

65% Kashmir's Teen Students Suffering From Academic Stress: Study

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: A new study conducted by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) has shown widespread academic stress prevalent among students in Kashmir, with health experts advising parents and guardians to closely monitor the children and take preventive measures to address any emerging mental health concerns they may face.

The study shows that at least 60-65% of school-going

adolescents are suffering from academic related stress in Kashmir.

The study, titled "Prevalence of psychiatric morbidity among school-going adolescents in the age group of 13-19 years," asserts that there is a very high prevalence of psychiatric morbidity (anxiety combined with depression) of any kind among adolescents in Kashmir, many of which are unidentified and thus untreated.

The study found depression as the most common



psychiatric illness among adolescents with a higher prevalence in males, while anxiety disorders are more

common among females.

The study was carried out on 16 schools in the twin districts of Srinagar and Ganderbal.

"Stress plays an essential role in the development of various illnesses. Academic stress, stresses from personal life and environment, as well as the ones arising from conflict may be important," the study says.

Dr. Ubaid Rasool, one of the authors of the study, told Kashmir Observer that they wanted to carry out the study in rural and urban areas and thus chose Srinagar and

Ganderbal for the purpose.

"Even though there were similar disorders in Srinagar and Ganderbal, but the academic stress is more predominant in Ganderbal district which is a rural area," Dr. Rasool said.

The reason, Dr. Rasool said, is that the kids in urban areas go for more outdoor activities than children from rural areas.

The results of the study highlight a worrying pattern of academic stress affecting students of classes 9 to12, revealing a | [More on P6](#)

Govt Begins Hunt For New SKIMS Director

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has set the ball rolling to appoint the new Director of Valley's largest healthcare facility-Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of medical sciences (SKIMS)

The government on Friday invited online applications for appointment of Director SKIMS Soura, as Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Koul, the former Professor of Medicine and current director of the institute is set to retire in February 2024.

A notification, in this regard, has been issued by the Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar, which reads that "online applications on prescribed proforma are invited from Indian Nationals for the position of Director, Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. The notification is available on the official website www.skims.ac.in of SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar".

The date of submission of application form shall be with effect from 16-12-2023 to 15.01-2024, reads the notification.

The complete | [More on P6](#)

Rs 1.88 Cr Chit Fund Fraud

Two Women Cops Charge-Sheeted By Crime Branch

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two policewomen, involved in swindling Rs 1.88 crore from their colleagues, were chargesheeted before a court in Jammu on Friday for judicial determination

The Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch, Jammu produced 382 page chargesheet against selection grade Constables Nirmal Kour Saini of IRP 15th battalion and Arti Sharma of 4th Security PID, before the Court of law for judicial determination for hatching criminal conspiracy and cheating the complainant along with other co-employees of IRP 15th battalion of Rs 1, 87, 64,000.00 after luring them on the pretext of hefty returns for investing money and gold with them.

The chargesheet was produced in the case 23/2014 U/S 420, 406, 120-B RPC registered at the police station EOW, Jammu in 2014.

The case surfaced when the Crime Branch, now EOW, received an enquiry report from the

Commandant of IRP 15th battalion through IGP Armed/IRP, Jammu Zone, revealing that written complaints have been filed by women constables of IRP 15th battalion alleging that Nirmal Kour had taken an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh each from them fraudulently on the pretext that she would repay an interest of Rs. 5000 per month on the invested money, a police spokesperson said.

However, the accused, he said, neither paid interest nor the principal amount to the complainants and cheated them and misappropriated their money.

He said that a discreet enquiry conducted by Commandant IRP 15th battalion found that Nirmal Kour in connivance with her husband Mainer Singh Saini presently posted in JKAP 14th battalion had collected a huge amount of cash and gold not only from the complainants but from other women officials of the 15th battalion and security wing too after luring them with high rate of interest besides

| [More on P6](#)



BOYS ENJOYING A GAME OF FOOTBALL on a frost covered playground in the old city of Srinagar on a cold Friday morning. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Slight Improvement In Cold Wave Conditions In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Kashmir saw some respite in cold wave conditions as the minimum temperature improved across the valley, officials said on Friday.

While the mercury settled several degrees below the freezing point across the valley last night, the minimum temperature marked an improvement compared to the previous night to provide some relief to the residents, officials said.

Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius on Thursday night which was higher than the previous night's minus 5.4 degrees Celsius.

The city had experienced the coldest night of the winter on Wednesday night.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius, while the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 1.9 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4.2 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather on Friday, and generally cloudy weather with a possibility of light snow over isolated places in the higher reaches on Saturday.

It said overall, dry and cold weather is most likely to continue till December 21 over most places in | [More on P6](#)

Right To Property Falls Within Realm Of Human Rights: HC

Directs Payment Of Rs 2.49 Cr Rentals To Displaced Persons For 224 Kanal Land In Jammu

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Underlining that the right to property is now considered to be not only constitutional or statutory right but falls within the realm of human rights, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed government to pay rental compensation amounting to Rs. 2.49 Crore to displaced persons of 1947 to whom over 224 kanals land was



allotted in 1953.

The rentals were assessed by the State Government from 01.01.1978 to 31.03.2009 for the land measuring 224 Kanals and 10 Marlas in Chatha Jammu which is under Army, according to a petition filed before the court on behalf of all descendants of 24 displaced persons.

According to the petitioners, they are displaced persons

of 1947 from Tehsil Bagh Village Dhare, Pak, and the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in its policy to rehabilitate the refugees of 1947 allotted the land to them.

"...the Army has been in occupation of the land in question since long and also that the land owners are not being paid the rental compensation in time," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal.

"It further transpires that land of the petitioners are not being formally acquired by the respondents (Union of India) by having resort to Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation Act, 2013," the court said, adding, "This court finds | [More on P6](#)

J&K Bank MD Gets 'India's Impactful CEO-2023' Award

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of recognizing leaders who inspired not only with their achievements but also with their unwavering commitment to positive change, J&K Bank MD Baldev Prakash has been honoured with prestigious 'Times Now India's Impactful CEO - 2023' Award.

On his behalf, the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (RO) Rakesh Koul received the award from Ex-Member of Parliament Priya Dutt at the third edition of a very high-profile event 'India's Impactful CEOs Conclave' held yesterday at Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai. The special Initiative by ET Edge - a part of The Times Group - was themed



as Trailblazing Leaders: Influence, Empower, Triumph. "I feel deeply humbled by the honour and attribute it to the exemplary staff commitment and resilience of this organisation to drive sustained business growth successfully," MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said "Such a recognition will further | [More on P6](#)

JKSCB Loan Fraud Case

ED Attaches Land Worth Over Rs 193 Cr In Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A land in Srinagar worth more than Rs 193 crore has been attached by the Enforcement Directorate under the anti-money laundering law as part of an investigation into a loan fraud involving the Jammu and Kashmir State Cooperative Bank (JKSCB).

A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to freeze the asset, which measures 257.19 kanal and is located in the Shivpora area of Srinagar, the federal agency said in a statement.

The value of the property is

Rs 193.46 crore, it said. The agency, earlier this month, had arrested former JKSCB chairman Mohammad Shafi Dar and Mohammad Hilal A Mir, the chairman of the River Jhelum Cooperative House Building Society, a "fictitious firm", as part of the investigation. They are in judicial custody till December 20.

The PMLA case pertains to an alleged fraud in sanctioning of a loan to the tune of Rs 250 crore (disbursement amount Rs 223 crore) in 2019 to the River Jhelum Co-operative House Building Society by Dar.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) took | [More on P6](#)

S H O R T T A K E S

Arms, Ammo Recovered In Rajouri

The government forces on Friday recovered arms and ammunition, including four improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Dara Peer Makal area of Thanamandi in Rajouri district. Officials said that a joint team of police and army's 48RR during searches found arms and ammunition in the area. Giving details, the official said that 4 Remote IEDs, 6 UBGL grenades, 5 detonators, 4 fuse, two small boxes packages and other unnamed items were recovered from the area. Meanwhile, a case has been registered in this | [More on P6](#)

Man Injured After Hit By Moving Train

A man was injured after being hit by a moving train in central Kashmir's Srinagar-Budgam section on Friday. An official said that a man identified as Manzoor Ahmad Wani, a resident of Kralpora Chadoora was hit by a moving train bearing number 04673 when it was coming from Banihal to Budgam. He said that incident took place in between Srinagar-Budgam section near KM no 63/7/8 when he was crossing the railway line. An official said the injured has been shifted to Bone | [More on P6](#)

Properties Of 2 Drug Peddlers Attached

Police have attached property of two persons allegedly involved in drug peddling in Poonch district, an officer said on Thursday. Police attached the property of accused Shakar Din, including a house of his in Degwar-Terwan village, for his involvement in drug peddling, they said. A JCB excavator and tractor belonging to Mohd Yaseen, the other accused, were also seized in drug peddling, UAPA, and Explosive Substance Act, they said.

Youth Falls From Moving Bus, Dies

A youth died on Friday after falling off a moving bus in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir. 24-year-old Sanju, son of Gharu Ram sustained injuries at Vijaypur along the Jammu-Pathankot highway when the bus he was on collided with another bus on Friday afternoon, reports said. The injured youth was shifted to a hospital in Vijaypur by other passengers and passerby for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead. Meanwhile, police | [More on P6](#)

312 Covid Cases Logged In India

India saw a single-day rise of 312 new coronavirus infections, the highest since May 31, while the tally of active cases have increased to 1,296, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday. The death toll was recorded at 5,33,310, as per the data updated at 8 am. The country's Covid case tally is 4.50 crore (4,50,04,142). The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,44,69,536, and the national recovery rate stands at 98.81 per cent, | [More on P6](#)

Delhi Colder Than Shimla At -4.9 Deg Cel

The national capital's minimum temperature dropped below five degrees this morning, making it the coldest day of this season. The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) New Delhi-Safdarjung monitoring station reported a minimum temperature of 4.9 degrees Celsius. Today, Delhi is colder than Himachal Pradesh's capital Shimla, as the minimum temperature for Shimla city was recorded at 6.8 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, Delhi's maximum temperature | [More on](#)

Div Com Chairs Meeting On Allotment Of Land For Graveyards

Inspects Progress Of Work On Barzulla Bund Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting regarding allotment of land exclusively for graveyards to various societies, Mohalla's & communities in Bemina area.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority, Director SDA, ACC with Div com and ADC Srinagar.

The meeting deliberated over the allotment of 34 kanals of land to various societies, adjoining Mohalla's of Bemina, Christian community, people from remote areas who are unable to shift dead bodies during winters and reserved patch of graveyard to be utilized during exigencies.

The land will be given against the premium to be paid by societies, Mohalla & communities. The land allotted falls under transmission lines and is considered as no construction zone.

The graveyards shall be developed through a layout design to be prepared by Srinagar Development Authority with due consideration to be given to the aesthetics, greenery and plantation.

