

## Is It Safe? Why Housing Infrastructure In Kashmir Needs Fixing

Parvaiz Bhat

A number of loopholes, ranging from lack of efforts towards energy conservation to housing infrastructure fallacies, need to be plugged so that people are able to deal with harsh winters and natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods in Kashmir, experts said.

Ghulam Hassan Mir, a trained architect with international exposure and Joint Commissioner Planning at Srinagar Municipal



Corporation (SMC) observed that homes in Kashmir are designed in a way that doesn't fulfil proper heating and

**FORGET ABOUT ARCHITECTURAL NITTY-GRITTIES LIKE INSULATED WALLS or glazed windows which are ideal for a cold climatic zone such as Kashmir, doors and windows have wide crevices that are responsible for a lot of heat loss.**

energy conservation needs. Referring to the housing

infrastructure in Srinagar city, he said: "No building audit has been carried out in Srinagar so far. So, we don't have the advantage of data with us." But, he said that most of the buildings have been designed in ways which makes it impossible to use those structures for capitalising on solar energy and have proper heating with minimal energy use.

Citing the example of doors and windows in homes in Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir, Mir told Kashmir Observer: "Forget about

architectural nitty-gritties like insulated walls or glazed windows which are ideal for a cold climatic zone such as Kashmir, doors and windows have wide crevices that are responsible for a lot of heat loss."

According to him, the SMC has been trying hard to convince people to make good use of natural resources like solar energy and design their homes properly. For example, he said, the installation of solar lights is a precondition for handing out building permits. But, independent **|More on P6**

## Mercury Hovers Near Freezing Point In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Minimum temperatures in most places of the Kashmir Valley dropped close to the freezing point or below it on Monday days after the region witnessed snowfall and rain.

While the minimum temperature in Srinagar City and Kokernag town in south Kashmir stayed marginally above the freezing point, Pahalgam and Gulmarg continued to reel under sub-zero temperatures, weather department officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the Amarnath Yatra, saw the mercury settling at minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, making it the coldest in the Valley on Sunday night.

Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, the officials said, adding the minimum temperature in Srinagar was 0.7 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund **|More on P6**

## 6 Kashmiris Killed In Shimla Accident

LG Sinha, Abdullahs; Bukhari Express Grief Over Loss Of Lives



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Six Kashmiri labourers were killed and as many sustained injuries when the vehicle they were travelling fell into a gorge near Sunni in Shimla district on Monday morning, police said.

The mishap took place at Kudharghat, about 35 km from Shimla, when the driver of the ill-fated pickup truck lost control of the vehicle, police said.

Of the 12 occupants, nine were from Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, working as labourers in Himachal Pradesh. They were on their way to Mandi from Sunni, police said. Three of the labourers died on the spot and as many were declared dead by doctors when they were taken to a hospital, police said.

Those injured are undergoing

treatment at the Indira Gandhi Medical College Hospital (IGMCH), police said.

The deceased have been identified as Faeed Ahmad Deedar, (24), Gulam Hussain Gorsi (43), Shabir Ahmad Deedar, (19), Talib Hussain Tinda (23), Gulzar Ahmad Deedar (30), and Mushtaq Ahmad Deedar (30)—all residents of Kulgam.

The injured included Ranjit, who was driving the vehicle, Manzoor Ahmed and Talib Hussain, both from Kulgam and Aslam Deeded from Anantnag, besides Akash Kumar, Ajay Thakur.

A case has been registered and investigations are on, Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat said that the district administration is in touch with Shimla **|More on P6**

## Ladakh Leaders Resume Talks With New Delhi

Discuss Statehood, Jobs; Constitutional Safeguards Under Sixth Schedule With MoS Home

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A delegation from the Union Territory of Ladakh met Union minister Nityanand Rai on Monday and discussed with him their major demands, including statehood for the high-altitude region and bringing the area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, sources said.

The 14-member delegation, including representatives of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), pressed for their four-point demands before Rai and sought an early resolution of their issues.

The demands are statehood for Ladakh, two Lok Sabha seats (one for Kargil and one for Leh), job opportunities for the residents of the Union Territory and constitutional protection



under the Sixth Schedule.

Rai, the minister of state for home, asked the delegation members to submit a detailed list with their demands and assured them that the Centre will look into the issues and take appropriate decisions, the sources said.

The delegation members expressed optimism over the deliberations.

Several organisations of Ladakh were demanding a separate Union Territory for the region for decades and the demand was fulfilled on August 5, 2019 with the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The KDA and the LAB, in the recent **|More on P6**

## SC Likely To Announce Art-370 Verdict Soon: Report

The Supreme Court is likely to pronounce its verdict on a batch of pleas challenging abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status in August 2019, by the end of this month, Live Law reported Monday. A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, reserved the verdict on September 5, after hearing extensive arguments for 16 days by both the petitioners and the government in August this year.

The petitioners in the matter had also challenged the J&K Reorganization Act which bifurcated the State into Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. With Justice SK Kaul retiring from Supreme Court on December 25 and December 15 being the last **|More on P6**

**RAI, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME,** asked the delegation members to submit a detailed list with their demands and assured them that the Centre will look into the issues and take appropriate decisions, the sources said.

## LG Makes Strong Pitch For NEP Adoption

'Never Stop Chasing Your Dreams Is My Message To Our Youth'

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that National Education Policy (NEP) has provided immense possibilities to elevate the learning, create a conducive environment for critical thinking, creativity, individuality and inquisitiveness to flourish so that the young children can learn new things.

"School is the cradle of future leaders and centre of creativity, character building and a fundamental medium to strengthen the value system in our society. Today, the real challenge before our education system is to promote learning beyond the classroom and impart life skills," the LG said.

He was addressing a gathering of students, teachers and management on the silver jubilee celebrations of Delhi Public School, Jammu here on Monday.

Sinha said the reputed educational institution, under the care and tutelage of Maharaja



Hari Singh Social & Education Foundation Trust and Rajput Charitable Trust, has made immense contributions in shaping the future of young talents and social transformation.

He also highlighted the transformation taking place in the education sector and emphasized the need to reinvent the concepts of classroom learning. Sinha called upon the teaching community and the educational institutions to adopt best practices aligned with the National Education Policy to bridge the learning gaps.

"National Education Policy has provided the immense possibilities to elevate the

learning and create a conducive environment for critical thinking, creativity, individuality and inquisitiveness to flourish so that our young children can learn new things," he added.

At silver jubilee celebrations, the LG encouraged the students to follow their passion and believe in their abilities and potential.

"Never stop chasing your dreams, is my message to our youth. Discover what you really love doing, strive continuously to achieve new goals, reflect on your greatest passion and never ever stop believing in yourself," he said. **|More on P6**

## IGP Calls For Strict Action Against Anti-Nationals

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, VK Birdi on Monday asked his officers to take stringent action against any person or organization supporting anti-national activities, and called for united efforts to eradicate drug menace from the society.

Chairing security review meetings along with Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police, North Kashmir, Vivek Gupta at Baramulla and Sopore, the Kashmir police chief, emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring the safety and



well-being of the citizens and discussed strategic initiatives to enhance the overall security development of the district.

During these meetings, IGP Kashmir engaged in constructive discussions with key officers to assess **|More on P6**

## After 13 Yrs Akhtar Regrets Accusing Omar Of Corruption

Ex-CM Says Didn't Want Senior Political Leader To Stand Before Court As Accused, 'His Acknowledgement Enough'

M Ahmad

Srinagar: PDP senior leader and former minister Naeem Akhtar Andrabi on Monday expressed "regret" over his stand at presser following which a defamation case was filed against him and then party colleague Nizamuddin Bhat in 2010 by the government for accusing the Chief Minister of the time, Omar Abdullah, of receiving kickbacks of Rs 500 cr in allotting Rattle Power project.

"I am not personally comfortable with a senior political leader standing here as an accused. All I want is that little or more, that we can argue on

both sides of the legal divide, whatever damage was done to our reputation, if there is just acknowledgement of that, if he is expressing regret, it is ok," Omar said after Naeem Akhtar said that he regrets his presence in the press conference.

"For a moment, if he says that he has not made those allegations but his presence substantiated these allegations," Omar said, adding, "It may be true that he didn't know what allegations were to be made in that press conference but he did not deny it then or now. In fact till date he has not denied it," Omar said, adding, "So all we ask is **|More on P6**

## CHEQUE BOUNCE CASE

### Court Sentences Man To 2 Yr Jail, Rs 6L Fine

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court here on Monday awarded two years imprisonment and imposed Rs six lac fine in a cheque bounce case.

The complainant stated that he paid Rs 300,000 as earnest money for a land to the accused but eventually the deal could not be concluded due to some price differences.

The accused, as per the complainant paid cheque for Rs 3 lakh dated 30 October 2018. However the cheque

was returned by the concerned bank for want of sufficient funds. Subsequently, the complainant filed a complaint with the court under Negotiable Instruments Act and section 420 of the RPC.

"...it is hereby concluded that the accused is found guilty for offence punishable under section 138 of NI Act pertaining to dishonour of cheque ...for an amount of Rs 300,000 (Rupees Three Lakh only) on account of insufficient funds **|More on P6**

## SHORT TAKES

### HCI Invites Applications For Hajj-2024

The Haj Committee of India has invited online applications from all the aspirants who intend to undertake Hajj journey next year. The Haj application forms shall be available w.e.f 04/12/2023 and the last date for submission of the same has been fixed as 20th December, 2023, an official spokesperson said. Before filing the application form online, he said, the aspirants must go through Haj Policy available at Haj Committee website www.hajcommittee.gov.in. **|Applicants must |More on P6**

### Retired Principal Chargesheeted For Cheating

Crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday filed a chargesheet against a retired school principal for duping a family of over Rs 1.54 lakh on the pretext of arranging a government job for their daughter in Rajouri district, an official said. Davindra Singh Soodan, a retired principal of a private higher secondary institute, was chargesheeted in the court of law after an investigation by the crime branch found him **|More on P6**

### Fire Damages Joinery Mill, 4 Houses

A joinery mill and four houses were damaged when a fire broke out in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here on Monday. No casualties have been reported. An official of the Fire and Emergency Services Department said the fire broke out late on Sunday night. Fire tenders were rushed to spot and the flames were doused, he said, adding the cause of the blaze was being ascertained. According to preliminary investigation, the fire erupted in the **|More on P6**

### Two IAF pilots killed in Aircraft Crash

Two pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were killed on Monday as a Pilatus PC-7 Mk II aircraft crashed near Hyderabad, the first such accident involving the Swiss-origin trainer jet. The IAF has ordered a Court of Inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident. "A Pilatus PC 7 Mk II aircraft met with an accident today morning during a routine training sortie from Air Force Academy, Hyderabad," the IAF said in a statement. "It is with deep regret that the IAF confirms both pilots onboard the aircraft **|More on P6**



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

# Telegram Announces 11 New Features To Boost Messaging

Users can now access similar channels from a list of similar channels upon joining a channel. This feature is driven by automatic selection based on similarities in subscriber bases, making it easier for

users to find content aligned with their interests, the company said in an update. Users can also access similar channels from a channel's profile. "Users now have the power to amplify the reach of stories from friends and favourite channels with just two taps. The option to add extra content such as text, audio, or video comments enhances the storytelling experience. Reposting is restricted to stories visible to 'everyone', ensuring privacy protection," said Telegram.

