal Affairs	1
Total		298

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), advertised the aforesaid 298 posts, belonging to 17 departments, vide Notification Nos. 04, 05, 06, 07 of 2020 & 01, 02 & 03 of 2021, for seeking applications from the eligible candidates, under 98 different items, as per the following category-wise break-up:

OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC	RBA	PSP	EWS	Total
171	37	16	03	05	54	04	08	298

Whereas, the Board, vide Notification No. SSB/Secy/Driver/2021/6375-87 dated 27.09.2021, conducted the Driving Test for these posts, initially from 04.10.2021, which was later revised vide Notification No. SSB/Secy/Driver/2021/7728-41 dated 18.11.2021, to be conducted from 25.11.2021 at State Motor Garages, Srinagar/Jammu. The Result of the Driving Test was notified vide No. JKSSB/19/2022-01 dated 01.11.2022, making the successful candidates eligible for appearing in the Computer Based Test (CBT); and

Whereas, the CBT of the candidates who had successfully passed the Driving Test for these posts was held on 07.02.2023, which was followed by submission of preferences for various items; and

Whereas, the JKSSB, vide Office Order No. 153-SSB of 2023 dated 14.08.2023, constituted a Selection Committee for finalizing the selection for these 298 posts; and

Whereas, the Committee so constituted, upon careful scrutiny of the Indents and advertisement notifications made in respect of the above 298 posts of Drivers/equivalent, highlighted various issues, which were deliberated in the 235th Board Meeting held on 05.09.2023. As per the Board decision, necessary clarifications were obtained from the concerned departments and among the issues so flagged, clarification was sought from the H&ME Department also with regard to variation in Pay Level for Item No. 182 and 184 and, vide its letter No. ME-NG/566/2023-02 dated 26.09.2023, the H&ME Department, among others, conveyed as under:

Name of Post	Item No.	No. of Posts	Clarification required	Response from H&ME Department
Driver-I	184	07	Pay Level & Method of recruitment for these Posts	The Post is having Pay-Level-4 (25550-81100)
Driver-II	182	05	Pay Level of these Posts	The Post is having Pay-Level-2 (19900-63200).

Whereas, consequent to the above, the Board, vide Notice No. JKSSB-Secy-07/2023/03 (E-7259835) dated 12.10.2023, sought fresh preferences for Item Nos, 182, & 184 of H&ME Department from the candidates in light of the above clarification from the Indenting Department as the change in Pay-Level as conveyed by the department was expected to have a bearing on the preferences given by the candidates, as some candidates might have opted for higher preference for Item No. 182 (Driver-II), under the presumption that it carries a higher Pay Level and instead Item No. 184 (Driver-I); advertised in Level-2, is having a Pay Level-4, as per the clarification from the Indenting Department; and

Whereas, among these posts, five (5) vacancies are earmarked to the Ex-Servicemen (ESM) candidates, the post of Driver is not suitable for the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) as per the standing regulations; and

Whereas, in OA No. 678/2023 Aabid Bashir Shan Vs UT of J&K & Ors, one candidate namely Mr. Aabid Bashir Shan approached the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar with the prayer that he has missed the Document verification for these posts and he may be allowed to submit online preferences and appear in the Document Verification. The Hon'ble CAT, Srinagar disposed of the OA with the following directions:

"6. In view of the limited prayer made by the Learned Counsel for the applicant, the respondents are directed to consider the representation dated 15.07.2023, filed by the applicant within a period of four weeks from today for permitting him to submit online preferences & document for verification, in accordance with rules, bypassing a speaking and reasoned order.

7. With this, OA No: 678/2023 is disposed of accordingly."

Whereas, in compliance to the above directions of the Hon'ble CAT, Srinagar, the matter was examined as per the extant regulations and facts surrounding the case and rejected vide Order No. 208-SSB of 2023 dated 27.09.2023; and

Whereas, having regard to the above aspects and merit-cum-preference of the candidates and extant rules/regulations, the Provisional Selection, as prepared by the concerned Selection Committee, was placed in the 242nd Board Meeting held on 02.11.2023, which, after deliberations, approved its notification.