To put an end to the traffic congestion and recurring traffic jam on Natipora road, the Div Com during his spot visit impressed upon the R&B

officers to make Barzulla Bund Road functional by the end of December.

The Div Com was accompanied by senior officers of R&B, Traffic Police and revenue officials.

It is worth mentioning here that a road is being constructed from Natipora to Barzulla Bridge to divert the traffic during peak hours to ease the traffic flow on the main road.

Div Com while walking the entire length of the road inspected the completed as well as ongoing works on the road. He instructed for removal of encroachments from the road and expedited the completion of pending work.

He was informed that half of the road has been completed while another half is being developed and shall be completed within fifteen days.

The locals on the occasion expressed gratitude to the Divisional Administration for addressing their long pending demand of putting an end to recurring traffic jams at Natipora by the development of parallel Bund Road.

The Div Com also inspected the ongoing works of development of walkway and cycle track on the left bank of Barzulla Canal.

On the occasion, he was briefed about the beautification and development projects being executed by SSCL.



Donned in warm clothes and face covered with a mask, a female tourist purchasing warm socks from a vendor amidst intense cold wave in Srinagar on Friday. KO PHOTO, Abid Bhat

Govt To Replace Faulty Transformers Within 4 Hours From Twin Cities

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid surge in damage to electric transformers, the government is mulling to replace damaged transformers in four hours in city areas of both Jammu and Kashmir regions.

However, in case of damage to electric transformers in rural areas, authorities said that they will replace it within 24-hours.

Principal Secretary Power Development Department (PDD) H. Rajesh Prasad said "We want damaged transformers to be maintained and replaced at earliest because when there would be no transformer in the area, there will not be electricity."

He said, "The administration had instructed us to replace or repair the damaged transformers in four hours in city areas of both Jammu and Kashmir regions."

"In case of rural areas, we are

6 We want damaged transformers to be maintained and replaced at earliest because when there would be no transformer in the area, there will not be electricity

already trying to replace damaged transformers in 24 hours to provide uninterrupted power supply as per the schedule," Prasad said.

The Principal Secretary however said that it may take more than 24 hours for PDD to replace the transformers in far flung places.

When asked about the installation of smart meters, Prasad said, "Out of 21 lakh consumers, as of now we have already installed 4.27 Lakh smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir."

About the unscheduled power

cuts, the principal secretary said that the government has already instructed the concerned authorities to stick to the prescribed schedule.

"We have also instructed that there shall not be any unscheduled power cuts unless that is required for the maintenance purposes," he said.

On asking about the complaints of ongoing unscheduled power cuts in various areas of Kashmir region, Prasad said, "We will streamline everything and will not keep any gap."

"In some areas the unscheduled power cuts may occur due to technical difficulties," he said. Meanwhile, locals of various parts of South, north and Central Kashmir are facing unscheduled cuts during day time especially during evening hours. They sought the LG Manoj Sinha's intervention to end the pesky power cuts during bone chilling cold.

Com SMC Launches 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Aamir Khan today launched 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' (VBSY) at four Wards of SMC viz. Nishat, Lal Chowk, Dal and Kralyar.

The campaign was kick-started from SK Park Lal Chowk, Srinagar and commenced with great fervor. The impressive program shall span across all 74 wards of the SMC from 15th to 23rd December, 2023.

The Yatra, a nationwide outreach initiative, is designed to inform and empower citizens about the central government's flagship schemes and programs, with the ultimate goal of raising awareness and facilitating the delivery of welfare scheme benefits.

The program is part of the Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat campaign, which is specifically focused on reaching the vulnerable population, disseminating information, learning from citizens, and enrolling potential beneficiaries.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 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: +9194841 00200

AIRPORTS
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
 02 Jumada al-Sani
 1445

FAJR	5: 58
ZUHR	12:25
ASR	3: 46
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6: 52

This Day In History

- 1631 - Mount Vesuvius, Italy erupts, destroys 6 villages & kills 4,000.
- 1761 - Seven Years' War: After four-month siege, Russian army under Pyotr Rumyantsev takes Prussian fortress of Kolobrzeg (German: Kolberg).
- 1864 - Battle of Nashville ends after 4400 casualties.
- 1903 - The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower hotel opens its doors to guests for the first time.
- 1907 - As a gesture of the US's new presence as a world power, President Theodore Roosevelt sends the US Battle Fleet on a round-the-world cruise, visiting ports internationally.
- 1912 - Austria-Hungary engage in conflict with Serbia.
- 1912 - First Balkan War: The Ottoman Navy is defeated by the Royal Hellenic Navy at the Battle of Elli.
- 1914 - World War I: German battleships under Franz Von Hipper bombard the English ports of Hartlepool and Scarborough.
- 1918 - German troops evacuate Finland, give over Kiev in the Ukraine to revolutionary forces and pull back from Estonia as Bolshevik forces move in.
- 1920 - 8.5 earthquake rocks the Gansu province in China, killing an estimated 200,000.
- 1921 - The Anglo-Irish Treaty, agreed to by the British Parliament and Sinn Fein, is ratified.
- 1938 - Adolf Hitler institutes the state decoration and civil order of merit, Cross of Honour of the German Mother.
- 1942 - Hitler orders combat against partisans in Russia & Balkan.
- 1946 - Thailand joins the United Nations.
- 1950 - US President Harry Truman proclaims state of emergency against "Communist imperialism".
- 1962 - Nepal gets constitution/becomes Constitutional Hindu Monarchy
- 1965 - Gemini 6 returns to Earth
- 1965 - Pioneer 6 launched into solar orbit
- 1970 - 1st successful landing on Venus (USSR).
- 1971 - Bangladesh (East Pakistan) declares independence from Pakistan.
- 1971 - India's army occupies Dacca, West Pakistani troops surrenders.
- 1972 - Bangladesh Constitution goes into effect.
- 1978 - Ronald Reagan denounces President Jimmy Carter's recognition of China PR.
- 1979 - Libya raises crude oil prices, joining four other OPEC nations, which has a dramatic effect on the United States.
- 1986 - Revolt in Kazakhstan against Communist party, known as Zheltoksan, which becomes the first sign of ethnic strife during Gorbachev's tenure.
- 1987 - Roh Tae Woo elected president of South Korea.
- 1991 - UN reverses ruling that Zionism is racism by 111-25 (13 abstain) vote.
- 1991 - Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- 1995 - The official adoption of the name "Euro".
- 1998 - Iraq disarmament crisis: Operation Desert Fox - the United States and United Kingdom bomb targets in Iraq.
- 2012 - A gang rape of a woman on a bus in India that resulted in her death leads to national and international outrage.
- 2014 - An Army Public School in Pakistan is attacked by Tehrik-i- Taliban Pakistan militants who kill 145 people.
- 2016 - US State Department increases reward for information on Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to \$25 million
- 2018 - Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe is sworn back into office two months after being removed by President Sirisena
- 2020 - China blocks imports of coal, from Australia, the world's second biggest market for the world's biggest coal exporter
- 2020 Major winter storm hits US Northeast resulting in at least seven deaths and Binghamton, New York, receiving record 41 inches of snow
- 2020 - Nine-year-old girl who died of an asthma attack in 2013 becomes first person in the world to officially have air pollution listed as cause of death

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for Fertilizer/Seed pesticides license . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with primary agricultural credit co-operative Society kreeri within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: SHOWKAT AHMAD WANI
 S/o : GHULAM MOHI - UDDIN WANI
 R/O : WAGOORA
 Distt : BRARAMULLA kri

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for Fertilizer/Seed pesticides license . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact with primary agricultural credit co-operative Society kreeri within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: BASHIR AHMAD KUMAR
 S/o : ABDUL AHAD KUMAR
 R/O : BANDIPAYEEN
 BLOCK : WAGOORA
 Distt : BRARAMULLA KRI

National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, Sehore
 Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),
 Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India
 Website: <https://nimhr.ac.in>, Phone : 07562-223960,
 Email: nimhrsehore@gmail.com

Recruitment Notice 04/2023

National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, Sehore invites applications for the following posts:

S. No.	Name of Posts	Age Limit	Mode of Recruitment	No. of posts	Category
01.	Assistant Professor (Psychiatric Nursing)	40 Years	Direct	01	PwD (Locomotor Disability)
02.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Psychology)	40 Years	Direct	01	UR
03.	Assistant Professor (Psychiatric Social Work)	40 Years	Direct	01	OBC
04.	Administrative Officer	56 Years	Deputation	01	-

• For detailed advertisement and further updates, please visit website: <https://nimhr.ac.in>.

CBC- 38122/12/0007/2324

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LTD
 Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department,
 Zonal Office Anantnag, Bakshiabad, Anantnag-192101
 email: amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com; T-01932-222440

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

Whereas Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 03 October 2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Lone S/O Ghulam Hassan Lone R/O Dardgund, Devsar, Kulgam et al to repay an amount of Rs.1,58,26,139.11/= (Rupees One Crore Fifty Eight Lac Twenty Six Thousand One hundred Thirty Nine And Paise Eleven Only) being the balance outstanding in the accounts of the Borrower as on 30.09.2023 within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/s in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 11th day of December 2023.

The said borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 1,59,42,532.41/= (Rupees One Crore Fifty Nine Lac Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Two And Paise Forty One) together with future interest thereon from 30.11.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

- Land Measuring (10 Kanal 16 marlas) situated at Dardgund, Devsar, Kulgam and as per revenue records the said piece of land falls under khasra no 419 (3 kanal 15 marlas), khewat no. 22, khata no. 43, khasra no 418 (02 kanal 06 marlas), khewat no. 20, khata no. 36, khasra no 439 (01 kanal 15 marlas), khewat no 20 , khata no. 36 khasra no 441 (01 kanal 01 marla), khewat no 20, khata no. 36 khasra no 443 (01 kanal 11 marlas), khewat no 20, khata no 36, khasra no 457 (08 marlas) khewat no. 20, khata no 36 in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Lone (alias Ghulam) S/O Ghulam Hassan Lone (alias Hassan) R/O Dardgund, Devsar, Kulgam.
- Land measuring (10 kanal 02 marlas) situated at Dardgund, Devsar, Kulgam and as per revenue records the said piece of land falls under khasra no 436 (3 kanal 07 marlas), khewat no 20, khata no 35, khasra no 437 (01 kanal 06 marlas) khewat no. 20, khata no. 35, khasra no 505 (04 kanal 19 marlas) khewat no 22 min, khata no 39, khasra no 440 (10 marlas) khewat no 20, khata no 35 in the name of Ghulam Hassan Lone (alias Hassan) S/O Ghulam Qadir lone (alias Qadir Lone) R/O Dardgund, Devsar, Kulgam.

Dated: 11-12-2023
 Place: Dardgund, Devsar, Kulgam.