When posting a story, you can now add a video message to supply commentary or simply make a face. These messages can be resized, moved around the screen, and placed along the time axis, providing limitless creative possibilities for users to express themselves. Telegram Premium users now have access to even more customisation options such as 'profile colours' which allows users to set a unique colour combination

with logos for their profiles. While anyone can set custom wallpapers for individual chats, premium users can now extend their personalisation to both sides of the conversation. "The voice-to-text feature, once exclusive to premium users, is now available to all users. With the ability to convert up to two messages per week into text, this feature facilitates quick understanding of audio content or even translation in different languages," Telegram informed.

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ  
عنوان: درخواست خجانب : علی محمد پورہ ولد غلام احمد پورہ ساکنہ نوری پورہ برادرسول بیگل  
بیسر تفکیک تین خود

ایشیتر برادر گاہ ہر خاص و عام  
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل بغرض حصول لیگل بیسرفیکٹ زیر  
کاروائی ہے اسرارے میں رپورٹ پنداری حلقہ بیان گواہان، نمبر دارہ، چوکیدار متعلقہ  
کے مطابق سائل کا ولد غلام احمد پورہ ولد غلام رسول پورہ ساکنہ نوری پورہ مورخہ  
30-10-1978 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی کا نیکمہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

نمبر شمار	نام افراد	رشتہ توفیق	عمر	پیشہ
۱	محمد ایراج احمد پورہ ولد غلام احمد	پسر	65 سال	عمر رسیدہ
۲	زیب بیگم دختر غلام احمد	دختر	70 سال	عمر رسیدہ
۳	علی محمد پورہ ولد غلام احمد	پسر	60 سال	مزدوری
۴	غلام محمد پورہ ولد غلام احمد	پسر	60 سال	--
۵	محمد یوسف پورہ ولد غلام احمد	پسر	55 سال	--
۶	نیشتر احمد پورہ ولد غلام احمد	پسر	50 سال	--

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی وارث نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرفیکٹ زیر بہت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو سات دن کے اندر اندر درخشاں کو مطلع کریں۔ بعد از معیاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔  
تحریر الصدور  
fko  
نائب تحصیلدار

اہلیہ مرحوم غلام احمد بیٹ (لالہ) انتقال کر گئیں

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کیساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ہماری والدہ (اہلیہ مرحوم غلام احمد بیٹ عرف لالہ) ساکنہ وانٹ پورہ، راجوری کڈل سرتیگر تارخ 03 دسمبر 2023 بروز اتوار کو اچانک اس دنیا فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحومہ انتہائی شریف انشس، مہنسا شخص ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ صوم و صلوات کے پابند تھیں۔ مرحومہ کی فاتح خوانی جمعرات تارخ 07 دسمبر 2023 آبائی مقبرہ واقع کاؤکول (مقبرہ گلستان) وانٹ پورہ راجوری کڈل سرتیگر پر صبح 10:30 انجام دی جائے گی۔  
نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔  
سوگواران  
فاروق احمد، مختار احمد و شہیر احمد (اولاد دان)  
9419007581 & 7006997593

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar

Tender Notice  
eNIT No STD-II / 41 of 2023-24 Dated 02-12-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from A-class Electrical contractors / registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "Shifting of 33kV Waganpora SH Pora Line from Sekidafar Chowk to 33/11kV Receiving Station SH Pora under Srinagar Smart City Project"

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Shifting of 33kV Waganpora SH Pora Line from Sekidafar Chowk to 33/11kV Receiving Station SH Pora under Srinagar Smart City Project	Rs96750.00	Rs 48. 37 Lacs/-	23-12-2023; 2:30pm

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 05-12-2023; 5:00pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	05-12-2023; 5:00pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	23-12-2023; 2:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	12-12-2023; 10:00am
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	23-12-2023; 2:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	26-12-2023; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs2400.00 (Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs96750.00 (Rupees Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Only)
- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.
  - All the e-Bids must be accompanied by EMD in the form of CDR/FDR from a Nationalized Bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
  - Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared LI after opening of financial bids.
  - The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
  - The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
  - The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
  - In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
  - All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
  - To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate(DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared LI after opening of financial bids. The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover.
  - Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Sub Transmission Division-II,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No.:STD-II/3154-56/Ts      DIPK-NB-4594/23      Dated:04-12-2023

## 4th Day Congregational Prayers

The fourth day congregational prayers of Late Nasir Ahmed Bhat S/O Late Mohammad Abdullah Bhat R/O Aramwari Footbridge Rajbagh shall be observed on November 6th (Wednesday)- 10:30am at their ancestral graveyard situated near New Zero Bridge Rajbagh Srinagar

**Bereaved Family**

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2015 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars  
**Name :** Danish Ali Khan  
**S/o :** Ali Mohammad Khan  
**Roll No :** 2602227  
**Year & Session :** 2015- Annual Regular

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Board Of School Education  
Sub Office Bandipora

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate from the office of Municipal Committee Magam. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aatiqa Zehra (DOB: 07/10/2015)  
D/o Sajad Hussain Mir      BMG

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT Office Of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Rural Division, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Corrigendum 4

This office e-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 117 of 11/2023 Dated: 15-11-2023 published vide Nos: 2023\_PHE\_237078\_2 is hereby extended as given below with following additions/modifications to the annexure of the said work.

- New date of closing and opening are as given:

S.No.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Closing date	08-12-2023	11:00 AM
2.	Bid opening date	08-12-2023	12:00 PM
- Please read the rating of DG Set at S.No. 43 as 62.5KVA, water cooled instead of 50 KVA, water cooled.
- Please read the time of completion of works as 60 days instead of 21 days.
- Please read advertised cost of work as RS 65.00 Lacs instead of 63.00 lacs.
- For item at S.No. 01, the 12 inches ND,8 mmthick, MS liner is to be fabricated/installed and commissioned for one pumping unit only.

All other terms and conditions shall remain the same as laid down in the e-nit of the work and corrigendum NO.1 issued vide this office No. PHE/MRD/3961-65, Dated: 20-11-2023.

No: PHE/MRD/4164-68  
DIPK-13271/23  
Dated: 04 -12-2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,  
Srinagar.

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th session Annual Regular 2017 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars  
**Name :** Danish Ali Khan  
**S/o :** Ali Mohammad Khan  
**Roll No :** 2608235  
**Year & Session :** 2017- Annual Regular

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Board Of School Education  
Sub Office Bandipora

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate from the office of Municipal Committee Magam. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Faisal Zahoor (DOB: 17-08-2010)  
S/o Late Zahoor Ahmad Mir      BMG

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name of my daughter in DOB certificate has been wrongly written as Mahaseep Jan While her correct name is Masif Tariq which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the BDO Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

BMG

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate from the office of Municipal Committee Magam. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Seerat Fatima (DOB: 01-06-2015)  
D/o Late Fida Hussain Mir      BMG

## Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS AT SRINAGAR

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC  
CNR: JKS602-004102-2023  
file no: (OS) 2349/2023  
Date of Filing 21.09.2023

Zahoor Ahmad Nehami S/o Abdul Qayoom Nehami @ Najar R/o Bemina Iqbal Abad, Srinagar      Plaintiff

Versus

1. Mst. Zoon Wd/o Lt. Abdul Qayoom Nehami @Najar  
2. Jan Mohammad Nihami S/o Lt. Abdul Qayoom Nehami @ Najar  
both residents of Bemina Iqbal Abad Srinagar  
3. Khalida Aslam W/o Mohammad Aslam Najar D/o Lt Abdul Qayoom Nehami @Najar R/o Shamus Abad Bemina Srinagar      Defendants

Whereas a suit for Declaration and Injunction has been made before this court that the father of the Plaintiff had purchased two vehicles (KUV 100 Motor Car) bearing registration no. JK01AF-7814 under chasis no. MA1VA2RBC6L91745 Engine No. RBHZL69848 Model 2017 and Vehicle (Santro Hyundai) bearing registration no. JK01M-5756 under Chasis No. MALAA51HR9M412211 Engine No. G4HG9M735245 Model 2009. It is stated that the deceased father during his life time has orally gifted away the said vehicles in favour of the plaintiff and in pursuance of said oral gift. Defendants have admitted the suit of the plaintiff and have stated that they have no objection in case the above mentioned vehicles are transferred in the name of plaintiff.

Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to the above titled suit may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 15 days of this publication. Dated, this 21st day of November, 2023.

Sd/- (AHTZAZ AHMED)  
2nd Additional Munsiff At Srinagar

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag

NIT NO 153 OF R&B/Anantnag/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/16859-68 DATED 02-12-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Crate Work Sarnal to University (Crate Walling)	38.00	1100	76000/-	03 Working Season	UT Sector	Accorded Vide Order No. SE/R&B/ Ang-Kul/AAA/62 of 2023-24, Dated 03.10.2023	AAV & BEE Class Only
2.	Improving the Rehmat Alam Hospital link by way of Providing of 2 No RCC culverts and laying of WBM Grade-2nd and Grade 3rd and Edge Wall / R Wall / Crate Walls	36.32	1100	72640/-	01 Working Season	UT Sector	Accorded Vide Order No. SE/R&B/ Ang-Kul/AAA/33 of 2021-22, Dated 06.08.2021	AAV & BEE Class Only
3.	Construction of Exit Gate at MMABM, Associated Hospital, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.	7.94	300	15880	30 Days	HDF	Accorded Vide Order No. 37 GMCA (Pig) of 2023, Dated 21.11.2023	CEE & DEE Class Only

Project Authority: 1. PWD R&B.  
2. Principal Govt. Medical College Anantnag, J&K.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-12-2023
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 02-12-2023 (03:00PM) To 08-12-2023 (04:30PM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 02-12-2023 (03:00PM) To 08-12-2023 (04:30PM)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 08-12-2023 (04:30PM)
5.	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	09-12-2023 (01:00PM)
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt ( Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(Er Rubena Kousar)  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK-13246/23  
dated: 04-12-2023

## 2 Months On BSNL Landline Service Remains Suspended At Boulevard

Services Will Be Soon Restored, Say Officials

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Scores of business establishments along iconic Boulevard Road in Srinagar are incurring huge losses due to poor response of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) authorities to their repeated complaints for restoration of fixed landline services and broadband facility for the last over two months.

Subscribers say their BSNL landline service along with Broadband facility was snapped after cables were cut during digging of the road more than two months back.

Kashmir Observer received a number of calls from aggrieved customers who said their repeated complaints have fallen on the deaf ears and wanted the BSNL to restore the service at the earliest.

"Two months have elapsed since the road was dug up and the landline service along with broadband got snapped due to subterranean cables being severed", said Firdous Ali who runs business at Ghat No 6", he said, adding no one takes cognizance of our complaints forcing us to switch over to private services.

When contacted Public Relation Officer (PRO) BSNL, Masood Bala said: "Services will be restored shortly". He also advised the affected subscribers to forward their numbers in order to facilitate an early restoration of services.

"Now that we are aware of the issue, we will look into the issue and make sure landline service is restored as soon as possible," Bala told Kashmir Observer.

## Srinagar BJP Unit Celebrates Party's Win In 3 States

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday celebrated its electoral win in three states at its head office here.

Party leaders and activists celebrated the win by bursting firecrackers, distributing sweets and chanting slogans like "Teen Pe Bazi Mari Ha Ab Kashmir Ki Bari Ha" (We have won three; now it's Kashmir's

turn). The function was organized at BJP head office at Jawahar Nagar.

"These victories are a testament to the unwavering trust and support of the people in the BJP's vision and leadership," Sajid Yousuf Shah, BJP's head of the media department, told reporters.

"We are humbled by this mandate and pledge to work tirelessly to fulfill the aspirations of the people," he added.



