



## PM's Jammu Visit Rings With Calls For Development, Connectivity

- » Happy to see J&K Getting Free From Dynastic Rule
- » Govt is focussed on the poor, farmers, youth and Nari Shakti
- » Gulf Countries Keen To Invest In J&K
- » J&K no more in news for guns, bombs
- » Kashmir will be developed better than Switzerland
- » Have sought 370 seats for BJP, 400 for NDA

### Art 370 Was Biggest Hurdle In J&K's Development: PM Vows To Transform Kashmir As Tourism Hub

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir and was abrogated in 2019, was the biggest hurdle in the development of the erstwhile state. Modi also said that after the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir, which is now a Union Territory, has witnessed balanced development across regions and in all sectors.

Addressing a rally after launching

multiple projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore for Jammu and Kashmir and projects worth Rs 13,500 crore for other parts of the country, he also said the government has reached people's doorstep in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. "This is Modi's guarantee and this will continue," he said.

The prime minister said Article 370 was the main hurdle in bringing all-round development in Jammu and Kashmir and the BJP government has abrogated it.

"The government whose priority is the welfare of just one family | More on P6

**WE HAVE PLEDGED A DEVELOPED J&K** and I have full faith that we will make it more developed and fulfil all your dreams within the next few years...We will create such infrastructure in Kashmir that people will forget going to Switzerland."

'Modi Hai Tau Mumkin Hai'

### J&K Touching New Heights Under PM's Leadership: LG



**Says Hartal Calendars Replaced By School Calendars**

Agencies

**Jammu:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday while showering praises on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that gone are the days when hartal calendars would be issued from the neighbouring country as J&K is following the calendars issued by schools and Universities now.

Addressing the massive crowd at Moulana Azad Stadium Jammu, where PM Modi was on the stage, the LG said that J&K is touching new heights under the leadership of PM Modi and gone are the days, when people from the neighbouring country would issue protest and hartal calendars.

"Today, people including youth and children are following the calendars of Universities and Schools," the LG said.

He said that | More on P6

### LG Expresses Gratitude To People Of J&K

The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha thanked the people of Jammu Kashmir for turning out in large numbers to welcome the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to shower their blessings on him. The PM's historic public rally at MA Stadium was also connected virtually to 285 blocks across the Union Territory. "I am grateful to my sisters and brothers for turning out in record numbers in both Jammu | More on P6

### PM Launches 32,000 Cr Worth Projects In J&K

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched multiple development projects, including for education, railway, aviation and road sectors, in Jammu and Kashmir worth over Rs 32,000 crore.

From Jammu, the prime minister also launched or laid the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 13,500 crore across the country.

These projects include Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and central universities.

### 3 Crore 'Lakshpati Didis'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday sought the support of the country's women folk and said he wants to make three crore women in India "lakshpati didis". The prime minister lauded the | More on P6

Modi distributed appointment letters to about 1,500 newly recruited government | More on P6

### Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link India's Longest Transportation Tunnel Opens In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** The longest transportation tunnel of the country on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) was opened by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday as he flagged off the first electrified trains of the Kashmir valley.

"Prime Minister Modi was present in Jammu and he virtually | More on P6



### 'Kashmir Will Connect Kanyakumari By Rail'

The day is not far when Kashmir will be connected with Kanyakumari by rail, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday as he commissioned a newly completed 48.1-km stretch of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. The 272-km USBRL is being commissioned in phases -- the 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section was done in October | More on P6

### Quota To OBCs In J&K Local Bodies Reservation Law Comes Into Effect

**New Delhi:** A law seeking to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir came into effect on Tuesday with the Union Home Ministry issuing a notification in this regard.

So far, there was no provision for reservation of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in panchayats and municipalities in the Union Territory.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024 (2 of 2024), the Central Government hereby appoints the 20th day of February 2024, as the date on which the provisions of the | More on P6

### AIIMS In Jammu 'People Won't Need To Seek Treatment Outside'

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here, saying the people of Jammu will no longer have to leave for Delhi to avail specialised medical treatment.