Now therefore, the Provisional Selection List of candidates for the posts of Driver/Driver-I/Driver-II & Tractor Driver, advertised vide Notification No. 04, 05, 06 & 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 & 03 of 2021 UT/Division/District Cadre, is hereby notified as per Annexure-A to Q to this notification. It is further notified that:

- The above Provisional Selection List shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s)/OA(s), if any, pending adjudication before any competent court of law.
- The List shall also be subject to the outcome of such enquiry, involving any candidate(s), as figuring in this List.
- This is a Provisional List only and mere figuring in it shall not confer any right to the candidates for Final Selection.

In case any candidate/s is aggrieved with this Provisional Selection List or intends to furnish any certificate/clarification with regard to his/her withheld recommendation, he/she may represent through the email address driverselection2023@gmail.com within Five days from the date of its Notification, beyond which no representations shall be entertained and such candidature shall not be considered for Final Selection. The email in this regard should necessarily include complete details of the candidate including Name, Address, Roll Number and Contact Number.

By Order.

NoJKSSB-Scry/7/2023-03 (E-7259835)
Dated: 09.11.2023

DIPK-12020-23
Dt: 10/11/2023

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS,
Secretary,
J&K Services Selection Board.

Faculty of Forestry SKUAST-K Holds Training Programme On Medicinal And Aromatic Plants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Division of Forest Products and Utilization, Faculty of Forestry SKUAST-K Friday conducted one day training programme on "Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Medicinal and Aromatic Plants" at Government Higher Secondary School Gund Sonamarg.

The event is being sponsored by Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) aimed to unveil the business potential lying within these botanical treasures.

Dr. Tahir Mushtaq, the Training's Coordinator, set the tone with a warm welcome, underscoring the significance of the program. Dr. P.A. Sofi, Head of the Division of Forest Products and Utilization, assumed the role of chief guest, enlightening participants about the economic possibilities tied to Medicinal and Aromatic plants.

Dr. Sofi shared success stories, spotlighting the division's instrumental role in championing these plants as lucrative business prospects. Notably, he explored specific plants such as Lavender and Rosemary.

Mushtaq, Assistant Professor in the Division of Forest Products and Utilization, emphasized the link between Medicinal and Aromatic plants and livelihood generation. He also delved into the global business potential of these plants, highlighting their pivotal role in sustainable entrepreneurship.

The event featured the presence of Dr. A. R. Malik and Dr. Peerzada Ishtiyak, Assistant Professors in the Division of Forest Products and Utilization, alongside school teachers. With over 100 students actively participating, the training program showcased a genuine interest in exploring entrepreneurial pathways within this sector.

Dr. Tahir Mushtaq expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and SKUAST-K's Director of Planning and Monitoring for their sponsorship, acknowledging their pivotal role in making the training program a reality. The initiative aimed to empower participants with knowledge and skills crucial for tapping into the economic potential of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, contributing to local and global markets alike.

Pakistan Take On England With Impossible Task At Hand

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Nothing less than a miracle will help Pakistan as they face a near-impossible task of making the semifinals by winning an unthinkable margin, while a charged-up England will look to qualify for the Champions Trophy when the two sides clash in the World Cup here on Saturday.

New Zealand's net run-rate boosting five wicket-win over Sri Lanka has virtually shattered Pakistan's semifinal hopes. The 1992 champions now have to beat England by an improbable margin.

New Zealand's NRR is +0.743 while Pakistan's is +0.036, and for the Babar Azam-led side to eclipse the former to qualify as the fourth side, it has to win by around 287 runs batting first. While chasing, Pakistan need to win with 284 balls to spare. That is an impractical task. For defending champions England, the World Cup title defence dream may have been over for quite a sometime now but the Jos Buttler-led side will aim to finish inside top-8 to



make the cut for the 2025 Champions Trophy.

As things stand, it's a four-way race with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands also in the mix with England.

Their 160-run win over the Netherlands in the last match has given the down-and-out England the much-needed late charge as they have climbed up to the seventh

spot and face the easiest equation among the four teams.

A win against Pakistan should seal the spot, considering that both Bangladesh and the Netherlands face tough opponents in Australia and India respectively, and also have inferior NRRs than England.

Their 160-run win over the Netherlands in the last match has given the down-and-out England the much-needed late charge as they have climbed up to the seventh

DEPLETED BANGLADESH

PUNE: Having sealed a semifinal berth, a dominant Australia will look to continue their rampaging run when they face a Shakib Al Hasan-less Bangladesh in their final assignment before the knockout stage of the World Cup here on Saturday.

The five-time champions have been simply unstoppable, stream-rolling any team that has come their way in the last six meetings, while Bangladesh suffered the ignominy of being the first team to be eliminated from the ongoing showpiece.

