

Snow Relief To Continue: IMD Forecasts Heavy Snowfall On January 30-31

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: For those looking forward to a snowy start to 2024 in Jammu & Kashmir, January was an even bigger disappointment compared to December 2023. 'Chillai kalan' – the 40-day-long period of bitter cold – also failed to deliver any precipitation. Lack of snow and rain left the residents freezing amid the dry cold spell, while the tourists turned back home in dismay from the snowless ski resorts.

And just as hope turned to hopelessness, a series of strong Western Disturbances, as if held back by some invisible force, began rushing in since the weekend. Fresh bouts of snow reportedly graced places like Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Gurez, Keran, Tangdhar, among others. In fact, tourists were seen frolicking in the snow at Gulmarg's ski resort on Sunday, January 28.

Now, two more successive systems will be impacting Northwest India from January 30 and February 3, respectively. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), these western disturbances will spark up to moderate, fairly widespread rainfall/



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

snowfall over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan, Muzaffarabad and Himachal Pradesh during the next seven days, until February 4. Further, isolated heavy showers or snowfall (64.5 mm-115.5 mm) is also likely over Kashmir on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 30-31, and Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday, January 31.

A yellow watch, meaning 'be prepared', has been issued over these regions for the forecast period owing to the possibility of intense snowfall activity. Roads in higher reaches and important passes, like the Sinthan Pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna and Razdan Pass and Zojila, have been temporarily closed off amid inclement weather. And travellers have

been asked to plan their trips accordingly. The MeF department has also advised farmers to withhold irrigation and fertiliser application and drain out excess water from orchards and fields during this period. As for the mercury levels, the cloud cover over the region has caused the night temperatures to soar across Kashmir. Srinagar witnessed | More on P6

Snowfall In Kashmir Cheers Tourists, Locals

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Snowfall in Kashmir has brought cheers to the tourism sector, sparking joy among tourists and the local people linked with the tourism industry.

The industry was feeling battered over the last couple of months in the absence of a good snowfall, with many intending tourists

cancelling their bookings and tour operators receiving little to no queries.

The tourist arrivals to the valley, which usually witnesses a higher footfall, especially at resorts like Gulmarg, fell in the absence of snow – a cause of worry for the tourism stakeholders in the valley.

However, the snowfall at the fag-end of Chilla-i-Kalan -- a | More on P6



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

RS Elections For 15 States On Feb 27

J&K's Seats Lying Vacant

Agencies

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India on Monday announced that polls for 56 Rajya Sabha seats will be held on February 27.

According to the details available, the election for 56 seats will be held in 15 states.

The elections are being held as 50 incumbent RS members will conclude their term on April 2 while the remaining six members will retire on April 3.

The election for RS would be held in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Interestingly, Jammu and Kashmir continues to be unrepresented in Rajya Sabha for the second consecutive year as four members from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had completed their term in February 2021.

Since then, the four RS seats of J&K lie vacant in the Parliament. "The union territory will continue to remain unrepresented in Rajya Sabha for some more time because elections to four vacant seats from Jammu and Kashmir are not possible as the union territory is without | More on P6

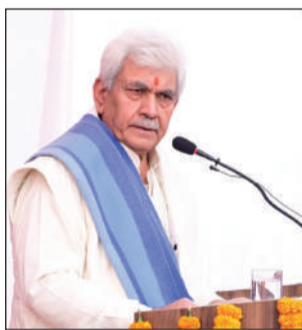
Pvt Institutions Must Ensure Education To All: LG Says Education Sector Had Witnessed Stagnation For More Than Three Decades

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday voiced for transformation of the education sector and said the private educational institutions must adopt some measures to ensure that education is accessible to all particularly the marginalised sections of the society.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instilled new confidence in the society as he has restored the ancient glory of Bharat.

"Transformation of the education sector should be our commitment. Private educational institutions must adopt some measures to ensure that



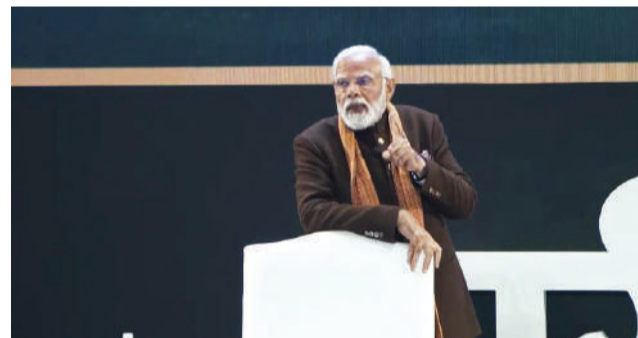
education is accessible, affordable to all so that the marginalized section of the society is benefited and the education sector is truly inclusive," Sinha said while addressing a function in connection with inauguration of the | More on P6

LG Lays Foundation Stone for Innovation Tower at JU

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone for the Innovation Tower at University of Jammu. The facility will be completed in two phases under the Capex budget of 2023-24. He said the cutting-edge facility will serve as a Central Hub for transformational Innovation, Incubation, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the Union Territory. The One-of-a-kind facility will house Atal | More on P6

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT resources for our nation's growth is the youth. The education must strengthen the contribution of the youth in India's march towards Viksit Bharat."

'Pariksha Pe Charcha' Create 'No Gadget Zones' In Homes: PM to Parents



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Just like mobile phones, human bodies need recharging to function properly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told students on Monday while emphasising that physical health is as important as excelling in academics.

Interacting with students, parents and teachers during the seventh edition of his 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme, the prime minister shared 25 mantras, including the need for a balanced lifestyle and avoiding anything in excess.

"Like one needs to recharge a mobile phone, the human body needs recharging too. Physical health is as important as excelling in academics. A healthy body is critical for a healthy mind. Being healthy requires some routines, spending time in sunlight and getting regular

Some Mantras By PM

- Report cards are not meant to serve as visiting cards.
- There is no "right time"; take action now.
- Instill resilience to handle pressure.
- Forge a teacher-student bond beyond the curriculum.
- Utilize technology with judgment-based decisions.
- Excessive screen time robs you of sleep.
- Siblings shouldn't indulge in rivalry.

and complete sleep," he said. Modi also stressed | More on P6

PM's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' Fosters Positive Impact In Kashmir

People Call for More 'Stress-Free' Educational Initiatives

Auqib Javed

In a backdrop where nearly 60-65% of school-going adolescents grapple with academic-related stress in Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationwide program - 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' has emerged as a potential solution to alleviate the educational burden on the region's youth. The initiative to create a stress-free atmosphere for students is garnering increasing support and recognition from students, parents, and educators alike.

The programme was launched by the PM in 2018 with an aim to help the children to overcome the challenges that they face during education. An official told Kashmir Observer the initiative aims to unite students, parents, teachers, and the community in creating an atmosphere where the distinct individuality of each child is embraced, nurtured, and given the freedom to fully express itself. On Monday, the PM interacted with students and teachers from the different states of | More on P6

2,200 Cr Kiru Hydro-Power Project Scam

CBI Conducts Searches In Delhi, Jammu

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI has conducted searches at eight locations in Delhi and Jammu in connection with alleged corruption in awarding of civil works worth Rs 2,200 crore of the Kiru Hydro Electric Power Project, officials said on Monday.

The searches were conducted recently at the premises of Rajiv Dahiya, Surender Kumar Gupta, Saurabh Gupta, Arun Kumar and Reshi Kumar Sharma, they said.

They are suspected to have converted bribe money into

white through money laundering, the officials said.

Satya Pal Malik, who was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir between August 23, 2018, and October 30, 2019, had claimed that he was offered a Rs 300-crore bribe for clearing two files, including one pertaining to the project.

"The case was registered on allegations of malpractices in award of a contract worth approximately Rs 2,200 crore of civil works of Kiru Hydro Electric Power Project (HEP) to a private company in the year 2019," the | More on P6

Expedition Of Hydro Electric Project In J&K Govt Diverts Chenab River Water

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government on Monday announced diversion of Chenab river water through diversion tunnels at Drabshalla in Kishtwar district to expedite the 850-MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

"A major milestone has been achieved at the 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir with the diversion of Chenab river through diversion tunnels at Drabshalla in Kishtwar district, at 11.30 AM on January 27, 2024," the power ministry said in a statement.

The diversion of river flow

will enable isolation of dam area, paving way for the excavation and construction works, it said.

The move will expedite construction activities and help in minimising delays so as to facilitate all efforts to meet the scheduled commissioning deadline of May 2026, the ministry said.

Ratle Project is being executed by Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPL), a joint venture of NHPC Limited and the government of J&K, with shareholding of 51:49 per cent, respectively. Ratle HE project is situated on the | More on P6

Over 8000 To Perform Hajj From J&K



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The authorities on Monday said that over 8000 aspirants from across Jammu & Kashmir will be leaving for performing Hajj 2024 soon, saying that the applications of few aspirants having expired passports

have been rejected. Sharing details about this year's annual Hajj pilgrimage, the executive officer of J&K Haj committee, Dr. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, speaking to the media in Haj House Bemina said around 8,017 Hajj pilgrims have been selected from | More on P6

5,162 Women To Perform Hajj Without Mehram

A total of 5,162 women would be going for Haj without 'mehram' this year, the largest since the reform was introduced in 2018 which did away with the compulsion of a male companion with women on the pilgrimage. For Haj 2024, applications have been received from 6,370 women who are above 70 years of age, besides 5,162 women who want to go on the pilgrimage without 'mehram' | More on P6

14 HA Of Land Encroached In Jammu's Wildlife Sanctuaries

Agencies

Srinagar: Nearly 14 hectares of forest land from two wildlife sanctuaries in Jammu region have been encroached by different individuals, groups and agencies till 2023.

According to the official figures at least 6.35 hectares of forest land from Ramnagar and 7.50 hectares of forest land from Nandini wildlife sanctuaries have been encroached.

This information was revealed by the Public Information Officer (PIO) of the regional wildlife warden of the department in reply to the Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist M M Shuja.

The official record reveals that there is a total of 3150 hectares of land in Ramnagar

wildlife sanctuary and 3334 in Nandini sanctuary respectively.

