

1.18 Lakh Cr Interim Budget For J&K Unveiled

Approx. 3000 Cr Proposed For Road Connectivity | 1000 Cr For Old Aged, Widow And Disabled Pensions

Rural Water Connectivity	Agricultural Transformation	Education Infrastructure	Road Connectivity	Decentralized Governance	Health Sector Strengthening	Rural Housing	Hydroelectric Projects	Social Security	Industrial Development	Flood Management	GST Reimbursement	Transport Sector
₹2959 Cr	₹934 Cr	₹1907 Cr	₹3000 Cr	₹1313 Cr	₹1271 Cr	₹1093 Cr	₹660 Cr	₹1000 Cr	₹400 Cr	₹400 Cr	₹450 Cr	₹5 Cr

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 5 proposed an Interim Budget of Rs 1.18 lakh crore for fiscal 2024-25 for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The interim budget of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25 provides for the ongoing measures and schemes as follows - 2959 Cr have been provisioned for tap-water connectivity for rural areas under Jal Jeevan Mission with Rs 532 crore as UT Share; 934 Cr for transforming agriculture and allied sectors of the UT through the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), including provisions for IFAD funded J&K Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP); 1907 Cr for rejuvenating school education infrastructure and services through funding under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan; Provision of improving road connectivity with 1683 Cr for PMGSY roads, 300 Cr for CRF roads, and 1000 Cr NABARD scheme; 1313 Cr for strengthening decentralized governance by providing for local area works of panchayat and urban local bodies; 1271 Cr for strengthening infrastructure and services in the health sector under National Health Mission mechanism; 1093 Cr for rural housing under PMAwas Yojana - Gramaam scheme; and 1000 Cr for comprehensive social security



Photo: @IncomeTaxIndia

coverage for Old aged, Widow and Disabled pensions by saturation approach.

In addition, 660 Cr have been proposed for J&K's equity for in the hydro electric projects at Ratle, Kwar, and Kiru, which would provide stable revenue source and cheaper power; 505 Cr for timely procurement of machinery, equipments, prosthetic aids and drugs in Health sector through the dedicated corporation; 500 Cr for capitalization of the banks, including Cooperative Banks, Rural Banks, J&K Bank, etc; 450 Cr for infrastructure of new Colleges and Universities as per NEP vision; 430 Cr for women empowerment intervention of LadliBeti and



THE CRUCIAL REFORMS UNDERTAKEN IN 2019 ENABLED "PATH-BREAKING" measures by the Union Territory Government to decentralise governance structure, promote inclusive development, upscale revenue generation and step up infrastructure development."

Marriage Assistance; 400 Cr for construction of Transit accommodations for Kashmiri Pandit employees; 400 Cr for development of Industrial Estates and related infrastructure; 370 Cr under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban) scheme; and 390 Cr for Flood Management Project of River Jhelum

For GST reimbursement 450 Cr have been proposed; 272 Cr for DDC/BDC grants improving local governance at district and block level; 174 Cr for development of model schools under PM-Shri scheme; 150 Cr for developing rooftop solar and other avenues of new and renewable energy; 140 Cr for creation of Sports Infrastructure; 100 Cr for conclusion of World Bank

funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project; 100 Cr for Mission Youth programmes for education, skilling, and employment.

In the budget presented 100 Cr for heritage preservation have been mentioned; 91 Cr for new tourism destinations, new circuits, Sufi circuit and identified religious circuits, ropeways, highway resting places and promotion of Golf; 70 Cr under infrastructure for welfare of tribals for construction of Tribal Hostels/ Milk Villages/ Nomad Shelters/ Libraries for Gujjars; 100 Cr for sewerage projects in urban areas, 70 Cr for development of new Townships and affordable housing and 50 Cr for Dal development; 40 Cr for Tourism promotion, 15 Cr for the festival promotion and for promotion of cinema/ theatre; 40 Cr for meeting incentives as per the provisions of the Industrial Policy and Start-ups; 15 Cr for trade promotion through J&K TPO; and 100 Cr for Youth start-up/Job fairs/employment fairs.

The interim budget provides for 30 Cr for establishment of cold storage and 30 Cr for high density plantation; 80 Cr for establishment of DDC/BDC/PRI accommodation and offices as also for security arrangements of DDC/BDC/PRI representatives; 59 Cr for construction of Police Housing colony and relief and rehabilitation; 45 Cr for construction of Bunkers and [More on PII](#)

Interim Budget Dedicated To Farmers, Women, Youth, Marginalized: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha lauded J&K UT's Interim Budget 2024-25 and expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.



LG LAUDS INTERIM BUDGET

The LG tweeted: "Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Hon'ble FM Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji for J&K's interim Budget 2024-25, which is dedicated to farmers, women, youth, marginalized sections of society and seeks to strengthen the grass-root democracy in the Union Territory."

"Interim budget highlights the government's commitment of rapid economic growth & it ensures that the growth is socially inclusive and sustainable. It focuses on fast expansion of the agricultural economy & addresses the issue of regional imbalances & seeks [More on PII](#)

- It creates an enabling environment for investment
- Focuses on fast expansion of agricultural economy
- Seeks to strengthen the grass-root democracy in J&K
- Ensures that industries generate more employment
- Ensured that growth is socially inclusive & sustainable
- Focuses on skill development, employment of Nari Shakti

OBC Quota In J&K Local Bodies

Bill To Provide Reservation Introduced In LS

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Currently, there is no provision for reservation of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in panchayats and municipalities in the Union territory.

The aim of the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is to uphold principles of fairness and inclusivity in local governance, thereby addressing long-standing disparities and ensuring justice for OBC citizens.

"With this, justice will be ensured to the citizens of Other Backward Classes of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time after 75 years of independence," according to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill.

The bill says that in future all local body polls will be

conducted by a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner, instead of the Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir.

The bill says the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a judge of a high court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to amend certain provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 in consonance with the provisions of the Constitution," according to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill.

Clause (6) of articles 243D and 243T of the Constitution empowers the [More on PII](#)

India To Be 3rd Largest Economy In '3rd' Term: PM

Predicts At Least 370 Seats For BJP, Over 400 for NDA In Next LS Polls | Says People Of Kashmir Paid Heavy Price For Nehru's Mistakes

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed confidence that the NDA will get more than 400 seats and the BJP will win at least 370 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

Modi said he was convinced that the opposition parties have lost the courage to contest elections and have resolved to stay on the opposition benches for a long time.

"I can gauge the mood of the nation, it will definitely give NDA more than 400 seats and the BJP at least 370 seats," the prime minister said replying



to the debate in Lok Sabha on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

He said the third term of the government was not too far.

"At the most 100-125 days are remaining," he said, referring to

the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "Abki baar," Modi said, and BJP members joined him in unison to say "400 paar".

"Even Kharge ji is saying the same thing," Modi said referring to [More on PII](#)



AT THE MOST 100-125 DAYS ARE REMAINING," he said, referring to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "Abki baar," Modi said, and BJP members joined him in unison to say "400 paar".

5-day Intermittent Wet Spell Ends In Kashmir

MeT Predicts Dry Weather Till Feb 14

Agencies

Srinagar: The five-day intermittent wet spell in Jammu & Kashmir ended on Monday while Srinagar and other areas of the valley witnessed occasional sunshine as well.

Several feet of snowfall was witnessed at some places including Sinthan Top, a famous ski-resort Gulmarg, Sonamarg and others from January 31-February 04, 2024.

The weather conditions improved today with Srinagar

and other adjacent areas witnessing the occasional sunshine as well.

As per the details shared by the Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, the weather conditions are expected to remain generally dry from tomorrow till February 14 as there is no forecast of any wet spell during the period.

Meanwhile, the Director MeT said in view of significant snow accumulation during the last few days, follow administration and traffic Police advisory.

Kashmir Records 'Warmest January In Memory'

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng issued a detailed statement, saying that in January [More on PII](#)

Highway To Remain Closed Today

Observer News Service

The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway will remain closed for vehicular

movement tomorrow (February 06), authorities said on Monday. It is to inform to the general public that the National Highway (Jammu- Srinagar) [More on PII](#)

Ladakh Bodies Threaten Hunger Strike

Agencies

Srinagar: Leaders in Ladakh on Monday said that it would intensify protests and threatened to go on a hunger strike if there is no positive outcome during their meeting with the High Powered Committee on Feb 19.

Former Member of Parliament Thupstan Chewang and founding member of Leh Apex Body addressing a news conference in Leh ahead of their talks with the High Powered Committee (HPC) led by MoS Home Nitiyanand Rai on February 19 reiterated their 4-point agenda.

Talking to reporters, the Apex Body Leh Chairman said that the talks [More on PII](#)

CBMAK Takes Legal Action Against Shark Tank India Say Trambo Sports Made Some 'Misleading Claims' On the Show

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association of Kashmir (CBMAK) has launched a legal offensive against 'SONY Entertainment Television' and the contenders featured in the popular Reality TV series 'Shark Tank India' for disseminating alleged falsehoods and detrimental assertions regarding the Kashmir Cricket Bat Manufacturing sector.

Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association of Kashmir Spokesperson said that numerous misrepresentations were spotlighted in the show's Season 3 episode aired on January 30, 2024. Specifically, the participants, Mr. Hamad Trambo and Mr.



Saad Trambo, representing Trambo Sports Willow cricket bats, laid claim to being the trailblazers in the Kashmir bat manufacturing domain—a proclamation staunchly contested by CBMAK.

Pertinently, CBMAK is an amalgam body of all Cricket Bat Manufacturers in the Valley, formed to ensure the prosperity and welfare of its members. "The bats manufactured by our members [More on PII](#)

Climate Change Alarming Impact Kashmir's Vegetation Under Threat: Experts

Agencies

Srinagar: Even though the climate change is a global phenomenon, Kashmir has started to witness the vast impact on vegetation, fruit and the pollination to mention the least.

There has been early plant flowering in Kashmir this year. However, over the past few years, it has been noted that the flowering cycle has been interrupted by January blossoming, which affects fruit yield.

In an exclusive interview with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Akther H Malik, field Botanist and a scientist at the Department of Botany, Kashmir University said: "Earlier

also, we have seen snowfall in late March in Kashmir but from the past few years this is not happening and the cause is climate change. So what will happen if the plants don't get the chilling period the flower petals will fall when the flower production will be affected with the result pollination will not happen or pollination will not happen properly as a result the fruit production pollination service is provided by insects will be affected with the result the production of fruits."

"January is the favourable season for precipitation and in this month we were getting precipitation, so it was recharged with [More on PII](#)

Dr Naseer Iqbal Is New Registrar KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha Monday appointed Dr Naseer Iqbal as new registrar for University of Kashmir. Besides, Sinha appointed Dr Fayaz Ahmad Loan as Librarian of Allama Iqbal Library, Dr Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad as director- North Campus and Dr Mandeep Singh was appointed as director Physical Education.

Additional Secretary for LG's secretariat said that the appointment was made on the basis of recommendations of the selection committee for appointment of various positions in the University of Kashmir on tenure basis. "I am desired to convey [More on PII](#)



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Srinagar | Tuesday | 06-02-2024

Writing By Hand Found To Enrich Brain Connections More Than Typing On Keyboard

Press Trust Of India

Students learn more and remember better when taking handwritten notes than using a keyboard as brain connectivity patterns were found to be far more elaborate while writing than typing on a keyboard, a new research has found.

Researchers said the findings suggested that the precisely controlled hand movements when writing with a pen helped obtain visual and movement information that contributed extensively to the brain's connectivity patterns, known to be crucial for memory formation and learning.

"There is some evidence that students learn more and remember

better when taking handwritten lecture notes, while using a computer with a keyboard may be more practical when writing a long text or essay," said Audrey van der Meer, a brain researcher at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and co-author of the study published in the journal Frontiers in Psychology.

For the study, the researchers recorded the electrical activity of the brains of 36 university students, who were repeatedly prompted to either write or type a word that appeared on a screen. When writing, they used a digital pen to write in cursive directly on a touchscreen. When typing they used a single finger to press keys on a keyboard.

The researchers found that the connectivity between different

brain regions increased when participants wrote by hand, but not when they typed.

On the contrary, the researchers found that repeating the simple movement of hitting a key with the same finger was less stimulating for the brain.

"This also explains why children who have learned to write and read on a tablet, can have difficulty differentiating between letters that are mirror images of each other, such as 'b' and 'd'. They literally haven't felt with their bodies what it feels like to produce those letters," said van der Meer.

Even though the study participants used digital pens for handwriting, the researchers said the results are expected to be the same when using a real pen on paper.

"We have shown that the differences in brain activity are related to the careful forming of the letters when writing by hand while making more use of the senses," explained van der Meer.

The findings demonstrated the need to give students an opportunity to use pens, rather than having them type during class, they said.

Guidelines to ensure that students receive at least a minimum of handwriting instruction could be an adequate step, they said.

However, the team also cautioned that it was important to keep up with continuously developing technological advances, which they said included an awareness of which way of writing - handwriting or typing - was advantageous under what kind of circumstances.

PUBLIC NOTICE

With due great respect and regard that I have lost my E-Stamp Paper at District Sadler Court Srinagar under No.RD0009833010 which is issued by the concerned authority on dated 01-11-2023 against my name under account ID No.JK12556504 somewhere and could not be traced out. That I have not misused the above said E-Stamp paper and that in case they said E-Stamp Paper is traced out at any time in future, I shall forthwith inform the same to the authorities Bilal Ahmad Wani S/o Manzoor Ahmad Wani R/o Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Tanzeela D/o Abdul Aziz Bhat R/o bhat mohalla shalting Srinagar have applied for 9th pass certificate session, 2013, anybody has any objection he/she may contact Allaya public school Gund Haasi Bhat Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of Block Development Officer Singpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Jameela Akhter (21/06/1995) D/o Zakir Muzaffar Ali R/o Budibugh

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the issuance of Fertilizer licence under name and style M/S Shopian Fertilizers Arhamia Shopian. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Basit Irfan S/o Gh. Ahmad Wagay R/o Narapora Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" Contractor Card if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the R&B S.E Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Abdul Rahman Lone S/o Ali Mohd Lone R/o Shungli Pora T/s Khag Budgam

NOTICE

I intend to rectify the mothers name of my son Mohammad Amaan studying in the grade 3rd under Roll No 11 Section: Green in Green Valley Educational Institute, Ellahibagh Buchpora, Srinagar from Gulafroza Jan to Gulafroz Jan which in inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quarter, the same may be reported to the Principal of the Institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quarter. Younis Ashraf F/o: Mohammad Amaan R/o: SKUAST Road Shalimar Srinagar

NOTICE

I intend to rectify the mothers name of my daughter Sidrat ul Muntha studying in the Class 7th under Roll No 30 Section: Pink in Green Valley Educational Institute, Ellahibagh Buchpora, Srinagar from Gulafroz to Gulafroz Jan which in inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quarter, the same may be reported to the Principal of the Institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quarter. Younis Ashraf F/o: Sidrat ul Muntha R/o: SKUAST Road Shalimar Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing No; J6071416 hile travelling in Shopian. Now I have applied for the issuance of duplicate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Officer Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Shafi Malla S/o Mohammad Ramzan Malla R/o Pahlipora Uttarpora Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the name of my son from Saeed Reyhan Tasleem to Saeed Reyhan War. In future he will be known as Saeed Reyhan War. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Tasleem Ahmad War F/o Saeed Reyhan War (New Name) R/o Mustaqar Lane, Fazullaq Colony Upper Batpora Peth Batpora Zakura

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Yousuf Rather S/o Bashir Ahmad Rather R/o Kreshbal, Noorbagh Srinagar, J&K