Leaders and activists of BJP Srinagar unit celebrating party's landslide victory in three states at the party's head office in Jawahar Nagar on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Srinagar Records 53 Incidents Of Fire In November

Awareness Campaign Reduces Incidences By 30% In 2023: F&ES Dy Director

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the onset of winter season in Kashmir, the fire incidents have witnessed a rise in the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir-Srinagar, which recorded 53 incidents in the month of November 2023.

Official data prepared by the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) department revealed that 53 fire incidents have been reported across Srinagar in the month of November.

The highest number of fire incidents was reported on November 21, adding that five incidents were reported on the same date at Gojwara Chowk, SKIMS Soura, Polo View, Bakshipora-Palpora and Wazir Bagh here.

Pertinently, the number of fire incidents always goes up during winters in Kashmir.

However, the officials said the number of incidents compared to the previous years have declined after the concerned department organized the awareness events and programs across the Valley in a bid to sensitize the people about the measures.

Deputy Director F&ES Commandant Srinagar, Aqib Ahmad Mir said the preparations by the department are always equal during summers as well as in winters, but during the winter months, the alertness remains high in wake of the frequent fire incidents. "We keep the men and machinery at the disposal during the winter months," he said.

"The number of fire incidents cannot be reduced at the level of Fire and Emergency Services, but at the level of the general public. It has been observed that the use of Bukharis, heaters and other heating gadgets are the primary

sources of fire incidents during winters. Until and unless the people will not use the gadgets judiciously, the situation cannot be tackled; the people must follow dos and don'ts while using such gadgets," he said.

"The general public has an immense role in this regard and taking the safety measures should be their top priority," he added.

Asked about the measures taken by the department to reduce the fire incidents, he said F&ES has organized thousands of awareness events and programs across Jammu and Kashmir so far, which has helped in reducing the number of such incidents.

"If we see the previous figures, the fire incidents have gone up to even 2900 in one year, but this year such incidents have reduced by nearly 20-30 per cent as 1900 cases were reported till October this year," he said.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Baramulla**  
Phone No:- 01952-350070  
E-mail:dsho.bla@gmail.com

No:-DSHO/Bla/Tech/2023-24/3272-80 Dated:- 04/12/2023

Subject:- Selection of beneficiaries for establishment of income generating Sheep/Goat on PP mode for the approved activity "Development of Rainfed Area of JKUT under the scheme" Holistic Agriculture Development Program"-HADP for the financial year 2023-24.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

All those applicants who have applied in response to this office notification No:-DSHO/Bla/Tech/2023-24/2945-53, dated:- 08/11/2023 are hereby informed that the selection of beneficiaries under the aforementioned advertisement for the establishment of income generating Sheep/Goat on PP mode for the approved activity "Development of Rainfed Area of JKUT (offline mode) under the scheme" Holistic Agriculture Development Program"-HADP for the financial year 2023-24 shall be made on 7th of December 2023 at 12:30PM at District Sheep Husbandry Office Complex Noorbagh Baramulla. All the interested applicants are informed to participate on the schedule date time and venue.

Sd/=

(Dr. Showkat Ahmad)  
District Sheep Husbandry Officer  
Baramulla

### Public Notice

An application for grant of permission for disposal of land measuring 4 kanal 4 marlas under khasra No 577 have been filed at the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) Jammu. As I am the absolute owner and in possession of agricultural land measuring 4 kanal 4 marlas under khasra No 577 situated at Khrew Shar Tehsil Pampore District Pulwama. Now I want disposal of above said land, and grant of Permission for sale of the said land, and extract of revenue in favour of Javid Anmad Bhat S/O Gh. Nabi and Raves Ahmad Bhat and Mushtaq Ahmad sons of Khazar Mohd Bhat Residents of Khrew Shar Tehsil Pampore District Pulwama. In this regard if anyone has any objection may contact the concerned authorities within 15 days of publication of the notice. No objection will be entertained after the stipulated time.

**Soom Nath Koul**  
S/O Kelash Nath Koul  
R/O Nawa Kadal Srinagar  
A/P Lotus Tower Bangalore North

fk0

### Caveat Notice From The Office Of Advocate Muheet Yousuf

In the case of:  
Mst Masooda Bano W/o Late Manzoor Ahmad Najar  
R/o Chana mohalla pati brain nishat, Srinagar

...Caveator

Versus  
Public at Large

...Non-Caveator

In the matter of: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A CPC. The caveators apprehends that the non-caveator may file any suit or writ or any appeal at the back of the caveators and may manage to get ex parte order, therefore the caveators submit in case of any Writ Petition/Appeal/Suit or such proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble court by the non-Caveator's against the Caveators, the Caveator's or the counsel for the Caveator's may be provided an reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing any of the order in the said Writ Petition/Appeal/ Suit or any Proceeding otherwise the Caveator's may suffer such an irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated later on in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the court.

nj

S/d

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Office Of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Pampore**  
Extension notification

Subject:- Extension of last date for the advertisement of and Sahayikas ( Anganwadi Helpers ).

Due to poor response against the advertisement published for the engagement of SAHAYIKAS (AWHs) Published earlier on daily news papers vide No:-CDPO/POSHAN/PMP/Adv/2023/1089-1104 Dated :-13.11.2023 the last date for the submission of application forms of below mentioned locations is now extended up to 09.12.2023

### For Sahayikas [ Anganwadi Helpers ]

S.No	Name of the district	Name of the project	Name of the Panchayat/ Municipality ward	Vacancy Of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers )	Name of AWC
01	Pulwama	Pampore	Meej	No. Of Panch ward /MC Ward PC-III	Chinar Mohalla Meej-B

No:-CDPO/Poshan/pampore/Adv/2023/1220-36  
DIPK-13245/23 Dated:-04/12/2023

S/d=  
Child development project officer  
Poshan project pampore

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar**  
NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)  
Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

### Gist of e-NIT No. 34 OF 2023-24, Dated: 04-12-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites e- tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for:-

S No	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost "Rs" in Lacs	EMD Amount	50 % Exemption Allowed for SSI/MSE	Completion Period	Class/ Registration Type (Qualification criteria)
1	Construction/ Upgradation/ Maintenance of Eco-Rosary Park- Installation of Distribution Header at Eco-Rosary Park Bermana, Srinagar	500.00	1.97	2% of Estimated cost	No	15 days	Mechanical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ other firms having relevant experience

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' -Tender fee and EMD, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

### The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

i	Publish Date	06-12-2023 at 1600 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	06-12-2023 from 1600 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	06-12-2023 at 1600 hrs
iv	Bid submission start date	06-12-2023 from 1600 hrs
v	Clarification end date	21-12-2023 upto 1800 hrs
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	21-12-2023 upto 1800 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	23-12-2023 at 1230 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Position of funds	Available with Mass Media Officer EE & RR
Position of AAA	Accorded under order No. 132 DEERS of 2023, Dated: - 17-11-2023
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No. 88 of 2023-24

No. MIDS/TS/3615-20  
Dated:- 04-12-2023  
DIPK-13284/23

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division,  
Srinagar

- 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**  
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
20 Jumada al-Awwal  
1445

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 50
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3: 45
Magrib	5:26
ISHA	6: 49

### This Day In History

- 771 - Charlemagne becomes the sole King of the Franks after the death of his brother Carloman
- 1082 - Ramon Berenguer II, Count of Barcelona is assassinated
- 1301 - Pope Boniface VIII's degree Auscultat feli (only nominee)
- 1360 - The French Franc is created
- 1408 - Emir Edigu of Golden Horde reaches Moscow
- 1448 - Bishop Jona of Moscow chosen as metropolitan of Kiev/Intoxication
- 1456 - Earthquake strikes Naples; about 35,000 die
- 1492 - Christopher Columbus discovers Hispaniola (El Espanola/Haiti)
- 1602 Giulio Caccini's "Euridice" premieres in Florence
- 1741 - Russian princess Elisabeth Petrovna grabs powers
- 1757 - Battle of Leuthen: Prussian army beats Austrians
- 1804 - Thomas Jefferson re-elected US President, George Clinton Vice President
- 1912 - The Triple Alliance among Italy, Austria, and Germany (originally signed in 1882) is renewed for six years, beginning in 1914, a move inspired by instability in the Balkans
- 1941 - Soviet anti-offensive in Moscow drives out Nazi army
- 1950 - Sikkim becomes a protectorate of India
- 1955 - The American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merge and form the AFL-CIO.
- 1957 - President Sukarno of Indonesia expels all Dutch people.
- 1958 - The Preston bypass, the UK's first stretch of motorway, opens to traffic for the first time. It is now part of the M6 and M55 motorways.
- 1959 - Intikhab Alam bowls Colin McDonald with 1st ball in Tests
- 1960 - Ghana drops diplomatic relations with Belgium
- 1971 - Libya nationalizes British Petroleum concession
- 1977 - Egypt breaks off diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq & South Yemen
- 1990 - British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie appears in public for 1st time in 2 years after Iran called for his assassination
- 1990 - Iraq announces willingness to speak with US about resolving the Persian Gulf crisis
- 1993 - Astronauts begin repair of Hubble telescope in space
- 2008 - Human remains previously found in 1991 are finally identified by Russian and American scientists as those of Tsar Nicholas II
- 2013 - 52 people are killed and 167 are injured in a militant attack on a defense ministry compound in Sana'a, Yemen
- 2016 - Malta becomes the 1st country in Europe to outlaw conversion therapy
- 2017 Online store Amazon begins operations in Australia
- 2017- Russia is banned from the next Winter Olympics in South Korea over state-sponsored doping
- 2018- Letter by Albert Einstein from 1954 on concept of religion sells for \$2.9 million at Christie's in New York
- 2019- National strike in France; more than 800,000 people in 100 cities protest against proposed pension reform
- 2019- Saudi state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco raises a record \$25.6 billion in its first public share offering, makes it the world's most valuable company at \$1.7 trillion
- 2019- Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, announces articles of impeachment against US President Donald Trump will be drawn up for abuse of power
- 2019- WHO says 142,000 people died of the measles around the world in 2018, nearly 20,000 more than in 2017
- 2020- Russia begins vaccinating people with its Sputnik V vaccine in Moscow, despite the vaccine

KASHMIR OBSERVER™  
Tuesday | 05-12-2023

## BJP's Triple Victory

The assembly election results in the Hindi-speaking states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan have left the political landscape in India reeling, challenging the expectations of pundits, analysts, and pollsters alike. Forecasts that confidently predicted Congress victories in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, along with a close fight in Rajasthan, were confounded by the stunning surge of the BJP in Madhya Pradesh and unexpected turns in other states.

Surprisingly, the BJP's resounding victory in Madhya Pradesh defied projections, with only a few prescient exit polls foreseeing this outcome. It was widely assumed that the Congress had a stronghold in the state, particularly given the perceived disarray within the BJP and speculation about the future leadership. Yet, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, often discounted, emerged as an important figure behind the BJP's historic win.

This triumph echoes the BJP's earlier success in Gujarat and holds even greater significance considering the absence of a clear excuse for the Congress's loss in Madhya Pradesh. Unlike Gujarat, where the Aam Aadmi Party presence divided votes, Madhya Pradesh's bipolar nature makes the BJP's performance after 18 years in power nothing short of remarkable, prompting a call for deeper examination into the BJP's strategies.

Chhattisgarh, presumed to be a cakewalk for the Congress, turned into the party's biggest shock. The unanimous expectation of a Congress victory was shattered by the election results, casting doubt on the solid foundation of prevailing opinions regarding governance models and political strategies.

In Rajasthan, where Ashok Gehlot led a commendable government, the Congress faced an unexpected defeat despite positive perceptions about his administration. The long-standing rift between Gehlot and Sachin Pilot, unresolved until late in the election cycle, might have contributed to the setback, reflecting the party's inability to address internal conflicts.