The PIO in a reply said that the encroachments are prior to the notification of the areas as protected areas.

"However, the department has taken up the matter with the concerned revenue authorities for settlement of rights, so that further course of action can be initiated," it said.

On inquiring about the details of forest land which has been encroached, the PIO said that in 2012, under the government proposal, Four Lanning of National Highway in Ramnagar WLS was made in which 7.97 hectares of land was transferred.

The official also said that in 2021, over 1.50 hectares of land were transferred for development of | More on P6

Building Activity Without Permission 'Unauthorized': HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Monday said that if a building activity is undertaken regarding which there is no permission, it would constitute an "unauthorized building".

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar made the observation while setting aside an order with regard to a structure in Srinagar's Hari Singh High Street by Special Tribunal which had held once a building permission has been issued and is valid even if the building is raised in contravention of the building permission, the same would not qualify to be an unauthorized

building. The High court termed the reasoning by the Tribunal as "flawed".

"If we have a look at Byelaw No. 2.1.1, it defines "unauthorised building" as a building undertaken after a building permit has lapsed or a building permit has been revoked," the court said, adding, "What byelaw No. 2.1.1 conveys is that unauthorised building is a building which is undertaken without grant of permission, meaning thereby if a building activity is undertaken regarding which there is no permission, it would constitute an unauthorised building."

Elucidating the point, the court quoted | More on P6



15 Eligible Candidates Receives Appointment Letters Under SRO-43

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today handed over appointment letters to eligible candidates of the District under SRO-43 to the candidates on compassionate grounds.

In a simple function held here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated the all 15 newly appointees and extended his best wishes to them.

The DC advised them to serve the people with commitment and also contribute in the overall welfare and development of Srinagar District with dedication and diligence. He also asked them to continue further studies to fulfill their aspirational goals.

The DC asked the Officers/present on the occasion to provide all sort of help to the new appointees to ensure

that they join their respective Departments without any inconvenience. On the occasion, the DC said that the Government is committed to provide better employment opportunities to youth of the District so that they earn livelihood with dignity and honor.

Pertinent to mention that all the candidates appointed under SRO-43 are the residents of Srinagar District and have been appointed in the Departments of Health, FCS&CA, Family Welfare etc.

While interacting with the Deputy Commissioner, the appointees who received appointment letters, expressed gratitude to the Government and the District Administration Srinagar for transparent and timely appointments.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Tehsildar South, Moean Azhar Kakroo and others were present on this occasion.

120-Bed B&J Hospital In Srinagar To Be Ready By Year End

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The orthopedic treatment facilities in Kashmir are set to receive a big boost as a 120-bed block at Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla Srinagar will be ready by the end of this financial year. The hospital suffered massive damage due to a fire in March 2022.

A top health official said the valley's largest orthopedic hospital is all set to get a big infrastructural push with the construction of the state-of-the-art additional 120-bedded hospital block. He said the block is being constructed under the component of Strengthening of the Critical Infrastructure of the World Bank-funded JTFRP (Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project).

The work on the project began in 2019 and was approved in 2015. The hospital had suffered major damage in the 2014 floods, with one of its buildings declared unsafe. The infrastructure was damaged further due to a fire incident last year.

"The state-of-the-art building has a G+5 structure with modern earthquake-resilient technology. The hospital building has modular operation theatres, laminar flow system, TSSU (Theatre Sterile Supply Unit), ICU, Pre & Post Operation care wards, CSSD (Central Sterile Supply Department), specialized laundry, pneumatic tube system, and waste collection system," the official said.

He further said that the main features of the hospital building include IGBC (India Green Build-

The 120-bed block at Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla Srinagar will be ready by the year end.

The state-of-the-art building has a G+5 structure with modern earthquake-resilient technology.

Main features of the hospital building include IGBC rating and biomedical waste management

Hospital design finalized after several rounds of consultations

ing Council) rating and biomedical waste management.

"The biomedical system designed will cater to the biomedical generation of 140 kg per day, which will be disposed of on scientific lines since it also has the provision for the construction of STP/ETP (Sewerage Treatment Plant & Effluent Treatment Plant) as part of the sub-project," he said.

According to officials, it will be the first time in Jammu and Kashmir that a hospital building will have a pneumatic transit system in place.

They said that pneumatic tube systems, which are widely adopted in hospitals globally, facilitate the efficient transport of medical items such as blood samples and supplies between floors or departments. This, they said, minimizes costs and risks associated with

manual handling.

The work on the sub-project has been allotted to NPCC (National Projects Construction Corporation) at a cost of Rs 88.94 crores, the official said, adding that various modern concepts in healthcare infrastructure, including environmental designs, patient wellbeing, macro/micro level zoning, scope for futuristic development, and optimal area utilization have also been taken into account.

"The design of the hospital has been finalized after several rounds of consultations with leading national health infrastructure experts, health department, and hospital administration, and their inputs have been incorporated into the final design," he added.

The official informed that the work on the main superstructure is almost complete, with finishing works in progress. "These include the installation of HVAC (Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning), firefighting and other equipment," he said, adding that the hospital will be ready by the end of this financial year.

Doctors of the hospital said since the 2022 fire incident, they have been facing problems in catering to the huge rush of patients.

"But with the completion of the new building with modern facilities, the patients along with doctors will have a sigh of relief," they said, adding that the OPD receives around 1000 patients on average, from different corners of Jammu & Kashmir and even Ladakh.

With 674.88 MW Load, 2.40 Consumers Registered In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: About 2.40 lakh consumers including Domestic, Commercial, Industrial, Agriculture and Government Departments are registered with KPDC in Srinagar District through a connected load of 674.88 MW, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat was informed on Tuesday.

The DC during a review meeting on the progress on implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the District laid emphasis on reducing AT&C losses so that the expected revenue is generated and power supply is provided as per the expectations of the consumers.

He urged to ensure that quality power supply is provided to consumers and also called for responsible behavior on part of both DISCOMS and Consumers.

The DC asked the Department to strengthen the IEC activities in order to develop good consumer behavior so that consumers themselves give up the means of consuming power by hooking etc.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a division wise review about the progress achieved under the RDSS and other measures to reduce AT&C losses (Target of 43% for 2023-24) and decreasing gap between ACS (Average Cost of Supply) and ARR(Average Revenue Realized) target of Rs 1.8 per unit for 2023-24).

KTMF Delegation Call On DC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A delegation of Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) Monday called on Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here in the Office Chamber at DC Office Complex.

On the occasion, the delegation headed by Hilal Ahmad Mandoo and Abrar Khan appraised the Deputy Commissioner about various issues and concerns confronting the Trade Community particularly of Shahr-e-Khaas of the District.

The Deputy Commissioner af-

ter giving patient hearing to the delegation assured that all the issues and demands projected by them would be looked into on priority. He also assured them that the Administration will take all necessary measures for welfare and development of the trade community of Srinagar District.

High-Level Review Meeting Conducted On Smart City Projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed who is also Chief

Executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) today convened a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of various projects under the Smart City Mission.

The meeting, held at SMC headquarters, was attended by Chief Engineer SSCL, including Add.CEO, SSCL and technical experts and other officials from Smart City.

From the office of Advocate Syed Mohsin Geelani

In the case of:

- Naseema Jan W/o Late Abdul Majeed Sheikh
- Suzain Majeed
- Sobia Majeed
- Sheikh Mehliqa

D's/o: Late Abdul Majeed Sheikh
 All Residents of Sector 1, Main Chowk Qammarwari Srinagar

- Hyder Jameel S/o Jameel Ahmad War R/o War Lane Maisuma
- Waseem Raja S/o Abdul Gani Sheikh R/o SD Colony Batamalo

Both Sons-in-Law of Late Abdul Majeed Sheikh

VS (Caveators)

PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate nj

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

SKIMS Medical College

Bemina Srinagar, J&K - 190017

Sub.: Hiring of contractual Staff under Scheme "B" of Manpower Development Scheme of National Mental Health Program, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Advertisement Notice No. (01) SKIMS MC of 2024
 Dated: 29-01-2024

Application forms on prescribed format are invited from the eligible candidates who are domiciled in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for filling-up of the posts under Scheme "B" of Manpower Development Scheme of National Mental Health Program, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, in the Department of Psychiatry SKIMS-Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar purely on temporary/contract basis, initially for a period of one year, to be extendable on yearly basis, subject to continuation of sponsored scheme by the Govt of India and good performance and conduct of the candidate.

The last date for submission of Application Forms is 20.02.2024
 The detailed notification is available on official website of SKIMS Medical College Bemina, Srinagar i.e. www.skimsmc.edu.in

Sd/
 (Prof. Irfan Robbani)
 Principal

No: SKIMS-MC/302(Adm)/2024/567-76
 DIPK-NB-5443/23
 Dated: 29 -01- 2024

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar
 www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Cancellation of candidature and Debarment of candidate-regarding.

Order No.51-SSB of 2024
 Dated: 27.01.2024

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted OMR based Examination for the post of Panchayat Secretary advertised vide Notification 03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022 on 10.12.2023; and

Whereas, a candidate namely Bilal Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Salam Bhat R/o Matibugh Yaripora Kulgam Behi Bagh, 192232, appeared in the said examination under Roll No. 1601.0653 at Centre GDC Kulgam; and

Whereas, the said candidate was found in possession of mobile phone during the course of examination, as reported by concerned Investigators, Centre Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Magistrate, Centre Observer and Principal of GDC Kulgam; and

Whereas, the said candidate has acknowledged that he was in possession of the mobile phone, during the course of Examination, on the designated Annexure (i.e. Annexure IX) and accepted that it was an offence for which he is liable for disciplinary proceedings under appropriate rules; and

Whereas, notwithstanding the above, vide No. JKSSB-COE0Exam(UT)/39/2023-03 dated 14.12.2023, a show cause notice was issued to the said candidate to explain his position. The reply to the said show cause notice was submitted by the candidate on 18.12.2023 and was examined in the light of relevant Rules/Regulations; and

Whereas, the case was placed before the Unfair Means Committee constituted in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022 under part XXX (67), and the committee, after considering the nature of the offence and evidence brought on record, as also the reply of the candidate, recommended as under:-

"The committee observed that the candidate has committed offence under section 64 (b) of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022. Therefore, the committee recommends cancellation of the candidature for the said post, besides debarment for a period of 02 years for all examinations conducted by JKSSB. Further, the seized mobile be retained by the Board. However, SIM can be handed over to the candidate back on his personal request to the Chairman/Secretary".