از نیابت گومرا پورہ درخواست از جانب مشتاق احمد ولد عبداللہ شاہ تحصیل سنگھ روچن بارمول برآمد وصول D.O.B منرکتفیک تک سال خود معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت پر پرمٹ بنچایت سکریٹری ڈیپارٹمنٹ پورچینڈر علاقہ ڈا شامیزم سے موصول ہوئی۔ مطابق پرمٹ مندرجہ عنوان ہوتا ہے کہ سال کی پیمائش موریس 15-04-1966 کو ہوئی ہے اور سال مذکورہ تا حال کوئی بھی سنڈ D.O.B حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔ سال مذکورہ سے قبل میں D.O.B حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار نظر کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت ازرا منرکتفیک ہو تو دفتر خط میں اندر رسات میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از اس کے معاد کوئی بندر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار fko

Directorate Of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir Kashmir Haat, Exhibition Grounds Srinagar Email: dir.handicraft@jk.gov.in Assistant Registrar Handicrafts & Handloom Passes Away. Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir condoles the untimely demise. In Memory of Mrs Abida Afzal Assistant Registrar who passed away yesterday, a condolence meeting was held today in the office chamber of Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir where employees of the department held a congressional prayer meeting in the memory of departed soul. Speaking on the occasion, Director H&H said that the loss will be deeply felt. In this hour of grief our thoughts and prayers are with the concerned family. She was more than just a colleague as her work infused our team with her unique qualities, unwavering dedication, and enthusiasm. She made a lasting positive impact on both our professional endeavors and personal lives. The void left by her absence will be keenly felt, but her legacy will endure through the memories we shared together. In this time of mourning, let us also come together to remind the remarkable life and contributions of Late Abida Afzal. Her indelible mark on our department will forever be remembered, and we are profoundly grateful for the time we were privileged to spend with her. inf

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NIT No.125 of 2023-24/R&B Sumbal Division (Single Cover System) For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following work:- S. No. Name of Work Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) Doc. (In Rupees) Earnest Money (In Rupees) Time of Completion Allocation 2023-24 M.H of Ac-count Class of Contractor 1 Road at Rakhi Sul-tanpora taking off for Gunchipora Tularoo road near graveyard Rakhi Duslipora to Naag by way of G-I and G-II 29.10 1100/- 52000/- 60 Days 10.00 Capex Budget 2023-24 (UT Road Sector) AAY/ BEE Position of AAA: - Accorded Position of Funds: - Available 1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:- 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 01-02-2024 2. Period of downloading of bidding documents 02.02.2024 from 10.00A.M 3. Bid Submission Start Date 03.02.2024 from 10.00A.M 4. Bid Submission End Date 12.02.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. 5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) 13.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal. 2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in the shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal. (The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive. 3. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @3% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 days after opening of Bids, which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. This will replace the EMD @ 2% of the Advertised cost uploaded by the Bidder. 4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal (tender receiving authority). 5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids 6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. 6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process. 6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor. 6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form. 6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. 6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. 7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. 8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract. 9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. 10. Price escalation and Taxes: - The %age quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery. 11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required. 12. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed. 13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB) 13.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:- a. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address. b. Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS portal. c. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan. d. All bidders shall upload CDR/FDR/BG @ 2% of advertised cost pledged to opening authority. e. All bidders shall upload Valid Registration card front and renewal Side (Latest). Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No. f. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B read circular issued by finance dept. Vide his No-FD-CODE/371/2021-02, Dated:-24-02-2023 14. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid. 15. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language. 16. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises 17. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT. 18. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued. 19. Treasury Challan should indicate tender document cost deposit in-between commencement date and end date of NIT. For the authentication of Treasury Challan it is mandatory to record on it either any one among the following. Name of the work with S.No of NIT/Adv. Cost/NIT No and also address to tender inviting authority. 20. For drawing of agreement of the contract and memorandum of an agreement relating to sale of bill of exchange one rupee for Rs.10,000/- or part thereof shall have to be realized/deposited by the Contractor at his own to revenue head of Accts.0030/ Stamps of Deputy Commissioner Stamps J&K UT. No. R&B/Sb/23/6087-93. DIPP-16056/23 Dated:-05-02-2024. Sd/ Camp Clerk Sd/ Head Draftsman Sd/ TO Sd/ Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangdar NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NIT No.201-SSD/TDR /of 2023-24 e-tendering Endtt. No:6998-7008DATED:05/02/2024 For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are being invited on an percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following work:- S. Name of Work Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees) Earnest Money (In Rupees) Time of Completion In days Class of Contract Major Head of Account 01. Upgd. Of Quarry link road Khowpora bwo of walling at spots. 2.00 200 4000 15 days DEE 3054 Special Repairs Position of AAA:TS: Accorded. 1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:- 01. Date of issue of Tender Notice 05.02.2024 02. Period of downloading of bidding documents 05.02.2024 03. Bid submission start date 05.02.2024 04. Bid submission end date 14.02.2024 upto 4:00 PM 05. Date & time of opening Bids (on line) 15.02.2024 at (11.AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar Terms and Conditions :- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected. 2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Contract along with Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No. of NIT) in favour Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar. 3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. 4. The contractors are directed to upload the additional performance security deposit in advance, during downloading bid process amissible under rule. S no %age or unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates Additional performance security to be deposited 1. Upto and including 15% below nil 2. Greater than 15% and upto 20% below 5% of advertised cost 3. Greater than 20% and upto 25% below 10% of advertised cost 4. Greater than 25% and upto 30% below 15% of advertised cost 5. Greater than 30% below 20% of advertised cost Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Kashmir's Circular No.CE/RBK/HD/3271-73 5. No bid shall be accepted if enlistment card is not found in JKPWDOMS online of those departments which have been serving the bid portal as per circular instruction issued by development Commissioner works vide No.PW/DCW/DB/668-72 DT.10-06-2022 6. 1st lowest bidder will submit the CDR/FDR within two days after opening of tender failing which 2nd lowest will be approved. Besides lowest bidder participating in tendering process for one year in this division. 7. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar (tender receiving authority). 8. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. 9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. 6.1 Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process. In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate. 6.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted. 6.4 Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1. 6.5 Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. 10. The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances. 11. The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document). 12. Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually. 13. Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contract/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited. 14. Price escalation and Taxes: -The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the Contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery. 15. Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents. 16. All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information. (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):- All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address. - A valid Contract/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contract Registration Act. - Treasury Challan & Earnest money - Valid PAN Card, - Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable. 17. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2022-23. 18. Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation. 19. The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted. 20. Special Conditions regarding Specifications and Quality control for Machine laid B.T. Works: - All work components shall be executed strictly in accordance with the specifications laid out in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways publication "Specifications for Road and Bridge Works" and any amendments made up to the date of issuance of N.I.T. - A periodic sieve analysis of each type of aggregate, as well as a periodic check of aggregates at the gradation control unit, shall be performed to ensure that the specified proportion of aggregates is complied. - Conducting mandatory quality control tests in the lab and/or field for various components of the advertised work such as thickness tests, impact value tests, stripping, flakiness, gradation of aggregates, determination of Binder content in bituminous mix, density tests, Viscosity test, and other tests as prescribed in MORTH at the frequency recommended therein, will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor, as will the correct execution of the work. - The location of the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality, from which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean, tarpaulin covered vehicles/Tipper, and shall be placed in such a way that the manufacturing laying/spreading and rolling temperatures are kept within the specified limits. - All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25. DIPP-16053/23 DATED: 05-02-2024 DM AAO TO Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar

E-Bus Drivers, Conductors Protest 'Harassment' By Passengers

Threatens To 'Suspend' Service On All Routes

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Accusing the higher-ups of Srinagar Smart City Ltd (SSCL) of turning a blind over their plight, e-bus drivers and conductors today hit streets in Srinagar and threatened to suspend service on all routes, in case the 'harassment' meted out to them by the passengers is not immediately stopped.

Shouting slogans "LG admin wake up, want justice", dozens of the e-bus drivers and conductors staged a protest in Srinagar against the harassment meted out to

them by the passengers.

Pertinently, a video of a passenger attacking an e-bus operator in the Batamaloo area of the city went viral on social media, sparking protests by his fraternity.

"We have been facing a series of issues ever since the e-bus service was started in Srinagar. However the higher-ups of the SSCL despite being well aware of our problems have never been serious enough to address the same," Gulzar

Ahmad, a protester said.

Despite our honest efforts to put travelers at ease and accomplish our jobs, the daily animosity we encounter has a detrimental effect on our lives, he added.

"We receive a paltry amount of Rs 9000 a month, and are abused by the passengers frequently. One of our colleagues was severely beaten by a passenger in Batamaloo; however the officials of SSCL did not react," Gulzar said.

The e-bus drivers and conductors

threatened to suspend the service on all routes in Srinagar, in case the harassment meted out to them by the passengers was not immediately stopped.

"We are all highly educated, but the unemployment issue has forced us to work as drivers and conductors. We cannot risk our lives and appeal to the Lieutenant Governor to take serious note of the problems we face or else we will be forced to halt services on all routes," they threatened.

MD, NHM, Principal GMC Srinagar Reviews Functioning Of Tele MANAS Cell

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, Nazim Zai Khan along with Principal Govt. Medical College, Srinagar Dr. Tanvir Masood reviewed the functioning of Tele-MANAS Cell at the Centre of Excellence, Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Government Medical College here today.

On the occasion, the Mission Director and Principal GMC interacted with the consultants and counselors working in Tele-MANAS Cell and also had a live demonstration of the working of the call centre.

They also conducted an extensive tour of the IMHANS (Centre of excellence), established through financial support of the Govt. Of India and

reviewed the infrastructure, interventions and innovations being implemented there. They also took feedback from the faculty members in order to improvise the services being delivered to the patients and beneficiaries.

The Mission Director assured all possible support to the Tele-MANAS Cell/ IMHANS.

Principal GMC on the occasion extended gratitude to the Mission Director, NHM for his maiden visit to the Centre of Excellence.

Among others present during the visit were Professor IMHANS /Nodal Officer Tele-MANAS, Dr. Arshid Hussain; Professor IMHANS Srinagar, Dr. Zaid Ahmad Wani; Divisional Nodal Officer/Program Manager Mental Health NHM, J&K, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Dar and other faculty members of the IMHANS.

Commissioner SMC Takes Extensive Review Of Works Wing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed today chaired a meeting to review all projects within the domain of Works Wing of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

During the review, Commissioner SMC assessed the progress made on various infrastructure and developmental projects, emphasizing the importance of timely and efficient completion.

Dr. Owais expressed satisfaction with the dedication and hard work exhibited by the Works Wing, commending their commitment to enhance the city's infrastructure, a vital urban component. He further emphasized the significance of maintaining high-quality standards in all projects, ensuring they align with the

corporation's vision for a sustainable urban infrastructure.

In addition, Dr. Owais highlighted the corporation's determination to prioritize citizen-centric services, aiming to address the evolving needs of Srinagar City. He emphasized the Works Wing's crucial role in achieving these objectives and urged the team to continue their efforts in delivering projects that positively impact the community.

The Commissioner reiterated the corporation's commitment to transparency and accountability, encouraging open communication and collaboration among all stakeholders involved in the projects. He also assured the general public that the Srinagar Municipal Corporation remains dedicated to nurture a culture of excellence and innovation in all its endeavors.

Reviews Progress Of National Clean Air Program

Srinagar: The Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed Monday conducted an extensive review of the progress made in the National Clean Air Program (NCAP).

The meeting aimed to assess the progress made in the program undertaken to improve air quality and reduce pollution in the city.

During the review, the Commissioner, SMC emphasized the significance of the NCAP and reaffirmed the corporation's commitment to achieve its objectives. The meeting provided a platform to evaluate

the effectiveness of the measures implemented so far and to identify areas that require further attention and intervention.

Dr. Owais highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders, including government agencies, environmental organizations, and the community, to address the challenges posed by air pollution. He emphasized the need for adoption of innovative solutions to ensure a significant impact on air quality in Srinagar.



"India's Energy Plan aims to ensure energy justice."
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

India's Global Energy Leadership for a Sustainable Future



Inauguration of
INDIA ENERGY WEEK
6-9 February 2024 | ONGC, Goa | India

- 35,000+** Energy Professionals
- 4,000+** Conference Delegates
- 350+** Exhibiting Companies
- 400+** Conference Speakers
- 100+** Countries Represented
- 80+** Conference Sessions

and dedicating world-class HUET facility at
IPSHEM, ONGC, Goa
to the nation by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

on
Tuesday, 6th February 2024 at 10:00 am. IPSHEM, ONGC, Goa

In the august presence of

Shri Pramod Sawant
Chief Minister, Goa

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Housing and Urban Affairs

Shri Rameswar Teli
Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas; Labour and Employment

Key energy initiatives under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- More than **10 Crore** people have got free LPG connection under **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** and a refill subsidy of ₹300 each, ensuring a smoke-free kitchen.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission** to decarbonise the industrial, mobility and energy sectors, accelerating the deployment of Green Hydrogen as a clean energy fuel.
- Nearly **2.46 Lakh** farmers benefitted with **Pradhan Mantri Kustum Yojana** providing energy and water security. Thereby increasing farm income and curbing environmental pollution.
- Ethanol Blended Petrol** reducing Import dependence, savings in foreign exchange and boost to domestic agriculture sector.
- Global Biofuels Alliance** India taking a leadership role for a sustainable path to net-zero and reducing dependency on fossil fuels.
- Renewable Energy Installed Capacity** increased **136.27%** from **76 GW** in March 2014 to **179.57 GW** by Nov 2023. India is ranked 4th in installed renewable capacity, showcasing its commitment to net-zero.

To know more visit www.indiaenergyweek.com | [#IndiaEnergyWeek](https://twitter.com/IndiaEnergyWeek) Watch Live telecast of the event on DD News

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Attack On Syrian US Base Kills Kurdish Fighters As Regional Tension Simmers



Agencies

A drone strike on a United States base in eastern Syria overnight has killed several fighters from Kurdish-led forces.

The United Kingdom-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said on Monday that seven fighters were killed and at least 18 others injured.

The attack follows US strikes on targets in Iraq and Syria over the weekend. Iran-aligned armed groups said they had also struck US bases in Syria as well as western and northern Iraq, as a low-level war with Washington simmers.

"This attack in the first response by the Iranian militias to American bases after American airstrikes on militia positions in various areas within areas they control," the observatory said of Monday's incident.

The SOHR added that since October 19, "108 attacks" were carried out on bases of the US-led Combined Joint Task Force across Syria. The US-led coalition was set up in 2014 to fight ISIL (ISIS).

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced a different

death toll, saying: "Six of our fighters were martyred due to a terrorist attack" with a one-way drone, targeting a "training academy in the Al Omar oilfield".

The extending series of strikes illustrates the rising threat that Israel's bombardment of Gaza risks provoking a regional escalation across the Middle East.

That danger rose dramatically late last month when a drone hit a US base in Jordan, killing three soldiers and wounding more than 40. Washington blamed the attack on Iran-backed forces and promised retaliation, which came over the weekend.

The US military hit Tehran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria on Friday and Saturday. US and UK forces unleashed attacks against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen on Sunday.

The US military's Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces "conducted a strike in self-defense against a Houthi... land attack cruise missile" and later hit "four anti-ship cruise missiles, all of which were prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea".

Imran Khan And Shah Mahmood Qureshi Accorded Status Of High-Profile Prisoners, To Perform Prison Labour: Report

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi despite being high-profile prisoners will have to perform their prison labour inside the compound, according to a media report.

Both the leaders were convicted by a special court for a 10-year jail term in the cipher case and have been imprisoned in Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala Jail, where their trial was held.

Khan, 71, and Qureshi, 67, are being kept separately as high-profile prisoners - in their capacity as a former prime minister and foreign minister, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Khan is the founder chairman of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) while Qureshi is the vice chairman of the party.

Both the leaders are availing the facilities provided to inmates in a better-class prison similar to the ones they had before their conviction including access to an exercise machine, it said.

According to sources, the two men have been given two sets of prison uniforms according to the jail manual. However, as the PTI founding chairman's trial is underway in other cases, it has not been made mandatory for him to wear the prison uniform.

