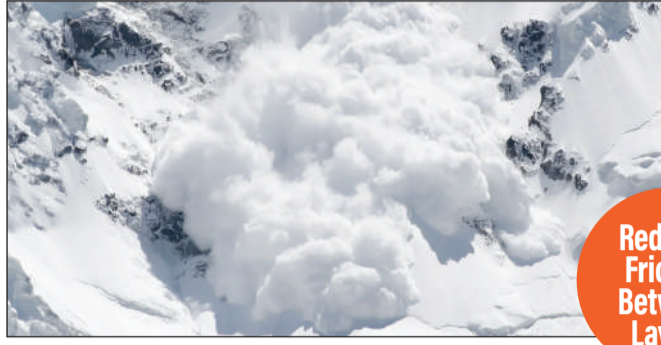


## Warmer Winters Amplify Avalanche Risks in Kashmir: Experts

Syed Mohammad Burhan

**Srinagar:** After over two months - and one of the longest dry spells - Kashmir valley finally received snowfall during the first week of February. However, with the fresh white blanket came warnings of increased avalanche risk.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority issued avalanche warnings for higher reaches of Kashmir advising people to take precautions and avoid



On February 8, a massive avalanche struck the Sonamarg area on the Srinagar-Leh Highway. Earlier, twin avalanches had struck the famous ski-resort, Gulmarg and the prompt response by the rescue teams ensured the successful evacuation of skiers, who got trapped in the avalanche. In the wake of escalating temperatures, winter months are

sonamarg area on the Srinagar-Leh Highway. Earlier, twin avalanches had struck the famous ski-resort, Gulmarg and the prompt response by the rescue teams ensured the successful evacuation of skiers, who got trapped in the avalanche. In the wake of escalating temperatures, winter months are

Warmest JANUARY in 43 Years

Reduced Friction Between Layers

witnessing a surge in avalanches across various regions, experts say. According to Prof. Dr. Shakil Romshoo, a climate change expert and Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science & Technology, the frequency of avalanches in the months of February and March has increased over the years. "The traditional

wetness associated with these months, coupled with increased temperature increases the frequency of avalanches," Romshoo said.

Permafrost Degradation

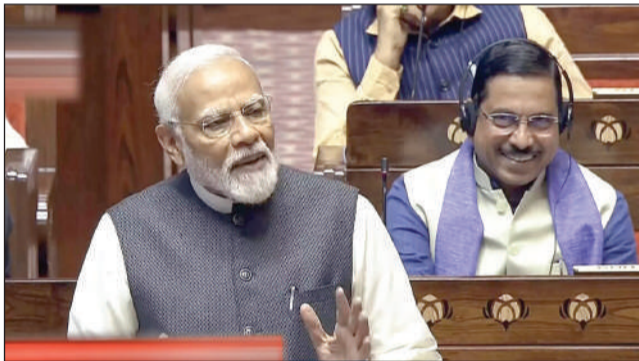
Destabilized Mountain Slopes

Highlighting the relation between temperature rise and avalanche occurrences, Romshoo said that when higher temperatures lead to wet snow, the friction between ice and rock

diminishes. "When there is an increase in temperature, snow on the mountains, which is usually very sloppy, experiences a dangerous transformation. The melting of wet snow reduces the friction at the interface between the icy layers and rock. This reduction in friction triggers the downward sliding of snow blocks, constituting the basic phenomenon and the underlying | More on P6

## Dream of One Constitution Realised By Abolishing Article 370: PM

Says Outgoing Lok Sabha Took Decisions For Which Generations Waited For Long



Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the outgoing Lok Sabha saying for generations, people dreamt of one Constitution but this House made that possible by removing Article 370, which had given the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir special rights. He said that many

game-changing reforms including the passage of the women's reservation bill were made in the period that laid the foundation of a strong India. Touching on the discussion on the Ram temple construction in Lok Sabha and the House's adoption of a laudatory resolution on the development, Modi said it will give constitutional | More on P6

- » Women's Reservation Bill
- » Removal of Article 370
- » Criminalization of Triple Talaq
- » Ram Temple in Ayodhya
- » Installing of Sengol In Parliament
- » Removal of outdated colonial-era laws
- » Digital Personal Data Protection Act
- » Presidency of G20
- » 97% productivity in 17th Lok Sabha

**BJP Will Win 370 LS Seats For Abrogating Article 370:HM**  
Says CAA To Be Implemented Before LS Polls

Press Trust Of India

The BJP will get 370 seats and the NDA more than 400 in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and form the government for a third consecutive term under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Saturday. Shah asserted that there is no suspense over the outcome of the Lok Sabha polls and even the Congress and other opposition parties have realised that they will again have to sit in the opposition benches. "We have abrogated Article 370 (of the | More on P6

"From Misgovernance To Good Governance"

## 'Future Ready' Model Of J&K Tech-Assisted, Human-Centric: LG

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday praised Prime Minister Modi's vision of making the country future ready and said his administration has evolved its own version of good governance under the broad guiding principles and strategy called "future-ready governance".

"I like to sum up in just three terms of two words each making a total of six words - future driven, tech assisted and human centric - and we have developed powerful conceptual framework clearly specifying what each of these terms mean and how they are integrated creating a futuristic model for good governance," he said.

Speaking at the ET Now Global Business Summit 2024 here, Sinha asserted that good governance has finally become a reality in Jammu and Kashmir. The sounds of gunfire and bombs have been replaced by the "noise of development" in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370, Sinha said.

The article, which granted



Stone pelting and strikes at the behest of Pakistan in history and Jammu and Kashmir is marching ahead like any other part of India with nightlife and cinema halls making a comeback, Sinha said. He added that his administration has acted tough on supporters of Pakistan to restore the rule of law.

"There was no relation between good governance and J-K for a very long time since independence. In my 40 months of personal experience, J-K is now being counted among states having good governance which I am considering as a big achievement," Sinha said.

The credit for the change in the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has achieved targets that were considered impossible, he said, referring to the abrogation of Article 370.

"J-K has achieved what was considered unthinkable, fulfilling the long standing wishes and aspirations of the people. The discrimination has ended and so has terrorism. The change happened because of the sacrifice of (Jana Sangh founder) | More on P6

**SEVERAL CHALLENGES WERE MET** and the country was given an appropriate direction. We can say with satisfaction that the work for which many generations waited for centuries was accomplished in the 17th Lok Sabha."

## JEI Terror Funding Case In J&K NIA Carries Out Raids At 15 Locations

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted raids at 15 locations across Jammu and Kashmir as part of its crackdown on the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in a terror funding case, an official said.

The raids in the twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu along with Budgam in central and Kulgam and Anantnag in south Kashmir led to the seizure of incriminating documents and digital devices connected with the activities of JeI and its related trusts and more than Rs 20 lakh, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

However, official sources said two persons were also detained in Jammu for questioning during the raids targeting a private school and its functionaries including chairman at Gujjar Nagar and Shaheedi



chowk in Jammu.

They said the residences of former Jamaat chief Sheikh Ghulam Hassan and another leader, Sayar Ahmad Reshi, in Kulgam district were among those raided.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir was banned by the Centre for five years in February 2019.

The spokesperson said NIA teams swooped down on the premises of various suspects at five locations in | More on P6



Embracing winter wonders: Tourists enjoy a snowy horseback ride at Sonamarg.

## JKP Offers Rewards For Info On Anti-National Activities

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday announced cash rewards for individuals who provide valuable information on anti-national activities.

An official said that this initiative aims to encourage the public to play an active role in maintaining peace and security in the region.

He said the rewards range from Rupees 1,00,000 to Rupees 5,00,000 depending on the type of information provided. From locating trans-border tunnels used for illegal activities to sharing actionable intelligence about drone deliveries, the rewards are designed to incentivize individuals to come forward with crucial information.

The official said that by providing information on inter-state narcotic modules, communication with terrorist handlers, and individuals inciting others to join terrorist ranks, the public can contribute towards making Jammu and Kashmir a safer place for all.

He said that they can contact SSPs for easy communication. | More on P6

## PM Modi to Visit UAE To Open First Hindu Temple

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) beginning Tuesday during which he will hold wide-ranging talks with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and inaugurate the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi.

It would be the prime minister's seventh visit to the UAE since 2015, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday, announcing the trip.

Modi and Al Nahyan will discuss ways to further deepen, expand and strengthen the strategic partnership between the countries and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, it said. "The prime minister will also meet with Sheikh Mohammed



bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the vice president, prime minister and defence minister of the UAE," the MEA said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates

(UAE) beginning Tuesday during which he will hold wide-ranging talks with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and inaugurate the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi. It would be the | More on P6

## Pakistan: Elections Fail To End Political Instability

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** The February 8 elections have failed to end the political turmoil that has plagued Pakistan for almost two years.

Pre-election opinion polls had predicted a clear win for former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in the 342-strong National Assembly, Pakistan's lower house of parliament. But the incarcerated ex-premier's party failed to secure a simple majority, according to unofficial results.

PTI-backed candidates are projected to win a little over 100 seats, while Khan's main rival and three-time former

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League is likely to bag around 80.

The Pakistan People's Party, headed by Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, has outperformed expectations by securing 50 to 60 seats and will likely be able to get the prime minister of its choice.

In the coming days and weeks, the Muslim-majority South Asian country will see intense political negotiations for a coalition government.

As Khan's candidates contested the polls as independents because the Supreme Court decided to take away their electoral symbol, their loyalty to their leader will now be tested. | More on P6

## Doctors Barred From Private Practice Between 10am-4pm: H&ME Dept

Agencies

**Baramulla:** Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS), Administrative Secretary of the Health and Medical Education Department, said on Saturday that any doctor who is found practicing at a private clinic between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. will be liable to action.

Taking to a local news agency, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, while reacting to doctors who are doing private practice during duty hours, said that strict action will be initiated if any doctor found practicing between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

He emphasized the need for doctors to prioritize their



responsibilities in government hospitals and provide the best possible care to patients.

He further said that steps would be taken to monitor the activities of doctors during working hours, and those found practicing at private clinics would face strict consequences. (KS)



To place an advertisement  
**CALL +91-194 2502327**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

**KASHMIR OBSERVER**

**2**

Srinagar | Sunday | 11-02-2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change my name from Mohd Maqbool Rather, S/o Mohd Akbar Rather to Mohammad Maqbool Rather, S/o Mohammad Akbar Rather in my service records, If anybody having any objection regarding the same may communicate to the concerned authorities within a week time from the publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection will be entertained.

Mohammad Maqbool Rather,  
S/o Mohammad Akbar Rather

INF

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan**

Subject: Application of Lateef Hussain Hajam S/o Mohammad Sultan Hajam R/o Mirak Shah Colony Habak Srinagar for issuance of DOB Certificate of his daughter namely Iram Zehra born on 23-04-2020

**NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan**

Subject: Application of Shakeel Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Aziz Mir R/o Uchhpora Kunzer for issuance of DOB Certificate of his daughter namely Bazila BintiShakeel born on 03-07-2020

**NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan**

Subject: Application of Bashir Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah R/o Adipora Sopore for issuance of DOB Certificate of his son namely Basit Bashir Shah born on 05-07-2021

**NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko

**Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S Capture Kashmir Tour & Travel Situated at 30, Shalteng Gazali Abad Lane no 1 HMT Road Srinagar.**

**Public Notice**

Whereas, I Mr/Ms Danish Zahoor Lala S/O D/O W/O Zahoor Ahmad Lala R/O 30, Shalteng Gazali Abad Lane no 1 HMT Road Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for the Registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style "M/S Capture Kashmir Tour & Travel" Situated at 30, Shalteng Gazali Abad Lane no 1 HMT Road Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/ Adventure tour operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail Id-directortourismkrm@gmail.com) within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 15 days shall be entertained.