Pat Cummins and Co. stormed into the semifinals on the back of one of the greatest ODI innings played by Glenn Maxwell. The all-rounder battled cramps to smash an unbeaten 201 off 128 balls to lift Australia from a precarious 91 for seven to the victory target of 292 against Afghanistan.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, just about managed to keep their 2025 Champions Trophy qualification hopes alive with a three-wicket win over Sri Lanka in an ill-tempered game which was overshadowed by the contentious 'timed-out' dismissal of Angelo Mathews.

The top eight teams, including hosts Pakistan, will make the cut for the 2025 event and eighth-placed Bangladesh will be desperate to win to hold on to their position inside top 8 in the standings.

South Africa Wrap Up WC Group Stage With Win Over Afghanistan



Agencies

AHMEDABAD: South Africa saw off a spirited fightback from Afghanistan to win by five wickets in their final World Cup group game and consolidate second place in the standings. South Africa have 14 points from their nine games, two points ahead of Australia who play Bangladesh on Saturday. Both South Africa and Australia have already qualified for the semi-finals.

Afghanistan wrapped up their best ever World Cup campaign with four wins and also sealed a place in the Champions Trophy. Afghanistan opted to bat first

and posted 244 in 50 overs on the back of Azmatullah Omarzai's unbeaten knock of 97, which included seven boundaries and three sixes, while Gerald Coetzee was the pick of the South African bowlers with figures of 4-44.

In response, South Africa opener Quinton de Kock set up the chase with a breezy 41 that took him to the top of the tournament's scoring charts on 591 runs. Rassie van der Dussen (76 not out) then guided the Proteas home, stitching together a 65-run partnership with Andile Phehlukwayo, who smashed the winning runs with a massive six over deep mid wicket in the 48th over.

J&K Sqay Team Wins 9 Gold Medals At National Games

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a stunning display of skill and determination, the Jammu and Kashmir Sqay Team emerged as a dominant force at the recently concluded 37th National Games held in Goa.

The team secured an impressive haul of nine gold, five silver and five bronze medals, etching a historic achievement for the region.

From an initial position of 20th in the medal tally, Jammu and Kashmir catapulted to the 12th spot, a remarkable feat fueled by the outstanding achievements of Sqay Team.

The Jammu and Kashmir Sqay Association extended heartfelt congratulations to the players, coaches, managers and technical officials of the team.

The list of gold medalists include Sania Manzoor, Aqsa Showkat, Disha Pandit, Shagupta Mehraj, Faizan Ayoub, Aman Naqashbandi, Arsalan Mehraj, Sheikh Hashim, Irfan Rangrez.

The silver medalists are: Fatima Adil, Saqiba Altaf, Adnan Farooq, Nasir Ahmad Zargar, Arooj Ahmad. The bronze ones include Tazina Maqbool, Humaira Lateef Jamsheeda Yousef, Sheikh Uzair and Raja Younis.

Expressing his happiness, Faizan Ayoub from Shopian said that winning the gold medal at the national level in martial arts has boosted his confidence for international competitions.

A martial artist since the age of 13, he has also been training young enthusiasts and aspires



to excel on the global stage, having already secured three gold medals in international tournaments.

Aqsa, another gold medalist, expressed gratitude to her family, friends, and the Deputy Commissioner of Ganderbal.

Participating for the first time in a National Games, she earned a Gold medal, overcoming numerous challenges with the support and guidance of those

around her. Aqsa highlighted the lack of proper facilities and equipment faced by young athletes in Ganderbal, emphasizing the need for better infrastructure and training resources.

Coach Sqay Saleem Pathan told KNO that all contestants from Ganderbal district won medals in the tournament, expressing delight and recognizing it as a source of pride for the region. (KNO)

Rowing Trials For Sub Junior Nationals On Nov 14

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Association of Rowing & Sculling on Friday announced that it will be holding selection trials for State Rowing Team/Players to represent J&K at the 24th Sub Junior National Rowing Championship, to be held in Telangana.

The selection trials would be held on November 14 at

Nehru Park Water Sports Centre in Srinagar. The trials begin at 10:30 AM.

"All the Registered Players who wish to appear for trials must bring Aadhar Card, DOB certificate & PP size photograph at the time of trials," the association said in a statement.

"For any queries, you may contact on 9682384840 / 88999 44089," JKARS added.