The two inmates will also perform their prison labour inside the compound as per



the written order.

Quoting sources, the report said that high-profile prisoners could not be kept in jail factories, kitchens, hospitals, gardens, etc, among ordinary inmates. Therefore, they will be kept there in their compound for maintenance work or any other task assigned by the jail administration.

Both prisoners can prepare their own food according to the assigned class. They can also eat prepared food according to the jail manual.

Similarly, Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, who has been convicted in the Toshakhana (gift repository and liddat cases), has been assigned a female police staff headed by a lady assistant superintendent each from Attock and Multan.

The police officers will be stationed in two shifts 24 hours a day at the couple's Bani Gala residence, which has been declared a sub-jail.

Male officers of Adiala Jail have been posted on the outer boundaries of the Bani Gala residence and Islamabad police are responsible for the

security around it. According to the sources, the 49-year-old former first lady is being provided breakfast, lunch and dinner by the prison administration according to the jail manual.

However, they added that as Bushra was not in a regular prison, but incarcerated in a sub-jail, she could not be provided with the facility of an exercise machine.

The sources said that since Khan and Qureshi were arrested and imprisoned in jail before conviction, that time would also be counted in their punishments.

Two days earlier, a court sentenced Khan and his wife to seven years imprisonment in an "un-Islamic" marriage or liddat case.

Last week, the PTI founding chairman and his wife were sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in the Toshakhana case.

Separately, Khan and Qureshi were handed down a jail term of 10 years in the cipher case last week as well, according to the paper.



Farmers To March To Delhi On Feb 13, Demand Legal Guarantee For MSP

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: Farmers will march to Delhi on February 13 to press the Centre for accepting several demands, including enactment of a law to guarantee MSP for crops, a top farm leader said on Monday.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal claimed more than 200 farmers' unions from across the country will participate in the "Delhi Chalo" march.

These unions are part of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) is a breakaway faction of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha.

Addressing reporters in Chandigarh, Mr Dallewal alleged that the Centre had made a commitment for giving legal guarantee to Minimum Support Price (MSP) when the farmers protested against the three now-repealed farm laws.

But the government is not fulfilling its promise because

of pressure from the corporate sector, Mr Dallewal claimed.

He said preparations for the march have been going on with farmers taking out tractor rallies at many places.

"Not only from Punjab, farmers from other states, including Haryana, will be participating in the march," said Mr Dallewal.

The farmers will head to Delhi from the Shambhu, Khanauri and the Dabwali borders, he added.

Sarwan Singh Pandher, general secretary of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, said besides legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are also demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Farmers mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh held a year-long protest on Delhi's border points -- Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur -- against the three now-repealed farm laws.

"Will Not Allow...": Maldives President Says Indian Troops To Exit By May

Press Trust of India

MALE: President Mohamed Muizzu on Monday said the first group of Indian military personnel will be sent back from the island nation before March 10, while the remaining Indian troops manning two aviation platforms will be withdrawn by May 10.

In his maiden address to Parliament, Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, said he believes a large majority of Maldivians support his administration with the expectation that they will remove foreign military presence from the country, and recover the lost oceanic territory.

He said his administration will not allow any State agreements that may compromise the country's sovereignty, The Edition newspaper reported.

Soon after taking oath as the President of Maldives on November 17, Muizzu formally requested India to withdraw 88 military personnel from his country by March 15, saying the Maldivian people have given him a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi.

"Diplomatic discussions with other nations that the President can conduct are ongoing. We have officially requested India



to remove its troops stationed in the Maldives. Deliberations on this issue are ongoing.

"As per the most recent discussions, military personnel on one of the three aviation platforms will be recalled before March 10, 2024. The military personnel on the remaining two platforms will also be recalled by May 10, 2024," Muizzu told Parliament.

After the latest round of bilateral talks, India said on February 2 that a "set of mutually workable solutions" was agreed upon with the Maldives for continuing the operations of Indian aviation platforms in the island nation.

Currently, Indian military personnel are in the Maldives primarily to operate two helicopters and an aircraft that have carried out hundreds of medical evacuations and humanitarian missions.

Pakistan's Election Looks More Like A Coronation Or A Sure Bet. Many Voters Are Disillusioned

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is holding parliamentary elections this week but many voters are disillusioned and wonder if the balloting can bring any real change in a country mired in political feuding, a seemingly intractable economic crisis and resurgent militancy.

Forty-four political parties will compete on Thursday for a share of the 266 seats in the National Assembly, or the lower house of parliament, with an additional 70 seats reserved for women and minorities.

After the election, the new parliament will choose the country's next prime minister. If no party wins an outright majority, then the one with the biggest share of assembly seats can form a coalition government.

Many experts agree that in Pakistan's political landscape today, there really seems to be only one top contender for the post of premier -- Nawaz Sharif, a three-times former prime minister who has returned to the country and been absolved of past convictions.

Sharif came back last October after four years of self-



imposed exile in London to avoid serving prison sentences. Within weeks of his return, his sentences were thrown out and his convictions overturned.

His archrival, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, a cricket hero turned Islamist politician who was ousted in April 2022, is behind bars and banned from contesting the vote.

And although Khan has a significant grassroots following, it's the intensity of his downfall and the ease of Sharif's return that have led many to believe the outcome has been already decided.

WHY DOES IT MATTER? Nuclear-armed Pakistan is the fifth most populous country

in the world and an unpredictable Western ally. It borders Afghanistan, China, India and Iran -- a region rife with hostile boundaries and tense relations.

For the international community, a strong and stable Pakistani government means a better chance of containing any unrest, addressing economic challenges and stemming illegal migration.

And though anything can happen on election day, both Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League and Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have led lackluster campaigns over the past few weeks -- something experts say only feeds into the general apathy among some 127 million eligible voters.

"Name Of The Country Should Be Changed To Bharat": BJP Leader In Lok Sabha

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former Union minister and senior BJP leader Satyapal Singh on Monday demanded in the Lok Sabha that the name of the country should be changed to Bharat.

Participating in a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, Mr Singh said the first paragraph of the Constitution has a mention - 'India that is Bharat'.

"The use of 'India' should end. The name of this country is Bharat, which is a powerhouse of knowledge. This name (India) should be changed. Such a country, which is the greatest in the world," said Mr Singh, a former IPS officer and Lok Sabha member from Baghat in Uttar Pradesh.

"Even the Gods said we



were fortunate to have been born in Bharat. Hence the name of the country should be changed to Bharat," he said, quoting from scriptures.

Mr Singh, who was ministry of state for education, said the President's address was a guarantee of the guarantees given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We will work together to end poverty in the country, will end terrorism and casteism...we will restore India's past glory by making it a self-

reliant and developed nation by 2047," the BJP leader said.

He said the building of the Ram temple in Ayodhya was an expression of the faith of crores of devotees and that the prime minister was working towards establishing Ram Rajya in the country.

"We will not rest till Ram Rajya is established. Mahatma Gandhi spoke about establishing Ram Rajya during the freedom struggle. The Prime Minister is following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, Ma-

harshi Dayanand and Deen Dayal Upadhyay, and working towards establishing Ram Rajya in the country," Mr Singh said.

Trinamool Congress member Satabdi Roy sought to punch holes in the government's claims of pulling out 25 crore people from multi-dimensional poverty, contending that the data pertained to Covid years when surveys were not conducted.

She said issues such as unemployment, high inflation, safety and security of girl child, MSP for farmers, Manipur, and the reality of the suffering of train passengers were missing from the President's address.

Roy said BJP members were claiming that Prime Minister Modi had brought Lord Ram back to Ayodhya.

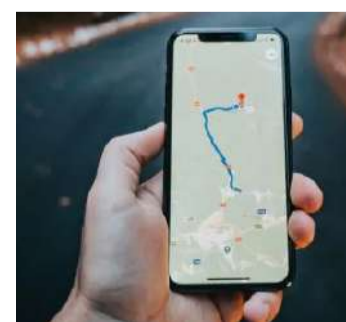
Tamil Nadu Techie Used Shared Location To Get Back Father's Stolen Phone

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: What are the odds of finding a phone that was stolen in a moving train, especially when the thief boarded at the next station? It seems in Raj Bhagat's case, not only luck, but technology too was on his side that he tracked the thief and caught him red-handed with the phone and many other things that the repeat offender had stolen during the course of the day.

All in a matter of two hours. "When I could see him standing right in front of me with my dad's handbag, I can't tell you how good it felt. Of course, it helped that I could read maps and that I was in a small place like Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu that I knew quite well," Bhagat told PTI over the phone.

Incidentally, Bhagat tracks data and maps professionally to aid



government policymaking. In fact, his mapping expertise was used by filmmaker Mani Ratnam for his magnum opus, 'Ponniyin Selvan' in which maps are used to show the core Chola territory and the areas that were conquered and subdued, he added.

Bhagat said his father had lost the handbag containing his phone on the intervening night of 3 and 4 February, when he was probably busy looking for his seat in the

Nagercoil-Kacheguda express and settling himself, at about 1.40 am.

When his father realised his bag was missing, almost two hours had already passed. After looking around, he called Bhagat from someone else's phone with the news. Luckily, said Bhagat, his family shares location with each other and he could see his father's phone moving along the track near Melapalayam in Tirunelveli. "So, I deduced that the thief got off at Tirunelveli junction and was returning to Nagercoil in another train," he said.

Bhagat decided to take a friend along and confront the thief. "We also stopped along the way and convinced a railway police cop to come along with us," said Bhagat.

But when the Kanyakumari express, on which the thief was coming back, according to the map, pulled in, it was too crowded and Bhagat lost the thief in the crowd.

LG Meets NCC Cadets From Republic Day Parade In New Delhi

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with the NCC cadets, who took part in the Republic Day Parade 2024 in New Delhi.

On the occasion, the Cadets shared their experience about the spectacular march on the Kartavya Path, interaction with youth from all over the country and wonderful exposure about the regimented way of life they had at the Republic Day camp.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Cadets of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh NCC Directorate for their historic participation in the Republic Day celebrations.

"National Cadets Corps represents the great diversity of India and its unity. It is known for the values like discipline, comradeship, dedication to



the Nation and to the cause of social equity," the Lt Governor observed.

He said the remarkable achievements of NCC cadets like Captain Ulfat Khan are an inspiring example for country's youth.

"Truly proud of Captain Ulfat Khan, the Parade Commander of Prime Minister's rally. You have made us all very proud," the Lt Governor said.

He also congratulated the JUO Dechen Chuskit for re-

ceiving the prestigious Raksha Mantri Padak.

During the exchange of ideas with the cadets on the role of youth in nation-building, the Lt Governor emphasised on the importance of self-discovery, dream and aspirations of

youth.

"I want youth to hold the reins of change because Youth is the only power that is future-oriented, in sync with reality and equipped with skills to contribute to the journey of Viksit Bharat," the

Lt Governor said.

Every NCC Cadet is the symbol of the limitless potential of our youth. I am confident that the young Cadets will continue to carry forward the rich legacy of this world's largest uniformed youth organization to build a prosperous and united society, he said.

Over the years, NCC has established its reputation of serving the society and the nation. The four new battalions will further cement the very foundation of the National Cadets Corps and increase the strength of cadets in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh from 27,870 to 40,730, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor also felicitated the Cadets and instructors of J&K and Ladakh NCC Directorate with LG's Appreciation Certificates and

mementos. He extended his felicitations to the NCC Cadets who have been selected for J&K Police and Defence Force.

A total of 122 cadets of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh NCC Directorate had participated in this year's Republic Day celebration. 12 NCC cadets were selected to march on the Kartavya path and 09 cadets were selected for Guard of Honour. Senior Under Officer Rohit Sharma was the Guard of Honour Commander of the Prime Minister's Rally.

Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Higher Education; Maj Gen Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva, ADG, NCC Directorate, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary, School Education Department; senior Officers and Instructors of NCC were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar To Assume Command As Northern Army Commander

Agencies

JAMMU: Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar has been appointed as the new Northern Army Commander. He is succeeding Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, who is moving to Army Headquarters as VCOAS.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), prior to appointment of strategic command, the general officer served as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Kumar and Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) at Army Headquarters. He has experience in intelligence, operations, force structuring, operational logistics and tech infusion in his recent appointments.

"An alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and National Defence Academy, the General Officer was commissioned into 1 Assam Regiment in June 1985. He has commanded 59 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion (ASSAM), an Infantry Brigade and an Infantry Division on the Line of Control and the highly active White Knight Corps in Northern Command," officials sources said.

The General Officer has held various staff and instructional appointments to include an



instructional tenure at Infantry School, Mhow, Senior Operations Officer in the United Nations Sector in Cambodia, Colonel (Policy) in Military Secretary Branch, Indian Army Training Team at Lesotho, Brigadier General Staff (Operations) of a Corps in the Eastern Theatre, Additional Director General Military Intelligence and Director General Military Intelligence at Army HQ.

"The Officer has attended the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Higher Command Course, Mhow and the National Defence College, New Delhi. He has also attended courses on 'Cooperative Security in South Asia' in Sri Lanka and 'United Nations Senior Mission Leaders Course' in Egypt. His military papers have been published in a number of professional journals," officials informed—(KNO)

DC Pulwama Chairs Meeting For SAHYTA Scheme Implementation

KO NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA: A crucial district-level committee meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom for implementation of the SAHYTA scheme in the district.

The SAHYTA scheme, with its overarching objective to extend financial assistance to distressed youth, particularly those who have lost family members in insurgency-related incidents, cross-border shelling, or mine blasts, is poised to make a substantial impact on the lives of affected individuals in District Pulwama.

The meeting delineated the roadmap for disbursing financial aid amounting to 1 lakh rupees to eligible beneficiaries. A key focus of the deliberations was the meticulous identification and verification of candidates from the police database who qualify for assistance un-

der the SAHYTA scheme.

Dr Basharat underscored the paramount importance of accurate beneficiary identification, stressing the need for thorough verification processes to ensure the scheme reaches those most in need. The chair directed the concerned authorities to meticulously gather information from the police database and conduct comprehensive verifications to ascertain the eligibility of potential beneficiaries.

Moreover, recognizing the pivotal role of awareness in reaching out to eligible candidates, the Employment Department was tasked with disseminating information about the SAHYTA scheme across all police stations in the district. The directive aims to ensure that individuals who meet the criteria for assistance are made aware of the scheme's provisions and how to avail themselves of the benefits.

DC Kupwara Review Healthcare Facilities

KO NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan on Monday conducted a surprise visit to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara to review healthcare facilities being provided to the patients.

The DC inspected various wards including Causality Medicine ward, Labour room, General surgery (Post Operative) Ward, Operation Theatre, Pediatrics Department, SNCU (Special newborn Care Unit), Ayushman Bharat Section, Free Drug dispensary, Jan Aushadhi counter and other sections. Ayushi interacted with Hos-

pital administration, doctors, paramedics and patients and received feedback regarding the facilities and effectiveness of operations.

She inspected various aspects such as overall cleanliness, medical facilities, presence of staff and the quality of healthcare services provided.

The surprise visit of the DC aimed to ensure that the hospital is meeting the required standards and regulations for providing healthcare services to the community. The DC expressed pleasure with the facilities and patient care provided by the hospital administration and staff.

Union Health Minister Lays Foundation For Nursing College In Handwara

KO NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya laid the foundation stone of new Nursing College and Nursing Hostel at Handwara, Kupwara, through video conferencing on Monday.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Union Health Ministry for the unprecedented expansion of health facilities and medical education infrastructure in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

He said the new Nursing College will go a long way in augmenting the Medical education infrastructure and over-



all Health care in the border district of Kupwara.

The Lt Governor shared the rapid advances made in increasing access to healthcare in Jammu Kashmir. About 4500 seats have been added in MBBS, PG and Nursing education within the past 4 years, he added.

He reiterated the commit-

ment of the Administration to provide quality health services to the citizens and to give a major push to develop and deploy modern health technologies for future care.