The hospital, sprawling across 226.84 acres along National Highway 44 in Vijaypur area of Samba district, was established under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) to address regional healthcare imbalances, encourage evidence-based research and elevate medical education standards. Addressing a public rally after

launching and laying foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore, the prime minister said the number of medical colleges in J&K has increased from four to 12 in the last 10 years.

"Similarly, in the same time period, MBBS seats in J&K has more than doubled from 500 to 1300," he said, highlighting that "there were no PG medical seats in J&K before 2014 and today there are 650 PG medical seats in the Union Territory".

He said 35 new nursing and paramedic colleges are also coming up in the region which will lead to a considerable increase in nursing seats as well. On inaugurating | More on P6

### 'New Bharat Spending More On Modern education' PM Inaugurates 3 IIMs, Lays Foundation For Of 3 IITs

Press Trust Of India


**Jammu:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the 'New Bharat' was spending more to provide modern education to students and asserted that education and skill development have been the main focus of his government over the past 10 years.

"Till 10 years ago, it was very difficult to think of spending huge amounts of money in the field of education and skill development. This is New Bharat and New Bharat spends more and more to provide modern education to the present




generation," Modi said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the campuses of three Indian Institutes of Management,

in Jammu, Bodh Gaya and Visakhapatnam, on Tuesday and laid the foundation stone of several projects worth | More on P6



**Tax Efficiency + A happy Retired life**



**Get More with NPS**  
Invest for a Secured Future

**Who can Join?**


- Any citizen of India (including NRIs/OCIs) and Corporate employees between the age of 18 to 70 years

**How I can Enroll?**


- Online or Physical mode through POPs such as Banks/ NBFCs
- Online platform through NPS Trust (npstrust.org.in) or through Fintech Apps

**At the time of Maturity :**

- At the age of 60 or retirement age, option to withdraw up to 60% of corpus or through Systematic lump-sum withdrawal in instalments and the balance in annuity for regular pension



**#Zaruri Hai**



@PFDAOfficial

NPS-National Pension System

@PFDAOfficial

/company/pfda/



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

## Fastest-Growing Black Hole And Brightest Object In Universe Discovered

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Astronomers have discovered the fastest-growing black hole ever recorded -- the most luminous known object in the universe that is devouring the equivalent of one Sun every day.

The researchers at The Australian National University (ANU) noted that the black hole with a mass roughly 17 billion times that of the Sun, has set a record that may not ever be beaten.

"The incredible rate of growth also means a huge release of light and heat," said study lead author Christian Wolf, Associate Professor at ANU.

"So, this is also the most luminous known object in the universe. It is 500 trillion times brighter than our sun," Wolf said in a statement.

A black hole is a region of spacetime where gravity is so strong that nothing, including light, can escape it.

Christopher Onken, co-author of the study published in the journal Nature Astronomy, noted that it was a surprise that the blackhole remained undetected until now, given what we know about many other, less impressive ones.

The blackhole was first detected using a 2.3 metre telescope at the ANU Siding Spring Observatory near Coonabarabran in New South Wales (NSW).

The research team then turned to one of the largest telescopes in the world the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile to confirm the full nature of the black hole and measure its mass.

"The light from this black hole has travelled over 12 billion years to reach us," said Professor Rachel Webster from the University of Melbourne said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board

CPO Chowk, Panjirtirhi, Jammu/Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar  
 www.ikssb.nic.in