Media line

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost my driving licence while traveling from rambagh bridge to Baghat chowk on 05.02.2024. Bering driving licence no JK-1620120012952. NAME. MOHAMMAD AYOUB GANAIE S/o Gh. Rasool GANAIE R/o Old Barzulla if any body found please Return back on Cell no 9906012232. Otherwise I have to apply for duplicate at RTO Ganderbal. If any one has any objection he/she may contact RTO Ganderbal within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

inf

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

**Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)**

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

**Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the Post of Labour Officer - regarding.**

**NOTIFICATION**

All such candidates who are falling under consideration zone and were called for Document Verification for the post of **Labour Officer (UT Cadre), Labour & Employment Department** advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2020 (Item No. 72), vide this office Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/49/2023-03 (7209083) dated: 01-02-2024, but could not appear before the Document Verification Committees on 05-02-2024, due to various reasons, are hereby given last and final opportunity to appear before the Document Verification Committee **on 12-02-2024 (Monday)** at JKSSB, Central Office, CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu (**Jammu Centre Based Candidates**) and at JKSSB, Central Office, Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar (**Kashmir Centre Based Candidates**) at 11.00 AM sharp, **failing which no further claims in this regard shall be entertained at any stage.**

DIPK-16204/23 dated: 10-02-2024

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

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/49/2023-03 (7209083)

Dated: 09-02-2024

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

**Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)**

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

**Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the Posts of Drivers/Drivers Grade-II/Tractor Driver and Truck Cleaner - regarding.**

**NOTIFICATION**

All such candidates who are falling under consideration zone and were called for Document Verification for the posts of **Drivers/Drivers Grade-II/Tractor Driver and Truck Cleaner**, vide this office Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/99/2023-03 (7361997) dated: 01-02-2024, but could not appear before the Document Verification Committees on 05-02-2024 and 06-02-2024, due to various reasons, are hereby given last and final opportunity to appear before the Document Verification Committee **on 12-02-2024 (Monday)** at JKSSB, Central Office, CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu (**Jammu Centre Based Candidates**) and at JKSSB, Central Office, Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar (**Kashmir Centre Based Candidates**) at 11.00 AM sharp, **failing which no further claims in this regard shall be entertained at any stage.**

DIPK-16207/23 dated: 10-02-2024

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

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/99/2023-03 (7361997)

Dated: 09-02-2024

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Phone:-01933-295302 E-mail:-techrbpul786@gmail.com

**Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.**

**TENDER NOTICE**

E-NIT No: Fresh 246/EEP/RNB/of 2023-24/13974-84

Dated: 10 /02/2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Administrative Record Approval No:	Call No:
1.	Construction installation of Porta cabin for the establishment of the E-Sewa Kendra in District court Pulwama of UT of JnK.	1.91	200	2% of Adv. cost	15 working days	DEE	2554-63/RG/RC Dated: 02.02.2024	2nd call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10 - 02-2024
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	10 - 02-2024 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	10 - 02-2024 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	15 - 02-2024 upto 04:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16 - 02 -2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama

6. Submission of Performance Security(PS) Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan /Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.

2. 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 Div. Pulwama

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

4. EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

5. The normal deposits (deducted @ 10% from running bills) shall be released after the DLP of the work is over.

6. The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.

7. The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.

8. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

Head Draftsman  
DIPK-16183/23  
dated: 10-02-2024

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Pulwama

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)

**Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Directorate, Kashmir.**

email: xenmhdhandwara@gmail.com

**CORRIGENDUM 03**

**Name of work:-** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of "Programmable Dancing type" fountain cum Aerators with water features inside Wullar Lake in front of Vintage Park near S.K.Payeen District Bandipora.

**Reference:** 1) E-NIT 26 of 2023-24, issued vide M&HDH/TS/1586-89, Dated: - 19-01-2024.

(Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_243341\_1)

Due to administrative reasons, the critical dates of the above referred NIT issued for the subject work are extended as under.

1.	Date, time and place of pre-bid meeting	17.02.2024 from 11.00 HRS to 1400 HRS in the office of the Superintending Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Circle, Kashmir.  The intending bidders can participate through online mode as well. However the link shall be shared to those intending bidders who shall make a request through official mail 24 HRS before the start of pre-bid meeting.
2.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 18.02.2024 (14.00 HRS) (post pre-bid meeting)
3.	Bid Submission End Date	23.02.2024 (1400 HRS)
4.	Date and time for opening of the Technical Bids online	24.02.2024 at 1400 Hrs in the office of Superintending Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Circle Kashmir, Srinagar.

All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-16193/23  
dated: 10-02-2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
Handwara

No: MHDH/TS/1846-49

**از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ**  
درخواست از جانب عمران الدین بٹ ولد عبد الرحمان بٹ ساکنہ پورہ تحصیل پنشن بارہمولہ برادرسول ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ سبھی علی گھم بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ متوفی۔

**اشتراک برادر گاہی خاص و عام**  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور کے نسبت رپورٹ پٹنچایت سکری و دیگر وارڈر پوچھو کیا علاقہ و آشا میڈیم سے موصول ہوئی۔ معائنہ کے نتیجے میں غلطیوں سے متعلقہ ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ سبھی علی گھم بٹ ساکنہ پورہ مورخہ 02-12-2023 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور تا حال ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔ نواز احمد بٹ ولد علی گھم بٹ اپنے والد کی ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار شائع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹیفکیٹ ہو تو دفتر خط میں اندر رسات یوم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

**از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ**  
درخواست از جانب عمران الدین بٹ ولد عبد الرحمان بٹ ساکنہ پورہ تحصیل پنشن بارہمولہ برادرسول ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ سبھی علی گھم بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ متوفی۔

**اشتراک برادر گاہی خاص و عام**  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور کے نسبت رپورٹ پٹنچایت سکری و دیگر وارڈر پوچھو کیا علاقہ و آشا میڈیم سے موصول ہوئی۔ معائنہ کے نتیجے میں غلطیوں سے متعلقہ ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ سبھی علی گھم بٹ ساکنہ پورہ مورخہ 02-12-2023 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور تا حال ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔ نواز احمد بٹ ولد علی گھم بٹ اپنے والد کی ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار شائع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹیفکیٹ ہو تو دفتر خط میں اندر رسات یوم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

**از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ**  
درخواست از جانب ریاض احمد بٹ ولد عبد الرحمان بٹ ساکنہ پورہ تحصیل پنشن بارہمولہ برادرسول ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ سبھی علی گھم بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ متوفی۔

**اشتراک برادر گاہی خاص و عام**  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور کے نسبت رپورٹ پٹنچایت سکری و دیگر وارڈر پوچھو کیا علاقہ و آشا میڈیم سے موصول ہوئی۔ معائنہ کے نتیجے میں غلطیوں سے متعلقہ ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ سبھی علی گھم بٹ ساکنہ پورہ مورخہ 04-02-2017 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور تا حال ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔ نواز احمد بٹ ولد علی گھم بٹ اپنے والد کی ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار شائع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹیفکیٹ ہو تو دفتر خط میں اندر رسات یوم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

## DEO Srinagar Reviews Preparedness For Upcoming Elections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) Saturday chaired a meeting with Election Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Election Registration Officers (AEROs) and District Election Machinery here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the preparations for upcoming General Elections.

At the outset, the DEO/DC Srinagar held a detailed discussion with the Officers present in the meeting and illustrated the various important aspects of the Election process mainly aimed at ensuring smooth and peaceful general elections in Srinagar District.

During the meeting, the roles of EROs and AEROs of all 08 Assembly Constituencies and other Election related machinery in smooth conduct of the elections were discussed in detail.

The DEO held deliberations with regard to polling stations/locations, assured minimum facilities available at polling stations, resource availability/manpower, logistics, transport plan, communication plan, training to the polling staff, EVM management plan, management of postal ballots, nomination of Sectoral and Zonal Magistrates and establishment of help-desks and information desks. The meeting also discussed material management plan, location of the distribution centre's and the collection centre's in threadbare.

Speaking on occasion, the DC/DEO stresses upon the Officers to prepare meticulous District Election Management Plan in order to ensure that electorates participate in the election process in large numbers in a hassle free manner. DC/DEO directed the officers to conduct physical verification of each and every polling station/location to ensure the availability of all assured minimum facilities, so as to ensure that no voter or poll staff faces any kind of difficulty during elections.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, aims to spotlight the remarkable craftsmanship of Padma Shri awardee Ghulam Nabi Dar and UT Level awardee Riyaz Ahmad Khan, honoring their recent accolades.

Ghulam Nabi Dar, a renowned master craftsman from Srinagar, was recently bestowed with the Padma Shri for his exceptional contributions to wood carving, while Riyaz Ahmad Khan was recognized with the J&K UT Level Award for his exemplary service to the Paper Machie craft.

The opening reception attracted a large audience, with visitors relishing the artistic displays and interacting with the talented artists themselves. Showcases were masterpieces unmatched in their craftsmanship. Both awardees have garnered acclaim over the years, receiving recognition at both the state and national levels.

In his address to the audience, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted how the event celebrates the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the city, expressing delight at the turnout and stressing the importance of supporting local artists.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir has been committed to bringing art and crafts into open-air settings through its 'Know Your Artisan' initiative, following Srinagar's recognition as UNESCO's Creative City in Craft and Folk Art.

The department also inaugurated a two-day exhibition cum sales event at Zero Bridge Rajbagh Srinagar from February 10th, 2024.

The event organized by Assistant Director Handicrafts/Handloom Srinagar aims to support

## Div Com Kashmir Inaugurates Exhibition At Govt Arts Emporium

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today inaugurated an exhibition at the Government Arts Emporium in Srinagar.

The special exhibition, organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, aims to spotlight the remarkable craftsmanship of Padma Shri awardee Ghulam Nabi Dar and UT Level awardee Riyaz Ahmad Khan, honoring their recent accolades.

Ghulam Nabi Dar, a renowned master craftsman from Srinagar, was recently bestowed with the Padma Shri for his exceptional contributions to wood carving, while Riyaz Ahmad Khan was recognized with the J&K UT Level Award for his exemplary service to the Paper Machie craft.

The opening reception attracted a large audience, with visitors relishing the artistic displays and interacting with the talented artists themselves. Showcases were masterpieces unmatched in their craftsmanship. Both awardees have garnered acclaim over the years, receiving recognition at both the state and national levels.

In his address to the audience, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted how the event celebrates the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the city, expressing delight at the turnout and stressing the importance of supporting local artists.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir has been committed to bringing art and crafts into open-air settings through its 'Know Your Artisan' initiative, following Srinagar's recognition as UNESCO's Creative City in Craft and Folk Art.

The department also inaugurated a two-day exhibition cum sales event at Zero Bridge Rajbagh Srinagar from February 10th, 2024.

The event organized by Assistant Director Handicrafts/Handloom Srinagar aims to support



## Dir H&H Inaugurates Exhibition At Zero Bridge, Rajbagh

Srinagar: An "Awareness Camp Cum Exhibition" was inaugurated at Zero Bridge, Rajbagh Srinagar, by the Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmad Shah today in presence of the Dy. Director Handicrafts (Trgs), Assistant Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Srinagar and Publicity Cum Exhibition Officer, Kashmir.

Over 10 stalls have been set up, creating an immersive experience for visitors

to engage directly with the talented artisans. This unique setup allows patrons to witness the artistry firsthand and purchase one-of-a-kind crafts directly from the creators.

Speaking on the occasion, Mehmood Ahmad Shah emphasized on the crucial role of promoting handicrafts in the region. He spoke passionately about the empowerment of artisans in Kashmir, highlighting the need to preserve and uplift the rich heritage of traditional crafts.

local artisans and raise awareness about the richness of the valley's indigenous handicrafts. Enthusiastic participation was witnessed from 12 local artisans, who showcased a diverse range of handicraft products.

Speaking at the event, the Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir reiterated the department's commitment to providing a platform for local ar-

tisans to showcase their talents and boost sales.

Such initiatives, he emphasized, play a crucial role in preserving the legacy of handicrafts and providing exposure and livelihood support to local artisans.

The department plans to organize many more such exhibitions throughout the valley to connect artisans with both local and global markets.