Whereas, the recommendations of the committee were placed before the 257th Board Meeting held on 25.01.2024 and the following decision was taken:-

"The Board deliberated the matter and accepted the recommendations of the Unfair Means Committee w.r.t the unfair means case involving the candidate namely Bilal Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Salam Bhat in the OMR Examination held for the post of Panchayat Secretary advertised vide Notification 03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022, with the modification that the mobile along with the SIM be handed over to the candidate after six months from the date of examination, on his personal request to the Secretary/Controller of Examinations. The period of debarment for two years shall commence from the date of issuance of an order in this regard".

Therefore, in view of the above and as per section 69 of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022, the candidature of candidate namely Bilal Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Salam Bhat R/o Matibugh Yaripora Kulgam Behi Bagh, 192232, for the post of Panchayat Secretary advertised vide Notification 03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022, is hereby cancelled. The candidate is further debarred from appearing in all the examinations to be conducted by the Board for a period of two (02) years from the date of issuance of this order. Besides, the mobile phone alongwith SIM shall be released to the candidate after six months from the date of examination on his personal request.

By Order. (Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS
 Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

No: JKSSB/COE0EXAM(UT)/101/2023-03(7363646)
 DIPK-15726/23 Dated: 29.01.2024

Your FINANCIAL FIX

Rule Of 72 Compounding Wealth Strategies

Irshad Mushtaq

Did you know that the rule of 72 is an important concept that can greatly impact your personal financial health? This rule is used to determine how many years it will take for an investment to double at a given interest rate. For example, if you invest in a fixed deposit with a 7% annual return, it will take approximately 10.28 years for your money to double. If the return is 10%, it will take 7.2 years; for 15%, it will take 4.8 years; and for 20%, it will take 3.6 years.

To put this into perspective, let's consider an investment of 1 lakh rupees in 1994. If this money had been invested at a compounding return of 20% annually, it would have grown to an impressive 2.37 crore rupees in 30 years. This means that the money would have multiplied 230 times in just three decades. On the other hand, if the same 1 lakh rupees had been invested at a 7% return, it would only have grown to 7 lakhs over the same time period.

This example clearly illustrates the power of compounding and the significant impact that the rate of return can have on the growth of an investment. It also highlights the importance of seeking out investments that offer double-digit returns, as these are the ones that have the potential to provide substantial growth over time.

In India, however, there are no laws that can guarantee such high returns. Therefore, it is essential to focus on building a quality, diversified investment portfolio in order to maximize potential returns and minimize risk. By carefully considering the potential for growth and seeking out opportunities for higher returns, individuals can work towards improving their personal financial health and achieving their long-term financial goals.

In conclusion, the rule of 72 is a valuable tool for understanding the impact of different interest rates on investment growth. By seeking out investments that offer double-digit returns and building a diversified portfolio, individuals can work towards securing their financial future and achieving their desired level of wealth. It is important to keep in mind the power of compounding and the potential for substantial growth over time, and to make informed decisions that will support long-term financial health.

— Author is NISM qualified, Mutual Fund advisor and distributor having experience of 18 years in financial market

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

AIRPORTS
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 04
 ZUHR 12:44
 ASR 4: 21
 Magrib 6:02
 ISHA 7: 25

HIJRI CALENDAR
 18 Rajab
 1445

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 30-01-2024

INDIA Alliance in crisis

The resignation of Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister of Bihar has sent shockwaves through the political landscape, particularly with the dissolution of the Mahagathbandhan, leaving the INDIA Alliance in disarray. Kumar's swift departure from the coalition, which he had joined less than 18 months ago, has not only marked a significant shift in Bihar's political dynamics but has also raised questions about the viability of a credible opposition against the BJP in the upcoming parliament polls.

Nitish Kumar's political journey, characterized by frequent shifts between alliances, reached a turning point as he resigned and returned to the BJP-led NDA. Ironically, he had played a key role in stitching together the opposition bloc INDIA. His collaboration with the RJD, led by his former arch-rival Lalu Prasad, in August 2022 was aimed at countering the BJP's influence in the region.

The unraveling of the INDIA Alliance comes at a crucial juncture when political opposition unity was seen as a key strategy to challenge the dominance of the BJP. Nitish Kumar's efforts to bring together diverse parties to form this bloc now face a setback, as the chief architect himself departs, leaving a void in the coalition. The alliance, which included various regional players, had hoped to present a formidable front against the BJP in the upcoming elections. Now it finds itself weakened and adrift.

The impact of Kumar's resignation extends beyond Bihar, resonating at the national level. The INDIA Alliance now faces the challenge of regaining its footing and presenting a united front.

The BJP, seizing the opportunity, has formed a new government in Bihar with the support of Nitish Kumar's JD(U). The political landscape, once marked by a delicate balance of alliances, is now witnessing a significant realignment. The power dynamics in Bihar have undergone a transformation that could have far-reaching consequences on the national political scenario.

In the aftermath of Nitish Kumar's resignation, the INDIA Alliance must grapple with internal dissension, credibility challenges, and the urgent need to find a charismatic leader capable of rallying diverse parties. This seems easier said than done. Since its formation in the middle of last year, the INDIA Alliance has failed to get its act together. The alliance has so far been unable to conclude even the seat-sharing arrangement. Similarly, there has been little progress on formulating a cogent political narrative to combat the BJP's overriding Hindutva plank. The urgency for such a narrative can't be underestimated after the inauguration of Ram Mandir which has generated a groundswell in favour of the BJP. Time is running out fast.

OTHER OPINION

Endless war

The crash of a Russian plane with Ukrainian prisoners of war on board has once again shown how delicate the situation between the two countries that have been at war since February 2022 is. Russia says Kyiv downed the plane, which had 65 Ukrainian soldiers, in Belgorod, a Russian border town, that has seen repeated Ukrainian shelling in recent months. Kyiv has slammed Russia for spreading propaganda, but has not ruled out its possible role in the downing. The incident comes at a time when Ukraine's troops are struggling to keep up the fight on the front line amid Russia's incremental advances. Russia, which suffered humiliating setbacks in 2022, has since retaken the battlefield momentum. Last year, Ukraine's top general said the counteroffensive, which began in June 2023, aimed at recapturing Russia-held territories in the south and east, had failed. Russia has made territorial gains in the east, capturing Mariinka and making advances towards Avdiivka and Kupiansk. With its huge losses on the battlefield, Ukraine's generals are calling for the mobilisation of up to 5,00,000 soldiers — which would be hugely unpopular. Worse, the changing mood in Washington has sent an alarming message to Kyiv.

Volodymyr Zelensky's government has vowed to uncover the truth behind the plane crash. If it has been downed by a Ukrainian missile, it would pose a political challenge to Mr. Zelensky. But a bigger problem he is facing is the future of the war. Until now, he has put up a brave face, saying Ukraine would fight until victory — which is, recapturing all the territories Russia has taken. While Russia's annexation of Ukraine regions and its war are a violation of international laws, Ukraine does not seem to have a practical path towards victory. Israel's war on Gaza, which has the Biden administration's full support, has also distracted global attention from Ukraine. If Donald Trump, the U.S. Republican leader, is re-elected in November — he has vowed to end the war in days — Ukraine could come under heavy pressure. The war cannot be sustained without uninterrupted support from the U.S. and its NATO partners. When pressure increases on the battlefield, what Ukraine is doing is to carry out missile and drone attacks inside Russia. Ukraine's possession of advanced weapons, supplied by the West, has enhanced its fire power. Last week, a fuel export terminal on Russia's Baltic coast came under attack. There is suspicion, deep mistrust and misinformation on both sides, which could lead to more violence and accidents. Russia, Ukraine and NATO should take a more practical assessment of the progress of the war and be ready for talks, instead of continuing an endless war which is hurting all sides.

The Hindu

Mudasir Koul

This winter, places like Jammu and Kashmir, as well as other Himalayan states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, are experiencing warmer weather than usual. The snowfall in Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, and Yusmarg has been all over the place, much less than what's normal. Even the little snow that does fall quickly disappears, leaving the slopes bare and disappointing everyone.

This year, something strange is going on with winter in the Himalayas — places like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. It's not as cold as usual, and there's not as much snow.

This is happening because the whole world is getting warmer, and local changes like cutting down trees and building more in cities are making it worse.

Places like Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, and Yusmarg, which are usually covered in snow, aren't getting as much. Ski resorts that people love are having a tough time, and farmers are also struggling because the usual timing for planting and harvesting crops is messed up.

To deal with this, local communities are trying to make tourism interesting all year, not just in winter. They are also learning new ways to farm that can handle the changing weather.

Governments in these areas need to make rules that protect the environment and help people prepare for strange weather. The whole country should invest in clean energy like solar power and understand more about what's happening with the climate.

But it's not just one country's problem; it's everyone's. So, countries need to work together, share ideas, and agree on ways to tackle this global warming issue. In the end, we all need to take care of our planet and make sure it stays a good place to live.

A new study talked about in Ziraat Times, which looks at climate change, says that things might get worse for snow in Europe's mountains by the end of the century. Even this past winter, the Alps and Rockies didn't have much snow, and ski resorts had to close, leaving skiers without much to enjoy.

Europe has a lot of ski resorts — about half of all ski resorts in the world are there, making around \$30 billion every year. The study says that about a third of these resorts in Europe might have a tough time with not having enough snow in the future.

The study also checked how different ski resorts in Europe, from places like the British Isles to Turkey, would be affected by the Earth getting warmer by different amounts — 1.5 degrees, 2 degrees, 3 degrees, and 4 degrees.

If the world gets 3 degrees warmer compared to how it was in the middle of the 19th century, and there's no artificial snow, the study says that all ski resorts in the German and Austrian Alps and in Tur-

In 2024, Things Aren't Looking Great Globally

It's Getting Hotter Almost Everywhere



Kashmir Observer

key would have a very high risk of not having enough snow every other year, on average.