### Final Answer Key Notice

Subject:- Examination for the Post of Veterinary Pharmacist, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department held on 11.02.2024 - Revised/Final Answer Key regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the post of Veterinary Pharmacist, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department, District and Division Cadre advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2021 held on 11th February, 2024; and Whereas, the JKSSB notified Provisional Answer Key vide Notice No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/104/2023-03 (7368111) dated: 11.02.2024, in respect of the aforesaid posts and the same was uploaded on the official website of JKSSB (www.ikssb.nic.in); for information and seeking of objections/representations from the candidates; and Whereas, in response to aforesaid notice, 15 objections were received in respect of 08 unique questions within the stipulated time; and Whereas, the objections were examined by the subject matter experts (SMEs) and based on the opinion of the SMEs, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of written examination held for the post of Veterinary Pharmacist has been finalized. Now, therefore, in view of the above, the Revised/Final Answer Key is hereby notified as under in respect of question(s) which have been challenged.

Post Name	Text Booklet Series	Question ID	Change in Answer Key
Veterinary Pharmacist	A	B	C
	25	115	85
	32	02	92
	41	11	101
	45	15	105
	46	16	106
	52	22	112
	59	29	119
	61	31	1
	D	E	F
	55	62	71

Further, such candidate(s) who deposited amount @ Rs 200/- per question and whose objection(s) is found genuine/correct as per revised/final answer key, will get the refund in their submitted account nos.

Note: No further claim in respect of final answer key shall be entertained by JKSSB through any medium.

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

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/104/2023-03 (7368111)  
 DIPK-16708/23 Dated: 20.02.2024

From the principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

- Mymoona Begum W/o Ghulam Rasool Malik R/o Zalongam Kokernag Anantnag
  - Haseena W/o Ghulam Nabi Mir R/o Konibal Pampore Pulwama
  - Zahoor Ahmad Ganai
  - Muzaffar Ahmad Ganai
  - Nissar Ahmad Ganai
- All 3-5 sons of Mohammad Amin Ganai AND Residents of Maqdoom Sahib Srinagar
- Nasreen W/o Ajaz Ahmad Shah R/o Pathan Colony Rakhi Zakura Hazratbal, Srinagar

Petitioners

V/S

Public at Large Respondent

In the matter of Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)

Notice to public at Large

Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 60,73,529 as debits and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Late Abdul Lateef Bazaz S/o Late Abdul Aziz Bazaz R/o Hamambal Khanyar, Srinagar who died on 09-01-2022. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 11-03-2024

Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drum of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 11-03-2024 Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same

In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on ----

Jawad Ahmad  
 Principal District Judge, Srinagar

nj

## Before The Honble Court Of Principal District Judge At Srinagar

In the case of:- Mymoonn Begum & Ors

V/S

Public at Large Application For impleading legal heirs of petitioner no.6 namely Nasreen W/o Ajaz Ahmad Shah R/o Pathan Colony Rakhi Zakura Hazratbal. Srinagar as petitioners in the above captioned succession petition.

May it please your Honour The applicants most humbly submit as under:-

- That the above captioned succession petition is pending disposal before this Hon'ble court and same is listed for hearing on 17-02-2024.
- That one of the petitioners namely Nasreen W/o Ajaz Ahmad Shah R/o Pathan Colony Rakhi Zakura Hazratbal. Srinagar died during the adjudication of the above captioned petition on 25-01-2024 and it is necessary to implead all the legal heirs of petitioner no.6 as petitioners for the just conclusion of the petition.
- That the legal heirs of petitioner no.6 namely Nasreen are as under:-

- Ajaz Ahmad Shah (Husband); S/o Ghulam Rasool Shah R/o: Pathan Colony Zakura Srinagar
- Ameeq Ajaz Shah (Son); S/o Ajaz Ahmad Shah R/o: Pathan Colony Zakura Srinagar
- Azha Ajaz (Daughter); D/o Ajaz Ahmad Shah R/o Pathan Colony Zakura Srinagar

4. That the application is supported by an affidavit. In the premises it is therefore prayed that the above mentioned legal heirs of petitioner no.6 namely Nasreen be impleaded as petitioners in the above captioned succession petition in the interests of justice.