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

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

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

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 55
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4: 33
Magrib	6:13
ISHA	7: 34

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
30 Rajab  
1445

## This Day In History

- 1793- Prussian troops occupy Venlo, Netherlands
- 1806- William Grenville becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom following the death of William Pitt the Younger
- 1809- American inventor Robert Fulton patents the steamboat
- 1814- Norway's independence proclaimed
- 1826- University College London founded; known until 1836 as London University
- 1851- Inaugural 1st-class cricket match in Australia; Tasmania v Victoria in Launceston; Tasmania wins by 3 wickets
- 1873- Spanish Cortes fires king Amadeus I
- 1907- Passenger ship Larchmont sinks by Block Island, off Rhode Island, 322 die
- 1908- Australia regain the Ashes with a 308 run cricket victory vs England
- 1922- US intervention army leaves Honduras
- 1943- US General Eisenhower selected to command the allied armies in Europe; British General Montgomery not best pleased.
- 1944- German troops reconquer Aprilia, Italy
- 1945- 1st gas turbine propeller-driven airplane flight tested, Downey, CA.
- 1945- Yalta agreement signed by FDR, Churchill & Stalin
- 1946- World War II: Operation Deadlight ends after scuttling 116 of 156 captured U-boats.
- 1953- USSR breaks diplomatic relations with Israel
- 1956- British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean deny working as spies for Soviet Russia after reappearing in the Soviet Union after going missing 5 years earlier
- 1964- Greek & Turks begin fighting in Limassol, Cyprus
- 1964- Taiwan drops diplomatic relations with France
- 1968- Israeli-Jordan border fight
- 1970- Japan becomes 4th nation to put a satellite (Osumi) in orbit.
- 1971- US, UK, USSR, others sign Seabed Treaty outlawing nuclear weapons
- 1973- 1st one-day international for Pakistan & NZ
- 1974- Titan-Centaur rocket test launch fails.
- 1974- Henry Kissinger unveils Nixon Administration's seven-point "Project Independence" plan to make the U.S. energy independent
- 1974- Libya nationalizes three US oil companies that had not agreed to 51 percent nationalization in September
- 1975- Margaret Thatcher defeats Edward Heath for leadership of the British Conservative Party
- 1978- China lifts a ban on Aristotle, Shakespeare, & Dickens
- 1979- Iran's premier Bakhtiar resigns, Ayatollah Khomeini seizes power
- 1984- 10th space shuttle mission (41-B)-Challenger 4-returns to Earth
- 1985- King Hussein of Jordan & PLO leader Arafat sign accord
- 1990- Nelson Mandela released after 27 years imprisonment in South Africa.
- 1991- UNPO, Unrepresented Nations & People Org forms in Hague Neth.
- 1994- Space shuttle STS-60 (Discovery 18), lands
- 1995- Space shuttle STS-63 (Discovery 19), lands
- 2008- In East Timor, assassination attempts were made on Xanana Gusmao and Jose Ramos-Horta. Both failed.
- 2011- Egyptian Revolution culminates in the resignation of Hosni Mubarak and the transfer of power to the Supreme Military Council after 18 days of protests.
- 2012- Israeli Air Force conducts four air strikes in Gaza Strip
- 2013- 18 coal miners are killed in an explosion in the Komi region, Russia
- 2013- Pope Benedict XVI announces his resignation from February 28, the first pope to resign since 1415
- 2014- 11 people are killed after a grenade was tossed into a movie theatre in Peshawar, Pakistan
- 2014- 77 people are killed after a military transport plane crashes in Algeria

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Central Stationery Department  
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar

**Request for Sealed Dasti Quotes, for supply of "E-Banking Scratch Cards" (Secured item)**

J&K Bank Central stationery Deptt; Nowgam, invites Dasti Quotes from interested vendors/printers for the supply of "E-Banking Scratch Cards" (Secured Item) to the bank. The interested vendors can obtain Dasti Quote RFQ Document from Central Stationery Deptt; Nowgam during Business hours. The interested vendor can also request for RFQ via mail to [centralstationery@jkbmail.com](mailto:centralstationery@jkbmail.com) or via phone on 0194-2314779/0194-2314452/9906655280 and same will be shared to the interested vendors on their email ids during Business hours. The interested vendors/printers can submit their Quotes (Bids) from 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 22<sup>th</sup> February 2024 till 17.00 hours in a sealed envelope, addressed to In-Charge Central Stationery Department, Nowgam Bye Pass Srinagar, 190015.

No: JKB/CSD/CHQ/2024-P 127 Date: 10-02-2024

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK1938SC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ;  
E : [info@jkbmail.com](mailto:info@jkbmail.com) ; W : [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

DIPK-NB-5604/23  
dated: 10-02-2024

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

FRESH NIT NO 210 (6th Call of NIT NO 113/3,9,12) OF R&B/Anantnag/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/2024-23 DATED 07-02-2024

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Drain from H/o Muzaffar Ahmad Zagoo to H/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat at Nathpora Khanabal	0.95 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 0.81 + (18% GST Amount 0.14)	200	1900	15 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No.MC/ANG/286 Of 2023, Dated 26.08.2023	DEE Class Only
2.	Construction drain with trashguard from Ho Lt. Mohd Yousuf Abanger to H/o Ab Azim Khanaday at S K Colony MC Anantnag ward No 9	0.76 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 0.65 + (18% GST Amount 0.11)	200	1520	20 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No.MC/ANG/286 Of 2023, Dated 26.08.2023	DEE Class Only
3.	Repairment of graveyard /fencing at Kadipora MC Anantnag Ward 12	0.31 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 0.26 + (18% GST Amount 0.05)	200	620	10 Days	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded Vide Order No.MC/ANG/286 Of 2023, Dated 26.08.2023	DEE Class Only

**Project Authority: Municipal Council Anantnag.**

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-02-2024
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 07-02-2024 (04:00PM)
		To 14-02-2024 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 07-02-2024 (04:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 14-02-2024 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	15-02-2024 (01:00PM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as non-responsive.

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor to be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance Security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

(Er Syed Ishaq Ahmad)  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK-16233/23  
dated: 10-02-2024

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چیٹن  
مضمون انتقال وراثت نسبت وارثت انتقال عبدالعزیز ولد جمال گوجر ساکنہ نہالپورہ بھڑنشا انتقال وراثت  
نوٹس برادار اطلاع

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں پٹواری حلقہ نہالپورہ نے ایک انتقال وراثت زیر نمبر 2292 دھندھا میں پیش کیا ہے مطابق انتقال زیر عبدالعزیز ولد جمال گوجری ساکنہ نہالپورہ چیٹن سال 2011 میں فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ اور اپنے چچے بڑیل وارثان چھوڑ چکا ہے۔ اس سلسلہ میں بڑیل وارثان چھوڑ چکا ہے۔  
فیاض احمد  
عبدالرشید  
محمد رفیق  
بشیر احمد  
حسینہ

ان کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارث نہیں ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو اس سلسلہ میں کوئی جانکاری عذر یا اعتراض ہے تو اندر سات یوم دفتر حذا میں پیش کرے بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تحریر الصدر  
تحصیلدار چیٹن  
fko

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چیٹن  
مضمون درخواست نسبت تقدیق وارثت انتقال جمال ولد سلمان گوجری متوفی ساکنہ نہالپورہ چیٹن  
نوٹس برادار اطلاع

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں پٹواری حلقہ نہالپورہ نے ایک انتقال وراثت زیر نمبر 2291 نسبت وراثت جمال ولد سلمان گوجری ساکنہ نہالپورہ پ پیش کیا ہے مطابق انتقال زیر جمال ولد سلمان گوجری ساکنہ نہالپورہ چیٹن قبل تقریباً چالیس سال فوت ہو چکا ہے اور اپنے چچے بڑیل وارثان چھوڑ چکا ہے۔  
فیاض احمد  
عبدالرشید  
محمد رفیق  
بشیر احمد  
حسینہ  
مسائتووری بنگم زویہ عبدالعزیز  
مسائتووری بھڑنشا جمال  
مسائتووری بھڑنشا جمال  
مسائتووری بھڑنشا جمال

ان کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارث نہیں ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو اس سلسلہ میں کوئی جانکاری عذر یا اعتراض ہے تو اندر سات یوم دفتر حذا میں پیش کرے بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تحریر الصدر  
تحصیلدار چیٹن  
fko

## Beyond Basics

# ASER 2023 Unveils Urgent Challenges in Indian Education System

Ummar Jamal

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023, unveiled on January 17, 2024 by Pratham Education Foundation, has become a crucial benchmark in assessing the elementary educational landscape of India. This report, conducted across 28 districts spanning 26 states, has brought to light some staggering revelations that demand immediate attention.

While the ASER 2023 reports a commendable increase in the enrolment ratio for children aged 14-18, standing at 86.8%, it is imperative to acknowledge that this figure falls significantly short of the 100% target. Moreover, the focus should extend beyond sheer enrolment numbers to address the glaring concerns regarding the quality of education imparted.

### Some staggering revelation

The report reveals that a substantial 25% of students within this age group struggle to read a standard II level text fluently in their regional languages, indicating a critical gap in foundational literacy skills.

Moreover, only 57.3% of students demonstrate proficiency in reading sentences in English, with nearly three-quarters of them unable to comprehend the meaning of the text. The deficiency in basic mathematical skills is equally concerning, as demonstrated by the fact that only 39% of youth can accurately measure length using a scale when the starting point is not zero. A mere 43.3% can successfully solve division problems involving three digits by one digit. These revelations underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of the educational framework to ensure a holistic and effective learning experience.

Compounding the challenges identified in the ASER 2023 is the disconcerting gender gap, particularly among 18-year-olds, reaching an alarming 32.6%. This discrepancy in educational opportunities between genders is not only an affront to the principles of equality but also poses a significant hurdle in achieving a more inclusive and equitable society. Addressing gender disparities in education is crucial to harnessing the full potential of the nation's human capital.

The ASER 2023 report sheds light on another critical issue – the lack of interest or viable avenues for vocational courses. Merely 5.6% of students in the 14-18 age group opt for vocational training or related courses. Recognizing the pivotal role of vocational education in preparing students for practical skills and employability, there is an urgent need to expand and promote vocational training programs, fostering a symbiotic relationship between education and industry needs.

A disconcerting trend highlighted in the report is the pervasive use of phones for entertainment activities among the youth. Nearly 80% of students in this age group use their phones primarily for non-educational purposes such as listening to music and watching movies. While technology can be a powerful educational tool, its overuse for entertainment detracts from academic pursuits. It is crucial to instill responsible and educational



“While technology can be a powerful educational tool, its overuse for entertainment detracts from academic pursuits. It is crucial to instill responsible and educational use of technology among students to harness its potential for enhancing learning outcomes”

use of technology among students to harness its potential for enhancing learning outcomes.

### Career aspirations of Kashmir youth

The Annual Report has shed light on the aspirations of the youth in Anantnag district, surveying 1200 households across 60 villages. The comprehensive study, encompassing 1410 youths aged 14-18, reveals a diverse spectrum of career ambitions and future goals. With 353 males and 483 females surveyed in the 14-16 age group, and 231 males and 343 females in the 17-18 age group, the findings provide a holistic understanding of the youth's aspirations.

The survey uncovered a myriad of career aspirations among the youth, offering valuable insights into their dreams and ambitions. Notably, a significant percentage of youths aspire to enter public service, with 5.9% of males and 7.4% of females aiming for the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), and 1.6% of males and 2% of females eyeing the Indian Police Service (IPS). Furthermore, aspirations for careers in teaching, medicine, and the military were prominent, with 8.8% of males and 11.6% of females aspiring to become teachers, and a substantial 31.3% of males and 41.7% of females aiming for a career in medicine.

Interestingly, the findings also highlight varying preferences among the youth regarding career paths. While a notable percentage expressed aspirations for government jobs, with 10.6% of

males and 7% of females aiming for positions in the Army, 4.1% of males and 3.6% of females expressed a desire to join the police force. Additionally, aspirations for engineering careers were evident, with 8.1% of males expressing interest.