Despite these losses in the Hindi-speaking belt, the Congress can find solace in its victory in Telangana, challenging the notion that once lost to a regional party, regaining a state is impossible.

Lessons from these elections are plentiful. The BJP's dominance in North India, bolstered by strong organizational prowess and leadership, is reminiscent of the Congress's past glory during the Nehru-Indira Gandhi era. However, the Congress's struggle to counter the BJP's momentum, especially with the Narendra Modi factor, remains evident.

Moreover, the limited impact of certain Congress schemes in different states highlights the crucial factor of trust in leadership, where Modi continues to enjoy people's confidence. The Congress's attempt to mimic BJP's Hindu-centric projection has minimal resonance, underlining the need for a distinct identity.

For the opposition, especially the INDIA alliance, this election serves as a stark reminder that unity alone won't suffice against the BJP's formidable force led by the PM Modi. Innovative approaches and a coherent alternative vision are imperative for any chance in the upcoming 2024 elections.

### OTHER OPINION

## Decisive wins

True, the Congress's consolation prize in Telangana is remarkable, beating back a regional party that had sought to become synonymous with the struggle for Statehood. But to regain support in the Hindi-speaking States in time for the Lok Sabha election next year seems an uphill struggle for the party. The overall electoral map now suggests a divergence between the BJP strongholds in the north and the west, and peninsular India where non-BJP parties are in power. But the party's performance in Telangana where it won eight seats compared to just one last time is notable. The setback to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana is not ordinary anti-incumbency, but a pointed rejection of its dynastic reign devoid of any ideological content. The BJP campaign had pivoted around Prime Minister Narendra Modi, relegating its regional leaders, including sitting Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh, to the background. This was a highly risky strategy, considering the party's defeat in Karnataka in May after it antagonised regional satraps and caste groups. In the end, the party won 115 out of 199 (one yet to be held) seats in Rajasthan, 164 of 230 in Madhya Pradesh, and 54 of 90 in Chhattisgarh.

These decisive numbers give the BJP central leadership the latitude to have its way in government formation in all three States. The lion's share of the credit for the victories belongs to Mr. Modi, reinforcing his authority ahead of 2024 when he will be seeking a third straight term. Mr. Chouhan chose not to raise his profile in the campaign, allowing the central leadership to take full responsibility in Madhya Pradesh, just as in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot fought a spirited battle, and though he lost, prevented a complete washout of the Congress. In Chhattisgarh, the party collapsed in the storm of allegations of corruption and under the weight of botched social engineering that isolated the tribal communities. All three heartland States have exposed many a chink in the Congress armour, particularly its two prongs of social justice and welfare schemes. These are essential but not sufficient tools for victory. Trust in leadership, representation of social groups, astute selection of candidates, effective campaigning, ideological clarity and, above all, organisational cohesion are required, especially to retain power.

The Hindu

# Kashmiri Weddings Are Losing Their Soul and Simplicity

Zia Darakshan

The planning of marriage celebrations is changing fast. These wedding plans are hugely loaded with fat budgets making it a bigger and an extravagant affair. Today, the concept of destination weddings, sustainable weddings, themed weddings and luxury weddings have become an integral part of any wedding plan and the demand is ever growing. All this has revolutionised the wedding industry with a never-seen-before inflow of money. This changing dynamics of the wedding industry has hugely impacted the Kashmiri weddings as well.

A glance at the Kashmiri weddings unveils a metamorphosis, making headway into lavish and elaborate affairs that extend over several days. While this trend is not entirely new, as Kashmiri weddings have historically been marked by ecstasy and celebration for generations, the dynamics of the festivities have intensified. Both pre and post preparations leading up to the final day have consistently held significant importance.

Recent Kashmiri weddings, however, have embraced a more extravagant and fanfare-driven approach in comparison to other parts of the country where weddings have become extravagant not merely to showcase opulence but with the genuine intention of enjoying the occasion.

While the contemporary Kashmiri weddings mirror a broader trend of copying celebration styles from various regions be it east, west, north, south, all amalgamated into one. It is a chaos and confusion of traditions. Unfortunately, in this attempt of adulteration of diverse elements, the unique cultural pride that once defined Kashmiri traditions is slowly breathing its last.

Let's take a trip down memory lanes to the Kashmiri weddings before the millennium where the essence of wedding was pure joy. During this era, Kashmiri weddings had a distinctive charm characterised by jubilation, celebrations, and an embrace of simplicity.

### A Rich Past

The focus was on enriching a whole hearted connection between families. Though the rituals and ceremonies were few, the pre-wedding preparations traversed years for both the bride and the groom's families. The weddings were notably simple affairs, where the bride and groom were not meant for ostentatious displays.

The weddings were more of a private affair than a public spectacle. I recall my grandmother recounting that in the very olden days, with limited means of transport and luxurious cars missing the mode of transportation was tongas. When the bride was brought from her home to her husband's home, the tonga was covered on all sides to prevent any glimpse of the bride. In royal families, the bride would be conveyed in a Zampaan, resembling a doli, which would land directly in her designated room for rest.

As for other wedding preparations, the Wazwan, an indispensable central element, without which a Kashmiri wedding is unimaginable. It used to be a year-long process for families to scrupulously decide on the rates and acquire the finest quality of rice, mustard oil, spices, and condiments like shallots (Pran) and garlic required in the preparation of the final feast of the celebration, the wazwan. The planning involved ascertaining as when to purchase these essentials, followed by storing them and cleaning them a month before the weddings. As the wedding dates approached, women from the neighbourhood, relatives, and friends would gather to participate in the cleaning process, singing songs on the occasion. This ritual, known as "Tamul Zhtau" (winnowing and handpicking of rice) was a vibrant tradition that

persisted for a significant period, though it has gradually deadened with the flow of time. In Pandit families there used to be at least 12 pre-wedding ceremonies like Gandun, Kasamdry, Wuri, Livun, Wanvun etc.

Another noteworthy ceremony involved a punctilious process where relatives gathered to inscribe the names of invited guests for the upcoming weddings. This ritual held crucial importance as any oversight or mistake in addressing a guest could potentially lead to offense, resulting in a boycott of the wedding. Relatives were quick to scrutinise and demand immediate rectification for any missteps.

I would like to share a personal incident from my family. On the occasion of my cousin's wedding, a designated day was dedicated to writing the names on the wedding cards. Unfortunately, a critical mistake occurred when one of my uncles wrote "Jinab xyz" on an invitation card, but forgot to include the appropriate title, causing an uproar when the family received it. The announcement of a boycott reverberated. In a moment of crisis,

casions were love and affection. Consequently, these collective efforts provided relief to the families, acting as a unified rescue team during wedding arrangements. Moreover, in times of financial need, these family networks willingly extended support to the Gobur Maul (father of groom) or Kauri Maul (father of bride).

As we delve into the bride's Vardan (trousseau), it reveals a tradition treated as a treasure draped in secrecy. It took years for the bride's family to collect the bride's trousseau that included her personal clothing and accessories and jewellery.

At the heart of this clandestine operation was the family tailor, a figure entrusted with the task of fashioning the bridal attire. The family tailor held a unique position, being the sole individual permitted to catch a glimpse of the bride before the grand day. Invited into the inner sanctum of the bride's home, the family tailor worked diligently, stitching the bridal garments in a covert manner. This veil of secrecy was thoroughly maintained to ensure that no prying eyes could catch a glimpse of the bridal ensemble.



“The essence of weddings has transitioned into a showbiz-like festivity, saturated with artificiality. Today, the sanctity and privacy that were integral to these occasions have been overshadowed, replaced by a proliferation of pseudo-customs. This shift is particularly challenging for middle-class individuals who find it hard to keep pace with the influx of seemingly superfluous customs

my late father played a pivotal role. He promptly contacted the offended family, explaining that the mistake wasn't made by an educated family member, but rather by a local scribe hired for the task. Apologies were tendered, and my father personally delivered a corrected card. The new card began with the heading, Dr./Prof. xyz, Head of the Department, Kashmir University,

accompanied with a sincere apology. This strategic move worked like magic; the boycott was called off, and the family enthusiastically participated in the wedding festivities, leaving no further grudges. Such was the time and its simplicity.

There were few bakery outlets back then, and even if they were, Kashmiri baker "Kandur" held a prominent position for the special events of the families. The provision of kulchas and various breads was not only for the wedding ceremony, but also for the pre and post-wedding events.

As the tradition went, all the guests would stay at the marriage home before and after the wedding, continuing until the wedding celebrations reached their conclusion. It was during these times that the bride would make her final transition to settling with her in-laws. Parallel rituals followed at the bride's home, where guests remained until the bride was fully settled in her new home. These occasions where both near and extended family members came together to provide comfort, dividing the workload and supporting the bride's or groom's parents, known as "gobur" or "kauri maul," through active participation. The foundational elements in these oc-

ble before the much-anticipated wedding day.

Then, there were singing sessions at special occasions during the ceremony, like Wanvun, bacha nagma, and sufi chants. But, let me tell you, Wanvun was like the superstar of the show! It was a big deal, especially when the groom showed up, and this magical tent was where the groom, his squad, and all the friends and family gathered.

And guess what? All of this fun happened right within the four walls of the house or in the neighbour's backyard if the space wasn't big enough for all the guests.

Broadly, wedding ceremonies in that era held a purpose beyond the union of two individuals. They were a sacred bond meant to unite not just two souls but two families. These unions proved a powerful source of togetherness, love and care that would set an example for others to follow.

### A Woeful Present

Times have undergone a profound transformation, particularly in the past few years, altering the very dynamics of marriages. While the preparations may retain a semblance of familiarity, the core elements of love, affection, and care seem to have dwindled. A noticeable shift has occurred, with people appearing more like ruthless automatons, devoid of genuine warmth for others. What were once cherished rituals, deeply rooted in our culture, have regrettably transformed into instruments of rivalry and ostentation. Indeed, when the customs had been instituted by our ancestors, they surely must not have antici-

pated such a degeneration of their society where vanity comes above everything else.

The essence of weddings has transitioned into a showbiz-like festivity, saturated with artificiality. Today, the sanctity and privacy that were integral to these occasions have been overshadowed, replaced by a proliferation of pseudo-customs. This shift is particularly challenging for middle-class individuals who find it hard to keep pace with the influx of seemingly superfluous customs. People take out loans that they don't have the ability to repay. So it pushes them further down the class pyramid just to meet the demands of contemporary weddings.

The weddings seem like a manicured series of events that nurtures several sectors like catering, photography, drones, decoration, mehendi, choreography, event managers, DJs, flowers, designer clothes and jewellery.

Today, one wouldn't even mind being invited at the last minute of the wedding ceremony, and that too through a quick message on phone or through a whatsapp card.

The surprising part? Not a single person will raise an eyebrow. So no objections, no boycott threats either.

The cutting of a cake, a tradition rooted in English and Celtic cultures, has evolved into a mandatory ritual for the bride and groom, observed religiously during various stages of the wedding. The once simple Nikah ceremony has undergone a significant transformation, now adorned with grandiosity. Every moment is rigorously captured, with cameras and lights turning the ceremony into a spectacle. The private ritual of Namaaz and reading the Quran, a deeply personal affair, is now documented extensively, extending to the bride and bridegrooms room, where every detail is videographed during the Nikah ceremony.

The couple, amidst the ceremony, finds themselves immersed in a constant photo session, with lights and cameras shadowing their every move. There is little respite as the camera person follows them like paparazzi, turning a private event into a media-covered affair. Unnecessary video interviews, seemingly borrowed from Bollywood, add an element of drama. However, the climax is reached when the wedding videos are made public property i.e. uploaded on social media, leaving no detail undisclosed all presented in black and white.