Authorized Officer

CSIR-TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY UNIT
 14, Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi-110067
 Telephone: 011-47011293; email: tkdlsupport@csir.res.in
 Advertisement No. TKDL/03/2023

CSIR-TKDL Unit is a unit under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research which is an autonomous body of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (Min. of Science & Technology), Govt of India.

CSIR-TKDL Unit invites applications from eligible candidates for engagement as project staff in the stream of **Information Technology, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Sanskrit, Yoga, Patents and others** for its Projects entitled, "Digitization of Indian Systems of Medicine – Ayurveda and Unani, and Yoga" (MLP0004), "Digitization of Indian Systems of Medicine – Siddha and Sowa Rigpa" (MLP0005), "Filing of Third Party Observations and Pre-grant Oppositions based on TKDL Evidences" (MLP0008) and "Communication of India's Scientifically Validated Traditional Knowledge" (MLP0017). The location of the project activities will be Delhi, Jammu, Srinagar, Hyderabad, Chennai, Leh or Palampur. The engagement in the said project is purely on temporary and contractual basis.

The detailed advertisement is available on CSIR website: www.csir.res.in.
Last Date for receipt of applications: 25 December 2023

CBC- 36202/12/0019/2324

Under Secretary
 CSIR-TKDL Unit

Unveiling The Enigma Why Private Schools Trump Government Schools in J&K

Ummar Jamal



The scenario is complex – with parents grappling with various socio-economic challenges, educational priorities might not always be at the forefront of their concerns. This lack of vigilant parental involvement inadvertently creates an environment where some teachers become lax in their commitment to imparting education competently

Despite government schools boasting well-equipped facilities and highly qualified teachers, private schools continue to be the preferred choice for students in J&K. Government teachers, despite being well-trained and receiving competitive salaries, struggle to attract students. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)-2022, released in New Delhi by Pratham Education Foundation Chairman, shed light on a concerning trend in Jammu and Kashmir's education landscape. The report revealed that a substantial 43.6% of children in the region are enrolled in private schools, significantly higher than the national average. Meanwhile, government school enrollment has fallen to 55.5%, a stark contrast to the 72.9% national figure.

In the Valley, there are approximately 10,780 government schools. Despite the presence of qualified teachers and substantial salaries, government schools are unfortunately perceived as institutions primarily catering to the underprivileged. The challenge for government school teachers lies in convincing parents, including themselves, that government schools are capable of providing quality education. Parents are willingly paying hefty monthly fees to private schools, where teachers earn relatively modest salaries ranging from Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000. In contrast, government schools, which offer education without charging any fees, struggle to gain the trust of parents, even when their teachers earn more substantial monthly salaries ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 70,000.

If truth be told, government school teachers themselves often lack confidence in the institutions where they work. Rather than entrusting their children's education to the very schools they teach in, they opt for private alternatives. This inclination suggests a prevailing mindset among educators that they should earn from government schools but invest in private education for their own children. This perception raises concerns about how others can be expected to trust and invest in these schools when even the educators choose private alternatives.

When it comes to education, the focus has often been on the perceived advantages of private schools – better infrastructure, quality teaching, and a more conducive learning environment. However, amidst this narrative, the untapped potential of government schools often goes unnoticed. Contrary to popular belief, in many cases, the infrastructure in government schools is on par with or even surpasses that of private schools. Quality of teachers in government schools is apodictically better than private schools. Therefore, it is not a lack of resources or dedicated teachers that plagues these institutions, but rather the persistent mindset and stigma and improper utilization of available resources.

The need of the hour is a paradigm shift – a collective effort to change the narrative surrounding government schools. It is crucial for the government to initiate a positive campaign promoting government schools as the primary choice for children. This campaign should not merely focus on the aspect of free education but highlight the myriad of facilities and opportunities these schools offer. Rather than limiting policies to the provision of free education, the



Photo for representational purposes only

government should aim at elevating standards across the board. This involves implementing measures that ensure a high-quality learning experience, making government schools not just a viable but a preferable choice for students.

To bridge this gap, government teachers also have a role. They should take the lead by enrolling their own children in the schools where they teach. This move could serve as a powerful example, encouraging others to trust and have faith in government schools. It is a call for government teachers to believe in the sector they are a part of and demonstrate this belief by making a personal investment in the education it provides.

In government schools, where a majority of students hail from underprivileged backgrounds, it is essential for educators to rise above the challenges and deliver quality education. Unfortunately, a portion of teachers succumb to complacency, influenced by the perception that parents are less likely to scrutinize their children's academic progress.

The scenario is complex – with parents grappling with various socio-economic challenges, educational priorities might not always be at the forefront of their concerns. This lack of vigilant parental involvement inadvertently creates an environment where some teachers become lax in their commitment to imparting education competently.

Policymakers need to implement measures that foster stronger connections between schools and parents. This could include regular parent-teacher meetings, awareness campaigns, and initiatives to engage parents in their child's educational journey. By creating a culture of accountability, where teachers are

held to high standards and parents actively participate in their child's education, the cycle of apathy can be broken.

Additionally, introducing performance-based incentives for teachers can serve as a catalyst for renewed dedication. Recognizing and rewarding educators for their efforts in creating a positive impact on students' lives can inspire a sense of responsibility and commitment.

The key to success lies in a comprehensive approach that goes beyond the rhetoric of free education. It involves fostering a positive mindset, eradicating stigma, and actively promoting the strengths of government schools. The time is ripe for the government to spearhead this transformation and unlock the true potential of these institutions, paving the way for a brighter future for the next generation.

The conundrum of private versus government school enrollment in Jammu and Kashmir highlights a pressing need for a shift in perception. Government teachers must lead by example, trusting in the sector they serve and enrolling their children in government schools. Only through such personal investment can faith be restored in government education, paving the way for a more equitable and robust educational system in the region.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a Kashmir based columnist. He tweets at ummar_jamal and can be reached at ummarjamal968@gmail.com

Winter: A Season of Merry or Misery?

Sama Zehra

JEHANGIR'S "Firdaus" and "Behisht" of all poets and philosophers, blanketed in a thick layer of snow, illuminating the brightest colors of nature is undoubted, a sight for sore eyes. Starting the day with the delicious Kashmiri delicacy "Harisa", warming yourself up using "Kangris" or the "Hammam", and listening to the melody of nature while spending time with your loved ones, is a sugarcoated glance of Winters in Kashmir.

The reality is, that the envelope of snow, other than beauty brings with it an unwelcomed state of misery, and struggle for Kashmiris, one short glimpse of which was recently shared with us via different social media platforms. Two pregnant women, in different cities of Kashmir, were carried on cot for several Km's to the neighboring hospitals, one of them delivered a baby midway. Locals asserted that the lax attitude of the administration towards de-icing of roads is the cause of the problem.

De-icing of roads has never been given the required importance. For almost half of the winter, the roads remain blocked, the Srinagar-Jammu highway remains closed for vehicular traffic, therefore, bringing the lives of people to a standstill. The poor and inefficient drainage system has added fuel to the fire. A few inches of snow leads to waterlogging in all of the major roadways of Srinagar, water from drains overflows into the roads, therefore, turning them into a "cesspool". People have made innumerable requests and protests to the administration, demanding a modern

drainage system, however, the current administration as well as all the preceding governments turned a blind eye towards the issue. In 2019, a senior official at SMC stated that the carrying capacity of drains has decreased considerably due to the silt accumulation during the 2014 floods. He further stated that tenders were issued in this regard however, SMC received no proper response.

Draining out of clogged water from roadways comes with collateral damage i.e., "damaging of roads". A few inches of snow or rain drastically damages the roads and the government dubiously argues that the "macadam" used is incapable of withstanding elements of rain or snow. Thereby, contradicting their boastful statements about the "excellent quality" of material used in the construction of roads.

The subzero temperature of Kashmir accompanied by unprecedented power cuts, continuous blackouts, shortage of essentials and traffic snarls is not a favorable combination. The issue of power cuts is one of the longest unsolved crises of the valley. Despite having the potential to produce 20,000 megawatts of hydropower, currently, the state only produces 3,263 MW, of which 2900 MW is generated by the NHPC (National Hydro Power Corporation). Merely 13% of the power generated by the NHPC is shared with Kashmir, and the power requirements of the state are met by purchasing electricity at sky-high rates from the northern grid of India. Nonetheless, Kashmiris are left with less than 9hrs of electricity per day.

Even though everyone in Kashmir is affected by the same difficulties, the upper class still manages to keep a safe dis-



tance from them. Poverty fuels the hardships faced by people, some struggles in winters are poor-centric and "Government initiatives", are not strong enough to prevent the harsh weather from reaching the poor families. Winters highlight the abyss of gulf between different classes, an exorbitant difference of perspectives between various social groups becomes evident. While an elite enjoys the chilly weather, the poor living on boulevards of Dal Lake struggles due to waterlogging and freezing temperatures. When forecasts predict harsh weather, people begin stocking up essentials ahead of time. But, if resources are scarce, the option of hoarding is not available to people. Furthermore, the

snowfall extensively damages the apple orchards, uproots and damages trees as a result, jeopardizing the livelihood of people living in the outskirts of Kashmir. Last year, untimely snowfall led to extensive damaging of apple orchards, the government decided to compensate however, many haven't still received any reimbursement. The government fixed a modest compensation rate of Rs. 2800 per Kanal, and surprisingly, failed to pay it.

In the olden times, winters were welcomed and celebrated by people. However, since the '90s, winters have marked the inception of a loop of miseries and struggle for the Kashmiri people. The arrival of winters is no more marked by

the foliage of autumn leaves instead, it has been replaced by frequent power outages. Day in and out, the valley plunges into blackouts and residents are forced to endure long, harsh winter days without electricity. The government usually flaunts about the developments in Kashmir or about the construction of roads, however, on the realistic ground, nothing really has changed. A drizzle of rain makes Kashmir vulnerable to floods, snowfall disrupts normal life, causes fatalities, accidents and whatnot. The unpreparedness of government, their lackadaisical attitude towards miseries of people worsens the already harsh condition faced by people. Kashmiris still live in a time where developments are rare, connections are scarce and facilities uncommon.

With time, it seems like the idea of Winters being a "season of merry and blessings" will only remain constricted to poets and philosophers. The onset of winters cannot be celebrated until and unless the grievances and concerns of people are heard. Truly, Winter is a season of blessings, a season that displays the true beauty of nature and has a magical effect of resurrecting our dead spirits. In the words of Agha Shahid Ali,

"Snow gleams as if a lover's gaze has fallen to earth. How the season whitens! Even the evergreens are peppered with salt, and only love can take the place of the mountain".