Dated:-14.02.2024

Applicants through counsel  
 Qazi Javaid Iqbal & Associates

nj

## From the office of advocate Adil Hassan Malik

IN THE CASE  
 Abdul Rashid Dar S/O Mst. Jana & Mohammad Rajab Dar  
 R/O Peerbagh, Baghwanpora, Hyderpora, Srinagar (caveator)  
 Vs  
 Public at large Non caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

Sd/advocate  
 nj

## From the office of advocate Adil Hassan Malik

I have lost my DOB certificate somewhere . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Bhat (DOB 02-02-1992)  
 S/o Abdul Ahad Bhat  
 R/o Barsoo Lar Ganderbal nj

nj

## From the office of advocate Adil Hassan Malik

I have changed my name from Zahoor Ahmad Bhat To Zahoor Ahmad Bhat in future I will be known as Zahoor Ahmad Bhat . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat  
 S/O Mohammad Shafi Bhat  
 R/o Hassi Bhat Rainawari Srinagar J&K NJ

NJ

## From the office of advocate Adil Hassan Malik

I have lost the DOB certificate of my Daughter , Rooh Akhter who was born on 11-11-1995 at LD Hospital Srinagar. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ali Mohd Malla  
 F/o Roohi Akhter  
 R/o Karipora Budgam nj

nj

## Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District & Sessions Judge At Srinagar

In the case of:- Caveat Petition No.....2024  
 S/O Mohammad Rajab Dar Gh.Mohi ud din Dar  
 R/O Gowmarg Shalimar, Srinagar  
 ...caveator

V/S  
 Public At Large  
 ...Non-caveators

In the matter of: Caveat petition on behalf of caveator

May It Please Your Honour, The caveator most humbly submits as under:

- That the non-caveators are aimed at to drag the caveator into unnecessary litigation which fact the non-caveator have closed before some persons of the locality for settling their personal scores with the caveator.
- That the caveator is having some matrimonial dispute with his in-laws in which his in-laws are trying to drag caveator into some false and frivolous cases.
- That the caveator apprehends that the non-caveators may approach this Hon'ble Court with a suit or any other proceedings against the caveator and may succeed in obtaining exparte orders against the caveator by concealment of the facts therein and in the event any suit or any other proceedings is being filed by the non-caveator against the caveator, the caveator may be put to notice before passing any orders in the same.
- That the caveator has also published a copy of this caveat through newspaper in advance to the non-caveators, newspaper in original is also enclosed herewith as Annexure A.

In the premises, it is therefore, prayed that this Hon'ble court may be pleased to provide an opportunity of being heard to the caveator in person or through her counsel before passing any interim order in any proceedings likely to be filed by the non-caveators. The same would be in consonance with law and justice.

Srinagar/20.02.2024,

Caveator through counsel,  
 Adv Moien Ul Islam & Associates

nj

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Machinery Division, Mechanical 7 Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir, Srinagar | Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

### Corrigendum 03 For Date Extension.

Subject : Face lifting by way of providing and fixing of Aluminum Composite Panel Cladding to Machinery Division Kashmir at M&HEC Complex Shalteng Srinagar.

Reference 1) This office e-NIT No: MDSK/TS /2023-24/ 31 Dated: 10-02-2024 . (Tender Id - 2024\_PWDJK\_244746.1)  
 2) This office corrigendum No. 01 and 02 issued vide No.'s MDSK/TS/3668-71 Dated 12-02-2024 and MDSK/TS/3712-14 Dated 15-02-2024.