In this ongoing drama, the crucial characters, the groom and the bride often fade into the background, losing significance. Amidst the lively band, baja, and baraat, the bride finally arrives at her husband's house. Unfortunately, there is no one at home to welcome the bedecked couple; the relatives, friends, and neighbours have already left after the sumptuous wedding meal and won't be seen again until the next wedding or another celebration hosted by the family.

No doubt, contemporary Kashmiri weddings have evolved into a flourishing industry, but when juxtaposed against the backdrop of traditional ceremonies, they often fall short of preserving and enhancing our rich cultural heritage and values.

To conclude, it is heartening to see the wedding industry flourishing at the back of luxurious wedding celebrations, adding to the overall growth of the economic wheel. But at the same time, this kind of extreme spendthrift has been draining down the household budgets. In most cases, this modern era wedding planning is pushing them into a debt trap. Since it's all voluntary expenditure and no force is making it mandatory spending, it's only up to us to save ourselves from falling into this kind of debt trap. Only you can save the simplicity of wedding ceremonies.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

# MENTAL HEALTH IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Iraq Ashraf

In today's world, our phones and computers are like our trusted sidekicks. They help us connect with friends, learn new things, and have fun. But sometimes, spending too much time with screens can make our minds feel a bit tired and stressed.

## FEELING OVERWHELMED? YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

Have you ever felt like there's just too much going on in the digital world? It happens to all of us! It's like having too many TV shows on at once, and it can be hard to focus.

## TRICKY SOCIAL MEDIA

You know those pictures and videos you see on social media? They can make it seem like everyone else has a perfect life. But guess what? People usually only show the good stuff online. It's like seeing the best parts of a movie, not the behind-the-scenes work.

## FINDING BALANCE

Just like with toys, it's important to take breaks from screens. Spending time outside, reading a book, or doing something you love without screens can help your mind feel refreshed.

## MINDFULNESS MAGIC

Mindfulness is like a superhero power for your mind! It means paying full attention to what you're right now. Taking a deep breath and noticing the world around you can help you feel calm and centered.

## FRIENDS CAN HELP

Talking to friends about how you feel is like sharing a secret code. They might feel the same way! You can support each other and come up



**TECHNOLOGY HAS THE POWER TO BOTH ENHANCE AND HINDER OUR WELL-BEING DEPENDING ON HOW WE ENGAGE WITH IT.** Finding a balance between the virtual and real world is crucial for maintaining mental health in this digital era. Remember, seeking professional help when needed is a sign of strength, not weakness

with fun ways to spend time together away from screens.

**WHEN YOU NEED EXTRA HELP**  
Sometimes, talking to someone

who knows a lot about feelings can be really helpful. They're called

counselors or therapists. In the digital age, you can even talk to

them online!

## TAKE TECH BREAK

Just like you give your toys a break, your mind needs a break from screens too. Try doing activities like drawing, dancing, or going for a walk. It's like giving your mind a little vacation! Remember, it's okay to take care of your mind, just like you take care of your body. The digital world is fun, but it's important to find a balance that keeps your mind happy and healthy.

In conclusion, as we navigate the complexities of the digital age, it's imperative that we prioritize mental health in our online experiences. Technology has the power to both enhance and hinder our well-being depending on how we engage with it. Finding a balance between the virtual and real world is crucial for maintaining mental health in this digital era. Remember, seeking professional help when needed is a sign of strength, not weakness. The resources available online, from mental health apps to virtual therapy sessions, can be invaluable tools in our journey towards emotional wellbeing. Let's not forget to practice digital mindfulness, setting boundaries, and cultivating healthy online habits. Ultimately it's our collective responsibility to foster a culture that values mental health in the digital age. By supporting one another and advocating for positive change in the way we interact with technology, we can create a more compassionate and empathetic online community that uplifts rather than undermines our mental well-being.

*You're special, and your mind is too!*

*The author is from the Department of Functional English, Government Women's College, Maulana Azad Road, Srinagar*

# Loneliness Beyond Friendship

## What Brain And Biology Tell Us

Alexander Danvers

Humans are a deeply social animal. According to Edward O. Wilson, one of the most celebrated evolutionary biologists of modern time, humans can actually be characterized as "eusocial." Eusocial species are "true" social species, or those that are social at their baseline state. Wilson gained fame at first studying ant colonies, and the way that coordinated action of ants allows the colonies to flourish. An ant alone can't accomplish much. In colonies, they have grown to have an estimated 100 trillion individuals. A similar logic might be applied to humans: a single person alone is limited. People working together can flourish in any environment on the earth, and have grown to over 8 billion individuals.

## WILSON LAID OUT SEVERAL CRITERIA FOR "TRUE SOCIAL" SPECIES:

- ▶ They live in multigenerational communities
- ▶ They have a division of labor (different individuals do different work for the community)
- ▶ They are ready to sacrifice at least some of their personal interests to those of the group

In this account of human nature, people are successful because they are much more cooperative than other animals. We have evolved to live and work in groups, and these groups can accomplish more through coordination than people can accomplish alone.

I recently published an article on loneliness, and I've ended up having quite a few conversations with people about it. My colleagues and I found that feelings of loneliness are roughly stable—and low—for people who spend anywhere from 25% to 75% of their day alone. It's sort

of counter-intuitive to think that someone who spends 75% of their time alone is no more likely to feel lonely than someone who spends 75% of their time around other people. But a larger message that comes from this analysis is that loneliness is really about perceptions. Lonely people want a kind of connection that they aren't getting, not just to be "around people" more.

So what do we really need out of other people? One first thought is close friendship or intimacy. Having people you care about and trust feels good. But rereading a paper by one of my co-authors this weekend, I'd like to suggest that people want more than just a few deep friendships. People also want to be part of a community.

Jim Coan and Dave Sbarra (who worked on the loneliness paper with me) wrote an article outlining neuroscience and physiological evidence in favor of social baseline theory. This theory takes seriously Wilson's claim that we are a "true social" species, and says that humans have evolved to expect to live in community with others. According to social baseline theory, people don't just want the joy that deep friendships can bring. We need people to help us solve problems and meet goals all up and down Maslow's hierarchy (or the evolutionary version).

- ▶ Being part of a community provides security, as friends and family typically show up to help you if you're in danger—or if you need to recover from injury.
- ▶ Being part of a community provides information, as social networks (in person, not just online!) share information that's important for navigating the wider world.
- ▶ Being part of a community provides recognition for ac-



complishments, which often adds feelings of meaning to what you've done.

- ▶ Being part of a community means you have a group of people who can become your close friends or romantic partners. Dating apps aside (and there are no friendship apps!), it's easiest to start deeper relationships with

people who already know you—or know people you know.

- ▶ Being part of a community means you have help with child care, if you choose to have children. Raising children would be much more difficult if parents didn't get breathers from family, babysitters, and other parents

hosting playdates.

## COAN AND SBARRA EMPHASIZE TWO OTHER MECHANISMS: RISK DISTRIBUTION AND LOAD SHARING.

- ▶ Risk distribution means that, if everyone in the group is on the lookout for threats—and then they communicate about those threats to everyone else in the group—then

it's less likely that a threat will slip by unnoticed. When it comes to vigilance, dozens of heads are better than one.

- ▶ Load sharing means working together towards shared goals. Think of an old-fashioned barn raising: everyone in a community coming together to build or rebuild one person's barn. It's much faster for everyone to work together on a barn, and then reciprocate when the next person's turn comes up, than to have everyone try to put up their barns alone.

At the level of neuroscience, Coan and Sbarra review evidence showing that the brain is closer to an "at rest" state when people know others are around and available than when people perceive themselves as cut off from others. For example, the brain has a weaker threat response when the person perceiving the threat (in the brain scanner) is holding someone else's hand.

From this perspective, loneliness isn't just about not having satisfying, deep conversations. It's about not feeling like you have the kinds of social resources our species has evolved to rely on.

Being lonely likely reflects a feeling that the kinds of support and opportunities you want—support managing risks, solving problems together, finding out important information, and opportunities for recognition and forming deeper connections—are not available. Reducing loneliness, therefore, is likely to mean thinking beyond just making a few friendships deeper and more meaningful. It's also likely to involve becoming more closely connected to a community of people who have your back.

*The article was originally published by Psychology Today*

# 100's More killed As Israel Orders Gazans To Flee

## Agencies

GAZA - Israel ordered Palestinians to leave parts of the main southern city in the Gaza Strip on Monday even as its bombs rained down on areas where it had told them to go.

Intense air raids overnight meanwhile killed more than 100 Palestinians raising the death toll in Gaza since Saturday to more than 800.

Israel's military posted a map on social media platform X on Monday morning with around a quarter of the city of Khan Younis marked off in yellow as



territory that must be evacuated at once. Three arrows pointed south and west, telling people to head

towards the Mediterranean coast and towards Rafah, near the Egyptian border.

Melanie Ward, chief executive of the humanitarian organization Medical Aid for Palestinians, said, "I cannot overstate the fear, panic and confusion that these Israeli maps are causing civilians in Gaza, including my own staff. People cannot run from place to place to try to escape Israel's bombs, nor does international law expect them to."

Desperate Gazans in Khan Younis packed their belongings and headed towards Rafah.

Most were on foot, walking past ruined buildings in a solemn and silent procession.

But Rafah itself was coming under Israeli fire. The head of the United Nations agency in Gaza (UNWRA), Thomas White, said people there were themselves being forced to flee.

"People are pleading for advice on where to find safety. We have nothing to tell them," he said on X.

Bombing at one site in Rafah overnight had torn a crater the size of a basketball court out of the earth. A dead toddler's bare feet and black trousers poked out

from under a pile of rubble. Men struggled with their bare hands to move a chunk of the concrete that had crushed the child.

Later they chanted "God is greatest" and wept as they marched through the ruins carrying the body in a bundle, and that of another small child body wrapped in a blanket.

"We were asleep and safe, they told us it was a safe area, Rafah and all," said Salah al-Arja, owner of one of the houses destroyed at the site.

"There were children, women and martyrs," he said. "They tell you it is a safe area, but

there is no safe area in all of the Gaza Strip, it is all lies and manipulations."

Gaza's health ministry said on Monday that at least 15,899 Palestinians, 70% of them women and children, have now been killed in ferocious Israeli air and artillery bombings on the enclave since Oct. 7. Thousands more are missing and feared buried under rubble.

As many as 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have fled their homes in the Israeli bombing campaign that has reduced much of the crowded coastal strip to a desolate wasteland.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Is It Safe? Why Housing

experts said that more than energy conservation the fallacies in housing infrastructure in the valley are more so a concern in terms of peoples' vulnerability to disasters such as earthquakes and floods.

Experts said that despite availability of some policy guidelines about the housing infrastructure, Kashmir's picturesque landscape conceals "a troubling reality" because of lack of infrastructural preparedness for mitigation of disasters given that seismic and hydrological hazards continue to threaten this region.

In terms of susceptibility to earthquakes, Kashmir and other Himalayan regions fall under Zone V (as per the seismic zoning map of Bureau of Indian Standards) which is a high-risk earthquake zone. The valley is also prone to floods which are expected to increase in frequency in the Himalayan region including Kashmir as per various climate change projections made by Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change. The region has witnessed catastrophic earthquakes and floods in the past, underscoring the urgent need for earthquake-resistant and flood-resistant structures. However, experts say, a significant portion of housing stock remains vulnerable to disasters.