The Handwara Nursing College project is targeted to be completed within 4 working seasons.

Apple Growers Advocate for Standard Pesticides and Fertilizers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: After witnessing a year of quality produce, the apple growers of Kashmir urge the government to enforce the sale and distribution of quality pesticides and fertilizers in the valley.

They believe that the quality pesticides and fertilizers will further elevate the production of apples and other horticultural products in the valley.

President of Kashmir Fruit Growers And Dealers Association Fruit Mandi, Sopore told news agency, that the flow of spurious and substandard pesticides has had its impact on the quality of agriculture and horticulture produce in the valley.

"This is one of the prime concerns for the fruit growers of Kashmir. Kashmir has the potential to produce quality produce but it is the flow of spurious pesticides and fertil-

izers, which impact our crop every year," he said.

Malik said the government should enforce strict laws against the dealers as well as the retailers involved in the sale of spurious pesticides.

"Horticulture is the biggest employment-generating industry of Jammu and Kashmir. So, we urge the government to enforce strict laws against those persons who promote or sell substandard pesticides," he said.

In this regard, he said they have already conveyed the authorities to launch a sustained campaign against the sale and use of substandard pesticides and fertilizers.

"It calls for a sustained campaign. The government needs to activate its men and machinery so that the Kashmiri apple, which has a good reputation across the world, is not affected quality-wise. We are sure that Kashmir will have en-

hanced production of apple if the substandard pesticides and fertilizers are banned," he said.

Pertinently, last year, the government seized a large quantity of substandard pesticides in valley markets during its regular raids.

In December, 200 quintals of organic fertilizers were seized in Shopian district, which were found without specifications on the bags.

Last month, authorities seized 400 bags of spurious fertilizers in J&K's Kulgam.

Officials told KNO that both agriculture, as well as the horticulture department, were conducting surprise checks across the valley to seize spurious pesticides and fertilizers.

"Both these departments have their enforcement teams at the district level, which tour to various places and act against the sale of spurious pesticides and fertilisers," they said—(KNO)

Snowfall In Kashmir Restores Water Supply To Full Capacity

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a turn of weather events, the recent snowfall in the valley has proven to be a boon for the region's water bodies— charging them back and resorting the potable water supply to its own capacity, said a top official in Jal Shakti department.

Er. Sajid Pandit Technical Officer to Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti department (PHE) told the news agency, that the recent rain and snow spells in the valley has recharged the water bodies and that the potable water supply affected earlier has been restored to its own capacity.

"The turnaround in the weather conditions has infused new life into the water bodies. Some of the water bodies, which had turned partially dry, are back to their water holding capacity after back to back spells of rain and snow in the valley," he said.

Pandit said that although there was not such a severe



impact to the potable water

supply in the region other than from isolated pockets of the valley. He however, acknowledged that the dry spell had led to the partial drying of several water bodies in the valley.

It is pertinent to note that in the aftermath of prolonged dry spell, several areas in the valley complained of shortage in water supplies.

Moreover, the fresh snowfall has come as a relief to the region, as water scarcity had prompted the Jal Shakti department to implement miti-

gation measures.

The officials had previously expressed concern over several water bodies experiencing a partial drying effect, creating a potential threat to the water supply. Officials had stated that due to prolonged dry spell in the valley, 20 percent of the potable water supply had got "badly affected" in the region.

However, the recent snowfall has acted as a natural remedy, refilling these bodies and ensuring that the potable water supply returns to its original position—(KNO)

SIU Bla Produces Charge Sheet Of Narco-Terror Case

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a recent development in narco-terror related cases, the State Investigation Unit (SIU) Baramulla on Monday produced a charge sheet before the Court of Additional Sessions Judge (NIA Court) Baramulla.

As per a statement, the SIU Baramulla produced a charge sheet in a case under FIR number 104/2023 under section 7/25 IA Act, 120-B IPC, 13, 18, 18B, 20, 23 and 40 UAP Act of Police Station Uri before the Court of Additional Sessions Judge (NIA Court) Baramulla.

The charge sheet was produced against six accused persons namely Mohd Aslam Khatana son of Atta Mohd resident of Churunda Uri, Muneer Ahmad Din Masi son of Mohammad Din resident of Jabla Uri, Bilal Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohidin Dar resident of Hard Shiva Sopore, Akhtar Niyaz Bhat son of Niyaz Ahmad resident

of Mukhdam Mohalla Tarzoo Sopore, Mudasir Yousuf Goknu son of Mohd Yousuf resident of Bagi Islam Krankshivan Colony Sopore, all under judicial custody. Moreover, one more accused namely Mohd Hassan Awan son of Raj Mohd Awan resident of Dharkoot Uri at present Tehsil Bagh PoK has also been named in charge sheet under section 299 CrPC. Next date of hearing of the case is fixed on 20/02/2024 as announced by the Court, the statement said.

Pertinent to mention here that on 11-08-2023, arms & ammunition and narcotics were recovered from the five accused persons at a checkpoint established at Powarian Thajal Uri, police said.

They were found to be involved in cross border smuggling of arms & ammunition at the behest of Pakistan based terror handlers and its further distribution to LeT terrorists for carrying out terror activities, police said.

Fishermen In Baramulla To Be Covered Under KCC: DC



KO NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa on Monday held a meeting of District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) to finalise the Scale of Finance (SoF) for the year 2024-25 for Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, Fisheries, Animal and Sheep Husbandry at DC Office, here.

During the meeting, the DC, who is also the chairman of DLTC, took a comprehensive appraisal of the credit issuance schemes run by the government towards the farmers to enhance accessibility of agricultural loans through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) in a hassle free manner.

The meeting held a detailed discussion to determine and fix the SoF for providing loans to farmers for Short Term (ST) in the shape of working capital for the maintenance, food, fertilizer, pesticides, labour and manure etc for growing crops

in the area in order to achieve sustainability.

The DC was informed that for the first time Fishermen have been covered under the ambit of KCC in Baramulla District and they can avail the benefits of SoF upto Rs 33000 to purchase fishing gears and upscale their businesses.

DLTC, during the course of the meeting, finalized the SoF to determine the eligible credit for each crop and farmer for the financial year 2024-25 which will be forwarded to the State Level Technical Committee for approval.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted that the fixation of finance for the Agricultural and allied activities shall help the farmers of the District to take maximum advantage of various types of free credit in a hassle-free manner. Minga Sherpa also said that the fixation of finance shall also create employment opportunities in the District through Agricultural Entrepreneur activities.

Avalanche Hits Gulmarg, Few Skiers Trapped, Rescued Within Minutes

Agencies

GULMARG: An avalanche struck the famous ski-resort, Gulmarg while the prompt response by the rescue teams ensured the successful evacuation of skiers, who got trapped in an avalanche, officials said on Monday.

An official told the news agency, that two groups of skiers comprising 20 both locals and foreigners were caught in an avalanche in Gulmarg hills.

He said that four skiers got stuck in the avalanche and were successfully rescued.

The timely activation of ABS bags played a crucial role in ensuring a swift and successful rescue operation. The operation concluded within a few minutes, officials said, adding that no injury or a loss of life was reported in the incident.

He added that the skiers, who were stuck, were mostly from Srinagar besides a few were foreigners as well.

They were fortunate to have a professional team accompanying them including Daniel Steewwart, who contributed significantly to the successful rescue operation—(KNO)

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Tuesday | 06-02-2024

Pakistan's Linger Instability

The recent spate of court judgments against former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi has sent shockwaves through the nation just days before the crucial general elections on February 8. The latest verdict, a shocking seven-year jail term for violating Islamic law in their 2018 marriage, has sparked debates about the state of justice and the political landscape in Pakistan.

The case, initiated by Bibi's former husband Khawar Maneka, alleges a violation of the Islamic requirement for a three-month waiting period after divorce before remarrying. Maneka asserts that he divorced Bibi in November 2017, while Khan announced his marriage to her in February 2018, months before becoming the prime minister of Pakistan. The civil court, situated within the Adiala Jail where Khan is currently imprisoned, not only sentenced the couple to seven years but also imposed a fine of one million rupees (\$3,560).

This judgment marks the third legal setback for Khan in the same week. Earlier on January 30, he and his aide Shah Mehmood Qureshi were sentenced to 10 years for allegedly leaking a confidential cable. Khan contended that the document contained evidence of a conspiracy involving the Pakistani military, his political rivals, and US officials to remove him from power in April 2022—a charge both Washington and the Pakistani army vehemently denied. The following day, Khan and Bibi received a 14-year imprisonment and a hefty fine in a case related to the illegal sale of gifts received during Khan's tenure as prime minister.

The speed with which these judgments were delivered has raised concerns about the fairness and impartiality of the legal proceedings in the neighbouring country. Critics within Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), argue that the haste in these trials undermines the integrity of the judicial process and raises questions about the upcoming elections.

The series of convictions against the former prime minister have also cast a long shadow over the upcoming elections, where Khan is barred from contesting, and the PTI faces significant restrictions, including being stripped of its election symbol.

Despite these legal challenges, most surveys continue to indicate Khan as the country's most popular leader. The ongoing legal battles and political restrictions on the PTI have prompted concerns about the democratic process in Pakistan, with some questioning the motives behind the swift legal actions against Khan. As things stand, the establishment in Pakistan has ensured that Khan does not return to power and his party is dismantled. This doesn't bode well for the country's fragile democratic system, and in the long run for the country itself. If no corrective measures are taken, Pakistan seems headed for more turmoil in future.

OTHER OPINION

Learning and faultlines

According to a report in this newspaper, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has proposed a major overhaul in the academic framework for secondary and higher secondary education. Students will be required to study three languages — instead of two — till Class X, at least two of which must be native Indian languages. At the higher secondary level, students will have to study two languages instead of one, at least one of which must be a native Indian language.

Secondary-level students will now have to clear 10 subjects, as opposed to the current requirement of five. Graduating from high school will require clearing six subjects, instead of five. The shift is in accordance with NEP 2020's objective of doing away with the rigid separation between academic and extracurricular streams. A credit bank system will ensure that the student is rewarded for skills obtained outside the classroom.

The CBSE's plan gives the learner the space to combine academic training with vocational education. It is, therefore, a welcome departure from pedagogic strategies that have contributed to the country's skill deficit by devaluing hands-on training. The examination authority must, however, make sure that the new system does not impose an extra burden on already stretched students.

A wealth of scholarship has underlined that knowledge of multiple languages improves learning outcomes and helps skill acquisition. At the same time, the three-language formula remains a politically fraught issue, especially in South India, which has a long history of language-based sub-nationalism. The Tamil Nadu government, for instance, has opposed the NEP even though the policy does not require non-Hindi-speaking states to include the language in school curricula.

Linguistic activists in the state fear the implementation of the three-language formula could push schools to teach Hindi because of the scarcity of teachers in other languages. When it was first framed in 1968, the formula envisaged teaching a modern Indian language, apart from Hindi and English till Class VIII in schools in North India. But Hindi-speaking states have never had more than a handful of schools with teachers who can teach Malayalam, Kannada or Tamil — or, for that matter, Bengali, Marathi or Gujarati. The CBSE's proposal should occasion conversations on finding a greater play for the country's linguistic diversity in school curricula.

The Indian Express

Anatomy of Exploitation

An Insight Into the Challenges Faced by Teachers in Private Schools of J&K

Mohd Younus Bhat

Recent times have witnessed growing concerns surrounding the working conditions and treatment of faculty in private schools. This article endeavors to illuminate specific challenges faced by teachers, underscoring the urgency for regulatory measures to establish a fair and conducive work environment. By highlighting these issues, it seeks to initiate a constructive dialogue on the importance of implementing policies that safeguard the well-being and professional rights of educators, ultimately fostering an atmosphere conducive to effective teaching and learning.

Unjustified Layoffs

The issue of unjustified layoffs in private schools is a critical concern that disrupts the stability of the teaching staff. Experienced educators, often with years of valuable knowledge, find themselves abruptly dismissed without clear and transparent reasons. This not only leads to a sense of job insecurity among the teaching community but also hampers the overall quality of education. The constant turnover of experienced teachers can disrupt the continuity and effectiveness of educational programs, impacting both students and the institution. Addressing this issue is vital for creating a more secure and conducive environment for teachers to contribute effectively to the education system.

Personal Issues Impacting Employment

Terminating faculty based on personal issues or disagreements with management introduces a concerning dimension to professional conduct within private schools. This practice raises questions about the professionalism of the decision-making process. A more structured approach to conflict resolution is imperative to foster a healthy work environment. Implementing effective mechanisms for addressing interpersonal conflicts will not only contribute to a more harmonious workplace but also enhance the overall professionalism and reputation of the educational institution. Ensuring that employment decisions are guided by merit and fair assessment rather than personal disputes is crucial for maintaining a positive and collaborative atmosphere among the teaching staff.

Lack of Official Documentation

The absence of formal letters of employment or recruitment for teachers in private schools creates a significant void, raising



apprehensions about job security and legal accountability. Without official documentation, teachers may find themselves in precarious situations, lacking the necessary proof of their employment status. To address this, it is imperative to establish a standardized system for documentation. Such a system not only ensures clarity and transparency in the employment process but also serves as a crucial mechanism to protect the rights of educators by providing them with tangible evidence of their professional standing within the institution. This step is essential for fostering a sense of security and professionalism among the teaching community.

Exploitative Work Conditions

The prevalent issue of assigning teachers double the workload for insufficient wages, coupled with the non-provision of winter vacation salary, underscores the pressing need for fair remuneration practices in private schools. This exploitative practice not only compromises the financial well-being of educators but also contributes to an imbalance in the employer-employee relationship. Additionally, this issue disproportionately affects female staff, exacerbating existing gender-based wage disparities prevalent in many workplaces. Addressing these remuneration challenges is crucial for creating an equitable and inclusive work environment that values the contributions of all educators, regardless of gender, and ensures their financial stability.

Invasive Communication

The imposition of unnecessary meetings through WhatsApp groups during holidays represents a significant infringement on teachers' personal time. Such practices disrupt the much-needed rest and personal activities that educators deserve during their time off. To address this, there is a crucial need to encourage the use of online platforms for meetings. Utilizing these platforms provides flexibility, allowing teachers to participate in professional discussions without compromising their

well-deserved holiday break. This approach promotes a healthier work-life balance, recognizing the importance of respecting teachers' personal time and contributing to their overall job satisfaction and well-being.

To address these challenges, the government should consider implementing some measures.

Enforcing recruitment rules in alignment with government directives is paramount to establishing a standardized and equitable system within private schools. By ensuring minimum salary standards for teachers, this measure not only addresses financial stability concerns for educators but also plays a pivotal role in attracting highly qualified professionals to private institutions. A competitive salary framework not only recognizes the value of teachers' expertise but also fosters a conducive environment for quality education. Ultimately, this enforcement serves as a strategic investment in the education sector, promoting the recruitment and retention of skilled educators who significantly contribute to the overall educational experience.

Additionally, establishing clear guidelines for discussing workload expectations and compensation with teachers is a crucial step towards preventing exploitative practices in private schools. By defining transparent expectations, both parties can engage in constructive conversations about the workload and remuneration, fostering a fair and collaborative work environment. This approach ensures that teachers are aware of their responsibilities and are compensated appropriately for their efforts. It also promotes open communication between educators and management, laying the foundation for a working relationship built on mutual respect and understanding. Overall, implementing these guidelines contributes to a more equitable and positive workplace dynamic in private educational institutions.

It is also important to introduce policies that safeguard teachers from arbitrary terminations or discontinuations is a critical step towards ensuring their

job security and professional stability within private schools. By implementing a minimum protection period of two years, these policies provide a buffer against abrupt and unjust actions, fostering a more secure environment for educators. This protection not only recognizes the dedication and investment teachers make in their roles but also contributes to a stable and motivated teaching workforce. Such policies promote a sense of security and enable educators to focus on their primary goal of delivering quality education without the constant apprehension of unforeseen employment disruptions.