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author can be reached at sama_zehra20@nlu.edu.ac.in

An Unforgettable Forest Walk

Away from the humdrums and doldrums of city life, this haven gave us a chance to discover our peace of mind and gave us memories to cherish forever

Riyaz Kazmi

Dachigam National Park is around 45 minutes delightful drive away from Lal Chowk Srinagar via vibrant Boulevard road, adjoining world famous Dal Lake and the Mughal Gardens. Most of the people residing in Srinagar are unaware of its unique vast expanse (141 Sq.Km) and bountiful flora and fauna. It is a natural jewel richly bedecked with a wide range of wild flowers and trees including oak, walnut, pine, birch, elm, poplar, willow, cherry, chestnut, and chinar. Notably, it is also a birdwatcher's delight due to its varied avifauna. A haven for the vulnerable Hangul, it is the treasure trove of natural beauty which has so much to offer both to nature lovers and inquisitive researchers.

To maintain its sanctity, there is no free entry for the visitors. There is a strict protocol that one has to follow. However, Badamwari Athletes, our group, made persistent efforts to get us an approval from the concerned quarters. The officials of the wildlife department were quite prompt and helpful.

Lately, our athlete's club is on a roll. We are committed to inculcate enthusiasm and promote adventure sports among the people. Therefore, the purpose of our visit to Dachigam was to give new participants exposure to nature. We were joined by proficient trekkers from Sopore and other parts of Kashmir.

On the pleasant day dated the 26th of November 2023, a Sunday morning, we embarked on this remarkable journey. To our pleasure we were joined by a reputed photographer cum wildlife photographer, Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Bhat. He was deputised with us to explore Dachigam at length and breadth. It was a great learning experience for us to know how nature and wildlife operates there. We were advised to follow some steps and each member followed the instructions to the T.

The magnificent and mesmerizing beauty of Dachigam is exceptional in every season, and all the more during the autumn season. It's this time that it becomes a wonderland carpeted with the vibrant hues of crispy

golden Chinar leaves.

At the fag end of Autumn season, we didn't want to miss the opportunity to witness the spectacle of nature when it's exuding the best of its bewitching beauty. It is captivating to see the enchanting landscape of grass fields which gives us the feeling of some landscape in Scotland.

A journey into Dachigam is a surreal feeling. The tapestry is woven by a tree tunnel which sets the tone for the grand welcome into its natural splendour.

Our excitement knew no bounds at Droag Viewpoint, where we saw all the fabulous settings of nature. This place furnishes spectacular views and held us spellbound.

However, traversing the deep and dense forest of Dachigam National Park from Draphama to Chandakhadi isn't a cake walk. A lot of discipline, passion and respect is required to be in harmony with nature here. One has to be very careful and close-lipped so that the fragile habitat of endangered species of Hangul or the Kashmir Stag is not distributed.

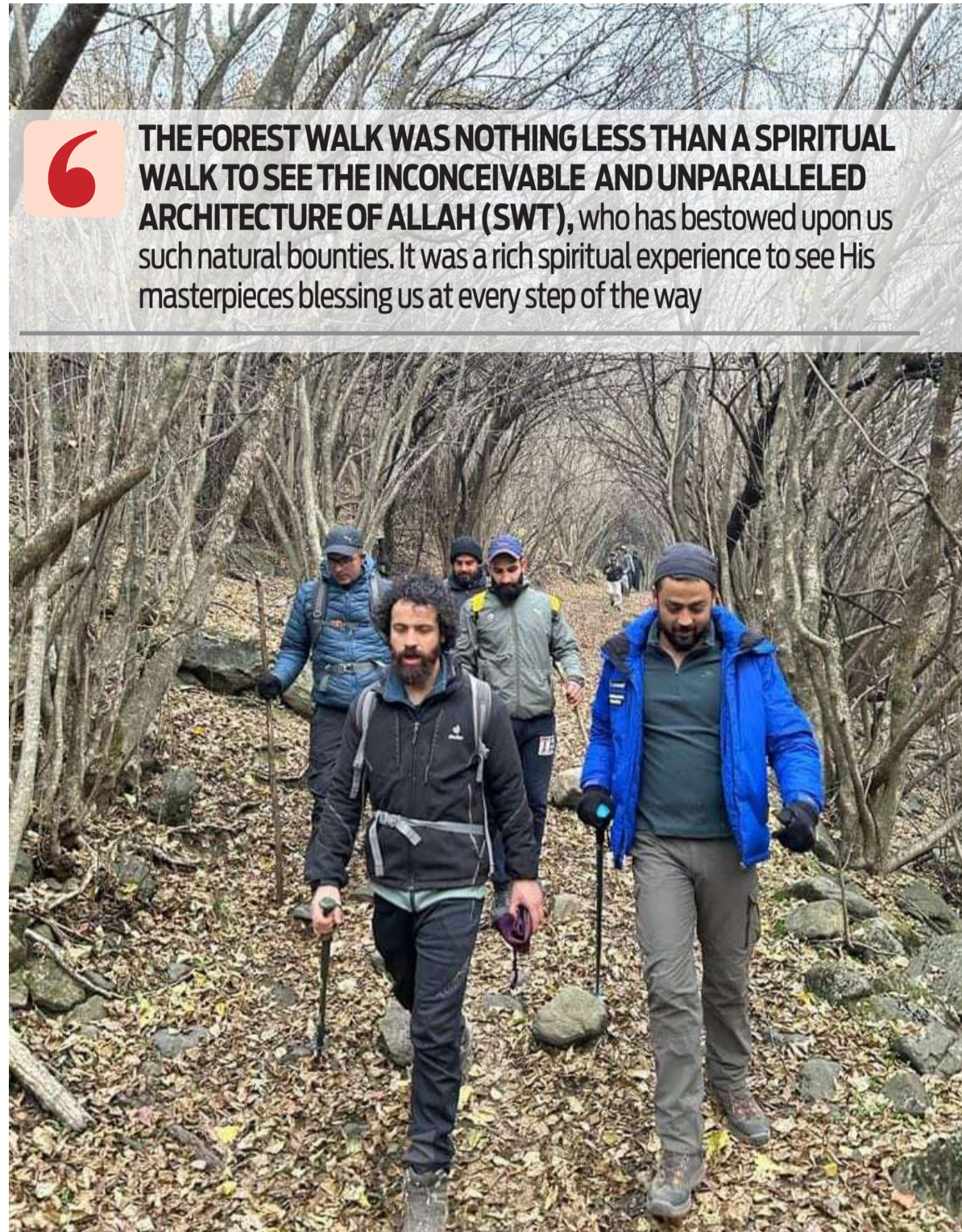
We were also aware and wary of the presence of overbearing bears and vivid leopards. Going forward, as a team, we took every precaution necessary to avoid troubling or being troubled. Doing so ensured that we enjoyed the scenic beauty along the way to the fullest.

The trek this time was not enervating, so we got ample time to learn from our guide and to explore the surroundings.

Away from the humdrums and doldrums of city life, this haven gave us a chance to discover our peace of mind and gave us memories to cherish forever.

The forest walk was nothing less than a spiritual walk to see the inconceivable and unparalleled architecture of Allah (swt), who has bestowed upon us such natural bounties. It was a rich spiritual experience to see His masterpieces blessing us at every step of the way.

The cascade of falling Chinar leaves was so ethereal and surreal that it evoked the child in us to play with one another. We felt true freedom from the clutter and clutches of the materialistic world. Infact, there was no phone network, which



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turned out to be a big blessing for us to stay connected and present with the nature. Every step brought us closer and closer to it.

From the heavenly grandeur of Munew watch point, to the scenic beauty at Pahilpora – we were overwhelmed and overtaken by the heavenly grandeur of our surroundings. We decided to finally soak it all in at Bran Naar, under the thick canopy of Alpine trees, sipping tea.

Thankfully, the rutting period was also over and we were trying our level best to spot wildlife. However, we could only see Langur, the Himalayan black bear with two cubs and a yellow-throated Marten.

In harmony with the distant murmurs of Waskar Naala, we were quite absorbed. Yet we anxiously anticipated the Herd of the Hangul. But that wasn't our day for it.

We did try very hard and marched ahead, but before we knew it, we found ourselves at the Waskar Nala which has its source at the Marsar lake. It was a soul soothing refuge. After some time, we headed towards Chandakhadi where we saw a beautiful piece of paradise beneath the picturesque Chandakhadi waterfall which originates from Daghwan.

We had an unlimited photo session there. Had it not been extremely cold there, we would have taken a dip in that pristine pond as well.

After wrapping up there, we quickly headed back to Waskar, where we had a hot delectable Zafarani Harissa and a chocolate laden 'Filli Tea' prepared by a thorough gentleman, Aakib Ahmad. We shared candid humor and enjoyed camaraderie in those fleeting moments.

We also maintained pin drop silence to listen and respect nature which was superbly playing its orchestra with the gurgling stream, chirping birds and the sound of crispy chinar leaves in symphony. We were overwhelmed by such natural beauty that time was not appropriate and enough to satiate our adventure hunger. We decided then and there that this was not going to be a goodbye.

The writer is founding member of Badamwari Athletes Club

Happy In Virtual, Unhappy In Real World!

Saiqa Jan

These modern times where we live in an era of advanced technology, high-speed internet available at our fingertips, and countless social networking apps that allow us to connect with people all around the world, with a click of a button we can be part of our friend's lives living in different continents, and with a click of a button we can share our most important and beautiful moments/ phases of life. We can reach out to hundred of people from around the world in a matter of minutes. We can suggest a hundred things to the people living even in the remotest corners of the world. Advancement of technology has made us more connected than we have ever been. In older times we couldn't have even thought of such a closely knitted web that can connect you to world in a matter of seconds.

But as we go deeper into the study of this closeness we come to realise that if the advancement of technology has brought us so close to each other, how come there are more socially isolated people in real life? If technology has helped us maintain a very good connection with all of our friends and family then, why do people still feel lonely and get depressed and isolate themselves eventually leading to even suicides?

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why do people still feel lonely and get depressed and isolate themselves eventually leading to even suicides?

Why do relationships seem fake and why do we see everyone complaining about having trust issues and not being able to connect in real life with the people?

Why are our suicide rates higher than ever?

Why is the depression rate getting higher and higher with each passing day?

Why do people develop and suffer through various psychosocial problems?

Why are we emotionally and psychologically so vulnerable that the only way out seems to be self-harm?

Why are we very adjustable and easy to get along with on social networks whilst we find it difficult to do the same in real life?

Here I am not trying to degrade the place and value of social networking and technological advancement, instead what I am emphasising on is the need and dependency we feel in our lives upon social networking and technology in general. We have become so dependent upon it that we don't realise that we are missing out on real life. We try and condition our brains to find our happiness virtually. We have hundreds of friends online who we text, who we chat and talk with, but when we close our social networking sites, shut down our computers or cell-phones, how do we have with ourselves?

How many of us meet up and interact with strangers in a park? None. Because we aren't supposed to, because

we don't know how those people are going to turn out and react to us interacting with them. But how many of us follow those self-made rules and regulations of interaction with strangers on social media?