On the receipt of the representation from the prospective bidders and for wider participation, the critical dates of the above subjected e-NIT is extended as under

S.No	Description	New Dates
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	24-02-2024 upto 06:00 PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	26-02-2024 at 02:00 PM

Sd/

(Er.Kapilash Pandita)

Executive Engineer Machinery Division, Srinagar

No: MDSK/TS/3882-85  
 DIPK-16685/23 Date: 20-02-2024

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
 J&K Bank B/U Dalgate Sgr  
**بنام**  
 Mohammad Ashraf Shah  
 دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 76068.16  
**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام**  
 Mohammad Ashraf Shah S/o Abdul Gani Shah  
 R/o Shabri Mohalla Abi- Karpura Dal Lake Srinagar  
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیسرا کوٹیشن کی گئی  
 - الا تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تیسرا لائی  
 گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا  
 ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ  
 =/Rs 76068.16 زیر سماع عدالت ہذا ہے۔  
 لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان  
 بالا مورخہ 22-02-2024 اصالتاً یا کالاتاً بروقت پٹیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی  
 بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر  
 ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 nj

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
 J&K Bank B/U Zaldagar Sgr  
**بنام**  
 Mrs Munira  
 دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 94,666  
**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام**  
 Mrs Munira W/o Mohammad Ashraf Dar R/o  
 Khanawari Zaldagar  
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیسرا کوٹیشن کی گئی  
 - الا تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تیسرا لائی  
 گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا  
 ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ  
 =/Rs 94,666 زیر سماع عدالت ہذا ہے۔  
 لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان  
 بالا مورخہ 22-02-2024 اصالتاً یا کالاتاً بروقت پٹیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی  
 بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر  
 ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 nj

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
 J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Sgr  
**بنام**  
 Arifa  
 دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 181931  
**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام**  
 Arifa D/o Nazir Ahmad Lone  
 R/o Opposite P/S Khanyar Srinagar  
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیسرا کوٹیشن کی گئی  
 - الا تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تیسرا لائی  
 گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا  
 ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ  
 =/Rs 181931 زیر سماع عدالت ہذا ہے۔  
 لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان  
 بالا مورخہ 22-02-2024 اصالتاً یا کالاتاً بروقت پٹیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی  
 بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر  
 ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 nj

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 با اجلاس: اروند شرما  
 J&K Bank B/U Soura Sgr  
**بنام**  
 Sajad Nazir Ahmad  
 دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ =/Rs 1,63,677.69  
**اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام**  
 Sajad Nazir Ahmad S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o  
 Ganie Mohalla Soura Srinagar  
 مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیسرا کوٹیشن کی گئی  
 - الا تو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تیسرا لائی  
 گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا  
 ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ  
 =/Rs 1,63,677.69 زیر سماع عدالت ہذا ہے۔  
 لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار بذراطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان  
 بالا مورخہ 22-02-2024 اصالتاً یا کالاتاً بروقت پٹیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی  
 بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر  
 ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر  
 nj



## Div Com Unveils Wall Calendar-2024 Of Sericulture Department

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri in presence of Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today unveiled the Annual Wall Calendar 2024 of Sericulture Development Department, here.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com said that the Sericulture sector being a viable sector of our economy provides livelihood to a sizable population of U.T of J&K.

Lauding the efforts of the department in this regard, he said that the multipronged approach is being adopted by the department to disseminate awareness among people of J&K about the various schemes, facilities and activities of the department to leverage the potential of sericulture sector, and publication of the annual wall calendar is one of the initiatives in this direction taken by the department.

He said that silkworm rearing activities are cost effective with higher returns. He instructed that an aggressive publicity campaign must be launched to educate the people about the benefits of silkworm rearing and every available media be

explored for the purpose.

On the occasion, the Div Com further assured the Director Sericulture J&K that vacant Government land will be provided for the development of Mulberry nurseries and farms across Kashmir Division.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Sericulture J&K said that the annual wall calendar/ other published shall be a regular annual feature.

He highlighted the importance of undertaking extensive mulberry plantation on the vacant Government lands for raising highly improved mulberry Nurseries/ farms to increase the green mulberry reserves for enhancing productivity and readily keeping available mulberry leaf for Silkworm Rearing across J&K.