Furthermore, mandating private schools to adhere to government norms regarding increments, paid leave, and other incentives is imperative for ensuring that educators receive fair and competitive compensation packages. This measure aligns private institutions with established standards, promoting equity and consistency in the treatment of teachers. By enforcing these norms, educators are guaranteed not only financial stability but also recognition for their commitment to education. It contributes to a level playing field, preventing disparities in compensation and fostering a more harmonious and motivated teaching community. Ultimately, this mandate plays a pivotal role in elevating the overall quality of education by prioritizing the well-being and professional satisfaction of the teaching workforce.

Addressing the challenges faced by teachers in private schools necessitates a collaborative effort involving educators, school managements, and government authorities. The key lies in implementing transparent policies and regulations that not only protect the rights of teachers but also contribute significantly to the overall enhancement of the education system. This collaborative approach ensures that the concerns and perspectives of all stakeholders are considered, fostering a more balanced and effective educational environment. By working together, these entities can create a framework that not only safeguards the well-being of teachers but also elevates the quality and integrity of the education provided, benefiting both educators and students alike.

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

The author is a Senior Research Scholar, CSIR-NET, a Gold Medalist, and DST-INSPIRE fellow. He is pursuing Ph.D. at "Pondicherry Central University"



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U.O. Dux # 337, 1st Fl, Srinagar-190001
email: editor@kashmirobserver.net
editpage.ko@gmail.com

Reading a Book a Day

I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the power and significance of reading and to advocate for the habit of reading at least one book per month. In an era dominated by digital distractions and fleeting content, immersing oneself in a good book can be a transformative and enriching experience. Allow me to elaborate on the numerous benefits this practice holds for individuals and society as a whole.

First and foremost, reading a book a month nurtures our intellectual growth. Books are a treasure trove of knowledge, offering us an opportunity to delve into various subjects, explore different perspectives, and expand our understanding of the world. With each book we read, we gain new insights, acquire fresh

ideas, and cultivate critical thinking skills. It is through reading that we can become more informed, well-rounded individuals capable of engaging in meaningful conversations and making informed decisions.

Furthermore, reading stimulates our imagination and creativity. Books transport us to different times, places, and worlds, allowing our minds to wander and soar beyond the confines of our daily lives. The pages of a book can ignite our imagination, encouraging us to think beyond the status quo, fostering innovation and inspiration in our personal and professional endeavors. It is within the pages of a book that we can discover new possibilities and unlock our own creative potential.

Reading also has profound emo-

tional and psychological benefits. Books serve as a medium to explore complex human emotions, delve into the depths of our own inner lives, and empathize with characters from diverse backgrounds. They can offer solace during challenging times, provide a sense of connection when we feel isolated, and evoke a range of emotions that enrich our own emotional intelligence. In a world where mental health is a growing concern, reading offers a therapeutic escape and an opportunity for personal growth and introspection.

In addition, reading a book a month fosters better communication skills. By exposing ourselves to a wide range of writing styles, we become more adept at expressing ourselves coherently and articulately.

We learn to appreciate the nuances of language, enhance our vocabulary, and develop a more refined sense of grammar and syntax. These skills extend beyond the realm of reading; they are invaluable in our daily interactions, whether it's composing an email, engaging in a conversation, or crafting a well-structured argument.

Lastly, reading a book a month helps us disconnect from the constant barrage of digital noise and find respite in a slower, more contemplative pace. In a world where social media and instant gratification are prevalent, reading provides an antidote. It allows us to savor the written word, engage in deep concentration, and find a sense of peace and tranquility.

Juveria Khan

S.Sarwar.Malik

One thing noticeably grows in number during winters. I am talking about obituaries, or better use the commonest title, 'Demise' notices carried by our newspapers, daily.

The English verse 'If winter comes, can spring be far behind' conveys Hope; (so to say) new Life; & Future, that much is true but, dear reader the word winter, that conveys the opposite, of the word spring is also very much there, in this very line. Can't wish it away!

DEATH is a reality that all mortals have to confront, at one time or the other. Truth echoes from the holy words *inna lilahi... rajaoon*, 'Unto Him We All Return'.

Seers say with birth we have already taken our first step towards grave. What we normally call life is the journey from point one, called birth/arrival, to point II, called death/departure. Birth has happened without seeking our consent and likewise death will happen in due course, without seeking our permission. Nothing can be done by us to birth or death as both are beyond our control, where we have no say, and no role. Worrying over these two issues is not only futile but stupidity.

Even when we think on philosophical lines and consider birth as a door through which we enter this phenomenal world, from the plane preceding this world, and consider death another exit point, leading somewhere else, to another dimension of existence then also we can not do anything to the entry/exit point because the faculties we are endowed with for leading life on the phenomenal plane like our five senses, begin in the fetal stage and end on death bed.

Beyond the life on this earth, these faculties do not exist, and non-existent can not help the one that exists. The tools required at other planes must surely be different. However certain higher faculties, superior to the sensory types might be existing - whose byproduct the latter mentioned may be, that are pervading in the stages, preceding and succeeding as well as concomitant to the earthly one. Thus our physical form may be a manifestation of this superior form, whose comprehension our sensory faculties find too difficult a task. Recitation of the holy verses of *chapter 2 of Quraan*; 'thou cannot comprehend'...comes alive in the recess of my soul, along with the words 'All mortals have to taste (the cup of) death'.

A paradoxical situation seems to exist, however, feel whereof comes by the scientific facts emerging in the psycho-somatic field of interaction, that points to the probability that the inferior plane does have the capacity to impact the quality of the superior form. Probably increase or decrease in the luminescence of aura that 'seers' have hinted at refers to the symbiotic nature of planes. This susceptibility seems to be the proverbial 'Achilles heel', designed and ingrained with intent, bordering callousness and defying rationality, at times.

Having understood that nothing can be done by us to the entry or exit, leaves the mid-

TOMORROW NEVER COMES



Yesterday is gone. Past is past for all practical purposes. Tomorrow is yet to come. Future does not exist at this moment. It hasn't manifested yet. It is still in the womb. Only the present exists. Only the present is present. Yesterday has gone into oblivion, Future is nowhere in sight, only today is real and pulsating with life. In fact when tomorrow comes it will come in the form of today

dle stage alone where we are capable of doing something. In other words doing or action is possible when we are alive and it holds the prime position. Life provides us a chance to act.

Now action can be positive or negative. Neutral status also can be included in a sense but largely it amounts to no action, most of the time. Love is positive, hate negative but indifference - neither 'loving' nor 'hating'; a sort of neutrality, though amounting to no-action, undesirable - most of the time. If every action has an effect, positive will breed positivism and negativity will cast us in the negative vortex.

If we ponder a little the right time for good deeds is NOW, this living moment. Yesterday is gone. Past is past for all practical purposes. Tomorrow is yet to come. Future does not ex-

ist at this moment. It hasn't manifested yet. It is still in the womb. Only the present exists. Only the present is present. Yesterday has gone into oblivion, Future is nowhere in sight, only today is real and pulsating with life. In fact when tomorrow comes it will come in the form of today. So the best time for desirable positive actions is now, this very moment. Hence 'doing good to others now, as we would wish others to do to us is the crux of all holy words, all scriptures, dear reader.

"5.96 Allah loves those who do good 7: 42 Amilo Saulihaat, deeds of righteousness 16: 97 Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, will be rewarded according to the best of their actions 28: 84 If anyone does Good, (Allah) rewards him (in a way & pro-

portion) better than his deeds 28: 54 Twice will be their reward (ajr) ...for that they AVERT EVIL WITH GOOD"

Wherever it is stated that 'reward will be manifold (- two-fold, ten-fold, hundred-fold...)' this in simple words is an inducement to DO GOOD, always. Even those who have wronged you will undergo a change of heart, and witnessing your good behavior in return of their bad acts, will make the wrong-doers realize their mistake, and accept your magnanimous, superior behavior. Even when some inferior-souls / wrong-doers act stubborn, the stature of the doer of good deeds will get elevated in the eyes of all the good souls, around, as well as Almighty Allah and HIS PROPHETS & APOSTLES. One

must remember that one of the common distinctive traits of all the Prophets and their apostles was good behavior and it is *ehsan* that all of the great men have enjoined on their followers. They are the 'embodiment of all good'. They are rich in virtues and exhibit distinctively unparalleled qualities. Their conduct is the best. These exalted men are called *Imams*, patterns; whose exemplary behavior we, the followers, have to follow. They are our role models and we have to strive & be their true *shagird*. This is the reason why doing-good unto others has been equated with worship and *haqooq ul ebaad* stressed, throughout life.

Employing a typical idiomatic language, that (largely) the addressee people could understand and act accordingly, religious books talked about a plethora of topics. Mention of the elements out of which the creator created creation and the sensory faculties endowed to the 'created' is there. These faculties endowed to us are the tools which are essential for performing various functions on the mortal plane. Very much possible in other planes these faculties might lose relevance, lose their utility. So one can ponder: won't these faculties degenerate & decay, here too, on dis-use? ; and get negatively impacted with misuse. Conversely, going on doing good, day in and day out, in all the spheres of life, in hundred different ways will, so to say, sharpen our faculties; make them increase what some writers called ones 'aura', depicted in the visual form by painters of yore as the round *halo* like luminescence of ones persona as associated commonly with *saintly* persons.

Limited space in the newspaper, today, won't allow me to continue further though the *Name & form* -that defines existence in a philosophical vein -knocks on the door, I better welcome it, next time. Among our readers, there definitely might be a considerable lot of young people, who would be of the age of my children, so I prefer to conclude today's write up with the opening and closing verses of a beautiful poem, written prior to 1994 by an accomplished Urdu poet of this continent: yes, you are right... Parveen Shakir [- who had three Masters degrees; was a successful bureaucrat; a recipient of (her country's) President's highest award; authored three volumes of poetry but died in a car accident]. Here I go:

*Holding a pencil for the first time/
My son asks/
'What should I write?'/
What shall I tell You, child/
....(my dream- filled child)/
Write ALL beautiful words/
On the page of tomorrow/
T-R-U-T-H (- forever)/
G-O-O-D (-unto others)/
L-O-V-E (one & all)//*

S.Sarwar.Malik is a Srinagar based writer who has been contributing non-political articles and poems to English Dailies, regularly, since two decades

AMMARAH AHMED

I've always been fascinated by the concept of healing through exploring inner strength. Whether the journey is physical, mental, emotional or spiritual, I find it inspiring to see how we can uncover our God-given potential to bring about positive change. There came a time in my life when I recognized the need to prioritise my health holistically, encompassing the mind, body and spirit. I had formed a deeper connection with my faith, and wanted it to be the anchor in all aspects of my life. My pursuit to be a better Muslim was also the driving force behind my journey in seeking wellness.

Initially I had to sift through a lot of the pop culture junk: "read this or that, eat this or that, follow this workout routine..." There's no denying that many people find success in following those ideas. However, I was looking for something with its roots in cultivating a higher level of deen. So I turned to the source where we can find many answers: the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. As an adult, I now appreciate the inspiration and guidance that we find within the sunnah on a deeper level.

I came across Prophetic medicine (al-tibb al-nabawi), a particular part of the sunnah that consists of remedies, treatments and therapies recommended by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, with the fundamental understanding that Allah is the ultimate Healer, Ash-Shafi. This knowledge gave me comfort and hope.

"There is a remedy for every malady, and when the remedy is applied to the disease it is cured with the permission of Allah, the Exalted and Glorious." [Sahih Muslim 2204]

A mind-body-spirit approach to healing is especially emphasised in Islamic tradition. These are basic elements of one's being that influence worldview, actions and experiences. It's crucial to nurture each aspect.

Within the gold mine of Prophetic medicine, I learned about Hijama. The sunnah practice of Hijama involves wet-cupping therapy (WCT), during which a certified practitioner makes minor superficial incisions in the top layer of the skin and uses suction cups to draw out "bad blood" that contains toxins and buildup. If the idea of small cuts to your skin sounds scary, don't worry - WCT has been practised for centuries around the world. And you can find comfort in the knowledge that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ regularly practised Hijama.

"The best medical treatment you apply is cupping." [Sunan Abi Dawud 3857]

The Arabic word Hijama means to "suction out" or "to return to a natural state." Contrary to modern medicine, which introduces chemicals to the body, "alternative" methods like Hijama

BACK TO BASICS | PROPHETIC MEDICINE

Holistic Healing With Hijama

withdraw harmful substances in order to let the body heal within itself. Hijama cleanses your bloodstream of toxins and buildup and encourages fresh blood circulation, helping to restore your body to homeostasis, where all body systems are functioning stably and in balance.

According to research, Hijama is said to improve Acute pain conditions, as well as chronic pain conditions, such as fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, inflammation and other painful joint-related conditions

Female infertility and hormonal conditions like endometriosis or polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) that disrupt the reproductive system

Mood disorders, such as depression, stress and anxiety

Headaches and migraines

Skin concerns like acne and eczema

Overall function of major body systems

The idea of using our body's tools to heal resonated with me. I was inclined towards Hijama, but still wanted to know more about the process and what to expect from it.

In my quest to learn more about this Prophetic practice, I came across a few Muslim women who pursued this treatment therapy for different reasons. Fortunately, they were willing to share their experiences which helped me gain insight on the Hijama experience.

Please note: Pseudonyms have been used to respect the privacy of these women.

What can Hijama do for the mind?

Yusra (20s) pursued Hijama therapy to help manage general stress and anxiety. Here's what she said about her experience.

"I felt super rejuvenated after getting it done. It helped with brain fog and just lightened my mood, and I feel more inclined to making better choices concerning my overall health."

Yusra isn't alone. As women - as humans - life is a series of changes, within our personal and professional lives, within our minds and bodies. Naturally, our mental and emotional states endure some of the chaos. To help manage the stress, it's crucial that we allow ourselves to pause, rest and recuperate every now and then.

What can Hijama do for the body?

Alia (30s) provided an understanding on how

Hijama therapy can help someone cope with chronic health conditions.

"My body completely changed once I entered my 30s. I suffer from chronic inflammation and polycystic ovary syndrome, which sometimes causes general fatigue and pain, especially in my shoulders and back. I started considering different types of body therapy. I didn't know much about Hijama except for what my friends and family told me. I was hesitant but wanted to see if it would live up to the amazing reviews I heard."

Alia and I faced the same hurdle of finding a Hijama practitioner; it can be difficult to know where to look. Ultimately, we both found our practitioner through recommendations from fellow Muslim sisters. (Note: if you find a good practitioner, make sure to recommend them to your family and friends who are interested.)

"The relief I felt after the wet cupping process was almost instant. I felt lighter and emotionally and physically renewed. I knew it had worked because I could feel the difference between my upper body (where I did Hijama) and my lower body (where I didn't). Needless to say, I went back for another session for my lower body. Alhamdulillah, so far I've had only good experiences and I will definitely be incorporating this into my health routine as recommended by my practitioner!"

It was comforting for Alia to know that Hijama can be used to treat the uncomfortable chronic effects of common conditions like inflammation and PCOS. For many women, the go-to treatment from their doctor is medication that isn't always as effective as needed, or just doesn't align with their health goals. People similar to Alia might find relief in a naturopathic treatment like Hijama.

Furthermore, Hijama can also be used to treat conditions that affect the major body systems like the immune and respiratory systems. Maha (40s) suffered from lingering effects of COVID-19 for several weeks before she turned to Hijama for relief.

"When nothing helped alleviate my post-Covid cough or the inflammation at my throat and my esophagus, Hijama helped me breathe and regain my voice."

It's important to note that Hijama isn't only for people who have health concerns. You can use it as preventative therapy or simply to experience

the physical, mental and spiritual benefits.

What can Hijama do for the spirit?

Maha says, "It feels great. It elevates the mood, helps reduce pain by reducing inflammation, and creates a sense of vitality." As a result, Maha has the energy and clarity of mind to build her spiritual connection with Allah.