Saleem Beg, regional head of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in Jammu and Kashmir, said that the infrastructure that has come up in the past three-four decades across Kashmir is neither in tandem with the safety nor services requirements. Sooner or later, Beg said, there has to be a building audit to fix these problems.

"The instructions should flow from the government -- both for fixing the existing problems and ideal planning for the new constructions. For example, the concept of hollow bricks was introduced here, but it was never taken forward at policy level. There has to be some consistency," Beg said.

"Earlier, we didn't have many safety concerns as our infrastructure was organically designed. The masons and carpenters had an unstated art to build homes. Such kind of infrastructure-building was abandoned in the 1980s," Beg said.

The houses and government buildings in those years, he said, would have adequate exposure to sun, less windows and double-glazed windows. "The architecture would also provide earthquake resistance. The Dajji Dewari system of construction (braced timber frames filled with brickwork) was one such example," he said.

"Architecture changes everywhere and we have also witnessed the change here. But, it is high time to revisit that architecture, of course with some modifications," Beg said and added: "It is very important considering the challenges we face."

According to Beg, most houses in Kashmir did not have required mix of iron and concrete. "Ideally, we should think of retro-fitting measures for such structures to make them secure. Earthquakes don't kill, the buildings do. Most people died in the 2005 earthquake because they were trapped in the government buildings," he said and added that most of the residential areas were inundated during the 2014 floods and other flooding events in recent years because they were built in flood prone areas without considering flood preparedness while creating infrastructure in those areas.

Beg said that it is a well-known fact that Kashmir is prone to floods and a large population of Srinagar city lives in the flood plains. "Such infrastructure is not safe for obvious reasons. Even some government buildings are in flood plains," he said.

According to Beg and other experts, rapid urbanization and unplanned development exacerbate the vulnerability, with informal settlements mushrooming in hazard-prone areas.

Losing heat, wasting energy! According to Sameer Maithel -- a mechanical engineer who works on building design, building materials and renewable energy and has worked in Kashmir for several years -- use of insulation on walls and roof is crucial for reducing loss of heat during the

winter months in Kashmir. Maithel is the director of New Delhi-based research and advisory firm Greentech Knowledge Solutions.

He said that people in Kashmir spend more time inside their houses (particularly in winters), which calls for a thermally comfortable environment and added that "the indoor temperatures should be comfortable with minimum use of air-conditioning or heating." This, he said, would not only reduce dependence on electricity, but would also reduce the cost of electricity.

"Houses or buildings should be designed in a way that they have windows or sun-space, located strategically to allow solar energy to come inside the building during winter. Windows have to be double-glazed to provide insulation. They should be tightly fitted so that cold air does not come inside," Maithel said.

Ifthikhar Drabu, a civil engineer from Kashmir who has over 35 years of experience and has worked as a consultant for several national and international organisations said that a significant amount of energy is wasted in the valley in all consumption areas, including heating, cooking and lighting. According to Drabu, cooking, cooling and heating are areas where consumption can potentially be reduced by more than 70 per cent.

While talking to Kashmir Observer, Drabu said that heating of rooms and water using boilers and geysers -- and cooking on electric heaters comprised around 75 per cent of domestic electricity consumption. "We can reduce the energy consumption with proper usage and retro-fitting, including insulation of walls and proper window construction with thick double glazing," Drabu said.

He said that the usage of hybrid sources, including solar power and traditional electricity, can result in huge savings. Solar energy, according to Drabu, is one source that remained under-utilised as homes in Kashmir were not designed to capture and capitalise on solar energy.

This form of energy -- used minimally by residents for heating water -- must be popularised in Kashmir because of intensive consumption during the winter season, Drabu observed. "We can make good use of it even in winter, though solar energy needs to be augmented with electric power," he said.

Industrial use of electricity is minimal in Kashmir, with electric energy primarily consumed domestically for heating, cooling, cooking, lighting, etc. Heating, as Drabu explained, accounts for a considerable percentage of electricity consumption in the region, known for its long and harsh winters spanning over five months.

Drabu also suggested retro-fitting in institutional buildings like hospitals, which he said can help conserve energy significantly. "I hope steps have been taken in that direction. But, if it is yet to be done, it should be initiated as soon as possible. Huge savings can be achieved in initial capital cost of heating and in running costs. We can recover the costs of retro-fitting in three-four years," he said.

An engineer who has worked in the power development Department for over three decades, but preferred to stay anonymous, said that using energy-saving appliances in homes is another parameter which people in Kashmir need to fulfil in order to make judicious use of energy. He said that the choice of devices can play a big role in saving energy as a lot of energy can be saved using energy-friendly devices like water heating by geysers which have a thermostat and 3-star or 5-star-efficient appliances for conservation of energy in the case of refrigerators, air-conditioners, washing machines, etc.

He said that around 50-60 per cent electricity is misused across Kashmir because people don't follow the norms of electricity consumption as most people usually keep their heating devices switched on for hours, even if they need to use the device to heat water for two hours.

Amidst the climate crisis engulfing the world, the global community at the individual, community and government levels is awakening to the urgency of the energy crisis, judicious use of energy and the cleaner means of

energy production. Initiatives promoting renewable energy sources, stringent energy efficiency standards, and educational campaigns on responsible energy usage are increasingly gaining traction around the world.

In India, the central government and the state governments across the country are also urging the people to conserve energy by opting for its judicious use. "Electricity is life: Conserve it," says a slogan on the website of Jammu and Kashmir's power development department (PDD). But, people across the valley have been complaining that electricity is not being made available to them as per their needs which is a serious concern for them. Over the past few weeks some videos ridiculing the inaccessibility to electricity in the valley amid winter cold went viral. "Electricity in our homes comes and goes like a miss-call," said an elderly man in a video that went viral on social media. Most of the comments posted on social media by people these days in the valley lament the lack of electricity.

However, experts say that whether it is about resolving the issues related to energy or safety, all stakeholders need to make concerted efforts to fix them. "The vulnerability of Kashmir's housing infrastructure to earthquakes and floods underscores the urgent need for proactive measures," said Beg.

He added that building resilience against natural disasters requires concerted efforts to overhaul housing practices, empower communities, and integrate disaster-resistant infrastructure into the fabric of the valley's development. "Whether it is dealing with natural disasters or dealing with any other challenge, the solutions are only in collective action," Beg said.

### Mercury Hovers

recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius while the Kokernag town in south Kashmir registered a minimum of 0.8 degrees Celsius.

Last Thursday saw an end to the three-week-long dry spell in Kashmir as the middle and higher reaches of the Valley witnessed snowfall while rains lashed the plains.

The meteorological office said the skies would remain partly to generally cloudy but the weather would be dry till December 10.

### 3 Held During

security forces are also engaged in combing operations in Gursai, Jabranwali Gali, Saruti, and Ari villages near the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar sector of Poonch district.

The operations were launched following inputs about suspicious movement in the forest areas, officials said.

Searches were intensified in the twin border districts following a fierce gunfight in Dharmal belt's Bajimaal area of Rajouri on November 22 and 23 that left five soldiers including two captains dead.

Two Pakistani terrorists affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit were killed in the 36-hour long encounter.

In one such operation on December 2, security forces detected a 5 kg Improvised Explosive Device in Topa Hillkot area of Darhal. It was later destroyed.

### 6 Kashmiris Killed

Administration for transportation of last remains of all the deceased to their native villages.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and several mainstream politicians have expressed grief over the loss of lives in the tragic road accident.

"Anguished by the tragic road accident in Shimla, in which six Kulgam residents have lost their lives. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. Directed DC Kulgam to provide all necessary assistance to the next of kin of each deceased," LG Sinha posted on X, previously known as Twitter.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) also expressed deep sorrow over the death of Kashmiri labourers in road accident and urged the authorities to extend all possible help to injured and compensation to the victim families.

"JKNC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and VP @OmarAbdullah express deep

sorrow over the tragic accident in Shimla claiming the lives of 6 individuals. They urge the authorities to extend all possible assistance to the injured and ensure fair compensation for the affected families. Additionally, they extend wishes for a swift recovery to the injured and offer strength to those grieving the loss of their loved ones," NC posted on X.

Expressing shock and grief over the deaths of Kashmiri labourers, CPI (M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami demanded adequate compensation to the victim families and free of cost treatment to the injured.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party leader Altaf Bukhari also consoled the demise of labourers.

"Pained over the tragic death of six persons from Kulgam district and injuries to as many in a road mishap in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla. Extend my heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families and pray for a swift recovery of the injured persons," he said on X.

"I in the meantime urge the authorities to ensure best possible treatment for the persons injured in the incident," Bukhari posted on X.

### Ladakh Leaders

past, protested at different locations, including New Delhi, Jammu and Ladakh, highlighting the four demands.

The delegation had its last meeting with a high-powered committee of the Centre in June.

### SC Likely To

working day for the Supreme Court before winter vacations, it is likely that the judgement would come out soon, Live Law reported.

In the course of 16-day marathon hearing, the top court heard arguments from senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Gopal Subramaniam, Rajeev Dhavan, Zaffar Shah, Dushyant Dave and others representing the petitioners. The Apex Court also heard Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior advocates Harish Salve, Rakesh Dwivedi, V Giri and others on behalf of the Centre and the intervenors defending the abrogation of Article 370.

The lawyers dwelt on various issues including the constitutional validity of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate the provision, the validity of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which split the erstwhile state into two Union Territories, challenges to imposition of Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir on June 20, 2018 and imposition of President's rule in the erstwhile state on December 19, 2018 and its extension on July 3, 2019.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that divided the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

### IGP Calls For

the existing security framework, a police spokesperson said Monday.

He said that the discussions covered a wide range of topics including prevailing security scenario, the existing security grid, other crime works, and operational strategies to counter the challenges posed by the inimical elements, and sought inputs from officers to formulate comprehensive strategies.

"These meetings provided a platform to assess the current security landscape and devise comprehensive strategies to address potential challenges," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the IGP Kashmir emphasised on some crucial developments including deployment of additional security personnel in critical areas, implementation of advanced surveillance technologies, community engagement programs to foster trust and cooperation and training programs for law enforcement personnel to enhance response capabilities.

Birdi, he said, highlighted the vision of creating a prosperous and harmonious environment for everyone.

Highlighting the approach to combat the drug menace, Birdi said it is imperative that we unite our efforts to eradicate this menace from society. "Law enforcement agencies are

committed to intensifying operations and adopting advanced techniques to dismantle drug networks," he said.

While briefing the officers, the spokesperson said, IGP advised them for finalization of the pending cases and public complaints to give relief to the general public and directed for speedy disposal of cases assigned to them for conducting the investigation.

"The IGP Kashmir expressed confidence in the collective efforts of the community and law enforcement agencies to maintain a secure and peaceful environment. Besides, he exhorted upon to take stringent action against any person or organization supporting anti-national activities," he said.

SSP Baramulla Amod Ashok Nagpure, Addl. SP Baramulla Ms. Divya D and other senior officers of the district attended the meeting. Similarly in Sopore, SP Sopore Shabir Nawab and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The visit underscores the commitment of the police to proactively address security concerns and ensure the well-being of the citizens, the spokesperson added.

### LG Makes Strong

Ajatshatru Singh, former Minister and President, Rajput Charitable Trust, J&K extended his gratitude to the LG for his encouraging presence and inspiring thoughts, affirming the faculty and students. Sinha also inaugurated Roshni lab dedicated to empowerment of visually impaired students.

He also felicitated the winners of the NHPC painting competition and the girls belonging to rural areas who successfully completed basic course on computer education under the 'Vridhii' project.