On the occasion the Director Sericulture apprised the Div Com about the various initiatives and programs of the Sericulture Development Department. He further informed him that the Department has kick started 05 days skill up-gradation programs as part of the departmental awareness programs across J&K.

Development Officer, ISDP, Sonawari and other officers of the department were also present on the occasion



## Srinagar Admin Hosts Live Streaming Of PM's Interaction AT SKICC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of ongoing 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' (VBSY) Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmad and the Officers of all line Departments participated in the program.

During the program, the participants watched the Prime Ministers speech and his live interaction with beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) being implemented by Rural Development

Department, PM Kisan being implemented by Agriculture Department, Jal Jeevan Mission being implemented by the Jal Shakti Department, National Rural Livelihood Mission being implemented by Rural Development Department, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)/ Ayushman Bharat, PM Ujjwala and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM) being implemented by the Science and Technology Department.

Department, PM Kisan being implemented by Agriculture Department, Jal Jeevan Mission being implemented by the Jal Shakti Department, National Rural Livelihood Mission being implemented by Rural Development Department, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)/ Ayushman Bharat, PM Ujjwala and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM) being implemented by the Science and Technology Department.

Department, PM Kisan being implemented by Agriculture Department, Jal Jeevan Mission being implemented by the Jal Shakti Department, National Rural Livelihood Mission being implemented by Rural Development Department, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)/ Ayushman Bharat, PM Ujjwala and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM) being implemented by the Science and Technology Department.

## KU Scholar Bags Saroj Chandrasekhar Memorial Award

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Arjamand Mushtaq, a research scholar from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI), Kashmir University (KU) has been awarded the prestigious Chandrasekhar Memorial Award, 2024 for her contributions to Biomedical Sciences.

The award recognizes the scientific contributions and rewards women scientists in the areas of Biosciences and Biotechnology and is given to two women scientists annually. The award carries a cash prize of rupees 2 lakhs and a certificate. The award ceremony will be held at IIT Kanpur on 28 February 2024 (National Science Day), an official statement issued here read.

Arjamand Mushtaq was enrolled for Ph D at CIRI, KU under the mentorship of Dr Altaf Bhat, Coordinator, CIRI, and has made significant contributions to the understanding of Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), one of the growing metabolic diseases how genome stability is maintained in the cells.

Her work was published in the prestigious American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Journal, Journal of Biological Chemistry and American Society for Microbiology Journal, Molecular and Cellular Biology, the statement read.

## Be Alert For Dewatering, Snow Clearance Operations: COM SMC To Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed today passed clear-cut directions to all concerned wings of SMC to remain vigilant and proactive in undertaking the dewatering and snow clearance operations in the Srinagar city.

In light of the weather conditions, the Commissioner emphasized the critical need for efficient dewatering measures to prevent water logging and smooth dis-

charge of Storm water ensuring low level in all sumps of permanent Dewatering Stations for the better pedestrian and vehicular movement in the city.

Furthermore, the Commissioner stressed for timely and effective measures to clear snow from roads, lanes/ by lanes, sidewalks, walkways and all vital establishments viz. Hospitals, Religious places, Ration Depots etc. for the convenience and safety of the citizens.

The directions passed by the Commissioner underscore the sig-

nificance of the SMC operations and prompt action to mitigate any potential challenges posed by adverse weather conditions.

The Commissioner SMC appealed to residents of Srinagar for their cooperation and support in view of ongoing Dewatering and Snow Clearance Operations in the Srinagar City.

Meanwhile, if any issue related to dewatering and snow clearance arises, people may report to SMC's 24x7 Control Room on the following numbers: 0194-2474499 18001807038 0194-2470465.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**Directorate Of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens, Jammu**  
Har-Ki- Poudi Bagh-e-Bahu Road Jammu e-mail:- floriculturejammu@gmail.com  
Tele- 0191-2435121

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 09/2023-24 /Floriculture Department Jammu Dated: 19.02.2024.