### The way forward

To overcome the challenges illuminated by the ASER 2023 report and pave the way for a Viskat Bharat by 2040, strategic interventions must be employed. The ASER 2023 report underscores pressing issues in India's education system, and overcoming these challenges requires strategic interventions. To pave the way for a Viskat Bharat by 2040, the following strategies can be implemented:

**Quality Improvement Initiatives:** Teachers are the bedrock of education. Only well trained teachers can lay foundation for a robust education system. Teacher training programs should be implemented, focusing on innovative and student-centric pedagogies aligned with the NEP 2020's emphasis on competency-based education. Continuous professional development ought to be introduced to keep educators abreast of the latest teaching methodologies and technological advancements. Teachers should be encouraged to integrate critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity into the curriculum, fostering holistic learning experiences.

**Curriculum Restructuring and Remedial Education Programs:** The curriculum should align

with the NEP 2020's vision, emphasizing foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Interdisciplinary learning modules ought to be introduced to promote a comprehensive understanding of subjects. A learner-centric approach should be fostered, providing flexibility in choosing subjects and encouraging a well-rounded education.

Remedial classes should be launched for students facing challenges in foundational literacy and numeracy. Peer learning and collaborative activities should be promoted to address individual learning gaps. Technology ought to be utilized for personalized learning, offering adaptive content to cater to diverse learning needs.

**Gender-Inclusive Education Policies:** Policies should be implemented that actively promote gender equality, aligned with the NEP 2020's commitment to education for all. Girls' education initiatives ought to be established, providing targeted support to bridge the gender gap among 18-year-olds. Communities should be sensitized on the importance of gender parity in education, fostering a culture of equality.

**Revitalizing Vocational Education:** Vocational training programs should be expanded in accordance with the NEP 2020's emphasis on promoting vocational and skill-based education. Collaboration with industries should be prioritized to design relevant and updated vocational courses that align with emerging job market needs. Also, digital literacy should be integrated into the curriculum, empowering students to use technology responsibly for educational purposes.

**Community Engagement:** Active involvement of parents in their children's education should be encouraged through community-driven initiatives. Partnerships between schools and local communities ought to be established to address specific educational challenges.

Moreover, a robust monitoring and evaluation system should be implemented. The impact of interventions should be regularly assessed, and strategies ought to be adjusted based on feedback. Transparency should be promoted by sharing progress reports with stakeholders, fostering a culture of accountability.

### Tailpiece

The ASER 2023 report serves as a clarion call for immediate and strategic action. By addressing these challenges head-on and implementing comprehensive reforms, India can fortify its education system, ensuring that every youth receives a quality education, thereby contributing meaningfully to the nation's progress. Comprehensive approach is vital for transforming the education system in India, ensuring that every youth receives a quality education and contributes meaningfully to the nation's progress and achieving the vision of a Viskat Bharat by 2040.

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

Author is a Kashmir based columnist. He tweets at ummar\_jamal . He can be reached at ummarjama1968@gmail.com

Not very long ago, the Republican presidential race in the US looked packed with four frontrunner candidates: Donald Trump, Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis and Vivek Ramaswamy. In the last few weeks, the US presidential race has gradually entered a more decisive phase.

Although neither the Democratic nor the Republican camp has finalised their presidential candidate, the Iowa Caucus, the New Hampshire Republican primary, and the most recently-held Nevada Caucus may have imparted some perspicuity. Trump is leading as the Republican presidential candidate on the back of his victory in all the three.

Trump's win over Haley in New Hampshire is widely seen as the end of the road for the latter, quite in line with the political trend associated with New Hampshire. In 1968, a poor show in the New Hampshire primary forced president Lyndon Johnson to quit his presidential campaign.

Since 2001, the New Hampshire Republican primary has correctly predicted the Republican candidacy for the president every year. The South Carolina primary on February 24 will be critical for Haley, that being her native state where she has served as Governor from 2011 to 2017.

In the Democratic camp, Pre sident Joe Biden may be facing little resistance from his Democratic peers but a latest 345-page special counsel report from the Department of Justice has not only raised questions about Biden's 'poor memory' but his handling of classified documents. Robert F Kennedy Jr and Cornel West running as Independents and Jill Stein from the Green Party have not yet been able to make any mark.

A Biden-Trump rematch seems the most likely outcome of the primaries and caucuses which are lined up running up to the national elections in November this year.

## A Trump Reprise?

Harsh V Pant and Vivek Mishra,

Trump needs 1,215 delegates to secure his nomination from the Republican Party and he looks on his path to secure it without much difficulty, leading with 62 delegates. Not for the first time, the Republican party has rallied behind Trump who now commands support of his loyal voters as well as Republicans in the Congress. Perhaps, his legal hurdles might be the only impediment preventing his nomination or his victory.

However, polls have indicated that Trump's support has soared despite his numerous indictments. In fact, there is growing pressure on Haley to drop out of the presidential race before the primary in her home state of South Carolina on February 24.

The New Hampshire voting pattern, however, revealed that a section of independent voters, college-educated voters, and Republicans who see the January 6 Capitol riots as an act of insurrection by Trump and believe he should be legally answerable for the same. This faction voted for Haley. It remains to be seen whether this chunk of voters will shift their votes or skip voting altogether should Trump secure his nomination.

The Republicans are confident that a majority of the voters from their party will vote for Trump.

Among Trump's advantages is the fact that he is a known entity for American voters and they know what to expect should he come to the helm.

A major swing in Trump's support has come

from rural America, where his candidacy is being seen as a factor for against immigration, making them turn their backs on the Democrats. Although this trend may be a nationwide phenomenon, perhaps the shift in Iowa is the most stark—it turned from a swing state to a Republican stronghold.

Meanwhile, President Biden has laid out his reason to run against Trump entirely on the latter being his opponent by saying, 'we cannot let him win.' In a recent speech, he underscored that democracy is a 'central cause' of his presidency. While his democracy vs autocracy trope remains a primary pivot of his campaign and distinction from Trump, that the latter presents an existential threat to US democracy in his second term may not have resonated with the voters in the same way that the Democratic party wanted it to.

Biden's political campaign may not have gathered the momentum and uproar that it should have and appears blunted by various factors. These range from his age, casting doubts over his ability to act as President for the next term to a seemingly failed immigration strategy. As much as 6.3 million incidents of migrant encounters have been reported since Biden took office in January 2021. In both Iowa and New Hampshire, voters have rated immigration at par with economy in its importance as an election issue. Trump has left no stone unturned in ensuring that he paints Biden as a president who is respon-

sible for an unprecedented flow of migrants to the US. In his campaign, Trump has taken his 2016 narrative centred on building a wall on the US-Mexico border to another level by saying that immigrants are 'poisoning the blood of our country'.

Trump vs Biden is a rematch that most Americans do not want, but they have little choice. In one of the recent polls, Biden is trailing Trump by 6 percentage points in a 34-40 tally. Political pundits have pointed out that Biden's campaign should look beyond Trump. Biden's latest plan is to launch an offensive campaign by attacking Trump and his central campaign themes such as abortion rights, attack on personal freedom and rely on social media, influencers and celebrities, including Taylor Swift, to turn the polls in his favour.

A politically ascendant Trump has engendered a range of concerns and feelings both domestically as well as externally. Globally, a Trump presidency would significantly change the course of US foreign policy from the trajectory it has followed under the Biden administration. Of particular interest would be how a Trump presidency deals with the ongoing wars in Europe and the Middle East, a consolidating China-Russia-Iran-North Korea axis and the resultant fractured world order. If his campaign speeches and past presidency are anything to go by, Trump would curb US aid to Ukraine, weaken the trans-Atlantic alliance and enfeeble its global alliance network, all in the name of 'Make America Great Again'. And predictably, the unpredictability associated with his last term will return to haunt an already battered global geopolitical landscape.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

# Connoisseur of Tradition

## Zulfiqar Ali's Effort to Preserve Kashmir's Art and Heritage

KO Web Desk

Born into a family steeped in the rich tradition of papier mâché craftsmanship, it was only obvious for Zulfiqar Ali to become a connoisseur of Kashmiri heritage arts. Particularly renowned for his collection of exquisite Kashmir shawls and timeless artifacts, he has a deep connection with Kashmir's heritage, education and the pursuit of artistic excellence.

In a freewheeling chat with Kashmir Observer's reporter Syed Mohammad Burhan, Baba recounts the trials and triumphs of carving his own path and commitment to preserving and promoting the artistic legacy of his homeland.

Transitioning from his early years in Kashmir to embarking on a transformative adventure in the United States, with meticulous attention to detail, he offers a glimpse into the intricate history and craftsmanship behind each treasured piece in his collection, ranging from opulent Kashmir shawls to finely engraved silver and copper artifacts.

### PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR LIFE

I was born and raised in Hassan Abad, as the youngest child of Mohammad Qasim Baba. My near-ancestors were papier mache artists and my father, had through years of relentless struggles and hard work, built a very successful Papier Mache business, which was called M. Qasim and Brother. Sadly, the business no longer exists but its impact hasn't faded from the memory of those who were associated with it.

I started my schooling in Burn Hall School, which was followed by Islamia College and then the University of Kashmir, where I graduated with a master's degree in Commerce. Unlike the children of most businessmen at the time, I was very dedicated to my education and was fortunate to be recognized with five gold medals for academic excellence. After finishing my Master's Degree, I was offered a lectureship in the University. I was offered a Lectureship at the University's Commerce Department but I could not continue beyond two semesters because I left for the US to pursue an MBA.

From early childhood, I had an interest in beautiful things - be it nature, the aesthetics of my own room, the arts, music, English literature, Urdu poetry etc. THAT is not something I acquired in America. It was always a part of me.

### TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR LIFE IN THE US

Without the advantages of the internet, WhatsApp and Facebook or the benefit of having relatives or friends in the country, my first few years in the US were very difficult and to this day, the struggle doesn't seem to let up. But I can't thank Allah enough that despite the struggles, I managed to survive. And most im-

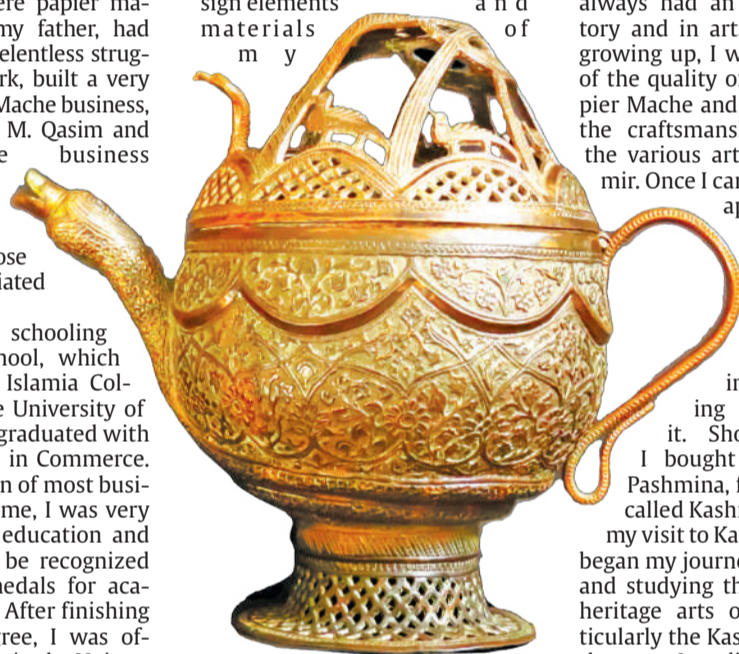
with business transformation initiatives.

On a personal level, life in the US has been a life altering experience - and in a positive way, without requiring me to compromise my identity.

I have always lived in small towns in Washington State (not Washington DC) where I first landed, primarily because its environment, geography and climate are similar to that of Kashmir.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR STORY WITH HERITAGE ARTS?