People who depend on tourism in the Himalayas, like Kashmir, are facing big problems. Winter tourism is super important there, but now, the snowfall is acting weird, and it's getting warmer. Also, because more and more buildings are being made, the place might not be as interesting for tourists in the future.

Some travel agents and hotels are already seeing fewer people booking holidays. It's a timing thing — most tourists plan when they can go on holiday and book in advance. This is especially true for skiing — if there's no snow, skiers just cancel their trips. Imran Nazir Mir, a travel agent, explained how this is affecting the tourism business.

In the face of climate challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, community engagement is pivotal. Local residents should be involved in decision-making processes, sharing traditional knowledge and experiences that can contribute to effective adaptation strategies. Initiatives that raise awareness about climate change impacts and the importance of sustainable practices can foster a sense of responsibility among the population.

The education sector can play a vital role by incorporating climate change awareness into the curriculum. This ensures that the younger generation is well-informed about environmental issues, inspiring them to participate in sustainable practices and become advocates for change.

Additionally, fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors can lead to innovative solutions. Collaboration with businesses, NGOs, and research institutions can bring resources, expertise, and funding to support local initiatives addressing climate resilience.

Investments in technology

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In the face of climate challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, community engagement is pivotal. Local residents should be involved in decision-making processes, sharing traditional knowledge and experiences that can contribute to effective adaptation strategies. Initiatives that raise awareness about climate change impacts and the importance of sustainable practices can foster a sense of responsibility among the population

for agriculture, such as precision farming techniques and climate-smart tools, can enhance productivity while adapting to changing weather patterns. Farmers could benefit from training programs that equip them with the skills needed to implement these technologies effectively.

Tourism stakeholders, including travel agents and hospitality providers, should explore eco-friendly practices to minimize their environmental footprint. Certifications for sustainable tourism can be encouraged, showcasing a commitment to responsible and environmentally conscious tourism.

Ultimately, a holistic and inclusive approach that involves the community, integrates climate education, encourages technological innovation, and fosters collaboration across sectors is essential. By addressing these aspects collectively, Jammu and Kashmir can build resilience, preserve its natural beauty, and ensure the prosperity of its residents in the face of ongoing climate shifts.

To sum it up, in Jammu and Kashmir, tourism is facing challenges because of strange weather. It's crucial for the government and businesses to do research and understand what might happen in the future. They need to be prepared for it. By figuring out how the changing weather could affect tourism, they can make plans to adapt and keep the tourism industry strong. At the same time, there's a need to look into farming too. Research and plans for farming in changing conditions are important to protect the livelihoods of farmers in the region. This kind of thinking and planning is essential for the overall well-being of the communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

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



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Work Life Imbalance

Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's recent suggestion for "70-hours-work-a-week" among Indian youngsters will no doubt boost productivity, but it will certainly affect the balance of work-life approach, which is equally important. Unsurprisingly Mr. Murthy's comments have evoked a nationwide controversy, with many have criti-

cised his idea. In fact, a Bengaluru-based Cardiologist wrote in his X (formerly Twitter) account saying, "such an inhumane working hours can create a whole generation with a host of heart-related comorbidities." The Cardiologist's comment gains prominence, as WHO says that India accounts for at least one-fifth of the 17.9 million cardiovascular disease-

related deaths globally, especially in the younger generation. Currently, India's labour codes mandate that workers put in 8-hours of work a day, capping the weekly work hours at 48. Despite this, global data shows that India ranks fifth in the world among countries with long working hours. Research has revealed that productivity falls sharply after 50

hours per week, and drops off a cliff after 55 hours. Rather than extended working hours, a streamlined approach with set working hours will work for large enterprises that have plentiful resources.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Let Us Celebrate Fathers As Well

Dr. Rizwan Rumi

In the intricate fresco of human existence, where emotions intertwine and destinies unfold, the profound influence of parental love stands as an immutable force shaping our very being. Amidst the ebb and flow of life's currents, the presence of both mothers and fathers emerges as pillars of strength, each contributing their unique essence to the symphony of nurturing care and boundless affection that molds the hearts and minds of their children.

Recent research unveils a poignant truth, one that resonates deeply within the recesses of our souls: a father's love, akin to a mother's, holds the power to sculpt the very essence of a child's development, resonating far beyond the confines of familial bonds and echoing through the corridors of adulthood. In the delicate dance of parental acceptance and rejection, it is the nurturing embrace of fathers that oftentimes emerges as a steadfast beacon of guidance, resilience, and unwavering support.

As the tendrils of dawn unfurl across the horizon, casting a golden hue upon the tapestry of existence, the absence of a father's love reverberates with a haunting echo, a poignant reminder of the profound impact that paternal presence bestows upon the human spirit. From the gentle caress of infancy to the resolute steps of maturity, a father's love weaves a narrative of tenderness, fortitude, and unyielding devotion, imprinting upon the canvas of our souls the indelible mark of paternal affection.

In the labyrinth of life's myriad complexities, where the tumult of modernity threatens to drown the whispers of the heart, the role of fathers emerges as a beacon of stability amidst the tempestuous seas of change. It is within the sanctity of paternal love that children find solace, courage, and the unwavering belief in their own potential to surmount the trials of existence, guided by the steady hand and boundless love of their fathers.

Yet, in the annals of societal discourse, the portrayal of fatherhood oftentimes languishes in the



shadows, overshadowed by the resplendent glow of maternal tenderness and sacrifice. It is a narrative fraught with misconceptions, a tale of unsung heroes whose quiet strength and unwavering devotion oftentimes go unnoticed amidst the clamor of daily life. And yet, within the depths of paternal love lies a reservoir of boundless emotion, a testament to the transformative power of a father's touch upon the tender hearts of his children.

To love fiercely, to nurture tenderly, and to stand unwavering in the face of adversity — such is the sacred

covenant of fatherhood. Beyond the realms of societal expectations and cultural norms, fathers emerge as custodians of dreams, architects of resilience, and guardians of the human spirit. Their love, an eternal flame amidst the vagaries of time, illuminates the path of righteousness, instilling within the hearts of their children the virtues of compassion, integrity, and unwavering resolve.

As the sun sets and shadows lengthen, let us not forget to honor the silent heroes who walk among us — fathers, whose love knows no bounds, whose sacrifices know

no measure, and whose presence echoes through the corridors of time. In the gentle embrace of paternal love, children find refuge, inspiration, and the unwavering assurance that they are cherished beyond measure.

Today, as we stand upon the threshold of possibility, let us pause, let us reflect, and let us extend our heartfelt gratitude to the unsung heroes who shape our lives with love, laughter, and unwavering devotion. For in the sacred covenant of fatherhood lies the essence of unconditional love, the embodiment

Indeed, within the depths of a father's love lies a treasure trove of memories, lessons, and moments that define the very essence of our lives. From the tender embrace of bedtime stories to the sturdy hand that guided our first steps, every gesture, every word, every silent sacrifice speaks volumes of a love that knows no bounds

of strength, and the eternal promise of familial bonds that transcend the boundaries of time and space.

In the symphony of existence, let the resonance of paternal love be heard as a testament to the enduring spirit of fatherhood, illuminating the path of humanity with compassion, tenderness, and the boundless grace of a father's heart.

Indeed, within the depths of a father's love lies a treasure trove of memories, lessons, and moments that define the very essence of our lives. From the tender embrace of bedtime stories to the sturdy hand that guided our first steps, every gesture, every word, every silent sacrifice speaks volumes of a love that knows no bounds.

In the gentle caress of a father's hand, there lies a universe of reassurance, a sanctuary where fears are quelled, dreams take flight, and the promise of tomorrow unfurls like petals in the morning light. It is a love that weaves itself into the fabric of our existence, shaping the contours of our journey with its quiet strength and unwavering presence.

As we traverse the landscapes of memory, let us linger a while in the embrace of paternal love, savoring the warmth of its embrace, the wisdom of its guidance, and the enduring legacy it leaves upon our hearts. For in the tapestry of our lives, woven with threads of joy and sorrow, triumph and tribulation, the love of fathers stands as a timeless testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of unconditional devotion.

So let us cherish, let us honor, let us celebrate the love of fathers — a love that knows no bounds, a love that shapes, sustains, and inspires us to reach for the stars. In their steadfast presence, in their unwavering commitment, we find not only solace for today but hope for tomorrow, guided by the enduring light of paternal love that illuminates our path, now and always.

The author is a freelancer, columnist and author and can be reached on rizwanr00m13012@gmail.com

Why Random Memories Flash Into Our Heads

Hal McDonald

During my 20-minute commute to work this morning, I passed a house with a purple glass gazing ball in the front yard and was suddenly transported back to the tiny public library in the town I lived in when I was a little boy. In my mind's eye, I was sitting at a table near the circulation desk flipping through a large Tom and Jerry picture book—a favorite of my five-year-old self—while the kindly librarian snacked on saltine crackers, wrapping her lips around them before biting in order to maintain a library-appropriate hush.

I puzzled over the inexplicable memory flash until I "saw" the page to which I was turned, where a mischievous Jerry hurls a large juicy plum at Tom's face. The plum in the picture was exactly the same distinctive shade of purple as the gazing ball, the sight of which had spontaneously triggered the memory.

As unexpected as that particular memory was at that particular moment, the experience of flashing on some random episode from the past during my daily commute was by no means unprecedented. I frequently experience such spontaneous memories while I'm on the road, finding them to be a source of passing interest and occasionally even enjoyment (depending on their content, of course), but thoughts about the work day ahead usually edge them out of my attention before I've given them any serious thought. A psychologist in the UK gave his commute-associated memories some serious thought, however, and even made them the subject of a study recently published in the journal *Memory*.

Involuntary Autobiographical Memories on the Morning Commute

Reflecting on the substantial body of research on "spontaneous cognitions" that has been conducted in recent decades, Andrew Laughland from the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, saw his daily commute to and from work as a possible source of data to fill in "several gaps" in the research on involuntary autobio-



graphical memories (IAMS).