Director General, Deptt. Of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K invites Tenders by e-Tendering mode from the registered Individuals/Firms/Companies/Agencies for outsourcing of Coffee/Snacks Bar at Bhour Camp Garden, (Phase I)/Bagh-e-Bhour Jammu for a period of three years (as is where is basis) from the date of issue of allotment.

S.No	Name of the Asset	Minimum Reserve bid	Earnest Money as CDR/ FDR	Cost of Tender Document
1.	Coffee/Snacks Bar at Bhour Camp Garden, (Phase I) / Bagh-e-Bhour Jammu	Rs.2.25 lakh Per annum	20,000 ( Twenty Thousand only )	Rs. 500/- (Non-refundable)

The bidding documents (s) consisting of qualifying information eligibility criteria, specification, items and conditions and other details can be downloaded through the Departmental website www.dfi.jk.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-02-2024 to 11-03-2024 upto 1630 Hrs.
2.	Bid Submission Start Date	20.02-2024
3.	Bid Submission End Date	11.03-2024 upto 1630 Hrs.
4.	Date and time of opening of Tenders online	12-03-2024 at 1400 Hrs.

1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, conditions and other details.

The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect site of Bhour Camp Garden, (Phase I) Bagh-e-Bhour Jammu before bidding.  
2. Bids must be accompanied by CDR/FDR and cost of tender Document as specified in column 4 and 5 of the table payable at Jammu pledged in favour of Accounts officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu .CDR/FDR shall have to be valid for one year (12 months) The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be paid in form of DD payable in favour of Accounts officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu.

3. Cost of tender document should also be uploaded online along with requisite Treasury Challan/ receipt under Receipt Head 0406- Forestry & Wild life.

4. Bids will be opened online in the office of the Director General Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu. In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

5. Bidders should get ready with the hard copies of cost of documents as specified in the tender documents. The hard copies of the bids shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as HI after opening of financial bids.

6. Bidders should get ready with the hard copies of list of documents & EMD as specified in the Tenders documents. The hard copies of the bids shall be obtained from the bidders who is declared as HI after opening of financial bids.

7. The detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from this Directorate on any working day during office hours and also through Departmental website [www.dfi.jk.gov.in](http://www.dfi.jk.gov.in).

No - DFI/GS/7361-70  
DIPK-16705/23 Dated: - 20.02.2024

Sd/-  
DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
(Chairman)  
Department of Floriculture,  
Parks and Gardens  
Jammu

- 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 - ( Closed )
- Mughal Road - ( Closed )
- Srinagar- Leh - ( Open )

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
10 Shaban  
1445

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 55
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4: 40
Magrib	6:24
ISHA	7: 44