Historically, the collection of antiques and artifacts is a luxury that is indulged in, by a privileged few, who take a fancy to the arts of far-off 'exotic' lands and have the means to acquire and store it. I acknowledge that it is through the efforts, contributions and generous museum donations of such collectors, that these antiquities and art forms were saved for posterity and continue to be a source of education and wonder to our generation. With that said, I do consider myself as a member of that group because, for me, my collection is a part of my own heritage, my connection with it is very personal and my goal is not limited to its preservation and display. Besides, I have relied on my own research and education to curate and speak to the age, history, design elements and materials of my



collection.

Over the span of two decades, I've meticulously curated a diverse collection that spans centuries of Kashmiri craftsmanship. This assortment showcases the rich heritage of the region, including intricately woven and embroidered Kashmir shawls dating back to the 1750s, alongside exquisite examples of Kashmiri Papier Mache from the early 19th to mid-20th century. The collection also boasts engraved and repoussé silver and copper pieces, highlighting the fine craftsmanship prevalent from the mid-1800s to the early 20th century.

Among the treasures are over 100 pieces of rare Kashmiri silver and copper enamelware, offering a glimpse into a lost art form. Additionally, the collection features over 100 meticulously carved walnut wood items, in-



early 1900s, as well as a selection of etchings capturing the essence of Kashmir's scenery, people, artisans, and significant events from the 19th century, found within English and French newspapers.

### WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND YOUR COLLECTION?

Well, as I mentioned, I have always had an interest in history and in art. Not surprising, growing up, I was keenly aware of the quality of my father's Papier Mache and was sensitive to the craftsmanship involved in the various art forms of Kashmir. Once I came to the US that appreciation only grew.

I recall seeing a Kashmir shawl in a museum in Seattle, Washington and being mesmerized by it. Shortly thereafter, I bought a book called Pashmina, from a bookstore called Kashmir Bookshop on my visit to Kashmir. With that, began my journey of researching and studying the history of the heritage arts of Kashmir, particularly the Kashmir shawl. And the more I studied, the more my interest and fascination grew because I became more and more aware of the extraordinary skill, imagination and artistic excellence required to produce the art forms of Kashmir, particularly, the of pre-1870s Kashmir shawls. As my research revealed the miseries inflicted upon the poor shawl weavers by successive dynasties that ruled Kashmir, I felt an obligation to share with the world the wonders that they had produced, despite their suffering. I felt drawn to give a voice to these voiceless heroes of Kashmir's artistic past.

I asked myself - if I don't preserve whatever little is left of Kashmir's artistic legacy, who will? So, when I got my first real job, I started to pour every cent into collecting and continuing my research on the various art forms of Kashmir. It has become my greatest passion and I continue to collect and learn, as I continue on this journey.

### COULD YOU SHARE SOME INSIGHTS INTO THE HISTORY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP BEHIND KASHMIRI SHAWLS AND OTHER ITEMS IN YOUR COLLECTION?

When I talk about Kashmir shawls, I am talking about the shawls that were made before the end of the 19th century (1870 or so). These Kashmir shawl were a luxury textile that was largely limited to the royal courts of India, the Middle East, Russia, the UK and Europe and later to the wealthy landed class of India and the West. There were many reasons for that. The foremost reason, of course, was the extraordinarily fine fiber (pashmina) that these were made from, giving them a softness and drape that surpasses the finest silks of the world. Second, the Kani weaving technique, which is unique to Kashmir and required years of training and skill, allowed the weaver to create highly complex patterns that would be near-impossible to be executed on a geometrical loom.

Finally, the knowledge and techniques of several highly skilled craftsmen had to align in perfect harmony to create these

wonders. These include the artist who envisioned and painted the design, the person who converted the design into a talim from which the weaver could weave, the dyer whose dyes were so rich that 250 years later, they still retain their brilliance, the darners who joined several pieces together to make a shawl without letting the slightest hint of the seam show on the face of the shawl, the Purzagur who finished the shawl and the washerman who washed the shawls without the aid of chemicals and softeners - all of which culminated in a textile that fascinated the likes of King Akbar, the Deccan emperors in India and the wife of Napoleon and members of royal courts across Europe.

I must add here that I am referring to the shawls that were made in the 1800s, which are near-impossible to reproduce in

today's business and social environment, despite claims to the contrary

alternatives. This endeavor is a pivotal step towards the revival of the originality, quality, craftsmanship, and sincerity that once epitomized the artistic legacy of Kashmir, ensuring its legacy continues to flourish in the modern world.

### WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS WITH REGARD TO YOUR COLLECTION?

The endeavor to educate individuals about the Kashmir (Cashmere) shawl and its rich history is not merely a quest for knowledge but a journey into the intricate tapestry of human narratives interwoven with threads of tradition and craftsmanship. It aspires to elevate the Kashmir shawl from its understated status to its rightful place among the world's most exquisite textiles, rekindling appreciation for its unparalleled beauty and artistry. In doing so, it seeks to not only showcase the splendor of Kashmiri art but also to foster a renewed sense of pride and inspiration among the present generations in Kashmir, India, encouraging them to explore these art forms as viable career

options. This endeavor is a pivotal step towards the revival of the originality, quality, craftsmanship, and sincerity that once epitomized the artistic legacy of Kashmir, ensuring its legacy continues to flourish in the modern world.

Unluckily, in Kashmir or in other parts of India, I have not received any support or even encouragement to share my collection. After all, the art belongs to this country and my fellow countrymen, should have the first privilege to see and admire their heritage. And this is not for lack of trying. I have made several attempts to reach the right authorities in Kashmir and also reached out to institutions in other cities including the National Museum in New Delhi but they have shown little interest or support.

It has been very disheartening but my struggles have made me even more determined to realize my vision. But, as Ghalib, ever so eloquently said-

*Paatey nahin jab rah to chadd jaate hain naaley*

*Rukti hai meri ta-ba to hoti ha raiwan aur*

HOW DO YOU RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR INITIATIVE? ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MUSEUMS, NGOS OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS

I am not affiliated with any organization or institution and I do not receive any funding from any individual or organization or institution. The concept, collection, research, study and preservation of my collection is all my own. In fact, on more than one occasion, when I travel to a museum or other such institution to deliver a lecture on my collection, I have paid for my own travel and living expenses.

WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE OF KASHMIRI ART FORMS, ESPECIALLY KASHMIRI SHAWLS?

I am fighting a one-man-war to elevate the status of the Kashmir shawls of the 19th century and before, to its rightful place, as one of the finest, if not the finest textile of the world. And this is not based on an emotional assessment but is firmly rooted on years of research and objective analysis. Further, this was no accident. Rather, it was the culmination of artistic and technical excellence achieved over centuries and practiced with a deep sense of relevance by a people who did not compromise the excellence of their skills, despite the suffering they endured, ironically, for these very qualities.

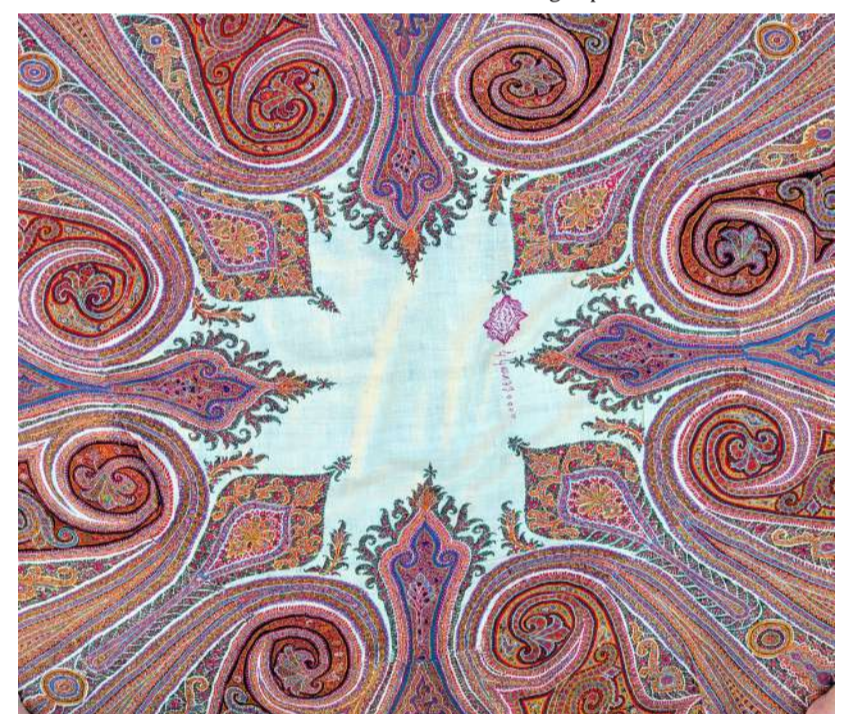
The other, even more important message that I want to convey to the world is that the story of India (and of other colonies of UK and Europe), has mostly, if not always, been told by the colonists. Same is largely true of its history and the arts. This trend continues to this day where most of the 'experts' on Kashmir shawls are European, American or English - with a few exceptions. I am truly grateful to them, because it is only due to their efforts and hard work that I was able to learn about the history of my own heritage. But I feel that it is time that the world also hears the story of the arts and culture of former colonies from the perspective of the so-called 'natives'. It's time to give them a voice and let them tell their own stories, especially if they have demonstrated their knowledge and experience in the field.

AS THE SON OF A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN IN THE KASHMIRI ART INDUSTRY, HOW DO YOU NAVIGATE ADVOCATING AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF ARTISANS WHILE STILL HONORING YOUR FAMILY'S LEGACY?

The only way to answer this question is to be honest and avoid the exaggerated deification of those who are no longer in this world. While I am very proud of my father's legacy and humanity and consider myself fortunate that I imbibed some of his values, I also recognize that he was part of the business system that existed at his time. He paid the craftsmen well and dealt with them with fairness and honesty but the system was such that the financial advantages leaned heavily in favor of the businessman versus the craftsman.

I recall a conversa-

**The story of India (and of other colonies), has mostly, if not always, been told by the colonists. This trend continues to this day where most of the 'experts' on Kashmir shawls are European, American or English - with a few exceptions. I am truly grateful to them, because it is only due to their efforts and hard work that I was able to learn about the history of my own heritage. But I feel that it is time that the world also hears the story of the arts and culture of former colonies from the perspective of the so-called 'natives'**



portantly, I did so on my own terms. I don't work for anyone. I am a freelance business consultant and help large healthcare and government organizations with challenging projects and

cluding sizable 6-foot privacy screens. Complementing these tangible artifacts are Kashmiri landscape watercolors, painted by local artisans and English artists from the late 1800s to the



## Warmer Winters

reason for the increasing frequency of avalanches," Romshoo said.

He further pointed out that areas like J&K and Ladakh have witnessed numerous casualties, both civilian and military, due to avalanches in recent times.

Last year in February, two Polish nationals died and 19 others were rescued after a group of tourists were hit by a massive avalanche at Gulmarg. On January 29, 2023 a woman and a teenage girl were killed after they came under an avalanche in the Kargil district of Ladakh.

While research specifically examining changes in avalanche patterns in Kashmir remains limited, broader global studies say that the repercussions of these changes are manifold and varied, from retreating glaciers to an increase in the frequency and intensity of snow avalanches.

The third pole, in May last year reported that less and wetter snow leads to more avalanches in the Himalayas. "When snow accumulates to form snowpack in the Himalayas, this creates a natural 'glue' that prevents fresh snow from sliding off the mountain slopes in an avalanche. A decrease in snow in the region has reduced this 'glue' leading to an overall increase in the frequency of avalanches," the report quoted a researcher.

Scientists have established that temperature and precipitation patterns in the Indian Himalayas have changed significantly over the past 100 years. With its steep mountain slopes, the Himalayan region is naturally avalanche-prone.