The most common source of prior research on IAMS has been the use of diaries, where participants manually recorded IAMS as they occurred, and Laughland noted that the rates reported in these studies seemed to be lower than those he personally experienced while driving. Reasonably assuming his experience to be fairly typical of the average person's, he hypothesized that the discrepancy was a result of the methods used to gather data in previous studies.

To test this hunch, Laughland designed an experiment in which his own car driving could be used as a "naturalistic activity" during which IAMS could be monitored via audio recording. Wearing a tie-clip microphone connected to a digital recorder, he recorded his entire 37-minute journey from the time he pulled out of his driveway—recording a sentence or two about what had happened immediately prior to leaving—to the moment he pulled into a parking space at the university.

This continuous audio recording format was designed to capture

"free-flowing thoughts" that would otherwise likely be forgotten by the journey's end. His experiment lasted a year and a half and included a total of twenty commutes.

The Frequency of IAMS in Everyday Life

At the conclusion of the experiment, Laughland discovered that he had, indeed, recorded more IAMS than had previously been reported.

Earlier studies in which participants used diaries to record IAMS reported rates of about two to five per day. Other studies using clickers to record the occurrence of IAMS without describing their content reported rates of between 22 per day and 10 per hour. Laughland's audio recordings of his daily commutes, on the other hand, produced IAMS at a rate of nearly one per minute, supporting his hypothesis that IAMS occur far more frequently in real life than formal research has suggested.

"Dynamic" vs. "Static" Cues of IAMS

In addition to allowing Laugh-

land to record IAMS at a greater frequency than in previous studies, the continuous audio recording method also allowed him to record them in far greater detail, providing some "novel and important" insights into the way involuntary autobiographical memories are triggered.

The first of these insights involved the types of cues that trigger involuntary memories. Laughland's recorded observations about what was going on around him as the memories popped into his head revealed that "dynamic" rather than "static" environmental cues are more likely to trigger IAMS.

In other words, new or unexpected details encountered on his trips (e.g. varying weather conditions, or songs on the radio) were far more likely to trigger memories than those details that were always present (e.g. buildings or road signs). This finding highlights the somewhat ironic role that novelty plays in triggering autobiographical memories in our daily lives, with new details in our environment eliciting old memories from our past.

Memory "Chains"

Another interesting finding of the study involved memory "chaining," in which memories are triggered by a preceding memory rather than by some other internal or external cue. Such memories can often be perceived as new occurrences, but Laughland's retrospective examination of his audio recordings revealed that many of the IAMS that he perceived to be independent had actually been cued by a prior memory (or memories).

In fact, as many as 23 percent of the IAMS he recorded were chained memories, suggesting that memory chaining is more common than has previously been reported.

IAM "Priming"

Yet another insight provided by the study has to do with the "priming" of IAMS. Very often, an autobiographical memory will unexpectedly pop into our heads, seemingly out of nowhere. Laughland's review of his audio recordings, however, revealed that many of the spontaneous memories that he recorded dur-

ing his commutes were not, in fact, spontaneous at all, but had been triggered by cues that he had encountered several seconds or even minutes earlier.

At the moment, the time gap between the cue and the memory it triggered initially prevented him from perceiving a connection between the two events. But the recording revealed that the environmental stimulus had actually "primed" a memory or memories that he recalled later, seemingly out of the blue.

Laughland's study, and the novel method he employed to gather data, provides evidence that involuntary autobiographical memories are a far more regular occurrence in our daily lives than previous research has suggested. It also gives new insight into how these memories actually occur, indicating that far fewer of them are truly spontaneous than appear to be, getting triggered by cues in our environment rather than simply popping into our heads out of nowhere.

One general point that the study makes clear is what a good opportunity our daily commute offers for experiencing involuntary autobiographical memories. Research on IAMS and related phenomena has shown that "spontaneous thoughts and memories occur more often when people are engaged in undemanding, habitual activities" such as driving.

In other words, when not focused on some task that requires focused attention, our minds tend to wander—and as this study shows, it is very often our autobiographical pasts to which they wander. And if we pay attention to these mind-meanderings during our morning commute, instead of tuning to NPR or cueing up a podcast, we never know where they may take us.

Indeed, given the right environmental cue, they might just lead us back to a cozy little library from our childhood—a brief mental vacation in our distant past to prepare for the busy day in our immediate future.

The article was originally published by *Psychology Today*



Beating Retreat' ceremony marked the culmination of the four-day-long Republic Day celebrations, at the MA Stadium, Jammu. Let Governor Manoj Sinha was the Chief Guest for the ceremony. Marching Bands of Armed Forces played the enchanting patriotic tunes on the Brass bands and Pipe drum bands on the slow and quick strathspey. The Lt Governor felicitated the contingents of Police and Security Forces; Parade Commander, Dy Parade Commander, marching contingents of cadets from NCC (Boys), contingents of schools (Boys and Girls), cultural performers, Gymnastics and Tableaux of different departments for their outstanding display at the grand event.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE 1

Snow Relief

its warmest night of the Chillai-Kalan as it recorded a low of 3.3°C against the -2.3°C from the previous night. Daytime mercury levels, however, will drop due to the precipitation activity.

While one might argue that this much-needed change in temperatures and snowfall activity might have come too late, it remains to be seen what impact it'll have on the region's overall seasonal stats.

For now, Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal have recorded almost zero rainfall between January 1 and 28, leaving them with a massive deficit of 99%.

Meanwhile, the cloudy skies in the plains over the last few days have pushed the minimum temperatures above the freezing point in most parts of Kashmir.

Srinagar city recorded a low of 3.6 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.7 degrees Celsius, Qazigund 2.0 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 0.5 degrees Celsius and Kupwara 1.7 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg registered a low of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius and was the only place in the valley that registered sub-zero night temperature.

Snowfall In

40-day harsh winter period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent - has brought cheers to both the tourists as well as the tourism players.

Hundreds of tourists, including children, have been enjoying the snowfall at Gulmarg and Sonamarg resorts.

"We had booked tickets for January 23, but we postponed our journey after checking the forecast. We arrived on January 25 and were lucky to see the snowfall. We experienced snowfall first in Sonamarg and then in Gulmarg as well. We are so thrilled to be here," Aninda and Deotima, a tourist couple from Kolkata, said at Gulmarg.

They said Kashmir really looks like a paradise after snowfall. Mohammad Imran, a tourist from Nagpur in Maharashtra said he returned to the Gulmarg resort again after the snowfall.

"Two days back, there was nothing and the ground looked empty. By the grace of God, now there is snow and we feel great to be here... When we heard there was snowfall in Gulmarg, we came back from Srinagar," he said.

Aryan, a young tourist from Bangalore who has come to Kashmir with his parents and sister, said it was a great feeling. "It feels so good. It looks like heaven," he said, enjoying the snowfall.

Ankit Makane, a part of a 15-member tourist group from Mumbai, enjoyed playing in the snow at Sonamarg. "It feels truly and literally like heaven. Kashmir is so beautiful and the people here are really amazing. We enjoyed a lot," he said.

It is not only the tourists who are cheered up, the snowfall has sparked joy among the local tourism players as well. "We thank God for the snow. We feel very happy because it will not only increase tourism, but it is vital for the sustenance," Parvaiz Ahmad, a local tourism service provider in Gulmarg, said.

Another stakeholder, Abdul Rashid, said the livelihoods of private service providers were affected due to a prolonged dry spell over the last two months, but the snowfall has come as a blessing.

"For the past two months, there was not much work. With the snowfall, the tourist arrivals have increased and the snow-related activities have started," Rashid said.

In the absence of snowfall at popular tourist spots like Sonamarg and Gulmarg, the tourists used to make a beeline to places like Sinthan Top

connecting Anantnag district with Kishtwar which remains covered under snow for most of the year.

Meanwhile, authorities have issued advisories to tourists and locals visiting places like Sonamarg and Gulmarg. They have said only 4X4 vehicles and those with anti-skid chains would be allowed to travel towards Gulmarg and Sonamarg due to slippery conditions in the wake of snowfall.

The Meteorological Department has forecast a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at many places of the Union Territory with chances of heavy snowfall over a few higher reaches like Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag districts over the next two days.

RS Elections

its Assembly," an official said. (KNO)

Pvt Institutions Must

new campus of the Asian School at Miran Sahib in Jammu. The premier co-ed boarding school of Dehradun in Uttarakhand has started its branch in Jammu. Sadhvi Ritambhara, the founder of Vatsalyagram, Vrindavan, also joined the inaugural ceremony.

The lieutenant governor praised the prime minister for bringing the education sector back on rails in the country. "Our education sector had witnessed stagnation for more than three decades. It had adversely impacted the society's morale and the country's confidence was shaken," he said.

Sinha said that Prime Minister Modi instilled new confidence in the society.

"He has restored the ancient glory of Bharat," he added.

Calling upon the education set-up to lay focus on growth of the young generation by imparting best possible knowledge to them, Sinha said, "One of the most important resources for our nation's growth is the youth. The education must strengthen the contribution of the youth in India's march towards Viksit Bharat."

LG Lays Foundation

Innovation Centre & Data Analytical Centre, Skill Development & Career Progression Centre and Innovation Council. It will have a dedicated space for Innovative Undergraduate Program "Design Your Degree" and provide a collaborative space for startups, the LG observed.

The Innovation Tower will provide space for ideation and collaboration. It will encourage youth to discuss new concepts and utilise the testing facility for future projects to reduce the duration of the incubation period, he added.

The LG directed the planning team to ensure space is flexible with in-built capability and multiple spaces for future technology. He further emphasized on creating a space for intellectual collision and experience sharing by students and mentors.

Presently, the building is approved for construction with G+3 floors in Phase-I. There is a provision to raise the structure to G+7 floors in Phase-II.

Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; senior officials, faculty members and students of the University were present.

Create 'No Gadget

the need for a balanced diet and emphasised the importance of regular exercise and physical activities for fitness.

He cautioned parents against treating their children's report cards as their own visiting card, while asserting that it is crucial to instill resilience

in children to help them cope with pressures and parents and teachers should collectively address challenges faced by them.

The prime minister suggested that students should compete with themselves and not others and parents should never sow the seeds of competition and rivalry between siblings.