The answer to that is none, because in our heads our virtual space is our safe space, a place where we can express ourselves better, express our emotions better, interact with strangers and make new friends. But have we ever thought that all this display of emotions and interactions is getting faker and faker along the way somewhere? Have we ever questioned ourselves about why we need all those likes? All those comments? Why do we need that entire technologically social acceptance? Why do we feel a compulsion to check and recheck our posts and see who liked, who disliked and who said what about our very own emotions?

Why is it that every time we get a

negative comment we feel more affected and

hit by it than a damn! Tornado itself?

I know many of you might be thinking right now, well! That doesn't happen with me, but deep down even you know that you crave that social attention, that acceptance and the feeling of belongingness

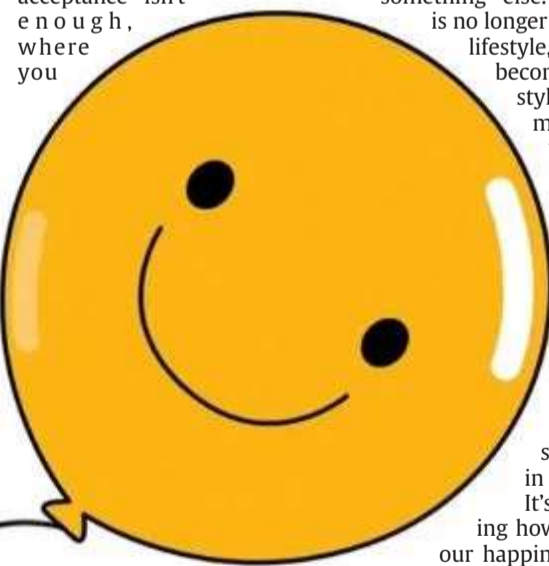
you get when your posts hit a huge number of likes and comments. You feel satisfied once your posts blow up, that's from where the process of social loneliness (as I call it) starts because once you've hit the mark, then you feel the pressure. The pressure to do better next time, the pressure which spins you around, makes you go take a million pictures and choose one to post it, because you need those likes and if you don't get them you won't be satisfied. In that pressure you neglect your real emotions and start posting and pretending to be someone who you are not, you make your life look picture perfect, when it isn't that way. You share your emotions and moments online pretending to be happier than you are, and whilst doing that you are slowly isolating yourself from people existing in your real life.

At first you find

your happiness online among the group of people who you think are exactly like you in terms of feelings, emotions, likings, disliking, and whatnot. You start living two lives at the same time, one is a virtual life while as the other is the

real life you have which you tend to ignore every time you hop into that virtual roller coaster and ride away with the thrill and fun of it and all this happens so gradually that you don't even realise that it's happening, until you reach a point where all the fun and thrill

starts to vanish away, where you start to realise that you do a double time living two lives is of no good to you. A point where you realise that virtual acceptance isn't enough, where you



need someone to be by your side in real life, but you find none because the world you created for yourself, the happiness you got was all virtual and not real and that's where the process of technological depression starts.

You start going into self-hate, you think of yourself as not being good enough, like you are lacking something, which you

aren't, then you start feeling lonely as if you had the world in one minute and another you had nothing. And all that leads to the only way, the road to the socialised loneliness.

It's sadly amusing how we subject our happiness to a virtual world. We create and ig-

nore the real world, and eventually we come back to the real world to find the same happiness that we have already misplaced and is-attached to something else. Technology is no longer a part of our lifestyle, but it has become the lifestyle itself and maybe that's why we feel so incomplete and lonely, because the more we dive into it the more we lose the taste and fun of simple things in life.

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We share our virtual emotions but no one actually knows what we feel for real, because they see what we make them see and they cannot see beyond that. No one can see beyond a fake smile in a picture, because we have them believe that our life is exactly as it looks in the posts, and we do the same with others as well. We put ourselves and our emotions in comparison with others online and

unknowingly get ourselves drowned into more self-pity and self-hate at the same time and that is what makes us chaotic inside out.

The truth is no one is as happier as they show online, you can never make out a difference between real and fake happiness virtually, but doing all this we are not only tricking people into believing we are happy but we also trick ourselves and maybe that is why when the moment of realisation comes to us, most of us cannot even handle that and give up to the first and most stupid thoughts that come to mind. It's like self-caging ourselves, getting used to the feeling and then not wanting to come out of it.

After reading this you might think I am asking you to give up on technology and social networking all together but that's not what it is. This is meant to make you understand whether you are using technology or you are being used by it.

All this was made to make us feel more connected when in reality, how we use it has gotten us to move away from each other.

Studies show that due to the excessive use of technology and social media people have developed a dependency upon it which leads to various psychological problems and diseases like FOMO (fear of missing out), Insomnia due to problems with circadian rhythms, depression, and not to mention the ill effects of electronic gadgets on eyes and brain.

Technology is not the problem. The way we use it, is. That is where the problem lies and that is where we need to find the loopholes and fix them to have a better life in real and not a virtual one.

India successfully flight tests indigenous high-speed flying-wing UAV

New Delhi: The Defence Ministry on Friday said a successful flight trial of an indigenous high-speed flying-wing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was carried out in Karnataka's Chitradurga that propelled India into an elite club of nations to have the technology to produce such a platform.

The autonomous flying wing technology demonstrator has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

"The DRDO has successfully carried out a flight trial of autonomous flying wing technology demonstrator, an indigenous high-speed flying-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) from the aeronautical test range in Chitradurga," the ministry said.

The successful flying demonstration of this autonomous stealth UAV is a testimony to maturity in the technology readiness levels in the country, it said.

"With this flight in the tail-less configuration, India has joined the elite club of countries to have mastered the controls for the flying wing technology," the Defence Ministry said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented the DRDO, the armed forces and the industry for the successful flight trial of the system. He said the successful development of such critical technologies indigenously will further strengthen the armed forces.

This UAV is designed and developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment.

The ministry said the

maiden flight of this aircraft was demonstrated in July 2022, followed by six flight trials in various developmental configurations using two in-house manufactured prototypes.

"These flight tests led to achievements in the development of robust aerodynamic and control system; integrated real-time and hardware-in-loop simulation, and state-of-the-art ground control stations," it said.

"The team had optimised the avionics systems, integration and flight operations towards the successful seventh flight in the final configuration," the ministry added.

The aircraft prototype, with a complex arrowhead wing platform, is designed and manufactured with lightweight carbon prepreg composite material developed indigenously.

"Also, the composite structure, impregnated with fibre interrogators for health monitoring, is a showcase of 'Aatmanirbharta' in aerospace technology," the ministry said.

"The autonomous landing of this high-speed UAV, without the need for ground radars/infrastructure/pilot, showcased a unique capability demonstration, allowing take-off and landing from any runway with surveyed coordinates," it said.

The ministry said this was possible using on-board sensor data fusion with indigenous satellite-based augmentation using GPS-aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) receivers to improve the accuracy and integrity of GPS navigation.

Parliament security breach accused Sagar Sharma talked about 'dying for nation' in his diary

Press Trust Of India

Lucknow: Sagar Sharma, one of the two men who had jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber and set off smoke canisters, maintained for some years a diary in which he often wrote "Inquilab Zindabad" on top of the page and at one stage talked about "dying for the nation".

"I have given my life to the nation. I have taken a step towards freedom. Now the turn will come to die for the nation. I have already rested a lot," he wrote in Hindi on June 13, 2015.

Sharma (28), a resident of Ramnagar in Lucknow, maintained the diary from 2015 to 2021, keeping it along with his books that included crime novels and a Hindi translation of Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf, police officials said.

Family members of Sharma gave the diary to the local police who then handed it over to their Delhi counterparts investigating Wednesday's security breach in Parliament.

The diary entries are not regular. It included his thoughts on society, poems and couplets by revolutionaries and freedom fighters.

In one such entry, Sharma wrote "Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamaare dil mein hai, dekhnai hai zor kitna baazu-e-qaatil mein hai" -- a couplet that was made famous by Ram Prasad Bismil as a war cry during the British rule.

On February 6, 2021, Sharma wrote, "Ghar se vida lene ka samay najdik aa gaya hai (It's almost time to bid adieu to home). On one hand, there is a fear and on the other the fiery determination to go through anything."

"I have waited every moment of five years for the time when I will move towards my duty. The



strongest person in the world is not one who knows how to snatch but the one who can give up everything," he added.

In a diary entry on June 12, 2015, Sharma wrote, "The modesty of daughters is being looted in the open here. Then why are we sitting patiently with folded hands?"

The very next day, he wrote about giving his life for the nation.

Police sources, quoting the family members, said that Sharma studied till class 12 and tried to join the army but failed despite several attempts. He later moved to Bengaluru for a few years. After returning home a few months ago, Sagar began driving an e-rickshaw.

According to the family members, while leaving home on Monday, Sagar told them that he was going to Delhi to take part in a protest. His kin claimed that they were unaware of his involvement in the Parliament security breach.

Satyam Singh, a friend of Sagar said that he wanted to study more after class 12 and talked about financial constraints.

"He wanted to do something for his family. He talked of

earning an honest living without harming anyone. I find it hard to believe that he took such an extreme measure of causing a ruckus inside Parliament," he said.

According to the police, Sagar's father Roshan Lal is a carpenter while his mother Rani is a homemaker. The family hails from the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh but has been living in a rented accommodation in Lucknow for over a decade.

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack on Wednesday, Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber during Zero Hour, released yellow smoke from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by MPs.

Around the same time, two others, including a woman, raised slogans and released yellow smoke from canisters outside the Parliament premises, prompting police to round up the duo.

The four persons have been arrested and slapped with terror charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

8 years after project sanction, Asia's biggest ice skating rink in Shimla awaits its implementation

Press Trust Of India

Shimla: Nearly eight years after it was sanctioned, Asia's biggest natural ice skating rink in Shimla awaits its conversion into an artificial rink so that skating sessions could be held throughout the year.

Members of the ice skating club the capital city expressed apprehension on the lack of "concrete steps" taken on the project and the shrinking skating season.

The all-weather ice skating rink would be constructed at a cost of Rs 40 crore, members said citing the detailed project report (DPR).

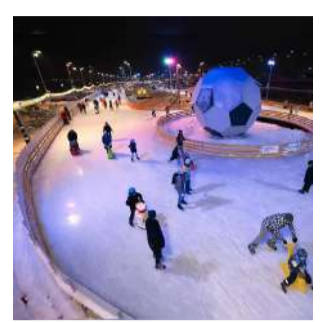
An all-weather ice skating rink would be a tourist attraction in Shimla and could help tackle drug abuse among the youth, club members said addressing mediapersons on Friday.

Absence of sports and other activities is one of the reasons youth take to drugs, they said.

Under the project, a covered artificial rink would be constructed with facilities for parking, changing rooms, a restaurant, among others so as to be able to organise national and international events, according to Rajat Malhotra and Sudeep Mahajan both executive members of the club.

National championships for speed skating and figure skating were organised in Shimla till 2010, club secretary Manpreet Singh Sambhi told mediapersons.