Hijama can uplift dull energy levels, which can positively impact our worship. I personally found that Hijama reinvigorates your spirituality by improving focus, helping to create higher taqwa in worship. Try to set up a solid routine when it comes to things like salah, engaging with the Qur'an and dhikr. These acts of worship already come with their own spiritual benefits to help you in your overall Islamic wellness. Hijama can help boost its quality.

Getting ready for your first session

Maha: "You should be sure you trust your practitioner. Even though it looks intense, it's not scary or invasive."

Hearing the experiences of these women helped me get comfortable with Hijama. Finally, to get a better idea of the Hijama process, I talked to a well-established Hijama practitioner, The Hijama Expert. Here's her advice.

1. Always verify your practitioner's credentials. Ask about your practitioner's qualifications, and look for a certificate that indicates legitimate educational training and experience.

2. Build and maintain a good relationship with your practitioner

You need someone who understands all your health concerns and can really support you throughout your wellness journey.

3. Make sure to hold a consultation. Discuss any concerns with your practitioner, and they'll let you know how Hijama can help you. A good practitioner will walk you through the process of Hijama to make sure you fully understand what it entails.

4. Treat Hijama as a supplement to other necessary measures

Don't rely solely on Hijama to heal you. Take other factors into consideration, whether that means a lifestyle change, other therapies, or medical treatments if needed.

My Hijama experience

One of the easiest ways to find a legitimate practitioner is by asking around for reliable recommendations. Some cities might have clinics that offer WCT, but for me, this was hard to come by. Ultimately, a friend referred me to her practitioner.

My Hijama practitioner advised me to fast 2-3 hours before my session. Upon arrival, I was welcomed by a peaceful atmosphere that immediately put me at ease. My practitioner took the time to reassure me of her training, experience and certification. During a brief consultation, I shared any health concerns I had. After our discussion, we agreed to proceed with Hijama on my entire back, aimed at providing general pain relief, a bodily reset and a boost in energy.

My session started with a back massage to promote blood circulation. Following that, she made small incisions across my upper, mid and lower back, and started the cupping therapy. It's not a painful process; I'd say the only discomfort you might feel would be from the pull of the suction cups. The whole process took around 30 to 45 minutes, the effects were pretty much immediate and have lasted several weeks.

Since then, I've felt an undeniable change. I have noticed an increase in energy, improved sleep and enhanced focus. It's also improved my concentration in prayer which has contributed to my spiritual growth, Alhamdulillah. I believe having this sort of reset encourages you to be more mindful regarding all aspects of wellness. It's made me mindful of dedicating more time to my health, even if it's as simple as going out for a walk to get some sunshine or spending more time in dhikr.

Reviving a sunnah practice

As Muslims, our faith encourages us to seek ways to heal. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is a mercy to humanity, and through his sunnah, Allah has provided us with avenues to heal, sustain ourselves and thrive. Hijama is a great way to incorporate the sunnah in our lives, as well as reset and refresh our mind, body, and spirit.

This wellness journey is an ongoing process for me because I'm not fixated on a particular goal. My focus is more on the growth throughout, one that involves mental, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects. It's important to find ways to ground and nurture ourselves in a busy world. If you try Hijama, make sure to share your experience with family and friends as it not only adds to your personal well-being, but also helps revive a beautiful sunnah practice!

The article was originally published by Amaliyah

Every Year Spent In School Or University May Improve Life Expectancy: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

Every year spent in school or university may improve life expectancy, while not attending an educational institute could be as bad as smoking or heavy drinking, according to a study published in The Lancet Public Health journal.

The research identified data from 59 countries and included over 10,000 data points collected from more than 600 published articles.

The team, including researchers at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), found that education saves lives regardless of age, sex, location, and social and demographic backgrounds.

They found that the risk of death drops by 2 per cent with every additional year of education. That means those who completed six years of primary school had a lower risk of death by an average of 13 per cent.

After graduating from secondary school, the risk of dying was cut by nearly 25 per cent, and 18 years of education lowered the risk by 34 per cent, according to the study.

Researchers also compared the effects



of education to other risk factors such as eating a healthy diet, smoking, and drinking too much alcohol, and they found the health outcome to be similar.

For example, the benefit of 18 years of education can be compared to that of eating the ideal amount of vegetables, as opposed to not eating vegetables at all,

they said.

Not going to school at all is as bad as drinking five or more alcoholic drinks per day or smoking ten cigarettes a day for 10 years, the researchers said.

"Education is important in its own right, not just for its benefits on health, but now being able to quantify the magnitude of this benefit is a significant development," said study co author Terje Andreas Eikemo from NTNU.

While the benefits of education are greatest for young people, those older than 50 and even 70 years still benefit from the protective effects of education, the researchers said.

They found no significant difference in the effects of education between countries that have reached different stages of development. This means that more years of education is just as effective in rich countries as in poor countries.

"We need to increase social investments to enable access to better and more education around the globe to stop the persistent inequalities that are costing lives," said Mirza Balaj, co-lead author and postdoctoral fellow at NTNU.

"More education leads to better employment and higher income, better access to health care, and helps us take care of our own health. Highly educated people also tend to develop a larger set of social and psychological resources that contribute to their health and the length of their lives," Balaj said.

Most of the studies reviewed for the study were from high-income settings, highlighting the need for more research in low- and middle-income countries, particularly from sub-Saharan and north Africa where data are scarce.

"Closing the education gap means closing the mortality gap, and we need to interrupt the cycle of poverty and preventable deaths with the help of international commitment," said Claire Henson, co-lead author and researcher at Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington's School of Medicine, US.

"In order to reduce inequalities in mortality, it's important to invest in areas that promote people's opportunities to get an education. This can have a positive effect on population health in all countries," Henson added.

From the office of Advocate Uzair Khan

License no. 502/2018

In the case of

1. Tauseef Ahmad Lone S/O Abdul Khaliq Lone R/O Aqilmir Khanyar Srinagar. Proprietor Bhagat Building, Karam Chand Building At Amira Kadal Lal Chowk Srinagar.
2. Lateef Ahmad Lone S/O Abdul Khaliq Lone R/O Aqilmir Khanyar Srinagar Proprietor M/S EATOUT RESTAURANT & Hotel Mark At Amira Kadal LALCHOWK SGR.

VS

PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the matter of:

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.

nj

Sd/advocate

The District Legal Services Authority Kulgam

Email:-kulgamdlsa@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION

Dated:-03-02-2024

Subject: - Holding of Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases on 17-02-2024.

In compliance to Plan of Action formulated by State Legal Services Authority UT of J&K, Lok Adalat for amicable settlement of Pre and Post Litigation pending before the courts at District Headquarter Kulgam and also at Taluka Court of District Kulgam, is scheduled to be held on 17.02.2024 under the Chairmanship of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (PDJ) Kulgam. All the concerned Judicial Officers are requested to identify the cases U/S 138 NIA fit to be taken up in the Lok Adalat and submit the list of the same cases to DLSA Kulgam by or before 15-02-2024.

The litigants who are interested to settle their disputes in the proposed Lok-Adalat are directed to approach the concerned courts immediately so that their cases shall be listed for amicable settlement in the Lok Adalat.

No:-DLSA/KGM/2024 /42-47

DIPK-16049/23 dated: 05-02-2024

Sd/
Sub Judge/Secretary District
Legal Services Authority Kulgam

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

Inspectorate Of Chief Electrical Inspector Power Development Department Office Of The Executive Engineer. Electrical Inspection Division Srinagar

Tel/Fax 0194-2500297 email: eeeidsrinagar@gmail.com

NOTICE

FOR INFORMATION OF ALL TELECOM COMPANIES, INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL UNIT HOLDERS

All the telecom companies, Industrial /Commercial unit holders who are operating within the Kashmir Division of UT of J&K, are hereby informed through the medium of this Notice that all the electric installations viz Distribution substations, HV/LV lines and other Electric Equipments installed for mobile BTS and Industrial/Commercial Installations, which have rendered 5 Yrs or more of service are due for Periodic inspection and testing in terms of Regulations 32 of Central Electricity Authority Regulations 2023 (Measures relating to Safety & Electric supply) Regulations 2023. Such inspection is necessary to assess the healthiness of the installation to ensure that all safety standards/Norms are adhered. As such it is impressed upon all the Telecom Operators and Industrial / Commercial unit holders of Kashmir Division that all such Electrical Installations which have become due for Periodic Inspection be referred to this inspectorate through online web Portal <https://ceijk.co.in> (Agreement load above 250kW) <https://eikashmir.co.in> (Agreement load upto and including 250kW) within a period of one month failing which they will be liable for Penal action under Section 146 of Electricity Act 2003.

Sd/- Executive Engineer.

DIPK-NB-5555/23 dated: 05-02-2024

Electrical Inspection Division Srinagar

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Supervision, Control & Audit Deptt,
Corporate Headquarters,
M.A Road, Srinagar 190001

Online Expression of Interest (e-EOI)
for
Engagement of external Auditor for conducting Audit of Points of Presence for a period of three years performing activities of Atal Pension Yojana (PoPs-APY)

EOI Notice along with Complete EOI document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcprocure.com> w.e.f. February 05, 2024, 16.00 Hrs. EOI Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is February 26, 2024, 17.00 Hrs.

e-EOI Ref. No: JKB/CHQ/S&C/Ext-Auditors (PoPs-APY)/2023-972

Dated: 02-02-2024

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-5543/23
dated: 05-02-2024

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Estates Department
Zonal Office Srinagar
Website: www.jkbank.com

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from owners of premises for outright purchase / on lease basis for housing its Branch Narkara, Budgam.

Carpet Area of Premises	Location
Apprx.1500-2000 sft built up space OR 1 Kanal of land for outright purchase	NARKARA, BUDGAM

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before **26/02/2024 (5:00 PM IST)**.
The tender documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office Budgam mentioned above during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from **February 03, 2024**.
The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Dated: February 03, 2024 Zonal Premises Committee Budgam

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-5545/23 dated: 05-02-2024

GRATITUDE

With profound humility, we express our gratitude to our neighbours, relatives, friends, office colleagues, well-wishers, civil society of Nund Reshi Colony sector B, Bemina Srinagar, teachers fraternity, academicians of Valley Institute of Quality Education, Bemina, staffers of daily newspaper Kashmir Observer, in particular Editor-in-Chief and general public from the adjacent areas, who either visited our residence and/or attended the Nima-ze Jinaza of our beloved Alhaj Syed Noor-Ud-Din, who passed away peacefully on Monday, the 22nd January 2024, as also to those who showed their solidarity, stood by us and consoled us through Messages, Phone calls and via Social Media platform during this challenging period.

We do sincerely appreciate and acknowledge your support and are deeply touched by your gestures of sympathy and grateful for the shared sense of sorrow.

May Allah SWT accept your supplications and bestow Jannatul Firdous to the departed noble soul.

Bereaved Family

1. Syed Bashir Ahmad (Son)
2. Syed Shabir Ahmad (Son-in-Law)
3. Syed Abdul Lateef (Nephew)
4. Syed Ashiq Ali (Son-in-Law)
5. Syed Abdul Rauf (Cousin)
6. Syed Tanveer Ahmad (Nephew)
7. Syed Athar Hassan (Grand Son-in-Law)
8. Syed Taha Hussain (Grand Son)
9. Syed Hamid Hussain (Grand Son)

Various Measures Taken To Reduce Debt Burden, Strengthen Economy: FM

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: To bring down the debt burden, the government has taken various measures like increasing the tax revenue buoyancy, enhancing the public expenditure effectiveness, commitment to reducing fiscal deficit and augmenting the productive efficiency, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

In addition to strengthening the financial system, the government has more than doubled its effective capital expenditure from Rs 6.57 lakh crore in 2020-21 to Rs 13.71 lakh crore and Rs 14.97 lakh crore in 2023-24 (BE) and 2024-25 (BE), respectively, to crowd in private investments, she said in the Lok Sabha.

The government's emphasis on increasing capital expenditure will not only boost the investments, but also return a higher GDP growth to lower the debt burden, she said. Simultaneously, she said, the state governments have been incentivised to increase their capital spending through measures like 50-year interest-free capex loans and front-loading of tax devolution instalments.

Various other measures like reduction of the corporate tax rate, liberalisation of foreign direct investment, and enhancement of ease of doing business have created support-



ive conditions for sustained growth in private investment, she said.

As a result, the overall investment rate in the economy consolidated at 29.2 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 and further improved to 29.8 per cent in 2023-24 as per the advance estimates by NSO, she said.

Impacted by COVID-19, the debt to GDP ratio increased to 89.6 per cent at the end of the pandemic year 2020-21.

After a sharp rise in government debt in 2020-21 on account of the revenue

shortfall and additional spending requirements due to the pandemic, the general government debt relative to GDP has gradually declined over the last two years to reach around 81 per cent at the end of March 2023 (provisional), she said.

Buoyant revenue collection, rebalancing of spending from revenue to capital expenditure and robust real GDP growth in the post-pandemic years have led to a decline in the government debt relative to GDP, she added.

Paytm Working With Other Banks For Continuity Of UPI Services On Its App

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: UPI service on Paytm will continue to work as normal as the company is working with other banks to make changes in the backend for continuity of its services, the fintech firm said on Monday.

Paytm UPI service falls under the Paytm Payments Bank, which was recently restrained by the Reserve Bank of India from taking money from customers after February 29.

"UPI on Paytm will continue to operate as normal. We are working in the backend to connect with other banks to ensure seamless continuity of service. Users are not required to do anything additional," a Paytm spokesperson said.

According to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), PPBL was the top UPI beneficiary among banks in December, with 283.5 crore transactions it received during the month. It had remitted 41 crore transactions in the period.

Customers made 144.25 crore transactions on the Paytm Payment Bank App worth Rs 16,569.49 crore in December.

Paytm's Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) business also falls under PPBL.



The service facilitates bill payments of utilities, school and university fees etc.

When asked about the impact of the RBI move on bill payments through BBPOU, a Paytm spokesperson said, "Please be informed that Paytm users can continue using the App for all bill payments and recharges, like always. Paytm continues to support a wide range of payment options for your convenience".

The RBI on January 31 directed the Paytm Payments Bank to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29.

Withdrawal or utilisation of balances by its customers

from their accounts, including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards, are to be permitted without any restrictions, up to their available balance.

Paytm Wallet users can continue to carry on transactions till February 29. However, after February 29, they will be able to use their existing balance till the time it is exhausted, but cannot add any money to their account.

The same rule is applicable to PPBL Accounts, Paytm wallet-linked services like Fastag, and National Common Mobility Cards that are used for travel in the metro and other public transport.

GST Officials Detect 14,597 Tax Evasion Cases In April-Dec: Govt Informs LS

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: GST officers are using data analytic and artificial intelligence tools like Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics to identify risky taxpayers suspected of passing or availing fake input tax credits, Parliament was informed on Monday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said a total of 14,597 cases of Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion have been registered by central tax officers during April-December 2023.

A maximum number of such cases was registered in Maharashtra (2,716), followed by Gujarat (2,589), Haryana (1,123) and West Bengal (1,098).

"Various data analytic and artificial intelligence tools such as NETA (Networking Exploration Tools for Revenue Augmentation), BIFA (Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics) & ADAIT (Advanced Analytics



in Indirect Taxation) are being used to identify risky taxpayers, suspected of passing or availing fake input tax credit, including in the State of Andhra Pradesh," Chaudhary said.

GST intelligence officers have detected fake input tax credit (ITC) cases worth Rs 18,000 crore in April-December of the current fiscal and arrested 98 fraudsters/ masterminds.

Based on the feedback received from the field formations, these tools are updated/ modified from time to time, he added.

Chaudhary said the GST registration process has robust checks in the form of physical verification of premises and Aadhar authentication.