"It is crucial to instill resilience in our children and help them cope with pressures... We cannot just switch off and the pressure is gone. One must become capable of bearing any kind of pressure. They should believe that pressure keeps on building and one has to prepare oneself," he said during the two-hour interaction.

Prime Minister Modi suggested students to "always make friends who are more intelligent and work harder". "You must be inspired by such friends. Don't let the pressure of studies and examinations overpower you," he said.

Modi said that even though competition and challenges act as inspirations, competition must be healthy.

"A lot of parents keep on giving examples of other children to their children. Parents should avoid doing these things... never sow the seeds of rivalry and competition among students," he said.

"We have also seen that those parents who have not been very successful in their lives have nothing to say or want to tell the world about their successes and achievements, make the report card of their children their visiting card."

"Whenever they meet someone, they will tell them the story of their children," he said at the seventh episode of his outreach programme with students ahead of examinations.

The prime minister explained that the stress faced by students is of three types - induced by peer pressure, by parents and self-induced.

"At times, children take pressure on themselves that they are not performing up to the mark. I suggest that you should set small goals during preparation and gradually improve your performance, this way you will be completely ready before exams," he said.

"We have to make ourselves capable of facing any sort of pressure. Students need to make themselves ready to go through any condition. If we visit any cold place, we make up our minds, and accordingly, we keep ourselves ready... (in the same way you have to be ready for exams)," Modi said.

The prime minister said that the challenges faced by students must be addressed collectively by parents and teachers. He also encouraged teachers to forge strong connections with their students.

"The bond between educators and learners is the foundation for a bright future. If teachers start working on building a relationship with their students from the first day of the year, there won't be any question of tension building up among students at the time of examinations," he said.

"Teachers must expand their connections with students much beyond their subject syllabus so that students can reach out to their teachers even for the smallest of problems. Music teachers can not only help their own students deal with tensions, they can do so for students of the entire school," Modi said.

Replying to questions on balancing studies with a healthy life, Prime Minister Modi said many students use mobile phones and some do it for many hours. He advised students not to use their sleep time for watching reels.

"I get into deep sleep within 30 seconds of lying on the bed on all 365 days. When I am awake, I am fully awake, but I am totally asleep while

sleeping. Nutrition is also necessary. Our body must get the required nutrition. A good balance of food and regular exercise for fitness are also necessary," Modi said.

"They should understand that even mobiles need recharge to be used, and similarly, our body also needs to be recharged. On the other hand, some students keep playing all the time, but it is necessary to strike a balance. A healthy body is necessary for a healthy mind. Good and sound sleep is also a must for good health. Don't use your sleep time for watching reels," he said.

Emphasising the need to avoid mistakes due to the over-enthusiasm of parents or over-sincerity of the students, the PM asked the parents not to over-hype the exam day by new clothes, rituals or stationery.

He also asked the students not to keep preparing until the last moment and approach exams with a relaxed mindset.

The prime minister suggested that students read the question paper and plan with time allocation to avoid panic at the last moment. Modi also advised students to practice writing.

"In this age of mobile phones and laptops, students are losing the practice to write while exams are supposed to be handwritten. Of the time dedicated to studies, you should devote at least 50 per cent of time to practise writing with pen and paper" he said.

Asked how he keeps a positive mindset amid the challenges of his job, Modi said it is in his nature to "challenge every challenge" and asserted that he looked for a way to deal with poverty in the country instead of just sitting on the issue like others.

Describing students as the shapers of India's future, Modi said the Pariksha Pe Charcha programme is like an examination for him too. He also said that students have become more innovative than ever.

Organised by the Union Ministry of Education, "Pariksha Pe Charcha" has been engaging students, parents and teachers over the past six years.

This year's event was held in a town hall format at the Bharat Mandapam here. An estimated 2.26 crore registrations have taken place on the MyGov portal, highlighting the widespread enthusiasm among students.

The event was also attended by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Ministers of State for Education - Subhas Sarkar, Annapurna Devi and Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fourth edition was held online, while the fifth and sixth editions returned to the town hall format.

A total of 31.24 lakh students, 5.60 lakh teachers and 1.95 lakh parents participated last year.

This time, an estimated 2.26 crore registrations have taken place on the MyGov portal, highlighting the widespread enthusiasm among students.

PM's 'Pariksha Pe

the country at the seventh edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', which was held in a town hall format at Bharat Mandapam here in the national capital.

In a remarkable display of enthusiasm and engagement, an overwhelming number of teachers, students, and parents of District Srinagar gathered at the SCERT auditorium in Bemina to witness the session of the Prime Minister of India. The PM appealed to the parents to avoid comparing the performance of their wards with that of the latter's friends or siblings as such a practice of "running commentary" will prove detrimental to a child's future.

In Kashmir, a number of students have attended the programme from

the last six years, while others watch the event through different TV channels and social media platforms.

"We are thankful to PM Modi for initiating such a program in which we can directly interact with him and ask questions and get their views registered," said Abiya Gulzar from RPS School, Anantnag.

She further said that it's a good program that will help in the overall development of a child.

Mehak Jaan, a student of Kashmir University believes that the initiatives like, "Pariksha pe charcha" are going to have fruitful consequences in curbing the fear of examination among the students, and thus helping them to cope up with the pressure associated with such situations.

"In addition to such initiatives, I anticipate the government and the concerned officials to realise the importance & need of counseling in educational institutions," she said, adding, "There's a dire need to integrate education counseling as a part of the school curriculum."

She suggested that initiatives like Pareeksha pe Charcha must be organised throughout. "This shall have positive consequences towards the holistic development of students," she added.

Many students whom Kashmir Observer spoke expressed their satisfaction over the programme and urged the government to start such initiatives in every school, college and university.

"In Kashmir, parents often subject their children to pressure, pushing them to achieve higher scores in annual examinations compared to their neighbors' children. This, in turn, leads to increased stress for the children" said Mohammad Rasib, a student of NIT, Srinagar.

Rasib said the government should ensure such programs are happening in every nook and corner of the country.

Another student, Aehsan-ul-Haq, a resident of North Kashmir's Bandipora district said that he watches the programme on YouTube every year and also shows it to his parents.

"The idea is to sensitize them about the mental health of their kids if put under pressure," he said.

Tariq Ahmad, a teacher from Srinagar said that they empathize with the mental stress students experience but express their inability to guide students in overcoming the "phobia of needing higher grades."

"The student comes with this mentality from home. The parents need to understand it but yes the government should also have a holistic policy to help the students to carry on their studies without any competition," he added.

Notably, the valley has witnessed a number of incidents in which the students end their lives for not clearing an examination or scoring less grades.

The Prime Minister urges everyone to put exams in the right perspective, rather than making it a life-and-death situation punctuated by undue stress and pressure.

"Learning should be an enjoyable, fulfilling and endless journey - this is the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book," reads a statement from the MoE.

CBI Conducts

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had earlier said.

The agency has booked former chairman, Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd, Navin Kumar Chaudhary, and other former officials M S Babu, M K Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra, and Patel Engineering Ltd in the case.

"Though a decision was taken in 47th Board meeting of CVPPPL (Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd) for re-tendering through e-tendering with reverse auction after cancellation of ongoing tendering process, the same was not implemented (as per decision taken in 48th board meeting) and tender was finally awarded to Patel Engineering Ltd," it has been alleged in the FIR.

Govt Diverts

Chenab river in Kishtwar district of J&K with an installed capacity of 850 MW. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs sanctioned the project in January 2021 at the cost of Rs 5,281.94 crore.

Over 8000 To

Jammu and Kashmir. He said some of the pilgrims had provided expired passports and were consequently rejected, while only 8,017 applications were accepted, who secured a spot for the annual Hajj-2024.

Regarding the Hajj quota, Dr. Qureshi said that there is a specific quota of 6,838 for Jammu and Kashmir, with an additional 2,000 as a special quota given, comprising a total of quota of 8,838. He added that this year, they received less applications than the quota.

"Now, the next step is the publication of the selection list and the message generation for pilgrims whose names have been added to the provisional selection list, after which they will have to submit the first instalment," said Dr Qureshi.

He said that, "this year, a total of

155,000 Hajj pilgrims are scheduled to leave from India." He added that the notification about the first instalment will be out in two to three days, and pilgrims have to prepare themselves for Hajj 2024

5,162 Women

(male companion), the Haj Committee of India said.

The process of draw of lots for the Haj applicants was carried out on Monday by the Haj Committee under the guidance and supervision of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

However, applications of all women above 70 and those who want to go for the pilgrimage without 'mehram' were accepted and not put through the process of draw of lots.

A total of 1,74,117 applications were received for Haj by the Haj Committee.

The total quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims from India has been finalised for Haj 2024 with 1,40,020 seats being reserved for pilgrims to proceed through the Haj Committee whereas 35,005 pilgrims would be permitted to proceed through private operators.

Chief Executive Officer of the Haj Committee of India, Liaquat Ali Afaqi, said that out of the 5,162 women who will go on Haj without 'mehram', 3,584 are from Kerala, 378 from Tamil Nadu, 249 from Karnataka, 166 from Maharashtra, 141 from Uttar Pradesh, 130 from Telangana, 82 from Jammu and Kashmir, 72 from Madhya Pradesh, 64 from Gujarat, 50 from Delhi, 44 from Andhra Pradesh, 40 from West Bengal, 33 from Rajasthan, 30 from Bihar, 29 from Assam, 19 from Puducherry, 14 from Chhattisgarh, 10 from Uttarakhand, nine from Jharkhand, five each from Goa and Odisha, three from Ladakh, two from Lakshadweep, and one each from Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

The Haj policy provides for draw of lots to finalise the list of applicants to be selected as pilgrims to go on the pilgrimage through the Haj Committee.

The randomisation process started at 11 am and was successfully completed by 03 pm, and was witnessed by the representatives of various State/UT Haj Committees on a real-time basis, a statement said.

Messages are being sent to the selected and wait-listed pilgrims.

In the previous years, it used to take more than a day to complete the whole process and the new initiative of the government shall greatly facilitate the Haj pilgrims all over the country, the statement said.