In 2016, the project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs 13 crore project Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Transformation (AMRUT) project but the Covid pandemic stalled its implementation, said Abhay, an executive



member of the ice skating club.

Later the project came under the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was then part of the smart city project and now the project is being funded by the ADB and implemented by the tourism department, he said. The project is still at the tendering stage, he added.

Club members also expressed apprehension that the skating season has not yet begun this year. Last year, the season began on December 14 later than the expected November-end and only had 35 sessions.

In 1972, the least number of sessions were held at 12 sessions. Most sessions were held in 1996-97 at 118 sessions.

Climate change, felling of trees, construction in the vicinity of the existing rink, the demolition of Rivoli Theatre above the rink that used to block direct sunlight on the rink coupled with pollution caused by the nearby bus stand, temperatures have increased and the ice skating season is shrinking.

Unusual rise in maximum temperatures has delayed the commencement of the season as clear sky and low temperature are a prerequisite for a good season, said Pankaj Prabhakar, another club member.

SC to hear plea of Indian detained in Czech Republic for foiled plot to kill Sikh separatist in US

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday deferred the hearing for January 4, 2024 on a habeas corpus plea moved by a family member of Indian national Nikhil Gupta, who has been accused of plotting an assassination attempt on Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil.

Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic on June 30. He has alleged grave human rights violations in solitary confinement, including being forced to consume beef and pork. He has also alleged that he was denied consular access, the right to contact his family in India and the freedom to seek legal representation.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna

and S V N Bhatti described the matter as an "extremely sensitive issue for the Ministry of External Affairs" and told senior advocate C A Sundaram, representing Gupta, to approach a court in the Czech Republic, where his client is lodged in a jail.

Sundaram told the bench that he is not pressing his habeas corpus prayer at this stage, but only seeking consular access and a direction to the Indian envoy in the European country to find out about the status of the case as his client is not being told anything.

The bench asked the senior lawyer about the person who has filed the petition in the apex court, to which Sundaram said on behalf of Gupta, one of his family members has moved the plea in the capacity of the "next

friend" of the detenu.

Justice Khanna said since he got the case file late, he was not able to go through it. "We will take up the matter on January 4, after the winter break," he said.

Sundaram requested that the matter be taken up in-camera as several sensitive issues are involved.

"We will see that on January 4," Justice Khanna said and allowed Sundaram to serve a copy of the case file to Attorney General R Venkataramani.

On November 29, Gupta was charged by federal prosecutors in the United States in connection with his alleged participation in a foiled plot to assassinate Pannun on American soil.

The 52-year-old was charged with murder-for-hire, which carries a

maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, and conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum sentence of a 10-year jail term.

US authorities had said Gupta agreed to pay an assassin USD 100,000 to kill the Sikh separatist leader living in New York City.

The prosecutors had said Czech authorities arrested and detained Gupta on June 30, pursuant to the bilateral extradition treaty between the US and the Czech Republic.

Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic at the request of the US in connection with his alleged participation in the plot to kill Pannun.

The plea filed in the apex court through advocate Rohini Musa says it seeks the court's urgent intervention

in the matter of the illegal arrest and ongoing extradition proceedings against Gupta, a law-abiding Indian citizen, in the Republic of Czech.

"The petitioner, an Indian citizen hailing from a humble background, urgently approaches the Supreme Court of India seeking relief in a matter fraught with complexities. The genesis of the petitioner's predicament dates back to June 30, 2023, when he was illegally detained at Prague Airport in the Czech Republic," the plea has said.

Gupta has alleged that the circumstances surrounding his arrest were marked by irregularities, with no formal arrest warrant presented.

Alleging grave human rights violations in solitary confinement, Gupta has narrated his ordeal and claimed

that he was not shown any arrest warrant during the initial detention.

"Instead, he found himself in the custody of individuals purporting to represent US interests. The petitioner, a devout Hindu and vegetarian, claims that he was subjected to forced consumption of beef and pork during his detention in Czech custody, a direct violation of his religious beliefs. Moreover, he alleges that he was denied consular access, the right to contact his family in India, and the freedom to seek legal representation," the plea says.

Gupta has contended that the charges against him, coupled with media coverage, have tarnished his reputation and subjected him to undue interference.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Two Women Cops

arranging gold loan facilities.

"But the accused had deposited the cash with some finance company and gold with Manappuram Bank-Satwari, Karan Market Jammu for their personal use, thereby cheated and duped the fellow officials and misappropriated the collected amount to the tune of Rs. 1.50 crores and gold about 300 grams approx," the spokesperson said.

On receipt of the enquiry report, he said, a formal case was registered in Crime Branch Jammu under the relevant sections of law. He said during the course of investigation, it was also found that the accused also started business of electronic gadgets and furniture items at Battalion headquarters against monetary benefits to win over the confidence of innocent investors.

"During the course of investigation all material evidence in the form of documentary record was collected from concerned quarters besides statements of complainants & witnesses were recorded and the offences U/S 420, 404, 120-B RPC P/S Crime Branch, Jammu were established against both the accused for cheating and duping the complainants and other co-employees of the Battalion of their hard earned money," the spokesperson said. He said a preliminary charge-sheet has been produced against Nirmal Kour Saini and Arti Sharma & further investigation continues into the said case FIR.

65% Kashmir's

substantial portion experiencing depression, anxiety, and various other mental health challenges.

"Almost all of the students report high academic stress. The teachers need to change their attitude towards the students," Dr. Rasool added.

The study reveals that 13.7% major depressive disorder is prevalent

among school-going adolescents, obsessive compulsive disorder 4.0%, panic disorder 1.4%, self-harming behavior 2.5%, generalized anxiety disorder 2.5%, social anxiety disorder 2.2%, dysthymia 1.7%, and adjustment disorder 0.8%.

The study found that the panic disorder and borderline personality disorder as a group were more commonly found among females compared to males. Also, 34% from urban and 28% from rural areas met the criteria for any psychiatric disorder, it noted.

The study says children and adolescents represent a tender part of the human life cycle and they may be at a higher risk of psychiatric disorders.

Dr. Rasool who is also consultant, Psychiatry, IMHANS-K said many children whom they examined were disturbed and stressed due to certain events like encounter, killings or any other untoward incidents in their locality.

He said while many were stressed due to their issues in family like parental discords and divorces.

"Poverty, academic stress and trauma after a killing in the locality was prominent among the children," Dr. Rasool added.

He further said that the team wasn't expecting such a high rate of psychological issues among the kids.

"The most surprising thing was they didn't know about their disease, like depression and anxiety and many of them were living without any treatment," he added.

The study said there is a need for further research in this age group and teachers and parents need psycho-education for identification of such children.

"The parents should be sensitive enough to understand that their child is under stress and any negative happening at home or outside will impact their mind," Dr. Rasool added.

Dr Yasir Hassan, Professor at IMHANS told Kashmir Observer that if

these mental health issues aren't addressed in teenage, the patients can develop suicidal tendencies in future.

"This is the age where maximum mental health issues including depression and anxiety start," he said, adding that IMHANS witnesses overwhelming cases of "self-cutting/self-arming" cases nowadays.

"This was not common earlier .However, today it is prevalent and it means a cry of mental health," he added.

Notably, Jammu and Kashmir ranked highest in attempted suicides across the country in 2022, as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Out of the 1769 instances reported throughout India during the year, 497 were specifically recorded in Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt Begins

information with regard to the advertisement for the post of Director SKIMS Soura, Srinagar is available on the official website of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar, www.skims.ac.in the notification added.

Slight Improvement In

Jammu and Kashmir. Shallow to moderate fog is also likely to continue at many places in Kashmir.

Right To Property

that the subject land belonging to the petitioners in under unauthorized occupation of the respondent-Union of India since 1978 and continues to be so, even as on date."

"The right to property is now considered to be not only constitutional or statutory right but falls within the realm of human rights," the court said.

Human rights, the court said, have been considered in the realm of

individual rights such as right to shelter, livelihood, health, employment etc and over the years, human rights have gained a multifaceted dimension.

"...the Union of India by no stretch of imagination can deprive the petitioners of their land without sanction of law and even if, the respondent-Union of India, requires whole of the said land or any part thereof for defence purpose, they may do so only by following due process of law," the court said, adding, "The petitioners in the present case are displaced persons of 1947, and the petitioners have been deprived of their land from 1978 onwards by the Union of India without following due process of law."

Thus, the court said that it is of the view that the action of the Union of India is "illegal and unconstitutional which cannot sustain the test of law in the light of the stand taken by the State Government and also the findings recorded by the various committees constituted in this regard whereby, the Union of India had been provided opportunity of being heard and after scrutinizing the relevant revenue record, the findings had been recorded by the committees which were gladly and voluntarily accepted by the Union of India without any demur."

Accordingly, the court directed Union of India to pay the rental compensation which has been assessed by the State Government from 01.01.1978 to 31.03.2009 amounting to Rs. 2.49 Crore to the lawful claimants including the petitioners after necessary verification, within a period of one month.

The court also directed the authorities to assess the rental compensation w.e.f. 31.03.2009 till date in the light of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 within a period of one month.

"Subject to assessment of the said

rental compensation, the respondents are directed to pay the amount so assessed to the lawful claimants including the petitioners within a period of one month, thereafter."

J&K Bank MD

boost our commitment to add value to all our stakeholders while prioritising customer centricity at the top our institutional priorities", he added.

Notably, to celebrate visionary leadership, innovation, and the remarkable impact of leaders who had a significant impact on the global business landscape, India's Impactful CEOs Conclave brought together accomplished CEOs, thought leaders, and industry experts from across the country to discuss and share insights on how CEOs can drive positive change, create meaningful impact, and lead their organizations towards a sustainable and responsible future.

ED Attaches Land

cognisance of a August 2020 charge-sheet filed by the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) against Dar, Mir and others for offences under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The other accused include Abdul Hamid Hajam, secretary of the River Jehlum Co-operative House Building Society, Mohammad Mujeeb Ur Rehman Ghassi, a former registrar of the Cooperative Societies, J&K, and Syed Ashiq Hussain, a former deputy registrar of the Cooperative Societies, J&K.

"Money derived out of the said (loan) fraud was utilised for acquiring the immovable property that has been attached," the ED said.

Arms, Ammo

regard and investigation has been taken up.(GNS)

Man Injured After

MATRICULATION EXAMS

Govt Dismisses Reports Of BOSE Not Accepting Forms

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department on Friday dismissed media reports alleging that the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) was not accepting examination forms from

class 10th students enrolled in private schools built on the state land.

Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary School Education Department told Kashmir Observer that no such order has been made and the future of any of the students

won't be jeopardized or put to risk under any circumstances.

Earlier, there were reports that (BOSE) has refused to accept class 10th examination forms from students enrolled in private schools established on state land.

It may be noted that the government had asked all those private schools, who have been allegedly established on state land to submit the legitimate documents.