Amidst Diplomatic Row, China Displaces India As Largest Tourism Market For Maldives

Press Trust of India

MALE: Amidst a diplomatic row between the Maldives and India, Chinese tourists have overtaken Indian holidaymakers visiting the archipelago nation, according to official figures released here on Monday.

According to official statistics from the Maldivian Ministry of Tourism, as of February 4, China, with 23,972 tourists occupied the number one slot (11.2 per cent market share in 2024); it was on the number three spot in 2023.

India, which was on the number 1 slot in 2023, has slipped down to 5th position as of Sunday with 16,536 tourists (7.7 per cent market share in 2024) coming to this island nation.

The development could be a fallout of a full-blown backlash directed at the Maldives following the derogatory remarks against India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media by three Maldivian ministers af-

ter Modi posted photos and video on X of his visit to the pristine Lakshadweep Islands on India's west coast earlier in January.

Soon after the remarks against Modi went viral, hundreds of social media users, including celebrities, pro-



tested with calls to boycott tourism in Maldives and instead explore domestic destinations. Several social media users and even some travel companies claimed Indians are cancelling their scheduled trip to the Maldives following the diplomatic row.

Soon after taking oath as the President of Maldives on November 17, Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, formally requested India to withdraw 88 military personnel from his country by March

15, saying the Maldivian people have given him a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi.

In the presidential runoff held in September last year, Muizzu, 45, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

During his visit to Beijing in January, President Muizzu met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang and discussed ways to increase the number of tourists from China to his tourism-dependent country, including increasing the number of direct flights between the two countries.

China on January 31 said it has worked out a "comprehensive mutual visa cooperation" agreement with 23 countries, including the Maldives.

According to the Maldives Tourism Ministry statistics, over 17 lakh tourists visited the island nation in 2023, out of which more than 2,09,198 were Indians followed by Russians (2,09,146) and China (1,87,118).

Stock Markets Settle Lower On Fag-End Selling

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark Sensex fell back by 354 points on Monday due to selling in index major Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and Maruti amid weak trends from Asian and European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 354.21 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 71,731.42 on fag-end selling. During the day, it hit a high of 72,385.93 and a low of 71,602.14.

The Nifty fell by 82.10 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 21,771.70.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Titan, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, Ultra-Tech Cement, State Bank of India and Reliance Industries were the major laggards.

Tata Motors jumped nearly 6 per cent after the company on Friday reported a two-fold jump in net profit at Rs 7,100 crore for the December quarter.

Sun Pharma, Power Grid, Mahindra and Mahindra, Tata Steel, NTPC and Tata Consultancy Services were the other gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in the green while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were quoting marginally lower. The US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.53 per cent to USD 76.92 a barrel.

India's Jan Services PMI Hits 6-Month High

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The services sector growth in India rose to a six-month high in January as new business expanded at a faster pace amid buoyant demand from domestic and external clients, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose to 61.8 in January, up from 59 in December, pointing to the sharpest rate of expansion in six months.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The survey is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.

"India's services PMI rose to a six-month high in January. New business expanded at a faster pace and managers' expectation for future activity was strong. The new export business index accelerated, signalling that India's services exports remained robust," Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC, said.

New export sales rose at the fastest pace in three months. Monitored firms signalled gains from clients across the globe, including



Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, China, Europe, the UAE and the US.

On the prices front, companies noted a further increase in their overall expenses at the start of the 2024 calendar year, with food, labour and freight identified as the key sources of cost pressures.

However, with the vast majority of panellists opting to leave their charges unchanged and only 6 per cent hiking them, output prices rose to the least extent in 11 months.

According to the survey, business confidence has strengthened further. Besides demand strength, firms expect investment and productivity gains to induce output growth in the year ahead.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index rose from 58.5 in December to 61.2, indicating the sharp upturn since mid-2023.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data.

"January data highlighted a further acceleration in growth of Indian private sector output, amid quicker increases at both goods producers and service providers," the survey said.

Service providers led the upturn, although both segments recorded faster rates of expansion in new business, the survey added.

5-Day Jammu Trade Fair Concludes



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The five day Jammu Trade Fair, 2024 organised by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the aegis of Industries and Commerce department concluded on Monday amid huge fanfare.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce (I&C), Vikramjit Singh presided over the concluding ceremony of the grand event as Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering during the closing ceremony, Vikramjit Singh expressed gratitude to all participants, sponsors and attendees for making the Jammu Trade Fair 2024 a grand success. He appreciated the JKTPO for organising this maiden Trade Fair in an impressive manner on self sustaining basis.

He highlighted that this grand fair turned out to be a solid platform for generating business interests, registering sales, promoting networking and collaboration opportunities for all stakeholders involved.

The Commissioner Secretary said, "The overwhelming response to the trade fair demonstrates the resilience and potential of the business community in Jammu and Kashmir. We



Guard Your Finances Investigate Before Investing

Irshad Mushtaq

As an insurance agent, it is crucial to sell insurance products properly, catering to the specific needs of clients. Unfortunately, many agents prioritize their own requirements over those of their clients, focusing more on making a sale rather than providing the best possible solution. The technique of selling is often based on emotion rather than factual information, leading to a lack of clarity and understanding for the customer.

Furthermore, many insurance agents tarnish the reputation of mutual funds, falsely claiming that they are risky and dangerous investments. However, the reality is quite different. While insurance policies offer high commission rates for agents with a minimum



lock-in period of 5 years, mutual funds do not have the same constraints.

It is important for investors to be informed and aware of the advantages of mutual funds, such as low-cost expenses, no lock-in period (except for ELSS), and the potential for double-digit returns over a long period. However, due to the high commission rates and lock-in period of insurance policies, agents often paint mutual funds and quality shares portfolios in a negative light, discouraging potential investors from considering them as a viable option.

In reality, mutual funds offer a range of options, including low-risk liquid funds for those who are averse to volatility, and the potential for great returns through long-term investments, particularly through SIPs. It is critical for investors to conduct thorough research and make informed decisions, rather than succumb to the biases and limited perspectives of insurance agents.

Ultimately, every individual should strive to become an informed investor, equipped with the knowledge necessary to make wise investment choices. It is essential to question the motives of insurance agents and take advantage of the wealth of information available, such as through platforms like Google, before making any investment decisions. By doing so, investors can ensure that they are making choices that align with their financial goals and best interests.

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

India Bounce Back Against England, Level Series 1-1

Press Trust of India
VISAKHAPATNAM: Indian bowlers won an engrossing battle against England's firebrand batting for a series-leveling 106-run victory in the second Test here on Monday, blunting 'Bazball' with their resilience in a roller-coaster contest.

England began day four at 67 for one, chasing a record target of 399. They were bowled out for 292 in the extended afternoon session.

The visiting team's no-holds-barred approach, which has largely been successful, did not work on this occasion as India picked up nine wickets over the course of two sessions to bounce back in the five-match series.

The third Test will be played in Rajkot from February 15.

Only Zak Crawley's (73 off 132 balls) strategy of mixing caution with aggression worked before the collective efforts of Jasprit Bumrah (3/46), R Ashwin (3/71), Axar Patel (1/75) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/60) yielded the desired results for the hosts who were under pressure going into day four.

After James Anderson claimed that India were nervous while batting in the second



innings and did not know a safe target to counter 'Bazball', England walked the talk on Monday and went ballistic. They would have been better served taking a cue from Crawley, who saw out an intense morning spell from Bumrah before going for his strokes.

Night-hawk Rehan Ahmed (23) wanted to smash his first ball of the day out of the park while Hyderabad Test hero Ollie Pope (23) and Joe Root (16) were pushing their luck,

frequently attempting sweeps and reverse sweeps on a pitch with variable bounce.

The visitors managed to make 127 runs in the opening session but the loss of five wickets effectively sealed their fate.

When skipper Ben Stokes (11 off 29balls) got run out via a brilliant direct hit from Shreyas Iyer post lunch, there was no coming back for England.

But Ben Foakes (36) and Tom Hartley (36) frustrated the visitors with a 55-run

partnership for the eighth wicket.

Hartley could have been Ashwin's landmark 500th wicket but the TV umpire overturned the on-field decision of a catch as the ball had ballooned after hitting the batter's arm and not the glove.

However, Rohit and Co. were not convinced with the DRS showing umpire's call for LBW. Since the appeal was only for a catch and not LBW, the umpire's call for the latter was not considered.

Very Proud Of Young Side: Rohit



Press Trust of India

VISAKHAPATNAM: There were eight players in the starting lineup with a collective experience of only 68 Tests, five of them with match count that was not even in double digits.

No wonder skipper Rohit Sharma was proud of his inexperienced bunch pulling off an impressive 106-run victory in the second Test against an aggressive England, where the hosts didn't have the luxury of banking on the seasoned trio of Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul.

"(I am) very proud of such a young squad, to come up against a team like that. Lot of the guys

are quite young in terms of playing this form of the game," Rohit said at the post match presentation ceremony, lauding the likes of double centurion Yashasvi and second innings ton-maker Shubman Gill.

Rohit knows that less experienced players are bound to make mistakes and he wants experts to cut them some slack.

"It'll take some time to be absolutely spot on. (I) want them to play freely without any pressure," Rohit said.

"The last couple of years, England have been playing good cricket. I knew it wasn't going to be an easy series. Three more to go. We'll keep our check on it

and make sure we do most things right."

No praise was enough for pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, whose match haul of nine wickets on a sporting deck fetched him the player of the match award. The skipper kept it short and reiterated what has been said several times for his biggest match-winner.

"He is a champion player for us," Rohit said but wanted to look at the bigger picture.

"You win a game like that, you have to look at the overall performance as well. We were good with the bat. You know winning a Test in these conditions is not easy. Wanted our bowlers to step up and they did that."

J&K Police Bow Out Of AIPHC After CISF Thrashing



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Hosts J&K Police crashed out of the 72nd All India Police Hockey Championship after a 5-1 loss to CISF in the quarterfinals on Monday at KK Haiku Stadium here.

For CISF, Yograj Singh score the 1st and 3rd, while the 2nd goal was scored by Dheeraj Vats. The 4th & 5th goal was scored by Vishal Jit Singh.

The player of the match

was awarded to Yograj Singh for his brilliant performance.

The chief guest on the occasion was Vijay Kumar - IPS ADGP Armed and Law & Order, J&K.

In the second quarterfinal, BSF beat Uttar Pradesh Police 2-1. The third quarterfinal tie saw CRPF emerge victorious over ITBP in a penalty shootout. In the final quarterfinal match, Punjab Police thrashed West Bengal Police 10-0 to book their place in the semifinals.



REAL KASHMIR FC players celebrate after scoring against Mohammedan SC on Sunday. The Snow Leopards cruised to a comfortable 3-0 win over the I-League table-toppers at their home turf of Bankimanjali Stadium in West Bengal. Ivory Coast forward Gnohere Krizo scored two, while Saudi-born Syrian defender Shaheer Shaheen netted one.

AITA Talent Series-7 Tennis Tourney Begins In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Talent Series-7 Tennis Tournament (TS7) of All India Tennis Association began on Monday at MA Stadium here.

The tournament was inaugurated by J&K Sports Council Secretary Nuzhat Gul.

"This is for the first time that an AITA tournament has been awarded to J&K which will go a long way in promotion of tennis in the state," the JKSC said in a statement. "In this format only AITA registered players can participate from all over the country," it added.

The JKLTA received 21 entries of boys and eight entries

of girls for the tournament. Most of the players are from Punjab, Haryana and Delhi besides J&K, the council stated.

In other news, J&K Master's Athletic team was flagged off at M.A. Stadium by Secretary JKSC for their participation in 5th National Master's Athletic Championship at Hyderabad.

The championship will be held from February 8 to February 11. Other officials including Gen. Sec. Tarsem Lal of MAA J&K, CSO Mohd. Haneef of JKSC, DSO Balginder Pal Singh and I/C Manager Surajbhan Singh were present. Sixteen players both men and women are part of the J&K contingent.

2026 World Cup Final To Be Played At MetLife Stadium In New Jersey

Agencies

NEW YORK: The 2026 World Cup final will be played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, beating out Texas and California for soccer's showcase game.

FIFA awarded the July 19 championship to the \$1.6 billion venue, which opened in 2010, the culminating match of an expanded 48-nation, 104-game tournament that will be spread across three nations for the first time.

Located about 10 miles from Manhattan, MetLife

was promoted by both New York and New Jersey, where the stadium was built in the Meadowlands marshes. The land of Bruce Springsteen, Jon Bon Jovi and Frank Sinatra will be the focal point of the globe on that Sunday, when either Lionel Messi's Argentina will try to win its second straight title or a successor will emerge.

FIFA made the announcement Sunday at a Miami television studio, allocating the opener of the 39-day tournament to Mexico City's Estadio Azteca on June 11 and the fi-

nale to the home of the NFL's New York Jets and Giants.

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has lobbied for the final to be at his AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

All games from the quarterfinals on are being played in the United States. Semifinals are on July 14 at AT&T and the following day at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

Quarterfinals are at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on July 9, at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, the following day, and at Ar-

rowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, and Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, on July 11. The third-place game will be at Hard Rock on July 18. Seventy-eight of 104 matches will be played in the U.S., with 13 games each in Mexico and Canada, and there as many as six matches a day.

FIFA officials did not publicly explain their site-decision process. FIFA expanded the World Cup from 32 to 48 nations, increased matches from 64 and announced the 16 sites in 2022.



Public Anger Over Messi's Absence From Inter Miami's Hong Kong Friendly



Agencies

HONG KONG: The organizer of a soccer match featuring Inter Miami in Hong Kong was dealing with backlash from both angry fans and the government after widespread disappointment that Lionel Messi didn't play in the game.

The much-hyped exhibition match on Sunday ended with fans booing Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham and demanding refunds as Messi stayed on the bench for the full 90 minutes in the game against a local team due to

a hamstring strain.

Organizers said Monday they had only been informed during halftime that Lionel Messi would not be playing and that they would withdraw an application for funding from the city government for staging the match.

The fans' reaction was a setback for Hong Kong officials who sought to boost the city's image as a hub for mega events amid a slow economic recovery and Beijing's crackdown on dissidents.

Michel Lamunière, chairman of organizer Tatler Asia, said in a news conference on Monday evening

that its contract with Inter Miami required Messi and some other football stars in the team to play unless they were injured.

Lamunière said Messi was named as a substitute in the list of footballers available to come off the bench, but the club's management later told the organizer that Messi was not fit to play due to an injury. Former Barcelona striker Luis Suarez also did not play in the game.

Lamunière said his team had spent the second half of the match urging the club's leadership to ask

Messi to address the fans but "to no avail."

Lamunière did not apologize for the debacle or mention any refund arrangements in the brief news conference, which had no question-and-answer session for reporters.

Tickets for the game cost up to 4,880 Hong Kong dollars (\$624) each, and the government had previously approved an application for 16 million Hong Kong dollars (\$2 million) in funding. That money had yet to be paid out and the request will now be withdrawn.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE I

1.18 Lakh Cr

for digitization and CCTVs in Police Stations; 30 Cr for improving Quality in Schools, School Infrastructure, for Career Counseling and for introduction of additional Streams in Schools; and 5 Cr for replacement of old fleet in transport sector.

The budget envisages a fiscal deficit of Rs 20,760 crore and a 7.5 percent growth in gross state domestic product (GSDP). The capital expenditure for the fiscal has been proposed at Rs 38,566 crore, which is 14.64 percent of the GSDP. The revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 80,162 crore, and the revenue receipts for the next fiscal stood at Rs 97,861 crore.

Total receipts in respect of the proposed "Vote on Account" for 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 59,364 crore, excluding the provision for ways and means advances of Rs 16,568 crore. These receipts include Rs 48,930 crore as revenue receipts and Rs 10,434 crore as capital receipts.

"The total gross receipts in respect of proposed "Vote on Account" for 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 75,932 crore, including the provision for ways and means advances of Rs 16,568 crore," the interim Budget 2024 for Jammu and Kashmir read.