In line with the digital initiatives of the government and for ensuring transparency and removing human intervention, the Haj portal has been revamped with the latest IT infrastructure and services.

14 HA Of Land

Package-17 (KM 515+000 to KM 566+475) of Phase-II of Delhi-Katra Expressway

It further said that in 2020, at least 0.70 hectares and 0.22 hectares of land were transferred for construction of road from Mantlai to Gamsadu road and Barkunda to Kharwa respectively," it reads. KNO

Building Activity

an example, saying if there is a building permission for raising a three storeyed building and the person concerned constructs an additional fourth floor, the additional 4th floor would constitute "unauthorized building".

"Any deviation from the building permission would always constitute an unauthorized construction," the court said, adding, "The Tribunal by adopting flawed reasoning which is against the logic and common sense has termed the "unauthorized construction" of the private respondents (owners of the building at HSHS) as authorized one and thereafter set aside the sealing order (by SMC)."

The ground on which the Tribunal has quashed the order of sealing is absolutely "perverse and liable to be set aside."

Subsequently, the court disposed of the petitions by giving liberty to the owners of the building at HSHS to approach the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with a petition for compounding of the deviations. "If and when such a petition is made by the private respondents before the Commissioner, the same shall be considered by the said authority in the light of the building permission granted in favour of the private respondents, the relevant building byelaws, the zonal plan and all other relevant statutes and guidelines on the subject," the court said, adding, "The offending portion of the building constructed by the private respondents shall be sealed by the petitioner corporation (SMC) till such time a decision is taken by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with regard to the question of compounding of deviations."

In case the deviations are not compounded or regularized by the Commissioner, the court said, the private respondents shall ensure that the offending portion of the building is demolished or, in the alternative, the SMC shall undertake demolition of the offending portion in accordance with law.

Accelerate Construction Of AIIMS, DC Pulwama to workers

KO NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting aimed at evaluating the progress of ongoing projects at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Awantipora.

The meeting focused on ensuring the timely completion and seamless execution of this prestigious healthcare infrastructure.

The review meeting saw participation from officials representing various Government departments, including health and engineering. Additionally, key stakeholders from executing agencies responsible for the construction and development of the AIIMS infrastructure were also present. The primary objective was to address challenges and streamline progress towards the completion of the project.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora provided a detailed overview of the project's

status through a presentation. The DC underscored the profound significance of the AIIMS project for Pulwama and emphasized its potential to elevate healthcare services in the region. He stressed the imperative to expedite construction while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

Key discussions during the meeting revolved around establishing timelines for completing different phases of the project. DC urged officials to adhere strictly to the set deadlines, directing concerned departments to expedite processes and ensure smooth progress in infrastructure development.

Post the review meeting, DC conducted an onsite inspection of the AIIMS facilities to assess ongoing construction and development activities. He engaged with engineers and workers from the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and TKC, involved in the project to evaluate ground realities and address immediate requirements.

Admin Launches Helpline For Women's Safety In Ganderbal

KO NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: In response to the rising concerns over harassment targeting female students and women commuters on public transportation, the District Administration Ganderbal, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir has taken proactive steps to enhance passenger safety by launching round the clock helpline numbers for assistance to such victims.

The 24x7 helpline numbers, prominently displayed on posters will be circulated throughout the district. These helpline numbers are designed to empower female victims and witnesses to report incidents promptly, especially within the

realm of public transport.

The primary goal of this initiative is to create a safer environment for all public transport users. Authorities are urging the community to actively engage in reporting any such incidents, contributing to the collective effort in curbing harassment against women.

Transportation officials emphasize the pivotal role of community involvement in ensuring the effectiveness of these measures. The recently established helpline is a critical tool for swift response and support, reinforcing the commitment to fostering a secure travel experience for everyone.

Key Helpline Numbers include, SAKHI-One Stop Centre: 0194-2416260-261; Special cell for women (Ganderbal): 8899258731.

DC B'la Inspects Transit Accommodation for Migrants

KO NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 29: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, on Monday undertook a comprehensive inspection of the transit accommodation in Fatehpura, Baramulla to assess and ensure availability of essential amenities for Migrant employees under the PM Package residing at the facility.

During the visit, the DC assessed all facilities, including water and power supply, sanitation, and other essential ar-

rangements crucial for maintaining a high quality of life.

The DC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers, urging them to uphold proper sanitation and cleanliness standards within and around the residential blocks.

Inspecting the condition of the roads inside the residence premises, Minga Sherpa issued clear instructions to the officers for the upgradation, highlighting the importance of enhancing the roads to ensure better accessibility and safety for the residents.

Govt Allocates Rs 94 Cr. To Enhance Air Quality In Srinagar And Jammu

CS takes stock of measures to improve air quality in JK cities

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In the UT Apex Committee meeting of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday took stock of all the measures taken to improve the overall quality of air in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar here.

The meeting was attended by ACS, Forest Department; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; PCCF; Secretary Transport; Commissioner SMC/JMC besides other concerned officers.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned city administrations to take all the measures to improve the air quality in our cities as envisaged under this national programme.

He asked them to show more commitment toward this significant matter and ensure that the targets set for the two cities are met without fail.

Dulloo further took note of the expenditure made till date under this national programme and the works carried out to make quality of air better here. He stressed on making strenuous efforts to complete all the ongoing works within this financial year.

He also directed for accelerating the pace of tendering and other preliminary processes to execute other projects taken up under this programme.

The Chief Secretary maintained that clean air is one of the basic parameters of determining quality lifestyle in urban areas. He observed that



measures like enhancing green spaces, reduction of pollutants by resorting to eco-friendly ways are going to have a great impact on our health and prosperity. He called for coordinated efforts to implement this programme here in letter and spirit.

It was given out by the ACS, Forests, Dheeraj Gupta that the National Clean Air Programme is a comprehensive time bound action programme launched by MoEFCC, Govt of India in January 2019 with an objective to improve air quality especially for Non-attainment Cities.

He said that a baseline has been given for each identified city and Target set to be achieved for the concerned city administration to improve the air quality there. He further made out that 124 NACs (132 NACs as on now) have been identified in the country for the coverage in this program on the basis of non-conforming to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for 5 consecutive years.

The meeting was also apprised that funds to the tune of Rs 94.60 Cr have been re-

ceived by the Municipal bodies of twin cities for making meaningful intervention in this regard. It was said that 19 Air Quality Monitoring-Manual Air Quality Monitoring Stations have been set up in Jammu and Srinagar for providing the real time updates.

Moreover the data for the air quality of 19 different parameters monitored by the CAAQMS installed at Rajbagh Srinagar is displayed on the screen for information of the general public. Similarly, Air Quality of 10 locations of Jammu City is being monitored and displayed through towers installed under Jammu Smart City Project at main chowks of Jammu city for information of general public.

In addition the State Action Plan has been submitted to CPCB by the Government of J&K, which stands approved by the CPCB. This approved Action Plan has details of all the major actions / activities required to be undertaken, departments responsible for its implementation, besides setting timelines for implementation of each of them, the meeting was informed.

DC Bandipora Conducts Comprehensive Review Of R&B Sector

KO NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: In order to streamline infrastructure development and accelerate project completion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather, on Monday conducted a comprehensive review of the working of Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the district.

The meeting focused on analyzing the status of ongoing projects, identifying bottlenecks hindering progress, and devising strategies for swift resolution.

During the review, the DC received detailed progress reports from both departments, including physical and financial status updates on all ongoing projects under their purview. Specific emphasis was placed on projects under execution, indicating their importance for the district.

Superintending Engineer R&B while sharing the status of different projects informed the meeting that under UT road sector, out of 80 schemes, work on 75 schemes are under execution while as 5 works have so far been completed.

He further informed the meeting that under dis-

trict sector, out of 22 allotted schemes/projects, work on all 22 schemes stands taken up for execution, out of which 10 works have been completed as on date.

Sharing details regarding ULBs, the meeting was informed that a total of 24 schemes/projects were allotted in Bandipora and execution of all the works have already been taken up while as 15 works have already been completed.

The concerned stated that the works under other schemes including CNT, CRF, NABARD, Pot Holes etc are also under execution with most of the works near completion.

J&K Bank Organises 4th Countrywide Customer-Meets

Your feedback is crucial for our success and resilience: Baldev Prakash

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jan 29: It is the unwavering-trust and goodwill of our clientele across the country that continues to inspire us to reach newer heights as we are carrying forward the journey of creating fresh milestones with our performance.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash made these remarks while chairing the main function of Bank's 4th country-wide

vanced and competitive digital offerings during the last year like Online Account opening Facility, STP platform enabling disbursement of loan upto Rs 1 Cr in just 10 seconds, mPay Delight Plus etc. besides the unprecedented market response to our Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) - a capital raising tool - that resulted in raising CET1 capital of Rs 750 Cr.

While enumerating the Bank's recent milestones on the



customer-outreach program at Mumbai. The function was part of Bank's customer-meets organised to listen, understand and resolve the issues faced by its clientele across its operational geographies.

Among few of the Bank's recent milestones, he spoke about the record annual profit of Rs 1197 Cr posted for FY 2022-23, rolling out of ad-

dition, he further asserted, "With our 9-month profit already at Rs 1128 Cr in December 2023, we are all set to break our highest-ever annual profit record posted last FY at Rs 1197 Cr. And all this successful performance is because of your unflinching loyalty that has been the cornerstone of our progress. And your feedback is crucial for our success and resilience."

NOTICE

I intend to correct my Name in my Aadhaar Card from SHABIB AHMED BUTT S/o Ali Mohammad Butt (old Name) to SHABIR AHMAD BHAT S/o ALI MOHD BHAT (New & Correct Name). In future I will be known as (New name) Shabir Ahmad Bhat s/o Ali Mohd Bhat. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Aadhaar office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be accepted.

Shabir Ahmad Bhat
S/o Ali Mohd Bhat
R/O Kanterbugh, (Pattan) Baramulla

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PHARMACY COUNCIL

CONSTITUTED IN TERMS OF SECTION (19) OF PHARMACY ACT 1948
COMBINED DRUG & FOOD LAB, PATOLI MANGOTRIAN, JAMMU.
EMAIL: presidentjkpharmacycouncil@gmail.com, Tele: 0191-2536043.