### After 13 Yrs Akhtar

the expression of regret and that he acknowledges that those allegations were not correct."

Naem Akhtar then repeated: "I regret my presence and what Nizamuddin Bhat said."

With Naem Akhtar's guarded statement in which he expressed the "regret", Omar Abdullah said there was no need to press the case any further.

"That is fine," Omar responded. Both Omar and Naem made the statements in open court.

The development came minutes after Omar and his party leader Nasir Aslam Wani recorded statements as witnesses during the pre-trial stage of the case. Whether or not the court closed the defamation suit was not immediately known.

The defamation case was filed by the government through then the Public Prosecutor before Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, seeking action against the PDP leaders under Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (Punishment for defamation) of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) for levelling "false and baseless" accusations, at a presser on 25 August 2010, against Omar that he received kickbacks to the tune of Rs 500 crore in the allotment of Rattle power project.

The PDP leaders have been also accused to have made a defamatory allegation regarding exorbitant expenditure incurred on the construction of official residence of the Chief Minister and pilferage of certain priceless antiques from the State Toshakhana.

The then PDP duo had also accused Omar Abdullah-led government of seeking huge money from a famous doctor for establishing a hospital in Srinagar city. Both Omar and Nasir Aslam informed the Principal District and Session's Judge Jawad Ahmad that Nizamuddin Bhat, who since parted ways with PDP, has already tendered an apology in the matter in the floor of erstwhile J&A Assembly while the doctor whose name was mentioned during the presser has also made a similar statement during a matter before the High Court.

The trial court had taken cognizance of the complaint on 29 September 2010 and issued process besides bailable warrant in the amount of Rs.20,000 each for securing presence of the PDP leader Naem Akhtar.

Feeling aggrieved of the proceedings, Akhtar had moved the High Court, seeks quashment of the case. He had prayed the high court to quash

the proceedings in exercise of extraordinary and inherent power 561-A CrPC (equivalent to Section 482 of the Central CrPC), to prevent abuse of the process of court and to otherwise secure the ends of justice. However high court had dismissed his plea.

### Court Sentences

in the bank account maintained by the accused," Ahtzaz Ahmed, 2nd Additional Munsiff (JMJC) at Srinagar, said.

Hence, the court convicted the accused--Mohammad Fayaz Shah of Fatehkadal Srinagar and sentenced him to simple imprisonment at Central Jail Srinagar for 2 years.

"In addition to the sentence imposed, a fine of RS 6 Lacs is imposed on the accused which shall be payable towards the complainant in whole," the court said, adding, "As such, the District Magistrate, Srinagar shall identify the movable or immovable properties belonging to the accused and the same shall be attached and sold under the procedure established by law."

The sale proceeds to the tune of Rs 6 lacs shall be thereafter paid to the complainant to compensate him, the court.

### HCI Invites Applications

be in possession of Machine-Readable International Passport issued on or before the closing date of application and valid at least upto 31st Jan, 2025," the spokesperson added.

### Retired Principal

guilty of cheating the complainant, a spokesperson of the agency said.

The official said the case stems its origin from a written complaint lodged by Ghulam Sadeeq of Rajouri alleging that accused who was working as a principal in a private institute in the district took an amount of Rs 1.54 lakh from him after assuring him to provide a government job to his daughter in lieu of his deceased wife on compassionate grounds.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was conducted and the allegations were prima facie substantiated, leading to the registration of formal case for indepth investigation, the spokesperson said.

### Fire Damages

house of Ghulam Ahmad Najar at Kanlibagh in Baramulla and spread to nearby house and the mill.

Army personnel from a nearby camp helped the locals and police personnel in putting out the fire.

"The prompt action prevented the fire from spreading to other houses in the vicinity," the official said.

### Two IAF pilots

sustained fatal injuries. No damage to any civil life or property has been reported," it added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condoled the deaths of the two pilots.

"Anguished by this accident near Hyderabad. It is deeply saddening that two pilots have lost their lives. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," he said on X.

The Pilatus PC-7 Mk II is a trainer aircraft designed and manufactured in Switzerland by Pilatus Aircraft.

The aircraft is capable of undertaking all basic training, including aerobatics, instrument, tactical and night flying.

In May 2012, India sealed a deal to procure 75 Pilatus PC-7 MkII aircraft for the IAF.

The IAF pilots undergo basic training on Pilatus PC-7 Mk II planes and Kiran Mk-1/1A jets.

The IAF is now procuring an indigenously-developed trainer aircraft.

In March, the defence ministry sealed a deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft at a cost of more than Rs 6,800 crore for the IAF.

The HTT-40 contains approximately 56 per cent indigenous content, which will progressively go beyond 60 per cent through indigenisation of major components and subsystems.

The aircraft is expected to meet the shortage of basic trainer aircraft of the IAF for training newly-inducted pilots.

In June, a Kiran trainer aircraft of the IAF crashed at Chamarajanagar in Karnataka, but the two pilots made it out safely after ejecting from the plane before the crash.

## HME Dept Refutes News Reports On AIDS Surge In J&K

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department (H&ME), has rebutted the news carried out by some sections of media regarding rising trend in AIDS cases in Jammu and Kashmir due to tourism and influx of migrant labourers.

As per a communication received in this reference, the H&ME department has termed the news as baseless and manipulated.

"Prevalence of HIV in Jammu and Kashmir is lowest in the country with 0.06% as per India HIV Estimates 2021 which is very much below the National prevalence of 0.21% and this has been possible due to the efforts of J&K AIDS Control Society, JKACS provides a comprehensive package of Care, support and treatment to patients", clarifies the department.

The 6305 HIV positive cases mentioned in the news are a total since inception of JKACS (1998). Till date, 1,452 HIV positive patients have died while 3583 patients are alive on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) while 521 patients have left follow up treatment.

No doubt, J&K is a tourist destination which receives huge influx of different categories of people including truck drivers, migrant labourers and high concentration of forces, which may be few of the contributing factors for risk of HIV transmission, but not the only reason,

there are many other reasons for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The increase in number of HIV cases which is being projected by some unverified news items as rising trend is in fact due to the greater coverage, testing, counselling and reduction in the stigma and discrimination due to the dedicated efforts and awareness by J&K AIDS Control Society. These cases are actually the detection of hidden "At-risk populations" in different areas of J&K.

Due to strenuous efforts towards case detection, the testing capacities in the entire UT of J&K have been increased manifold as a result of which the number of tests conducted among the general population has increased three times between the financial years 2020-21 and 2022-23. During the current financial year, more than seven lakh fifty thousand tests are expected to be conducted for HIV screening against six lakh tests conducted last year.

Similarly, every effort is being made to ensure that expecting mothers undergo the compulsory HIV screening during their ANC (anti-natal checkup) in the first trimester. Furthermore, High Risk Groups (HRGs) like Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Truckers, Migrant Labourers (MLs) are also being screened for HIV through increased community outreach.

## Sonamarg To Host Ice Skating This Winter

Tourism Stakeholders Overjoyed



Agencies

**GANDERBAL:** For the first time, ice skating is set to commence in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, specifically in Sonamarg - The Golden Meadow.

Sonamarg, renowned for its scenic beauty, possesses significant tourism potential. In light of the consistent influx of tourists to this place in recent years, the government has initiated an ice skating course this winter.

A local resident Sheikh Showkat expressed optimism, saying this endeavour by the administration presents a valuable opportunity for the tourism sector during the winter season.

"Previously, Sonamarg remained closed, but with this initiative, tourism and the market are expected to expand. The Yatri Nivas ground for ice skating is also close to the market, which will provide an economic advantage for tourists staying in proximity," Showkat said.

Another local, Bashir Ahmed, said the news of ice skating starting this winter has filled the people of Sonamarg with joy. "This initiative will create employment opportunities for the youth through learning, guiding, forming ice skating clubs, and collaborating with

the tourism department," he said, adding that the move is a significant opportunity for tourists, locals and the market.

Speaking to a local news agency KNO, a sportsperson Tabia Jan said it is an "excellent opportunity" for youth to learn a new game, acquire new skills, unleash their potential, excel in sports and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

With winter tourism and winter games, Sonamarg is poised to establish itself as a must-visit destination on the global tourism map. The success story of the tourism boom in "The Golden Meadow" stands as a testament to the region's natural beauty and the collaborative efforts of stakeholders promoting and sustaining tourism in this picturesque part of the Ganderbal district.

Chief Executive Officer of Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), Ilyas Ahmed, said, "We have devised a basic programme using our resources, and we aim to involve more locals in ice skating."

"As this is happening for the first time, we plan to include approximately 15 participants in the basic course. Additionally, we intend to expand this initiative and involve local stakeholders in it."



BJP ACTIVISTS IN SRINAGAR on Tuesday celebrated party's win in three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. KOPHOTO, ABID BHAT

## SC Seeks Details On Construction Of New HC Complex At Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday sought to know from the central government the progress made towards constructing a new high court complex at Jammu.

On June 28, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud had laid the foundation stone of a new high court complex in the city.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia passed the order while hearing a petition highlighting the vacancies at the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) benches in Jammu and Srinagar and pendency of cases there.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing before the Centre, placed before the bench an updated note indicating the position regarding vacancies and pendency of cases in CAT benches in the two cities.

On the issue of infrastructure for the tribunal, Bhati said the counsel representing the state may have some instructions.

The state's counsel said some progress has been made so far as Srinagar was concerned but in Jammu, the identification of land was an issue.

"My instructions are that there is now an agreement that once the existing high court

building is vacated, the tribunal, Jammu bench, will shift there," Bhati told the bench.

Justice Kaul told Bhati the construction of the proposed building had not even started yet.

"Nothing is being constructed. It has not even started. Only thing which has happened is we had all joined there for laying of the foundation stone. That is all that has happened there. Nothing else has happened. Not an inch of movement there," he said, adding "There seems to be a fund problem".

Bhati requested the bench to permit her to place an affidavit on the issue.

"We have perused the updated status report but a lot remains to be done," the bench noted in its order.

It noted the ASG has submitted that there was a tentative proposal that once the Jammu bench of the high court shifts to the new complex, the high court building may be utilised by the tribunal.

"It may also be placed on record as to what is the progress being made on the high

court Jammu bench as the two aspects are inter-linked," the bench said, while posting the matter for hearing on February 20 next year.

During the hearing, the ASG referred to the September 25 order passed by the apex court in the matter and said it was noted that over 16,000 cases were pending before the two benches of the tribunal.

She said the current status report indicates that the pendency has come down marginally to around 15,000.

"On the issue of the sanctioned strength and position of the staff at CAT, Jammu and Srinagar benches, also much remains to be desired as stop gap arrangements have been made. It is stated that the Staff Selection Commission has been asked to complete the task which is expected to be filled up by March, 2024," the bench had noted in its September 25 order.

"On the issue of infrastructure, some progress has been made for Srinagar but none for Jammu," it had said.

## Allocation Of Additional 293 MWs Eases Electricity Crisis

Curtailement Schedule Being Followed, No Unscheduled Cuts Now: Pr Sec Prasad

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir power Development Department (JKPDD) Monday said that the recently allocated 293 MW additional power by the union ministry has brought huge reduction in district curtailement.

"Unscheduled power cuts have reduced since Gol has announced power supply of 293 MG. We have been able to

maintain the schedule cuts," Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD) H Rajesh Prasad said.

Asked about the ongoing curtailement schedule of power, the principal secretary said, "The ongoing schedule will continue to remain in effect. We are not reducing it." He said that the department was maintaining more than what was being supplied last year. "As of now we cannot say as to how much of

power demand and supply will be there because of several factors including power availability, peak winters and availability of funds," Prasad said.