Kumar, however, said that though those schools haven't submitted the

land documents yet, the career of the students won't be risked.

"This is fake news. We have assured that the future of any child won't be put on the stack. We will do whatever has to be done to get them enrolled," Kumar said.

Two Held For Opening Fire Over Land Dispute

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Two men were arrested for allegedly opening fire on two others over a land dispute RS Pura border belt of Jammu district, officials said on Friday.

The two men who were injured in the incident were hospitalised and their condition is said to be stable, they said.

The accused went with their kin to stop Vijay Kumar and Suresh Kumar of Rangpur Sidhriya and Satowali from collecting fodder from a field in Filora village on Thursday evening, they said. After a heated exchange between the two sides, in a fit of

anger, the accused opened fire on Vijay and Suresh resulting in injuries to them, officials said.

The injured were sent to a hospital and doctors said their condition is stable, they said.

Police said Tarseem and Onkar fled from the spot after the incident but were arrested later. Hunt to nab a third accused is on, they said.

Tarseem Singh and Onkar Singh and others have been booked by the police under sections related to attempt to murder, the Arms Act and other relevant charges. A pistol, 12-bore gun and bog knife has been recovered from them, officials said.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Calls For Facilitating Digital Payments In Hospitals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To enhance healthcare experience for patients in hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has directed hospital administrators to implement QR code facilities for seamless digital payments.

A formal communication has been issued to Medical Superintendents, Associated Hospitals, GMCs, Dental Colleges, as well as Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals, and Block Medical Officers across J&K, advising them to adopt these digital payment solutions.

Despite the availability of interventions to simplify the payment process, officials have observed that people still opt for cash transactions in hospitals.

The ABDM, aligned with the Digital India platform, aims to make all payments digital within citizen-centric services provided by the government.

Dr. Shafiqat Khan, Additional Mission Director, ABDM, J&K, emphasized the need for hospitals to facilitate this transition. "In this context, it is advised

to create digital payment facilities for patients in all hospitals/healthcare institutions by providing QR codes of the respective banks for making UPI payments, along with provisions for Debit Card/Credit Card payments through Point of Sale (PoS) machines," the communication issued in this regard reads.

Officials believe that these measures will reduce the waiting time for payment processes.

Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department, stated, "We have already taken steps to decrease wait times in OPDs, particularly through initiation of Scan and Share Queue Management system. Ensuring hospitals facilitate digital payments is aimed at providing people with a seamless experience."

Dr. Shafiqat Khan remarked, "After successful implementation of a queue-less OPD ticketing facility, the next step is introduction of digital payment gateways for the convenience of patients and their attendants." He also mentioned that steps are being taken for software upgrading, which will enable patients to book consultations with doctors remotely.

Viewpoints At Kulgam's Waling Draw Huge Crowd



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The scenic viewpoints at Waling in DK Marg helmet of Damhal Hanjipora in Kulgam district have evolved into a captivating attraction for locals and visitors alike.

The sites have drawn admirers from distant places who seek the mesmerizing beauty of the forested area.

Sharing their experience, a group of visitors termed Waling as a hidden green gem in Kulgam, embraced by pine forests and snow-capped mountains.

They said that the area surpasses the beauty of other tourist places in the Kashmir valley, adding that they have never witnessed such beautiful scenery anywhere else; it is like discovering a hidden paradise.

The government's construction of viewpoints has further enhanced the allure of Waling, prompting increased interest from visitors. One visitor said, "We learned about this place a few days ago from a friend who visited here, and today, we decided to explore this

brehtaking locale."

Such places need to be prioritized for development the area with green meadows is extraordinarily beautiful, beyond expression in words, he said, adding that the Kulgam administration actively promotes such scenic spots through festivals and various activities.

Ali Mohammad, a local said, the place requires a strong interest on the part of the administration, which will surely change its landscape and stimulate employment in the village.

District Development Council (DDC) member DK Marg said, "Under PRI (DDC sector) for the financial year 2023-24, we have developed viewpoints in Waling. So far, four viewpoints have been constructed with more planned for the future."

He said that 80 percent of the work with the estimated cost of 32 lakhs has been completed, and the viewpoints have become attractions for people. "The area holds immense potential, and we anticipate its development to rival other beautiful destinations in Kashmir," he added—(KNO)



A MAN CARRYING A BASKET of freshly baked bread on his shoulders in the interiors of Dal Lake on a cold Friday morning..

KOPHOTO, ABID BHAT

J&K JJM GETS BIG BOOST

Centre Okays New 102 Water Supply Schemes Worth Rs 476.71 Cr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a major boost to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in J&K, the Centre has approved new 102 Water Supply Schemes worth Rs 476.71 crore for coverage of additional 54752 rural households in the UT for which the provision for Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) had not been planned at the start of the mission.

The identification of these areas/households was done, by the public, during various public outreach programmes like 'Back to village', Block Divas, JJM Fortnight, Gram Sabhas and JJM awareness camps conducted by the Department, where the public had raised the demands for inclusion of these left out areas in the Jal Jeevan Mission.

With the approval of these new 102 schemes by the Centre, it shall be ensured that no household is left without a tap connection within its premises.

The UT administration has thanked the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, for timely approval of the new schemes for coverage of additional 54752 households.

Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, has impressed upon the engineers to expedite execution of these schemes to meet the agreed timelines for completion of the Mission. He further emphasized upon the field functionaries to maintain highest degree of transparency, accountability and accessibility to the general public for effective implementation of the mission.

It may be recalled that like other States/UTs of the country, Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented in J&K with the involvement of various stakeholders like Central Government's Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Jal Shakti Department, J&K, District Administrations and the local communities for providing access to safe and adequate drinking water supply facility through tap connections within the premises of rural households. Pani Samitis representing the local communities are playing a very critical role in the implementation of the Mission by partnering with the Department in planning, implementation and monitoring of the Mission activities.

The Department has been continuously reviewing its planning and implementation for achieving the 100% coverage with FHTCs in the most economic, transparent and technically feasible manner. As on date, J&K has achieved more than 75% coverage of tap water connections, thereby entering into the 'High Achievers' category at the National Level. The FHTCs being provided are reported on the IMIS portal of JJM with Aadhar linkage of the beneficiaries.

So far, about 3300 schemes have been planned under Jal Jeevan Mission at an estimated cost of Rs. 12975.00 crore which are at different stages of execution. The contracts of more than 98% works under these schemes have been awarded through e-tendering in a transparent manner and out of which around 87% works have been started on ground. The allotment orders issued have been placed on the websites of the respective PHE Directorates in both the regions.

In this regard, the UT has already covered more than 1000 villages, among which are some of the remotest areas like Batlan, Taraiyan and Chanbra villages in Sub Division Tangdar of District Kupwara which are located near the LoC and received piped water for the first time. In these villages people would fetch water from springs and nearby streams by travelling long distances. Similarly, Nilfan village with about 285 households got 100% tap water connectivity for the first time and the women and children of the area got relieved of the drudgery of fetching water by travelling long distances on hill slopes.

By completing and commissioning of Water Supply schemes Rampura and Sujwan at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.67 crore, in district Samba, about 1100 households have been benefited by getting Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) within the premises. The people of these villages were mostly using the water from shallow hand pumps which were quality affected and through the newly commissioned schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission, deep tube wells have been drilled and required storages created for supplying the water of adequate quantity and prescribed quality as per BIS 10500, regularly.

CJ Inaugurates 'Fast Track Court For POCSO Cases In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N Kotiswar Singh on Friday inaugurated newly constructed 'Fast Track Court (POCSO Cases) Jammu having all latest equipments and facilities mandatory for a POCSO Court, at District Court Complex Jammu.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Administrative Judge for District Jammu, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Sanjay Parihar, Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M K

Sharma, Y P Bourney, Director Judicial Academy besides all the judicial officers of the District Headquarter as well as officers of High Court registry, Jammu were also present on the occasion.

The event was also graced by Advocate General, D.C Raina, President BAR Association, Vikram Sharma, Secretary Bar Association and office bearers of BAR Association Jammu besides Court staff of District Court Jammu.

Pertinently, the construction of POCSO Court was taken up by the High Court on Fast Track basis as per latest guidelines (Vulnerable witnesses-deposition centre) of Committee appointed by Supreme Court, headed by Justice Gita Mittal, Former Chief Justice of J&K High Court.

BJP Mahila Morcha Hails Passage Of Women's Reservation Bill For J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP Mahila Morcha here celebrated the passage of a bill that extended the provisions of the women's reservation law to Jammu and Kashmir calling it a "significant step" towards empowering women in the region.

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed two bills that extended the provisions of the women's reservation law to the union territories of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

Members expressed their joy by dancing to drum beats and distributing sweets.

Sanjita Dogra, President of J-K BJP Mahila Morcha, hailed the extension of the bill as a "significant step" towards 'Nari Shakti,' empowering the power of the nation.



The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 is the official name of the women's reservation law, that seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

"This day will be etched in India's 75-year history as the moment when half of the nation's population secured adequate representation in the highest legislative body," Dogra remarked, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing and success-

fully passing the bill in both houses.

She asserted that women's power is the nation's power, and both women and the nation are poised to reach greater heights in the Amrit Kaal till 2047.

In congratulating women across the nation, Dogra highlighted the remarkable achievements of 'Nari Shakti' in various fields.

"India's vision of women-led development is not only acknowledged but also adopted by the global community," she said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SHAHABAD

Subject: Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management in Block Shahabad District Anantnag.
On behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the eligible and interested agencies are hereby invited for the execution of a Solid Waste Management Plan in District Anantnag Block Shahabad.