To,
Mr. Asif Yousuf Dar,
S/o Mr. Mohd Yousuf Dar,
R/o Pahnoo, Distt-Shopian (Kmr).
Pin: 192303, Cell no: 9622520238.
Email: yasiryousuf232@qmdil.com

No: JKPC/VERF-PHAR009401-Estt1752-64 Dated: 27-01-2024.
Subject: Registration as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act, 1948.

Refer your online application no: PHAR009401 on the captioned subject.

The competent authority, i.e Controller of Examination, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi vide their communication no: 2023/4945, Dated: 20.12.2023 during physical verification has vehemently disowned the issuance of letter no: BU/Conf/Recd/2023/1260, Dated: 09.10.2023 from their side and therefore suggesting that the same be treated as fake. Your application for registration as Pharmacist is therefore rejected on grounds stated herein above.

(Lotika Khajuria)
(Ex-Officio) President
DIPK-NB-5442-23
DT: 29/01/2024 Jammu & Kashmir Pharmacy Council.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PHARMACY COUNCIL

CONSTITUTED IN TERMS OF SECTION (19) OF PHARMACY ACT 1948
COMBINED DRUG & FOOD LAB, PATOLI MANGOTRIAN, JAMMU).

EMAIL: presidentjkpharmacycouncil@gmail.com, Tele: 0191-2536043.

To,
Mr. Asif Nazir Dar,
S/o Mr. Nazir Ahmad Dar,
R/o Moniward, Distt-Anantnag (Kmr).
Pin: 192101/Cell no: 6006266992.
Email: asifnazir114@gmail.com
No: JKPC/VERF-PHAR010071-Estt-1830-42

OUT TODAY / S.POST / MAIL

Dated: 27 .01.2024.

Subject: Show Cause Notice.

Whereas, the Pharmacy Council of Union Territory of J&K issued a Public Notice under endorsement no: JKPC-86/Estt/681-91, Dated: 16.12.2020 inviting therein applications for registration as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act, 1948;

Whereas, the above exercise was initiated in pursuance to the implementation of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir after the enforcement of J&K Reorganization Act, 2019;

Whereas, an application for registration as Pharmacist under Section 32 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 from your end was uploaded in the Online portal vide Form reference number PHAR010071, Dated: 22.01.2023 along with requisite documents as prescribed under the Checklist;

Whereas, a matter of practice and procedure, the eligibility certificate uploaded from your end was referred to the concerned university/examining body for purpose of verifying as genuineness;

Whereas, a communication presumably originating from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi vide no: 2023/8673, Dated: 27.02.2023 and list/record dated: 20.03.2023 which was received has been taken on record & the application submitted by you was approved and the registration was granted in your favour on the basis of aforesaid communication as below details:-

Registration number	Date of registration	Validity
JKPC/NRC/10071	23.06.2023	21.06.2028

Whereas, the staff dealing with applications uploaded through online portal informed that there is some evident suspicion about the credentials of applicants who claim to have obtained requisite eligibility from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi;

Whereas, the above inputs were taken on record and a confidential exercise was initiated with the competent authority of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi to verify the record being submitted to this office;

Whereas, the Controller of Examination, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi vide their communication no: 2023/4945, Dated: 20.12.2023 during physical verification has vehemently disowned the Issuance of letter no: BU/Conf/Recd/2023/1260, Dated: 09.10.2023 from their side and therefore suggesting that the same be treated as fake.

Whereas, the above chronology of events clearly indicates that you have indulged in unfair means and submitted fictitious documents by resorting to manipulation and misrepresentation/Impersonation;

In light of the contents of foregoing paras and before taking any final action in the matter, you are hereby afforded an opportunity to furnish your response and comments in the matter in writing to the undersigned through return mail by or before 10 days positively;

It may be noted that in the event of your failure to respond to this notice, the Council shall be constrained to initiate ex-parte action against you.

(Lotika Khajuria)
(Ex-Officio) President
DIPK-NB-5421-23
DT: 29/01/2024
Jammu & Kashmir Pharmacy Council.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PHARMACY COUNCIL

CONSTITUTED IN TERMS OF SECTION (19) OF PHARMACY ACT 1948
COMBINED DRUG & FOOD LAB, PATOLI MANGOTRIAN, JAMMU).

EMAIL: presidentjkpharmacycouncil@gmail.com, Tele: 0191-2536043.

To,
Mr. Ab. Hamid Dar, S/o Mr. Gh Hassan Dar,
R/o Barsoo, Awantipora, District-Pulwama (Kmr).
Pin: 192122, Cell no: 7006036578. Email: haamid119@gmail.com
No: JKPC/VERF-PHAR006691-Estt- 1843-55

OUT TODAY / S.POST / MAIL

Dated: 27 .01.2024.

Subject: Show Cause Notice.

Whereas, the Pharmacy Council of Union Territory of J&K issued a Public Notice under endorsement no: JKPC-86/Estt/681-91, Dated: 16.12.2020 inviting therein applications for registration as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act, 1948;

Whereas, the above exercise was initiated in pursuance to the implementation of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir after the enforcement of J&K Reorganization Act, 2019;

Whereas, an application for registration as Pharmacist under Section 32 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 from your end was uploaded in the Online portal vide Form reference number PHAR006691, Dated: 12.08.2021 along with requisite documents as prescribed under the Checklist;

Whereas, a matter of practice and procedure, the eligibility certificate uploaded from your end was referred to the concerned university/examining body for purpose of verifying as genuineness;

Whereas, a communication presumably originating from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi vide no: 2022/1573, Dated: 04.04.2022 and list/record dated: 20.03.2023 which was received has been taken on record & the application submitted by you was approved and the registration was granted in your favour on the basis of aforesaid communication as below details:-

Registration number	Date of registration	Validity
JKPC/NRC/6691	06.06.2023	04.06.2028

Whereas, the staff dealing with applications uploaded through online portal informed that there is some evident suspicion about the credentials of applicants who claim to have obtained requisite eligibility from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi;

Whereas, the above inputs were taken on record and a confidential exercise was initiated with the competent authority of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi to verify the record being submitted to this office;

Whereas, the Controller of Examination, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi vide their communication no: 2023/4945, Dated: 20.12.2023 during physical verification has vehemently disowned the issuance of letter no: BU/Conf/Recd/2023/1260, Dated: 09.10.2023 from their side and therefore suggesting that the same be treated as fake.

Whereas, the above chronology of events clearly indicates that you have indulged in unfair means and submitted fictitious documents by resorting to manipulation and misrepresentation/Impersonation;

In light of the contents of foregoing paras and before taking any final action in the matter, you are hereby afforded an opportunity to furnish your response and comments in the matter in writing to the undersigned through return mail by or before 10 days positively;

It may be noted that in the event of your failure to respond to this notice, the Council shall be constrained to initiate ex-parte action against you.

(Lotika Khajuria)
(Ex-Officio) President
DIPK-NB-5422-23
DT: 29/01/2024
Jammu & Kashmir Pharmacy Council.

Rahul, Jadeja Out Of 2nd Test; Sarfaraz In

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and batter KL Rahul were on Monday ruled out of the second Test against England, dealing a body blow to the hosts after a shock loss in the series opener here.

Jadeja sustained a hamstring injury while going for a quick single on Sunday while Rahul complained of pain in his right quadriceps.

Worryingly, Rahul had also injured his right thigh while fielding in the IPL in



May last year and that required a surgery, keeping him out of the game for four months.

The selection committee has added Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan, left-arm

domestic cricket and more recently in the India A series against England Lions.

With Virat Kohli already unavailable for the first two Tests due to personal reasons, the injuries to Jadeja and Rahul have made matters worse for India, who find themselves under pressure after losing only their fourth Test at home since 2013.

Though Sarfaraz has got a well-deserved call-up, the chances of Rajat Patidar, who was already part of the 15, making his debut in Vizag are higher.

India Fifth In World Test C'ship Rankings



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India have dropped to fifth behind Bangladesh in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings after their shock 28-run defeat to England in the first Test in Hyderabad.

India were briefly on top after drawing the two Test series with South Africa before being overtaken by Australia following their victory over Pakistan. Rohit Sharma's men have suffered in terms of accumulated percentage points, going down from 54.16 after the South Africa series to 43.33 currently.

The rare defeat at home took Rohit Sharma's side down to fifth spot in the latest WTC rankings with 55 percentage points.

Australia's sensational eight-run defeat to the West Indies in Brisbane on Sunday did not have much impact on them as they continued to lead the WTC rankings.

South Africa, New Zealand and Bangladesh—all with 50 percentage points—are at second, third and fourth spots, respectively.

Below India are Pakistan, West Indies, England and Sri Lanka.

KARATE KIDS: 2 Shopian Taekwondo Athletes Selected For Nationals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two sub-junior Taekwondo athletes from Shopian have been selected to compete in the upcoming national championships in various categories.

Anika Aijaz (girls under-24 kg) and Nahil Farooq (boys under-25 kg) were selected for the 37th National Sub Junior Kyorugi Taekwondo Championship and 12th National Sub Junior Poomsae Taekwondo Championship 2023-24, scheduled to be held from February 2 to 4, 2024 at Balbir Juneja Indoor Stadium in Chhattisgarh.



Both athletes train at the Khelo India Taekwondo Centre Shopian.

Both players are regular trainees of the Taekwondo Centre in Shopian and were trained by coach Aquib Gulzar.

IUST Student Wins Bronze In Inter-University Pencak Silat

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: A student of Islamic University of Science and Technology won bronze in the recently concluded Inter-University Pencak Silat tournament.

The IUST Pencak Silat team, comprised of seven members, was led by Dr Hilal Ahmad as they participated in the All India Pencak Silat Inter-University Tournament 2024. The tourney was organised by Guru Nanak Dev



University Amritsar Punjab from 23rd to 27th January.

Mufti Ahmad Farooqi bagged bronze medal while other athletes from the university won their league bouts. Students had a great experience and got to interact with participants from other places.



CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

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Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com
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