Parliament's approval has been sought only for Rs 75,932 crore, including the provision for ways and means advances of Rs 16,568 crore. The Union Territory's full budget will be presented once the new government is elected after the conclusion of the 2024 general elections.

According to FM Sitharaman, the crucial reforms undertaken in 2019 enabled "path-breaking" measures by the Union Territory Government to decentralise governance structure, promote inclusive development, upscale revenue generation and step up infrastructure development.

"The government is maintaining law and order to ensure security while simultaneously implementing initiatives for economic and social development. The Government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism," she pointed out.

Security forces are taking effective and continuous action in countering terrorism. Due to the effective measures and efforts taken, the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir has significantly improved, Sitharaman added.

The interim budget for 2024-25 makes provisions for the ongoing initiatives for infrastructure development, sustainable agriculture, new industrial estate, PRI level works, employment generation, developing tourism, and social inclusion. During preparation of the interim budget proposals, consultations were held with all the Departments and various stakeholders to provide for ongoing initiatives and arrive at realistic budgetary numbers. For finalizing expenditure proposals, assessment of financing needs of infrastructure projects, social and economic measures undertaken by Departments was undertaken.

The budgetary exercise focused on the imperative of advancing the cause of the greater collective good within the realistically realizable resources. While the budgetary estimate for the next financial year 2024-25 is about 1,18,728 Cr, the UT Government has proposed the Vote on Account for 59,364 Cr.

The two Appropriation Bills on the Supplementary Demands for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25 of the UT Government are likely to be considered by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during 7th to 9th February 2024.

Interim Budget Dedicated

to bridge rural-urban divide." "The budget 2024-25 creates an enabling environment for investment & seeks to accelerate industrial growth. The budget will ensure that industries generate more employment, provide support to thrust areas identified for investment & it will encourage start-up ecosystem in the UT," the tweet read.

"Budget focuses on skill development & employment of Nari Shakti. It seeks to ensure that benefits of rapid economic growth flow equitably to the women in rural & urban areas, SHGs are empowered & women-owned business enterprises are provided access to resources & networks," it added.

Bill To Provide

legislature of a state to make provision for reservation of seats in any panchayat and municipality in favour of backward classes of citizens.

However, the Acts of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir have no provision for reservation of seats for Other Backward Classes in panchayats and municipalities.

According to articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral

rolls for and the conduct of all elections to panchayats and municipalities are vested in a State Election Commission.

The similar provision was incorporated in the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

However, as per municipal laws of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the conduct of all elections to municipalities and municipal corporations lies with the Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir.

The provisions pertaining to State Election Commissioner in the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 are at variance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 36B of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 provides that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except by an order made by the Lieutenant Governor on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an inquiry conducted by a sitting or a retired judge of the High Court, on a reference made to him by the Lieutenant Governor.

"In order to provide reservation to the "Other Backward Classes" in the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and to bring consistency in the local bodies laws of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir with the provisions of the Constitution, it has become necessary to amend certain provisions of the Acts and to introduce a Bill in Parliament, namely, the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024," according to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill.

Officials said for the first time, a survey was conducted in 2019 through district census official on OBCs. Initially 27 castes were included in the list and another 15 cases were added to the list last year. The State Election Commission will also decide on the number of OBCs.

Revision of panchayat electoral rolls started in January this year and now the delimitation of constituencies is being done and for the first time which will also include rotation of reserved seats.

Officials said for the first time, a survey was conducted in 2019 through district census official on OBCs. Initially 27 castes were included in the list and another 15 cases were added to the list last year. The State Election Commission will also decide on the number of OBCs.

India To Be

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's statement in Rajya Sabha.

He said the NDA's third term would be the one that would see big decisions and lay the foundation for the next 1,000 years.

Prime Minister Modi tore into the Congress, attacking it on the issue of dynastic politics and saying it had a good opportunity to play a good opposition but failed in that role.

He said some opposition leaders were keen to change their parliamentary seats, while some others were planning to move to Rajya Sabha.

"I appreciate the resolution the opposition has taken. Every word of their speeches has confirmed my confidence and that of the country that they have resolved to stay there (in the opposition) for a long time," Modi said and blamed the Congress for the opposition's present condition.

"For several decades you were sitting here (in the treasury benches), but now you have resolved to stay there (opposition benches) for several decades.

"The people will bless you and keep you there. You will achieve greater heights and will be soon seen in the public galleries (of the House)," the prime minister said.

Modi said that the Budget Session was a good opportunity to make some constructive suggestions, but the opposition members have let go of a good chance.

"You have left the country disillusioned... Leaders have changed but the same tune continues," he said.

The opposition could have given some message to the people in an election year, Modi said, adding that the Congress was responsible for the present state of the opposition.

"Congress had a good opportunity to play a good opposition but failed

in that role. There are other young people in the opposition, but they were not allowed to speak out of fear that it may overshadow a particular person," Modi said in an apparent reference to Rahul Gandhi.

The prime minister said the Congress may soon have to "shut shop" due to its attempt to launch the same product time and again.

"It's election time, and you should have worked a bit harder, brought something new and sent a message to the people. However, you failed miserably. Let me teach you this very thing.

"The Congress party is responsible for the current condition of the opposition. The Congress got an opportunity to become a good opposition. However, they failed to fulfil their responsibility in the last ten years..." Modi said in Lok Sabha.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday exuded confidence that India will become the third largest economy in the world during his "third" tenure.

In September 2022, India overtook the UK to become the fifth-largest economy in the world.

He also said that during the UPA government in 2014, India was the 11th largest economy.

"And today, it is the 5th largest economy and on its way to become the third largest," Modi said, adding that it is because of the speed with which the country is progressing.

He also took a dig at Congress that in the interim Budget in 2014, the then Finance Minister had said that it would take three decades (by 2044) for India to become the third largest economy.

The prime minister accused the Congress government of 2014 of losing the ability to even dream big. "I feel pity on their thinking."

The Congress, he said, should be happy that India has climbed from 11th to 5th now.

"I assure you that we will not take 20 years," he said, adding the world is watching India growing at a faster pace.

The Congress would have taken at least 100 years to do the same work, which this government has accomplished in the last ten years, he said.

Modi said neither Jawaharlal Nehru nor Indira Gandhi had faith in the ability of people.

"I have confidence and strength of the people of India," he stressed, saying in the first term (2014-19), the NDA government undid the shoddy work of the previous Congress-led government.

In the second term (2019-24), "we have laid the foundation of new India and in the third term, we will move towards Vikshit Bharat (Developed India)," he added.

Talking about the government's initiatives, Modi said GST was introduced, digitalisation was promoted, completed pending schemes and abolished over 40,000 compliances.

He also said about 25 crore people have come out of poverty, and EPFO (Employment Provident Fund Organisation) data indicate that 18 crore new subscribers have been added.

India today has become a hub of innovation, research, and manufacturing and "we need" to become self-reliant in green energy and take lead semiconductors as these initiatives would create quality jobs, Modi noted.

The prime minister hoped that the semiconductor sector would attract huge investments in the coming years, and in that segment, India will contribute significantly.

Efforts are on to skill people to prepare them for Industry 4.0.

Further talking about inflation, he said that it used to be in the double digits during the Congress era.

"History is witness that whenever the Congress comes to power, inflation follows," Modi said, adding that "We have kept the inflation under control" despite two wars and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas war are still continuing.

Kashmir Records

2024, Kashmir region and certain areas of Jammu region experienced unusually high temperatures, marking it as the warmest January on record.

"The absence of snowfall and inactive Western Disturbances contributed to extraordinary high temperatures, reaching more than 8°C above normal levels on some days during the month," Keng said.

At 11.7 degree Celsius, Srinagar experienced its warmest-ever mean maximum temperature in January, tying with the years 2001 and 1902 while Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kokernag, and Kupwara observed their highest-ever temperatures.

Gulmarg recorded a mean maximum temperature of 5.4 degree Celsius, Pahalgam 10.3 degree Celsius, Qazigund 12.1 degree Celsius, Kokernag 10.9 degree Celsius and Kupwara 11.6 degree Celsius.

In Jammu region, Banihal recorded an unprecedented all-time highest mean maximum temperature of 16.4 degree Celsius, he said.

Bhaderwah and Batote experienced their second-highest mean maximum temperatures on record. Bhaderwah recorded 14.7°C, near to its highest recorded temperature of 15.4°C. Meanwhile, Batote recorded 14.8°C, matching the temperature recorded in 2010, with the all-time highest mean maximum temperature being 18.4°C in 1995, he added.

Highway To Remain

shall remain closed on February 6, 2024 from 0800 hours till February 7, 2024, 0800 hours in connection with widening work at Kishtwari Pathar and Dhalwas, an official communiqué reads.

No vehicular movement shall be allowed towards Kashmir during this period.

General public planning their visit towards Kashmir is advised to abstain from taking journey on the National Highway during the mentioned period.

Ladakh Bodies

with the centre have been going on for a very long now, but the last meeting with the HPC was the commencement of deliberations officially which was recorded as well.

"The High Powered Committee (HPC) had asked both KDA and Apex Body to submit demands in writing. After consultations, a draft proposal was submitted with the hope that it would lead to a second round of talks immediately. We were also assured by the HPC that the next round of talks would resume shortly, but it took a long," said the Apex Body Chairman.

Chewang said that they responded to the long haul in the shape of a protest across Ladakh which was also supported by the region's prominent environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk.

He said that they will wait for the outcome of the 19th February meeting with HPC and if that turns out to be positive and in favor of the people of Ladakh will be welcomed. "In case, he said if there is nothing positive they will strengthen their protests across the region post-19 February," he added.

Chewang said that they have also decided to form a committee to hold deliberations with people and include everyone including youth.

He informed that the Apex Body formed committee has been tasked to prepare for the hunger strike of both Thupstan Chewang and Sonam Wangchuk in case there is no positive response from HPC.

He said that no matter what, the hunger strike will continue until their demands are not met.

"If there is a proper positive response from HPC, then further course of action shall be deliberated upon and shared accordingly. In case of no positive response, then the strategy already discussed shall be implemented and walked upon," the Chairman said.

To a query, he said that if there is any positive commitment from HPC,

then there is a need to hold further rounds of talks. "HPC still has time, and even if they can provide something through an ordinance it would be acceptable. Any positive commitment would also lead to engaging in further talks," he said.

CBMAK Takes

hold a unique identity and are widely recognized for their quality, being used by our valued customers spread across local, national and international markets including various noted star cricketers," CBMAK in a statement said.

All the association members have shown deep concerns about the false claims made by the participants of the reality show of being the pioneers in the Kashmir Cricket bat making industry which is totally wrong.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Fowzul Kabir, Spokesperson CBMAK said that the individuals have created a misrepresentation via the show as manufacturers rather than stockists and dealers of Kashmir willow bats.

"One more claim of being the first to take Kashmir Willow to the international cricket arena is totally false. In addition, distorted and baseless explanations of the bat-making process, specifically the exposure of clefts to the seasoning chambers to demean the hard work and patience of craftsmen of Kashmir valley," Kabir said.

"Incorrect claims regarding international recognitions and milestones achieved by the Kashmir Willow bats made by other local bat manufacturers is also being seen as a point of serious concern."

"The contestants have merely established an Instagram presence, portraying themselves as cricket bat manufacturers, while misleadingly showcasing another individual's factory."

"We are not against their business but their approach has inflicted substantial harm upon the bat manufacturing industry. They lack their own production facility and have not supplied Kashmiri willow to international players," Fowzul Kabir said.

"I have approached the Srinagar District court; other members have also approached district courts in their respective districts. I have sold all my wealth to establish my business and they have the audacity to go on national television and discredit everyone."

Kabir said that M/s. GR8 Sports India, Pvt. Ltd. is the first and only International Cricket Council (ICC) approved brand of Kashmir and the first one from the valley to take their cricket bats to international cricket.

"Our company has spearheaded the campaign in giving an alternative to the cricketers across the globe in the form of Kashmir willow in the last three consecutive world cups."

"They have used my players and discredited everyone. They on National Television said that cricket bats in Kashmir start from 1300 whereas the starting price of cricket bats in Kashmir is Rs 100. Sony Television provided them with a platform to lie to the national audience. We will drag them to the court," Kabir added.

"There are four rounds of auditions held after that you can appear before the sharks, then why didn't Sony TV verify the facts and why did they provide them with a platform to lie. The onus lies on the SONY TV and they are responsible for telecasting fake news and nullified facts and after that Tramboos are responsible," he added.

"Many more indigenous brands of Kashmir have been offering cricket bats to the national and local cricketers include ALFA, AR, ARS, AS BS, BSI, Champion, Decent, FLS, Famous, F2, GLS, GHS HS, JK, KIS, MVS, NAS, ND, Shaheen, SLS, VW, ZS, among many others which the contestants deliberately rejected in the show saying there is no other brand in Kashmir except them.

"The misinformation has misled

the general public and purchasers of its members' products, causing a severe threat to the livelihoods of over 15000 individuals directly involved and over a lakh workers and craftsmen indirectly associated with the industry."

Kabir called on 'SONY Entertainment Television' to take ownership and responsibility for the content aired on its platform as the onus of its verification before telecasting lies on them thereby demand a public apology in the same tv show and compensation for the damages caused. The association asserts that they are already on course of legal proceedings and will take the fight to its logical conclusion.

It is pertinent to mention, the Tramboos brothers made waves on the latest episode of Shark Tank India 3 as Srinagar-based 'Tramboos Sports' landed a lucrative deal worth Rs 30 lakh. Peyush Bansal of Lenskart and Aman Gupta of BOAT emerged as the winning investors, agreeing to invest Rs 30 lakh for a four percent equity stake in Tramboos Sports Kashmir willow bat brand.

Kashmir's Vegetation

the result rain-fed crops, particularly our horticulture sector their production will get hit with the result their production of apple harvest will be very less like apple and many other crops like apricot, cherry, plums, pears, and even almonds they will also get affected," he said.

Talking to KNO, Professor Manzoor Ahmed from the Department of Botany at Kashmir University said that climate change as a general phenomenon is reported globally to facilitate the invasion by exotic plants or the alien plants. "Because of climate change, so many things happen that favor the alien plants as compared to the native plants. There is unequivocal scientific evidence now that has proved that global climate change in the context of global change, because of the increased temperatures; the biological engagements have significantly increased all across the globe," he said.

Professor Manzoor said: "The lowland species, the aliens, try to move upwards. So many native species that have evolved in this region for centuries are very sensitive to these temperature fluctuations. Genetically, these invasive species are genetically more resistant. In ecology, we call them root drugs, or all selected species. This means that these are the species that can give anything and they can manage it in any situation. There are many alien species in Kashmir e.g., Anthemis Cotula It is a very aggressive invader. It is a European native. It is very widespread here. Climate change is in a way facilitating it."

Another alien species Parthenococcus hysterothorus, is called Congress grass. It is a tropical species. "It was not found in Kashmir. However, because of climate change, it has been spotted here. It is such an aggressive invader. If it is not checked well at the beginning, it can create havoc all across the landscape. In our water bodies, you will see Azolla. It is also attributed largely to climate change," he said.

He further said that the magnitude of this problem is that very less research is done on this. "We need a lot of research, especially in the context of Kashmir. I believe that the extent of research and the contours of research have to be broadened. There has to be a main focus of the funding agencies. The research in this area is to be funded on priority and then government also has to prioritize it that way, keeping in view the economic importance, the ecological importance of this overall dimension."

Dr Naseer Iqbal Is

the approval of Lieutenant Governor of J&K (Chancellor) University of Kashmir to the appointment four vacancies against the respective positions in the University of Kashmir subject to the satisfactory vigilance clearance," the official said

Aes Kaeshir

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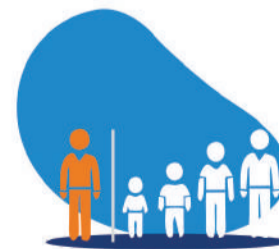
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