1. BACKGROUND:
The Solid Waste Management program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Shahabad, in line with the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The program will cover the CD Block Shahabad comprising of 21 Gram Panchayats mentioned below:

S.No	Name of Panchayat	Approximate No of Households	Other Establishments
1	Ara Dehruna	334	30
2	Ara Khoshipora	250	25
3	Badsgam	325	31
4	Bragamm	210	15
5	Fatehpura	486	39
6	Hakura A	250	15
7	Hakura B	253	36
8	Herschiehan	480	36
9	Kabamarg	424	21
0	Kreri	308	15
11	Larkipora Lower	452	35
12	Larkipora Upper	222	10
13	LookBhawan	424	12
14	Manta pora	164	15
15	Mehmoodabad Lower	279	20
16	Mehmoodabad Upper	302	18
17	Nowpora A	333	20
18	Nowpora B	200	11
19	Pethbugh	350	15
20	Shankarpura	290	23
21	Zaidora	196	8
	Total	6532	450

2. SCOPE OF WORK:
The contracting agency will be responsible for the following processes:

- Solid Waste Collection**
 - Sanitation and door-to-door collection of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from all households of one of the three designated clusters covering all households, shops, factories, industrial establishments, etc. at least twice a week.
 - A Panchayat-Haqla-wise schedule of waste collection shall further be notified in consultation with the concerned Block Development Officer and Gram Panchayat.
 - The intending agency shall collect all types of waste- door-to-door waste, waste from already installed dustbins, and legacy waste so that the objective of ODF plus is obtained and sustained.
 - Ensuring segregation of waste preferably at the household level and mandatorily at the already constructed segregation shed sites.
 - Effective and scientific management and disposal of collected waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. A weekly review/report shall be submitted by haqla panchayat to ascertain the effectiveness of weekly disposal.
- Revenue realization**
 - Conducting a fresh survey, in consultation with the field functionaries of the Rural Development Department, to update the household data and include commercial factories, business units, institutions, shops, etc. Collection of monthly Fees/ Charges from the households preferably in digital mode in consultation with the officials of this department.
 - Revenue generation through sustainable waste management practices, such as selling segregated dry waste to authorized dealers.
 - User charges collected shall be deposited in Haqla Panchayat Fund of concerned Gram Panchayat on a monthly basis out of which 10 to 40% (to be decided later) of the Fee/user charges so collected shall form a revenue part and the remaining shall be utilized for incurring the expenditure on account of sanitation workdone.
- Maintenance**
 - Maintenance and upkeep of departmental garbage collection vehicles, and other amenities used for waste collection and ensuring their dedicated use only for solid waste management purposes.
 - The vehicles used for waste collection shall be departmental and the agency has to use these Vehicles/e-rickshaws etc. by engaging its own staff and ensuring the vehicle's maintenance in all respects.
 - The intending agency shall be responsible for the smooth handling over of all assets (Vehicles/machinery/Civil Structures and possession of the sites in good condition to the concerned department after completing the allotment of one year (without any damage).
- Manpower & Machinery**
 - The contracting agency has to engage sweepers/ waste collectors, Drivers, and Management staff with a unique uniform having a unique logo, the design and details of which shall be conveyed to the contracting agency later.
 - The contracting agency has to operate and maintain all the e-carts, garbage collection vans, and machinery at its own level and has to bear the electricity, POL, and maintenance/repair charges of the machinery. The contracting agency will be required to obtain necessary permissions/approvals from the BDO concerned for repair, and maintenance of the existing machinery, if required, at any time.
- Dispute Resolution and Penal provision**
 - In case of any dispute, the Block Development Officer concerned shall be the first appellate authority, the 2nd appellate authority shall be the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Anantnag and the third appellate authority shall be the District Level Sanitation Committee for implementation of SBM-G.
 - The contracting agency shall have to report to the Block Development Officer concerned in case of any violation by any Household/ establishment for imposing a fine. Further, the agency may be required to paste color-coded notices across the panchayat.
 - In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District Level Sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.
- IEC endeavors and inciting behavioral change**
 - The contracting agency shall chalk out a plan for a sustained IEC campaign for inciting behavioral change among the people through various means. The means could be composing appealing and effective sanitation jingles played through overhead speakers of waste collection vehicles on a regular basis, organizing special sanitation drives by involving local youth clubs, students, and Self Help Groups, organizing monthly sanitation ceremonies for best cooperative and complying Panchayats in consultation with the BDO concerned and the District administration, etc.. Monthly IEC plans, 10 days in advance, to be submitted to the concerned BDO for review and approval.
 - The contracting agency shall influence the general public through its best possible sanitation services and shall motivate and convince them to segregate the waste at the source besides reducing the use of Single Use Plastics.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
The contracting agency must meet the following criteria:

- The agency can be a sole proprietor, registered contractor, registered partnership firm, limited liability partnership, public limited company, private limited company, society or NGO, etc.
- The agency must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs. 500000 (Rupees FIVE Lakh) for the last three years.
- Previous experience in managing public utilities as a PPP/outsourcing and knowledge of waste management, including running decentralized solid waste management processes, will be advantageous.
- Additional experience in community mobilization and IEC activities will be preferred.
- The agency must deposit a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs. 30,000 (thirty thousand rupees) pledged to the Block Development Officer Shahabad.

4. CONTRACTING PROCESS:
a) Interested agencies must submit their EOI in sealed envelopes addressed to the Block Development Officer Shahabad, by 24-12-2023 up to 2 PM.
b) The envelopes will be opened on the next day 24-12-2023 at 3 PM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.
c) The EOI will be followed by Technical Evaluation and Financial Evaluation.

5. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:
a) The selected agency will be awarded a one-year contract, which may be extendable based on its performance and the necessity of the Department.
b) The agency shall adhere to all the terms and conditions specified in the EOI document.
c) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI without assigning any reason thereof, in the interest of the government, department, and public funds.

6. SUBMISSION OF EOI AND CONTACT INFORMATION:
a) Interested agencies must submit their sealed envelopes containing the EOI to the following address:
Block Development Office Shahabad, Bang-Nowgam Ruhoo, Shahabad Email: bdo@shahabad@gmail.com
b) For any inquiries or clarifications regarding the EOI, interested agencies may contact Block Development Officer Shahabad, at the above-mentioned address.

7. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS:
• The results of the EOI evaluation will be communicated to the eligible agencies through official communication channels.
8. **LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:**
a) The selected agency must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards during the execution of the Solid Waste Management project in Shahabad.
b) The contracting agency has to adhere to a) the Environment protection act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and the by-laws drafted and passed by the Gram Panchayats in letter and spirit.
c) Sub-contracting shall not be allowed and shall be considered illegal.
d) The contracting agency has to submit an affidavit duly attested by a Judicial Magistrate affirming therein the commitment to bear all costs related to damage, theft, or loss incurred to the vehicles/ machinery of the department during the execution of the SWM project.
e) In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District Level Sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.

The process of technical Evaluation will be done by a designated committee based on the score for the solutions & procedures provided by the agencies to transform the entire solid waste management into an efficient, effective, and sustainable one in the Block.
No. SB/2097-2101
Dated: 15/12/2023

DIPK-13838-23

DT: 15/12/2023

Sd/-

BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Shahabad

Moomin Scores 3 As Downtown Heroes Enter Gold Cup Semis



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC striker Moomin Bhat scored a hatrick as the team defeated J&K Bank Academy (Jammu) 4-0 in the quarterfinal of the 17th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament being played at Mini Stadium Parade Ground in Jammu.

Moomin opened the scoring in the 25th minute, before doubling the lead in the 41st minute

through a penalty. The young forward completed the tournament's first hatrick in the 50th minute. Shariq Hussain made it 4-0 in the 69th minute.

The Gold Cup is organised by All J&K Sports & Cultural Welfare Association, under the aegis of J&K Football Association and in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

In Saturday's game, J&K Police take on Young Rovers FC at 3:00 PM.

Kashmir Riders Suffer Defeat In Fasco Premier League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Riders, J&K's lone representative in the 3rd All India EPCH cricket tournament, Fasco Premier League 2023, were knocked out of the T15 tourney Friday after suffering a 77-run defeat to Royal Strikers Delhi at SVSPS Sports Complex in Greater Noida.

Batting first, Royal Strikers blasted the opposing bowlers, making a mammoth 175/3 in the allotted 15 overs. In reply, Kashmir Riders, led by captain Iqbal Mir, kept losing wickets



at regular intervals as the team managed only 98-9 in 15 overs.

Aryan Kapoor shined for Royal Strikers Delhi, top-scoring with 76 (37), and was named player of the match. He also bowled three overs and took one wicket.

India Set To Host First Shootingball World Cup 2024

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Shootingball Association on Friday welcomed the efforts of Shootingball Federation of India for hosting the first-ever Shootingball World Cup at Delhi in March 2024. Ten

nations are expected to participate in this world championship.

While giving details, General Secretary J&K Shootingball Association congratulated Shootingball Federation of India for launching the logo and official kit of the First Shootingball World Cup.

Real Kashmir Play Shillong At TRC Today



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC hosts Shillong Lajong FC as the two teams go head-to-head in I-League 2023-24 today, Saturday, December 16, at Synthetic Turf TRC, with kick off at 2:00 PM.

The Snow Leopards will look to extend their unbeaten I-League run to six matches as they take on the Meghalaya-based side. Real Kashmir are third in the I-League standings, having played nine matches and collecting 17 points. The Ishfaq Ahmed-coached team has won five, drawn two and lost two this season.

Meanwhile, Shillong Lajong, coached by Bobby L Nongbet, have won three of their previous five matches. The team has 16 points from nine matches, placing it fifth in the I-League table.

Real Kashmir has only let in four goals this season, and Coach Ishfaq was all praises during a pre-match conference on Friday.

"Like defenders and goalkeeper, our strikers also played good football," he said.

Ishfaq Ahmed was also asked about playing at the Synthetic Turf at TRC.

"Playing on natural and artificial turf has different effects. In the last away game on natural turf, we won 4-0. Ad-

justing from artificial to natural turf is challenging; players need time. Despite the challenges, we must overcome them and secure victories," Ishfaq said.

Real Kashmir's Portuguese defender Carlos Lomba complemented Kashmiris and their hospitality. "Everyone treated me very well. Locals in Kashmir are also getting an opportunity to perform. They are taking opportunities very seriously and performing well," Carlos said.

The 2023-24 I-League season is being led by the undefeated Mohammedan SC, who have taken 23 points from their nine games, winning seven and drawing two.

PCB Signs Hosting Agreement For 2025 Champions Trophy



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday said it signed the hosting rights agreement of the 2025 Champions Trophy with the International Cricket Council (ICC) in Dubai.

The agreement for the 2025 mega event was signed by Zaka Ashraf who heads the Cricket Management Committee running the PCB affairs at the moment.

"Chairman PCB Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf was joined by ICC General Counsel Jonathan Hall in the signing of the hosting rights to Pakistan at the ICC headquarters," the PCB said in a statement.

Pakistan last hosted an ICC event in 1996 -- the ODI World Cup.

Pakistan was guaranteed to host the 2009 Champions Trophy and also matches of the 2011 World Cup at home but the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in March 2009 in Lahore led to both events being moved from the country due to security concerns.

The biggest challenge surrounding Pakistan hosting the Champions Trophy remains whether the Indian government would allow its team to travel to Pakistan for its matches.

The PCB had to agree to a hybrid model of the Asia Cup in August-September and share matches with Sri Lanka after the BCCI said its team would not play in Pakistan due to security concerns.

Pakistan did host the 2008 Asia Cup in entirety and that was the last time India played in Pakistan.

The PCB said in a statement that it has already conveyed to the government to provide foolproof security to visiting international teams for the Champions Trophy.

"The PCB in its capacity has already intimated the government to provide foolproof security to visiting international teams for the Champions Trophy," the PCB statement added.

"Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a recent meeting with Chairman PCB Management Committee assured the security agencies' cooperation in the successful hosting of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025."

Another logistical problem facing the PCB would be to get its existing international venues renovated and ready for the matches of the mega event.

Presently, only Karachi, Lahore and Multan have stadiums capable of hosting Champions Trophy games.

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