Arif Khan Wins FIS International Ski Race In UAE



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Winter Olympian Arif Khan has won a gold medal in the Slalom event at the FIS International Ski Races held in Ski Dubai, Mall of the Emirates in Dubai, UAE.

Arif achieved the feat in 51.98 seconds after three runs. Silver and bronze went

to Alexander Penneck of Great Britain and Maksim Goedeev of Kyrgyzstan who were 0.12 seconds and 1.62 seconds behind the Kashmiri skier, respectively.

Arif Khan had previously won a bronze medal in the same competition with a total time of 55.76 seconds in three runs.

ICC Suspends Sri Lankan Cricket Board Over Government Interference



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday suspended Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) due to government interference.

The Sri Lanka government had sacked the SLC following the team's disastrous show at the World Cup, where it lost seven of the nine games.

SLC was reinstated by the court of appeal, thus further deepening the crisis in the country's cricket governing body.

On Thursday, a joint government and opposition resolution in parliament demanded the resignation of the SLC's management.

"International Cricket Council Board has suspended Sri Lanka Cricket's membership of the ICC with immediate effect," ICC said

in a statement.

"The ICC Board met today and determined that Sri Lanka Cricket is in serious breach of its obligations as a Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka," the statement said.

"The conditions of the suspension will be decided by the ICC Board in due course," it added.

The government, which is split over the minister's decision to sack the SLC board of management, came out with a report, recommending a brand new constitution for the governing body with a new voting structure to appoint office bearers.

Palestinian Football Team Prepares For WC Qualifying Games Against A Backdrop Of War

The Associated Press

GAZA: Makram Daboub may be struggling to prepare his Palestinian team for the start of 2026 World Cup qualification but he takes some comfort, for now at least, that his players stuck in Gaza are safe.

The national football team's head coach wanted to include Ibrahim Abuimeir, Khaled Al-Nabris, and Ahmed Al-Kayed in a training camp in Jordan ahead of World Cup qualifying games against Lebanon next Thursday and Australia on Nov. 21.

But they were unable to make it out of Gaza because of the Israel-Hamas war, now in its second month. "So far they are fine," Daboub told The Associated Press. "Many of their relatives have died, however, as a result of the bombing."

Two players from Gaza, Egypt-based Mohamed Saleh and Mahmoud Wadi, are ex-

pected to join the Palestinian team in Jordan.

Daboub, who is from Tunisia, acknowledged it will be difficult for players to focus on football while many have families in danger.

"With the death and destruction in Gaza, the players are in a difficult psychological state," Daboub said.

But for Susan Shalabi, the vice-president of the Palestine Football Association, there's no question that the players and the people want the games to go ahead.

"This is a people that wants to be heard and seen by the rest of the world, wants to live normally like everyone else, so people care about their national team," Shalabi told AP. "It represents the yearning to be recognized as a free and sovereign nation."

The Palestine Football Association became a full member



of FIFA, football's international governing body, in 1998 and has had some success at the regional level.

Appearing at the World Cup in 2026 would be a dream for a team that has never come close to reaching the finals via the

Asian Football Confederation's qualifying route. There is a little more hope this time as Asia's automatic

qualification allocation has increased from four places in 2022 to eight in 2026, when the tournament will be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The Palestinian team, which reached a highest FIFA ranking of 73 in 2018, appeared at the Asian Cup in 2015 and 2019 and has qualified for the 2023 continental tournament coming up in Qatar.

"There is no match that you can win in advance," Daboub said. "But we have a good chance of reaching the next round of the World Cup qualifiers."

To be among the 18 teams that advances into that next stage of Asian qualifying, the Palestinians need to finish in the top two of a group containing Australia - expected to take first spot - Lebanon and Bangladesh. They're currently ranked No. 96, eight places higher than Lebanon and 87

above Bangladesh. Palestine had initially been drawn to host Australia to start this round of qualifying, but the game has been shifted to a neutral venue in Kuwait.

Preparations have already been interrupted as players were unable to leave to participate in a tournament in Malaysia last month. Now the team is based in Jordan to be sure of being able to travel for games.

A win against Lebanon in the United Arab Emirates next week - the game has also been moved from Beirut because of security concerns - would be a huge step toward the next stage. "We will do our best," Daboub said. "Football is the most popular game in the world. It brings people together. We aspire to achieve good results and qualify to show the Palestinian identity and that this is a people who deserve life and love peace."