Studies suggest that climate change is a major driver of permafrost degradation. Permafrost is the ground that remains frozen for a longer time, sometimes up to 2 years. Warmer air temperatures would mean less winter season snow cover insulating the ground. This exposes permafrost to more heat transfer. As permafrost thaws, it causes destabilization of steep mountain slopes and terrain.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, December recorded an unprecedented 79 percent deficit of rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir and January 2024 was one of the driest and warmest January in the last 43 years for most of the stations of Kashmir.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Dr Parvaiz Ahmed Head of Department, Geography and Disaster Management also said that due to global warming, melted snow penetrates deep within, causing the mountain slope to move rapidly.

"Under climate change, we observe more avalanches. Global warming results in more snow melting, initiating movements that can lead to disastrous avalanches," Dr. Parvaiz said.

He said that the impact of global warming is evident in Kashmir, with mean minimum and mean maximum temperatures increasing over the decades and additionally, there is a decrease in precipitation, both in terms of rainfall and snowfall.

"Global warming and climate change has changed the way it used to snow," he said, adding, "The biggest impact is seen in the form of shorter winters and early springs. The seasonal shift affects snowfall, reducing its sustenance and freezing potential. Glaciers are receding, and the snow no longer transforms into ice masses due to early melting."

He added that decades back, it used to be snowfall even in the months of March April, in higher reaches it used to be huge. When snowfall used to take place in upper reaches it used to sustain and freeze. Now all that has changed.

While acknowledging the challenge of long-term avalanche prediction, Dr. Romshoo emphasized the feasibility of short-term forecasting. He explained that while it's difficult to predict avalanches over extended periods, forecasting for shorter timeframes, ranging from days to weeks, is possible with advancements in avalanche and weather forecasting technologies.

"In long term, the prediction of avalanches is uncertain. The longer the time period the uncertainty of forecasting the avalanches increases. Overall, it has been seen that there is an increase in frequency of avalanches," Romshoo said.

As climate change continues to influence weather patterns in Kashmir, experts stress the urgency of research and preparedness to address the growing risks associated with avalanches in the region.

Dr. Ahmed emphasized the need for Early Warning Systems (EWS) to mitigate the risk of avalanches.

"Developing advanced EWS involving ground sensors sensitive to environmental changes is crucial. Placing these systems in hazardous regions can provide early warnings about avalanche initiation, ultimately saving lives."

## Dream of One

strength to the future

generations to feel proud of the country's values.

Speaking on the last day of Parliament's Budget session, he said the last five years were a period of reform, perform and transform with the country moving towards "big changes" at a fast pace.

In a swipe at the opposition which has constantly targeted the BJP over the temple issue, he said, "This is true that not everyone has the capacity for these things. Some people are brave to face it while others run away from the battlefield. But for the future record, the speeches that were made today have sensitivity, resolve and sympathy... It also takes forward the mantra of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'."

He added, "The country has moved towards big changes at a fast pace and all members of the House made an important contribution. Such works were completed for which people had waited for centuries," he said.

He noted that several other important decisions like the criminalisation of instant triple talaq were taken as well.

"Several challenges were met and the country was given an appropriate direction. We can say with satisfaction that the work for which many generations waited for centuries was accomplished in the 17th Lok Sabha," Modi said.

"These five years have been of reform, perform and transform. It is rare that we reform, perform and also see transformation. The country will keep blessing the 17th Lok Sabha," he said.

The government has been a source of reassurance for people living on the margins of society, he said, highlighting the measures taken to empower the transgender community. A transgender person was also given Padma award, he added.

India got the presidency of G20 during this period and every state presented the country's strength and its identity in front of the world, he said.

"We can proudly say that this country might have lived under 'penal code' for 75 years but now we live under 'Nyay Samhita'," the prime minister said in reference to the new criminal laws which replaced British era acts.

Noting that the next Lok Sabha polls, expected in April-May, are not far away, he said it might make some people apprehensive but it is an essential feature of democracy. He expressed confidence that the upcoming elections will enhance the glory of Indian democracy.

The prime minister thanked MPs and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

"You (Birla) always had a smile on your face no matter what happens. You led this House in a balanced and impartial manner and I laud you for it. There were times of anger and accusations but you handled these situations with patience and ran the house wisely," Modi said, praising Birla.

Referring to the Covid pandemic, Modi said that during the last five years, the "biggest crisis of the century" was seen, and Birla made arrangements so that parliamentary work is not hampered while ensuring the dignity of the House.

The country's work was not allowed to stop, Modi said, praising parliamentarians for relinquishing their annual constituency development fund and 30 per cent of their salary during the pandemic. He also praised the Speaker for removing subsidized canteen facilities for the MPs as it often drew criticism in different parts of the country.

There used to be talk of the need for having a new building in earlier times but the decision of the speaker made this a reality during the 17th Lok Sabha.

He said the 17th Lok Sabha saw 97 per cent productivity.

"We are moving towards the end of the 17th Lok Sabha and we resolve that productivity should ensure 100 per cent in the 18th Lok Sabha," Modi said.

He also hailed the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill and the criminalisation of instant triple talaq.

He hailed the Speaker's decision to make the Sengol, a sceptre symbolising ancient traditions, a part of the annual ceremony and said that it will connect future generations with the moment when India achieved independence while being a source of inspiration.

Throwing light on the significance of the next 25 years for the nation, he said the country has resolved to accomplish its dreams and he can sense it.

He said the passage of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act has safeguarded the data of the present generation and given it a tool to make its future.

He said thousands of cumbersome compliances were removed in the last five years to make the lives of common citizens easier. Reiterating his belief in "minimum government and maximum governance", he said the capabilities of any democracy can be maximized by ensuring minimum government intervention in citizen's lives.

## BJP Will Win 370 LS

Constitution, which gave a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. So we believe that the people of the country will bless the BJP with 370 seats and the NDA with over 400 seats," Shah said at the ET NOW Global Business Summit 2024.

Asked about the possibility of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), headed by Jayant Choudhary, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and some other regional parties joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the home minister said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) "believes in family planning but not in politics", giving an indication that more parties may join the ruling coalition.

When pressed further on the SAD, he said, "Talks are going on but nothing has been finalised."

Shah said the 2024 polls will not be an election between the NDA and the INDIA opposition bloc, but between development and those who give mere slogans.

Asked about the Bharat Jodo Yatra of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said the the Nehru-Gandhi scion has no right to go ahead with such a march as his party was responsible for the country's partition in 1947.

On the timing of a white paper tabled by the government in Parliament, Shah said it was necessary as the country has full right to know what mess the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) left behind when it lost power in 2014.

"At that time (2014), the economy was in a bad shape. There were scams everywhere. Foreign investment was not coming. Had we taken out a white paper at that time, it would have given a wrong message to the world."

"But after 10 years, our government has revived the economy, brought foreign investment and there is no corruption at all. So it is the right time to publish the white paper," he said.

On the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the home minister said the people of the country believed for 500-550 years that the temple should be built at the place where Lord Ram was born.

"However, due to the politics of appeasement and citing law and order, the construction of the Ram temple was not allowed," he said.

On the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Shah said the law, enacted in 2019, will be implemented before the Lok Sabha polls after issuing the rules in this regard.

"Our Muslim brothers are being misled and instigated (against the CAA). The CAA is only meant to give citizenship to those who came to India after facing persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. It is not for snatching anyone's Indian citizenship," he said.

On a Uniform Civil Code, Shah said it is a constitutional agenda, signed by the country's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and others.

"But the Congress had ignored it due to appeasement. The enforcement of the UCC in Uttarakhand is a social change. It will be discussed on all forums and face legal scrutiny. A secular country cannot have religion-based civil codes," he said

## 'Future Ready'

Syama Prasad Mookerjee, devotion of others and the strong political will of Modi who overcame a challenge as big as the Himalayas and made J-K a permanent part of India, which is historic," the Lt Governor said.

He also referred to a couple of speeches of former prime minister

Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament.

Vajpayee aptly highlighted the pain of the people by raising genuine points that it is a shame that even a prime minister has no power to buy a piece of land in Jammu and Kashmir or the Parliament has no mandate to seek accounts of the money pumped into Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said.

He said that parliament was also informed about the thousands of people going across the border for "guerilla training". "It was an irony that those helping Pakistan were being rewarded in J-K while pro-India people faced disrespect," Sinha said.

The Lt Governor said the time has changed as his administration restored the rule of law and ensured fast-paced development with money from the central government spent in a transparent manner.

"Now, we do not hear the sounds of gunfire and bombs in the (Kashmir) Valley, which has been replaced by the noise of development, which has registered 10 times increase compared to the past," he said.

Sinha said while stone pelting and strikes at the behest of Pakistan has become history, today's reality is that the youth are holding the tricolour with pride.

Cinema halls were reopened in the Valley after 30 years and markets no longer wear a deserted look, the Lt Governor said.

He said that as many as 154 government employees were removed from service after they were found involved in terror activities. Action against such people will continue, he asserted.

Holding Article 370 responsible for terrorism and separatism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Lt Governor took a dig at previous governments and accused them of pushing Jammu and Kashmir into turmoil.

"They are talking big about democracy and development but they are the ones who have snatched the rights of the youth," he said, without naming any group or party.

He said as many as 92,565 projects were completed during the last financial year compared to the highest of 9,229 projects in a financial year a few years back.

"Before formulation of a new industrial policy in 2021, an investment of just Rs 14,000 crore was made in the private sector in J-K. We have got Rs 90,000 crore investment proposals and we are making efforts to ensure that these proposals are implemented on the ground within a year," he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah's appeal to industrialists to invest in Jammu and Kashmir at a summit in Gujarat has also seen positive result as many businessmen have come forward with their proposals to invest in J-K which is basically an investment in integration of the UT with rest of the country, Sinha said.

In the area of e-governance service delivery, the Lt Governor said J-K has achieved a significant milestone by providing over 1,028 services in online mode surpassing Madhya Pradesh at the top of the list in the country.

The back to village programme of the government to reach out to people at their doorsteps is a grand success with over 92,000 youths provided necessary support, including finance for self-employment compared to 75,000 last year, he said.

In addition, seven lakh women were linked to self-help groups in J-K where Rs 20 lakh e-transactions are happening on a daily basis.

## NIA Carries Out

Srinagar, three in Budgam, two in Kulgam, one in Anantnag, and four in Jammu. "The investigations in the case, registered on February 5, 2021, have so far revealed that Jel and its members have continued to promote terrorist and secessionist activities in J&K even after the outfit was proscribed under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in February 2019," the spokesperson said.

The person added, "Operatives of the banned organisation had been collecting funds through donations from within India and abroad."

The NIA said the funds were collected mainly in the form of 'Zakat, Mowda and Bait-ul-Mal', purported to promote charity and other welfare activities, such as health and education, but were instead being used for carrying out violent and secessionist

activities.

It was further found that the funds raised by Jel were also being channelled to other proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) through well organised networks of Jel cadres, the spokesperson said.

The official said Jel was also engaged in inciting impressionable youth and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to further its secessionist activities.

NIA had earlier chargesheeted four accused in the case, in which investigation is still on, the spokesperson said.

## JKP Offers Rewards

ensuring that the process is streamlined and efficient.

The official further added that together, we can make a difference and create a brighter and safer future for Jammu and Kashmir

## PM Modi to Visit

prime minister's seventh visit to the UAE since 2015, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday, announcing the trip.

ADVERTISEMENTS  
Modi and Al Nahyan will discuss ways to further deepen, expand and strengthen the strategic partnership between the countries and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, it said.

"The prime minister will also meet with Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the vice president, prime minister and defence minister of the UAE," the MEA said.

"At his invitation, the prime minister will participate in the World Government Summit 2024 to be held in Dubai as the guest of honour and deliver a special keynote address at the summit," the MEA said in a statement.

It said Modi will also inaugurate the BAPS Mandir, the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, adding he will also be addressing the Indian community in the UAE at an event in Zayed Sports City.

"India and UAE enjoy warm, close and multi-faceted relations underpinned by strong political, cultural and economic linkages," the MEA said.

Following the landmark visit of Modi to UAE in August 2015, bilateral relations between the two countries were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Both countries signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in February 2022 and a Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System in July 2023 to promote the use of Indian Rupee and AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) for cross-border transactions.