He said that the department didn't want to make any promises which it won't deliver.

Meanwhile, Chief Engineer Distribution for KPDD, Javed Yousuf Dar said that there was an improvement in the situation in this regard. "There has been a huge reduction in distress curtailement."—(KNO)

## Fix Timeline For Completion Of Work On New Industrial Estates: J&K CS To Officers

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday asked the industries and commerce department to fix the timeline for completion of work on 46 new industrial estates in the Union Territory.

He said Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the industrial sector and emphasised upon providing the necessary support to such units in every

Industries Development Corporations and Small Scale Industries Development Corporation, respectively.

The department has realised an investment of Rs 2,079.76 crore besides registering the highest-ever investment worth Rs 2,153.45 crore in the previous fiscal, the spokesman said.

He said the Chief Secretary noted the issues of development of industrial estates and future plans of the department, capex expenditure made to



sphere to upgrade their status from lower to higher stratum to generate employment on a large scale.

Dulloo, who took over as J&K Chief Secretary on December 1, was speaking at the introductory review meeting of the industries and commerce department to take stock of its working and implementation of the industrial policy, an official spokesman said.

The chief secretary advises for fixing timelines for completion of work on all the new industrial estates besides regularly monitoring the allotments to ensure the timely operationalisation of the units by the aspiring entrepreneurs.

Of 46 new industrial estates, seven and eight are being developed by Ircon and NBCC, and six each by Central Public Works Department and Small

date and directed to fast track its pace and meet the deadlines.

In the meeting, Dulloo urged the department to create a formal mechanism for highlighting and resolution of the concerns of industrialists.

He advised holding periodic sittings of the forum in both divisions and said the objective of the forum should be to advocate and further the interests of stakeholders in the industrial sector.

The chief secretary said due priority should be given for the proper implementation of the PM Vishwakarma scheme that envisages end-to-end support to marginal artisans and craftsmen who work with their hands.

He directed providing every kind of assistance to the applicants for registration as per the approved target and ensure that every such artisan is on-boarded on the portal.

## Info Deptt Condoles Demise Of Mother Of Shabir Ahmad Bhat

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The officers and officials of Information Department Monday condoled the demise of Mother of Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Asstt Information Officer (AIO), who passed away on Sunday after a brief illness.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held at the divisional Office Kashmir of Information department, Exchange Road, Kothibagh.

Deputy Director (PR), Bilal Mukhtar; Assistant Director, M Aslam Khan; Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain, other officers and officials of the department participated in the condolence meet.

Expressing solidarity, the Officers and officials extended their deepest condolences to Shabir Ahmad on the demise of his mother. They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

## Pulwama Hospital Decongested, Several Units Shifted To Facility At Prichoo

Agencies

**PULWAMA:** In order to decongest, district hospital Pulwama, few non-emergency services have been shifted to Prichoo in Pulwama. A health official said that there is a huge rush of patients at district hospital Pulwama with 1500-2000 patients visiting on a daily basis.

He said the move to shift the non-emergency services to Prichoo was made to decongest the hospital. The facility was used during Covid-19.

He added that as of now Psychiatry, Mental health, Addiction Treatment Facility and

Dental Sections have been shifted there and a few more sections are being shifted in coming days.

He said that dermatology is being shifted very soon while shifting of Ophthalmology will take some time as it requires OT there. We have all facilities including CT scan available at Prichoo and patients visiting there will get better services there," he said.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom had recently visited Prichoo where he directed authorities to immediately put into use the infrastructure so as to further enhance medical services—(KNO)

## Union Secy DFS Calls For Popularizing PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Chairs 12th UT Level Bankers' Committee Meeting At SKICC Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Implement and Popularize PM Vishwakarma Scheme to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools so that they take advantage of the comprehensive scheme, which is one of the stepping stones in realising the all important milestone of Prime Minister's Vision to see India as a developed country by 2047.

This was stated by Union Secretary DFS, MoF, Dr Vivek Joshi while chairing the 12th Meeting of J&K UTLBC at SKICC, Srinagar here.

The meeting reviewed the performance of banks in delivery of credit under various schemes during the half year ended September 2023 and a special focus was given to the implementation of PM Vishwa-

karma scheme in J&K.

MD & CEO J&K Bank and Convenor J&K UTLBC, Baldev Prakash; Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya; Administrative Secretaries; Regional Director, RBI Kamal P. Patnaik; Chief General Manager NABARD Bhallamudi Sridhar; General Manager, RBI Sandeep Mittal; representatives of MSME MSDE and MEITY and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, Banks, Departmental Heads of J&K Government, insurance companies and Lead District Managers were present on the occasion.

Dr Vivek Joshi said, "I am here to impress upon you all that PM Vishwakarma is an ambitious programme of the Union Government. With its primary focus on quality, the scheme has been devised in such a way that it could well serve as a template



for all upcoming schemes of the Central and State Governments."

"Targets set for this scheme are very much achievable and J&K has potential to take this scheme forward. Bankers and line departments have a huge role to play to ensure that all the eligible Vishwakarmas avail benefits under the scheme and

contribute to their self-sufficiency, improved productivity besides the Nation's self-reliance," he added.

Pointing to the gaps in the storage capacity and apple production in J&K, Dr Vivek Joshi directed the Banks to extend credit linkage to all the CA Stores through pledge financing

against Electronically Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (ENWR). He further said, "While the apple growers need to be made aware about all the Central and State Government Schemes with outcome-oriented approach, there is a need to replace old and low-productivity orchards with high density plantation,

which requires investment and gestation period of 4-5 years", he stated.

"I also urge UTLBC and Lead District managers to keep monitoring the progress under various flagship schemes being implemented through banks. All bankers should wholeheartedly commit themselves to achieve saturation of all eligible persons under social security schemes", he further said.

Earlier, Union Additional Secretary Ministry of MSME, Dr Rajneesh gave an exhaustive presentation on the coverage, benefits and processes involved in availing the finance under PM Vishwakarma scheme. With around 19,000 applications received across the UT, he stated that aspiring artisans and crafts people are actively participating to reap benefits of the scheme. "This is where the Panchayat Raj

Department and Banks have a crucial role to play", he said. He also stressed for 100% on-boarding of Gram Panchayat Pradhans on PM Vishwakarma portal and immediate completion of 1st and 2nd stage verification."

"Pitching for Aadhar enabled payments by March 2024, Principal Secretary Finance urged the Government departments and banks to utilise digital platforms of Government of India for 100% KCC saturation. "The focus need to shift from digitally-enabled to digitally active accounts."

"Developed Mind-set and Developed Skill-set are prerequisites for becoming a developed Nation. And that is where this PM Vishwakarma assumes great importance and needs to be implemented with diligence and sufficiency", said Regional Director, RBI, Kamal P. Patnaik

## Parvez Rasool Shines In Sri Lanka Domestic Cricket

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Former J&K senior cricket team captain, Parvez Rasool, has continued his fine showing in the Sri Lankan domestic cricket scene. Playing for Baduraliya Cricket Club in the SLC Major Clubs 3 Day Tournament 2023, Parvez scored 124 runs, including 11 fours and 3 sixes, and took 6 wickets. This was his third century in Sri Lanka, as he has continued to perform well for Baduraliya.

Earlier, he helped his team dominate local rivals Bloomfield CC at Surrey Village Cricket Ground on November 26. He took 6 wickets and scored 71 runs, proving he still can do the job with both the ball and bat.

Playing in Sri Lanka, Parvez Rasool also completed a major milestone in domestic cricket, scoring 10,000 runs and taking 600 wickets.

In another game for Baduraliya, Parvez took 4 wickets and scored 58 runs.

Another J&K lad, opening batter Adil Reshi, is also playing in domestically in Sri Lanka.

Parvez Rasool has made himself available for selection in the 2024 IPL Mini-Auction. Parvez was left unsigned in the past two seasons of the league, will



hope his performances in Sri Lanka are not going unnoticed.

## Jammu Beats Kashmir In Provincial Badminton

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In the finals of Inter District Divisional Badminton competitions organized at Indoor Hall MAM Stadia here, the divisional team of Jammu beat Kashmir in 2-1 and 2-0 sets.

The tournament was organised under the patronage of Director Youth Services and Sports J&K Subash Chander Chibber and Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jam-

mu Suram Chand Sharma.

Director YSS congratulated the winning team and said that the department is committed to channeling the sports talent of J&K youth in the best possible manner. He further stated that the main aim of these competitions is to select the best players/athletes for the next level of competition. He appreciated DYSSO Jammu Sukhdev Raj Sharma and his team for the successful conduct of the competitions.

## Downtown Heroes Crowned Srinagar Premier League Champions



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Downtown Heroes FC emerged triumphant in the Srinagar Premier League 2023, showcasing unparalleled skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the season. The team's remarkable performance culminated in their title as champions after playing a total of 20 matches, with an impressive record of 18 wins, 1 loss, and 1 draw.

This Premier Division win is a testament to Downtown Heroes' prowess on the field but also marks a significant milestone as the first private club to secure the prestigious Srinagar Premier League title.

Since 2017, JK Bank FC had dominated the league, making this victory a momentous occasion in the football landscape of Srinagar.

"Downtown Heroes' journey to victory was defined by their unwavering commitment to excellence and a community-driven approach. As a community-based football club, they have garnered widespread support, making them the most followed team in the league. This victory not only establishes them as champions but solidifies their role as a unifying force within the community," the club said in a statement.

The Heroes also participated in the prestigious Durand

Cup this year, showcasing their talent on a broader stage. Downtown Heroes' dedication to both community engagement and competitive success sets them apart in the football realm, fostering a legacy that goes beyond the pitch.

That's a significant milestone for J&K football with DFA Srinagar conducting 220 matches in which each team got 21 matches to play in round robin format.

Downtown's Heroes emerged first, JK Bank second and STFC Natipora third. The league was sponsored by New JK Roadways in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. The award ceremony is yet to be conducted.



## Taha Wins Gold In Pencak Silat Nationals

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a thrilling showcase of talent and determination, Ahmad Taha Masoodi emerged as the shining star at the 11th Pre Teen, Sub Junior, and Junior National Pencak Silat Championship held at Patliputra Stadium in Patna, Bihar. The event, which took place from November 23rd to 26th, witnessed the participation of around 1400 players from all corners of India, each vying for glory in this prestigious martial arts competition.

The atmosphere at Patliputra Stadium was electric as participants demonstrated their prowess in the traditional Indonesian martial art of Pencak Silat. The competition featured intense bouts, breathtaking maneuvers, and a true celebration of the sport's rich heritage.

Ahmad Taha Masoodi, with unparalleled skill and dedication, secured the gold medal in a remarkable fashion. Competing in the Sub Junior category, Taha displayed a level of proficiency that set him apart from his peers. His exceptional performance not only earned him the admiration of the audience

but also marked him as the standout athlete of the championship.

The 11th National Pencak Silat Championship proved to be a platform for the nation's budding talents to showcase their mettle. The participants exhibited a high level of skill, reflecting the rigorous training and commitment they had invested in mastering this ancient martial art.

Ahmad Taha Masoodi's triumph in scoring the highest among Pre Teen, Sub Junior and Junior players is a testament to his dedication, perseverance, and exceptional talent. His victory will undoubtedly inspire aspiring martial artists across the nation, setting a benchmark for excellence in Pencak Silat.

As the curtains fell on the 11th National Pencak Silat Championship, the memories of spirited competitions and extraordinary performances will resonate in the hearts of participants and spectators alike. Ahmad Taha Masoodi's gold medal achievement will be etched in the annals of Indian Pencak Silat, serving as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

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



Spectrum Adv | 9697000698