The two countries are among each other's top trading partners with a bilateral trade of about USD 85 billion in 2022-23, according to official data.

The UAE is also among the top four investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments in 2022-23.

"About 3.5 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in the UAE. Their positive and well-appreciated contribution in the development of their host country has been an important anchor of our excellent bilateral engagement," the MEA said.

## Pakistan: Elections

If some chose to side with Khan's political rivals, there would be no chance of the PTI returning to power.

"Imran Khan will be handling the party matters from jail. Khan's party will form a government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and will likely be in opposition in the National Assembly. Despite his party gaining a considerable number of seats, his legal cases will reach a logical conclusion," Qamar Cheema, a political analyst in Islamabad, told DW.

Khan was barred from standing in the elections. He has been sentenced for many years in multiple cases related to corruption and leaking state secrets.

More instability ahead?  
Many Pakistanis hoped that the February 8 elections would end the country's protracted political and economic turmoil. However, as no party has gained a simple majority in parliament, the bitter conflict between Khan and Sharif is unlikely to cease in

the short term.

Pakistan is reeling from a grave financial crisis, high inflation, unemployment and environmental catastrophes, with many Pakistanis struggling to make ends meet and disillusioned by political leaders.

Saira Khan, a schoolteacher in Islamabad, said, "It doesn't matter who comes to power."

"Anybody who comes to power needs to bring political stability to the country, and it is not possible without developing trust among the public. So, elections are important, but I don't think it will make much difference," Khan told DW.

According to Maliha Lodhi, Pakistan's former representative to the United Nations, "Voters have delivered a split mandate."

"This is not good news for political stability," she added. "With no party able to secure an overall majority, the government formation will likely be a difficult affair."

Khan's supporters left frustrated. At the heart of Thursday's polls was a popular ex-premier who is challenging the military generals' iron grip on power.

In 2018, Khan's opponents had accused the military establishment of paving his path to office. But by the time an April 2022 no-confidence vote saw Khan ousted from the government, there was growing tension between him and the generals. Khan blamed the military — which has ruled Pakistan collectively for over three decades — for orchestrating the vote.

Khan also alleged that the US colluded with the military and his rival political parties to remove him from the premiership, a claim Washington has categorically denied.

After a yearlong confrontation with the military, Khan's supporters took to the streets across the country to protest his arrest. The protests turned violent. Some rioters began attacking military facilities and rampaging through army residential areas.

In the months following the riots, authorities started trying suspected protesters, including PTI members, in military courts. Doves of PTI senior and mid-level party officials announced their resignations and declared their backing for the military.

Khan's supporters hoped a "sympathy vote" for their imprisoned leader would see the PTI sweep the Thursday polls. It did not happen, and as the election commission delayed announcing election results, PTI officials and supporters cried foul and accused the authorities of rigging the vote in Sharif's favor.

Some PTI supporters told DW in Karachi that their party would have won an absolute majority had the election body not "changed results" overnight. Authorities reject these accusations as baseless.

Challenges for the next administration

Whoever forms the next government will face huge challenges. The most pressing of these is fixing the economy. The failure to bring down inflation and increase employment opportunities will likely make it unpopular.

Pakistan heavily depends on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) bailout packages. The next IMF-Pakistan negotiations are scheduled to take place after the new government takes charge. The financial body's tough terms will force the next premier to increase taxes and undertake reforms that will likely further burden the public.

"If a weak coalition government emerges, it won't be able to launch the economic reforms that are urgently needed to put the country back on the trajectory of growth and investment," Lodhi underlined.

Another substantial challenge for the next government will be dealing with a spike in violent attacks along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan and Iran. The country's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have seen a rise in militant attacks in the past few months. To tackle this threat, the next premier may need to empower the security forces and launch a military operation in these areas.

The current political scenario is far from conducive for the next premier to carry out these measures.

## Aes Kaeshir

Kashmir Observer in collaboration with King's College London Radio brings you a series of Podcasts on Life and Times of Kashmiri Diaspora in the West.



KO PODCAST

KASHMIR OBSERVER

KING'S College LONDON

## DC Kupwara Reviews Revenue Matters In Officers Meeting

KO NEWS SERVICE

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Saturday chaired a Revenue Officers meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the revenue matters.

At the outset, ACR Kupwara, Irfan Bahadur appraised the chair, regarding functioning of the revenue department and the performance of the officers through a detailed PowerPoint presentation.

The DC reviewed all agenda points including Digitization of Jamabandies, their Quality Check, submission of quality check certificates by Tehsildars, digitization of cadastral maps and their Geo-referencing, verification of scanned records, usage of land retrieved, identification of land patches under land grants rules.

DC also reviewed generation and distribution of pass books both physically and electronically, Usage of CUG BSNL SIMs allotted to Patwaris and Girdawars, status of revenue court cases, Migrant Grievances Portal, relief cases of Fire incidents, status of PSGA and E-Service.

The DC while stressing for better service delivery, directed the officers and field functionaries for improving their performance and ensuring

sticking to the timeline. While reviewing the status of Jamabandies and quality check, DC directed Tehsildars and NTs to personally check the quality of Jamabandies.

DC directed the District Level team to check the quality of Jamabandies of Bomhama, Kupwara, Langate and Sogam.

While reviewing the schedule of reading of jamabandies, in public, village wise, DC directed Tehsildars to share the schedule for this activity with DIO, afresh, for wider publicity. DC set a deadline of 07 days for quality check of scanned records.

While reviewing the status of fencing of evacuated land, the Deputy Commissioner asked revenue Officers to send the proposal for fencing of evacuated land under convergence with MGNREGA.

While reviving the land grant rules, DC directed Tehsildars to identify state land patches at Nowgam, Rishwadi, Bomhama, Sogam, Kralpora and Teetwal. Tehsildars were directed to identify good patches of land and send the proposals accordingly.

DC sought details regarding CUG BSNL SIMs allotted to revenue Officers and officials and directed all the concerned not to switch off the CUG Numbers at any point of time.



PARTICIPANTS FROM VARIOUS states enroll in skiing courses offered by the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering (JIM) in Sonmarg. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Assembly Polls To Be Held Before September: BJP

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary and In-charge Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh on Saturday said that his party is in favour of early assembly polls in the Union Territory and that the polls will be held before September this year.

Talking to media persons, Chugh, as per the news agency, said that the elections have to be announced by the election commission itself, and it

is true that the polls will be held before September 2024, but BJP is in the favour of early elections here.

In the last over four years, he said that the efforts have been made to ensure progress and peace in Jammu and Kashmir. "From August 2019 to till date, every minute and second under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been dedicated to ensure peace, progress and development in J&K. All the benefits being given to the people from

outside are being ensured to the people in the UT as well," he said.

He further said that the people belonging to ST and SC communities have been empowered without touching their reservations.

Chugh also added that those who were being pushed to the wall are getting benefits now and the atrocities being committed on three families—Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis, have been ended under PM Modi leadership—(KNO)

## JU to Host JK Women Science Congress 2024



KO NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** University of Jammu, in collaboration with J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council (Department of Science and Technology), Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, is hosting JK Women Science Congress-2024, from February 11th to 13th, 2024.

Announcing this during a Curtain Raiser Press Conference, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof Umesh Rai said the event is aimed at celebrating and showcasing women's outstanding contributions in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Aligned with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, recognized by the United Nations General Assembly on February 11th, 2015, this Congress will serve as a pivotal platform to emphasize gender parity in science and inspire the next generation of women in STEM, he added.

Prof Umesh Rai, along with Prof Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs and Convener of the event, Prof Jyoti Vakhlu, Co-convener, Prof. Monika Chadha, Convener Press, and Prof. Sarika Manhas, said that Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor JKUT and Chancellor, University of Jammu Shri Manoj Sinha will inaugurate the JK

Women Science Congress 2024 on Feb 11, 2024 while Prof. Vibha Tandon, Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata, will be the guest of honor.

During the media interaction, Prof. Rai lauded the organizers for aligning the congress with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. He highlighted the efforts of the Indian Science Congress and the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, in promoting fellowships for women scientists.

Emphasizing the goal of dissolving boundaries, he expressed the congress's objective to encourage collaboration among young researchers across subjects and institutions for idea-sharing and interdisciplinary exploration. Prof. Rai envisions the participants to achieve great heights in STEM and hoped they would be role models for young girls pursuing the study of science.

The JK Women Science Congress-2024 aims to facilitate meaningful interactions between young researchers and role models, with a particular emphasis on promoting girls in the scientific community, he said and acknowledged the active support and contribution of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of J&K in organizing this event.

## DC Budgam Inspects Status Of Computerization Of PACS



KO NEWS SERVICE

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Saturday visited various Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and inspected computerization and availability of computer hardware given to the PACS.

Among other PACS, the DC also inspected MPSC Bemina, MPSC Sheikhpura, and MPSC Budgam and reviewed their functioning as Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the district.

Later, the DC also interacted with a gathering of PACS members at an awareness programme at Community Hall Budgam and encouraged them for coordinating and tying up with National level and established cooperatives.

Addressing the members of the PACS, the DC exhorted the

members to create model PACS that can serve as examples for other cooperatives in the district.

He also emphasised on learning from leading cooperatives in India like Amul, the largest milk producer in the world.

He assured every possible assistance to the PACS from the side of district administration and urged them to avail the various incentives of the Cooperative Department such as computerization of PACS, establishment of Jan Aushadi Kendras etc.

DC Budgam said that our cooperative societies must work with great energy and enthusiasm and compete as well as coordinate with National level societies.

The DC said that the completion of phase-1 computerization of all the 54 PACS in Budgam is a moment of achievement for the district as all our 54 PACS

are being mapped and connected with other 63000 PACS of our country.

DC urged local enterprises to use innovative and creative vision to strengthen their Cooperatives and explore vast opportunities in Dairy, Agriculture and other fields for better prospects in the district.

He also appealed to members of PACS to explore expertise from counterparts in other states and enhance their skills and work execution during awareness programmes.

The members were also addressed by the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Budgam, Abida Nabi, who briefed them about the various initiatives of the Cooperative Department like Computerization of PACS, establishment of Jan Aushadi Kendras, functioning of PACS as CSCS etc.

## DC Kulgam Urges Officials: Ensure Timely Work Completion

KO NEWS SERVICE

**KULGAM:** Continuing the endeavour to reach out to people and to provide governance at doorsteps of people, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Saturday visited Qaimoo where he held public grievances redressal camp. The programme witnessed

of Solar lights from Yaripora stop to Ziyarat Shareef Qaimoo.

Civil society members from Qaimoo demanded establishment of ITI College, veterinary Centre, Treasury office, upgradation of girls high school and projected various other demands.

People also demanded for generation of Postal Pincode for the area and also demanded



overwhelming response of people from Redwani, Qaimoo, Hawoora Wanpora, Ashmuji and other villages who apprised the DC about their issue and grievances for early redressal.

Delegation from Redwani demanded establishment of fire services station, Widening of Kawaki Bazar Road, installation

posting of gynecologists in local hospital.

Auqaf Committee members, Traders Association also participated in this grievance redressal camp and put forth redressal and demands of the area. Delegation of Ashmuji demanded development and extension of Playfield, upgradation of school at Cheki Ashmuji.

## Kupwara Village Aghast At Unmaintained Road To Polytechnic College

Agencies

**KUPWARA:** Residents of Karihama in north Kashmir's Kupwara district have expressed resentment against the authorities for "poor maintenance" of the road leading to their area and the Polytechnic College.

Speaking to the news agency, aggrieved residents said they face many challenges by the slippery and unmaintained road.

Residents said elderly people and patients in particular are struggling to pass through the hazardous road conditions, which have become a safety concern for everyone. They said despite repeated pleas to the concerned authorities, particularly the R&B Department, no concrete step was taken to maintain the road.

"We have reached out to the authorities multiple times and urged them to address the road's mainte-

nance issues. However, apart from assurances, no concrete action has been taken thus far. We have also stressed the need for widening the road to facilitate the general public," said Altaf Ahmad, a local.

Residents said two important institutions including Polytechnic College and Higher Secondary School are functioning there.

They said the drainage facilities are exacerbating the hardships for patients, elderly and students. Vehicles struggle to ply on the slippery road surface, especially during inclement weather conditions such as rain and snow, they added.

A student from the Polytechnic College, wishing anonymity, stressed the need for urgent maintenance of the road. "We need to attend college regularly and appear for exams without interruption. However, this road is full of challenges with slippery conditions," he said.

## Pulwama Residents Demand Potable Water

Agencies

**PULWAMA:** Residents of Sonzwatter village in Pulwama district have demanded potable water in the area.

The residents of the area told the news agency that the area has been facing a water crisis for a long time now but no steps are being taken in this regard.

They said that since years the residents of the area have been facing inconvenience due to unavailability of potable water in the area.



Muzaffar Ahmed, a local, said that they have been consuming contaminated water for years as they don't have access to potable water yet.

He said that the government on the one hand is putting emphasis on sanitation while on the other hand the government has failed in providing potable water to people.

Mohammad Shafi, another local said that the government had earlier started a water pump but that was later left midway giving locals a very tough time.

Locals said that they have brought this issue in notice of higher ups several times but to no avail. Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department Pulwama Nisar Ahmad told news agency Kashmir News Observer KNO that they had explored a tube well in the area but chemical contamination was found in it due to which they are unable to provide water to the area.

He said that Deputy Commissioner Pulwama is providing funds under capex funds in the coming financial year and residents will very soon get potable water—(KNO)

### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS.

Subject:- Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar Births and Deaths (Executive Officer Municipal committee Pattan) has submitted Case file pertaining to Birth of Adnan Ashiq Tantary S/o Mohd Ashiq Tantary R/o Tantary Pora Palhallan Tehsil Pattan vide No. MC/Ptn/B&D/2271 Dated: 05/02/2024 with verified the Date of Birth as 17-08-2020 as per the report of Govt. Sub. District Hospital Pattan. In this connection if any body having any objection to the issuance of the delayed order shall report this office within weeks time, after that no objections shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

از نیابت وائیکورلہ پورہ  
با اہلاس نائب تحصیلدار ایزیکورلہ پورہ  
مضمون کاغذات درخواست منیاب: عرفان بشیر تیلی ولد بشیر احمد تیلی ساکنہ موضع یال  
حال ملک تحصیل یال نسبت اجرائی Migration Certificate  
تج سائل خود

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول Migration Certificate دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا جبکہ نسبت پواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا بروئے رپورٹ عرفان بشیر تیلی از دو سال موضع یال تحصیل کتر سے ترک سکونت کر کے در موضع ملک پورہ تحصیل یال بطور خانہ داماد چلا گیا ہے سائل مذکورہ Migration Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ پورا مندرجہ ذرا میں پیش کرے معیاد گرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا  
نائب تحصیلدار fko

## Office of the Principal GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE KANGAN-191202 (J&K)

Website: [www.gdckangan.edu.in](http://www.gdckangan.edu.in) Ph: No. +91-9419025681 Email: [principalgdckangan1@yahoo.com](mailto:principalgdckangan1@yahoo.com)  
No: GDC/KGN/24/0148 Dated: 10-02-2024

### TENDER NOTICE FOR COLLEGE CANTEN

Sealed Tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs.2/- attached with Demand Draft of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two thousand only-refundable) pledged in favour of Principal, Government Degree College, Kangan are invited from the persons having specialization in running canteen registered with valid municipal or any other authorized competent body which shall reach to this office within ten working days from the publication of this notice. The tenders must clearly mention/ quote the rates/ quantity/quality and weightage of the food/beverage and other items, demanded and approved by the College Canteen Committee.

The items to be supplied/ made available in the College canteen includes:  
1. Lipton Tea 2. Samosas 3. Butter Toast 4. Softy (Ice-Cream) 5. Simple Bread (Baked) 6. Omelette 7. Fried Rice 8. Biryani 9. Chola Puri 10. Pakodas

The fixed annual rent of the canteen is Rs.15000/- (Fifteen thousand only). However, the successful bidder has to deposit Rs. 15000/- (fifteen thousand only) in advance.

The other terms and conditions which the successful bidder has to fulfil at any cost include:

- The contract shall remain valid for one year only and could be extended if the performance of the bidder is found satisfactory and also in case of unavoidable circumstances.
- There will be no compromise on the quality of food items which will be frequently checked by the College Canteen Committee.
- Any food item/ other items banned/ prohibited by Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSAAI) are strictly banned for sale and consumption in the College.
- The furniture and other accessories/ requirements for running the college canteen are to be arranged and managed by the bidder of his own.
- Maintenance of strict discipline in and around the college canteen shall be the sole responsibility of canteen runner/bidder.
- No outsider except the helpers/workers approved by the College Canteen Committee shall be allowed to work in and around College canteen.
- The college shall bear no responsibility for any debt/borrowings to any individual (Student or Employee) by the canteen owner.
- The canteen runner shall strictly adhere to the cleanliness standards set for running College canteen which will be regularly monitored/ checked by the College Canteen Committee.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without citing any reason thereof.
- In the interest of administration, the College Canteen Committee reserves the right to cancel the contract at any time if necessary.

DIPK-16228-23  
Dt: 10/02/2024  
Sd/-  
PRINCIPAL

## Sports Council Football Academy Wins AIFF Grassroots Award

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Sports Council's football academy "Sports Council Football Academy - J&K" the prestigious Best Grassroots Academy award at the AIFF Grassroots Awards.

"This recognition highlights the exceptional efforts and dedication of the academy in nurturing young talent and promoting grassroots football development in our region," the J&KSC said in a statement. "This academy is delivering national level footballers which is being recognised by All India Football Federation," it added.

Various Kashmiri footballers from the academy have represented the Indian national team at various youth levels, becoming integral parts to international championship-winning teams.

The J&K Football Association also announced its delight at the award.



"We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Ms. Nuzhat Gul, Secretary of the J&K Sports Council, for her visionary leadership and unwavering support in fostering a culture of excellence in

football," the FA said in a statement on Saturday.

"A special acknowledgment is also due to Majid Yousuf Dar, Javaid Ahmad, and all the coaches, staff, and officials associated with the SCFA for their tireless

efforts and commitment to the development of grassroots football," it added.

The award will be presented by former JKFA coordinator and chairman Wasim Aslam, representing AIFF, next week.

## Div Com Finalises Arrangements For Winter Games In Gulmarg



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Saturday chaired a meeting to finalise the arrangements for the second leg of the 4th Edition of Khelo India National Winter Games which shall commence from February 21 at Gulmarg.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Director Srinagar Airport Authority, CEO Gulmarg, RTO Kashmir, Addl Secretary AACL, Joint

Director Information Kashmir, SSP Baramulla and officers of line departments.

Addressing the officers, Div Com directed concerned to make proper arrangements for the warm reception of participants at the Srinagar Airport amid the cultural presentations and performances.

He instructed for direct transportation of participants from Airport to Gulmarg under proper ROP.

Div Com directed all HoDs to identify accommodation for their respective staff members whose services are required for smooth conduct of the na-

tional event.

Similarly, for the publicity of the event, Div Com enjoined on Secretary Sports Council to give wide publicity of 4th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games through hoardings from Srinagar Airport to the main venue.

In view of snowfall, Div Com directed RTO Kashmir and Traffic Police to ensure that transporters must have anti-skid chains for their vehicles.

Director health Services of Kashmir was instructed to ensure availability of expert medical & paramedics staff at Gulmarg and Srinagar Air-

port besides ensure availability of only approved medicines for players.

Also, PDD and PHE were directed to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water respectively besides availability of field staff.

SMC was told to conduct cleanliness drive from Airport to Narbal while ULB was directed to ensure clean roads beyond the Narbal to Gulmarg.

CEO, GDA was directed to ensure availability of internet services by vendors for live broadcast of Khelo India events and operation of Ski lift for high altitude games.

## Virat Kohli Opts Out Of Remainder Of Test Series Against England

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Star batter Virat Kohli has pulled out of the remainder of the Test series against England for personal reasons, the BCCI confirmed on Saturday, ending speculation around premier player's availability for the high-profile contest.

Kohli had missed the first two Tests and that he could be unavailable for the remaining three matches was reported by PTI on February 3.

"Virat Kohli will remain unavailable for selection for the remainder of the series due to personal reasons. The Board fully respects and supports Mr. Kohli's decision," the BCCI said in a release.

**KOHLI IS CURRENTLY ABROAD FOR PRESSING PERSONAL FAMILY MATTER.**

The series is locked 1-1 with India bouncing back with win the second Test in Vizag after the visitors took the series-opener in Hyderabad.

The third match is scheduled to start from February 15 in Rajkot.

That Kohli will be unavailable due to serious personal reasons was well-

known but BCCI brass wanted to check one final time if it could avail his services for the final Test in Dharamsala from March 7-11.

"The selection committee always knew that Virat won't be available for the series and accordingly the contingency plan was kept ready. Everyone in BCCI wants Virat to fulfil his family commitments and then come back with a free mind as and when he deems fit," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

**KL RAHUL IS FULLY FIT AND JADEJA IS GETTING THERE**

The national selection committee included senior players Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul in the squad but their inclusion will be subject to clearance by the BCCI's medical team.

Jadeja had injured his hamstring during the opening Test while Rahul had a right quadricep niggle. Jadeja (87) and Rahul (86) were the top two scorers in Hyderabad.

"Rahul is already fit and ready to come back in the playing eleven. He



had a bit of tightness in his quadriceps and the medical team didn't want it to get aggravated. In case of Jadeja, it is a strain and he is getting better. There are still five days to go before the game and if he shapes up well, nothing like it,"

the source said.

If both Rahul and Jadeja return to the playing eleven, then Rajat Patidar, who made his debut in Vizag, will have to make way for one of them as Shreyas Iyer has already been dropped.

**SHREYAS IYER'S INJURY MAKES IT EASY FOR SELECTORS**

Senior batter Iyer, who complained of groin and lower back stiffness has not been picked. However his medical update has not been provided by the BCCI. It is believed that Iyer would have been dropped in any case and his injury made the decision easier for selectors.

"If Shreyas was to be rested because of injury, the BCCI medical bulletin would have had an update. Since there are no updates, it can be concluded that he has got the axe," the source said.

Iyer has not scored a fifty for the longest time and his mode of dismissals on batting friendly Indian tracks is a cause of concern.

It is understood that Iyer might not be considered for the longer version of the game in near future as he has always been susceptible against short ball, a weakness.

India have one more big Test series in the current WTC cycle -- five games against Australia Down Under at the end of the year and Iyer, with his tech-

nique, unlikely to get the selectors' nod for games on tracks offering steep bounce.

**AKASH'S ALL-ROUND ABILITY GETS HIM NOD**

The only new face in the 17-man squad is Bengal speedster Akash Deep, who has been rewarded for his consistent show in first-class cricket and in recent India A vs England Lions Test series.

Left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar has been released with Jadeja coming back while Mohammed Siraj is back in the squad in place of Avesh Khan.

Akash is also a handy batter and bowls at least 10 yards quicker than his Bengal teammate Mukesh Kumar, who is lucky to retain his place. Akash is however unlikely to make his debut in Rajkot.

Currently, he is playing Ranji Trophy match against Kerala in Thumba and will link up with the squad only on February 13. Senior pacer Mohammed Siraj would be ahead in pecking order.



Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports trainers school interns in the art of Skiing at Sonmarg. The institute, established in 1983, is currently holding two skiing courses at Sonmarg: Basic Skiing Course No. 63 with 69 students and Intermediate Skiing Course with 23 students. Both courses have students from various parts of the country including far flung states like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, Tripura, etc. JIM and WS will kick off a Special Skiing Course at Pahalgam on February 15.

KO Photos/Abid Bhat