### This Day In History

- 362- Athanasius returns to Alexandria 1173- Pope Alexander III canonizes Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury 1245- Thomas, the first known Bishop of Finland, is granted resignation after having confessed to torture and forgery 1431- Joan of Arc's first day of interrogation during her trial for heresy 1440- The Prussian Confederation is formed 1564- King Philip II advises Cardinal Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle to retire from the Netherlands to Franche-Comté in France 1574- Spanish garrison of Middelburg, Netherlands, surrenders 1583- Groningen, Netherlands, begins using Gregorian calendar 1598- Boris Godunov crowned Tsar of Russia
- 1613 - Michael Romanov, son of Patriarch of Moscow, elected first Russian Tsar of the house of Romanov.
- 1675 - Prince Willem III appointed viceroy of Gelderland
- 1746 - Jacobite Rising 1745: British forces surrender Inverness Castle to Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite forces
- 1777 - British ambassador Joseph Yorke demands dismissal of Governor John de Graaff for saluting US flag
- 1782 - US Congress resolves establishment of a US mint
- 1848 - Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto" in London
- 1874 - Benjamin Disraeli succeeds William Gladstone as British Prime Minister
- 1901 - In Cuba, the constitutional delegates adopt a constitution much like that of the USA
- 1915 - Russian 20th Army corps surrenders to the German 10th Army after being surrounded
- 1916 - World War I: Battle of Verdun begins, leads to an estimated 1 million casualties
- 1917 - British troopship SS Mendi sinks off Isle of Wight, 646 die
- 1922 - Britain declares Egypt a sovereign state
- 1932 - Andre Tardieu becomes Premier of France
- 1937 - The League of Nations bans foreign national "volunteers" in the Spanish Civil War.
- 1947 - 1st instant developing camera demonstrated by Edwin Land in NYC
- 1969 - 1st launching of heavy N-1 rocket at Baikounur Kazakhstan (explodes)
- 1972 - Richard Nixon becomes 1st US president to visit China
- 1973 - Israeli fighters shoot Libyan aircraft down, killing 108
- 1974 - Israeli forces leave western Suez
- 1979 - Japan launches Hakucho X-ray satellite & Corsa-B (550/580 km).
- 1981 - Japan launches Hinotori satellite to study solar flares (580/640 k)
- 1981 - NASA launches Comstar D-4
- 1987 - Syrian army marches into Beirut
- 1991 - USSR announces Iraq agrees to a proposal to end Persian Gulf War US calls the plan unacceptable
- 1996 - Soyuz TM-23, launched into orbit
- 2012 - Yemeni voters go to the polls for a presidential election where the only candidate on the ballot paper is vice-president Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi
- 2013 - 83 people are killed and 250 are injured in a series of bombing attacks in Damascus, Syria
- 2013 - 21 people are killed and 54 are injured in a bombing in Hyderabad, India.
- 2014 - 11 people are killed after a Libyan Air Force plane crashes in Tunisia.
- 2014 - Police in Kiev open fire on protesters: 27 killed and around 570 injured
- 2016 - Bombings in the Syrian cities of Homs and Damascus kill 140 people, Islamic State claims responsibility
- 2017 - Bodies of 87 African migrants wash ashore at Zawiya, Libya 2017 -Plane crashes into shopping centre in Essendon, Melbourne, Australia killing the five people on board 2018- Indian film star Kamal Haasan launches a new political party - Makkal Needhi Mayyam in Tamil Nadu state 2018- Laykyun Sekkya, the world's third tallest statue at 116 meters (381 ft) depicting Gautama Buddha completed

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.**  
Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan,  
Nowshara Srinagar.  
E-mail:- pwegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./Fax No:- 0194-241285

#### CANCELLATION NOTICE

Sub: - 1. Repairs to the tools and equipment's used by the field workers by way of supply of various Bedding items for operational staff in use for Night during re-development of wells at different sites chowkidar for the proper watch ward of Divisional Office. Part I

2. Repairs to the CCTV by way of Supply of full HD Streaming Camera for office of the Chief Engineer PHE Jal Shakti Department.

3. Repairs to the CCTV by way of Supply of full HD Streaming Camera for office of the Chief Engineer PHE Jal Shakti Department. Part II

Ref: 1. This office e-Nit No: 54 of 2023-24 issued by vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./ 9814-9823, dated: 31-01-2024 bearing tender ID No. 2024\_PHE\_244078\_04, 07 & 08.

2. This office extension notice 1st issued on 08-02-2024.

Refer to the subject & reference cited above, in this connection due to administrative reasons the subject works figuring at SL.No.04, 07 & 08 mentioned therein the e-Nit issued by this office is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

No - JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./10469-79  
DIPK-16727/23  
Dated: - 20-02-2024

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Wednesday | 21-02-2024

## PM's visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday emphasized the critical role played by the abrogation of Article 370 in unlocking the true potential of Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a rally in Jammu during his visit to the union territory, the PM said the revocation of the special constitutional provision marked a watershed moment in its history.

The region, he said, has experienced balanced development across various sectors since its transition to a Union Territory. This move, he asserted, has opened the doors to unprecedented opportunities and has enabled the government to reach the people's doorstep, signaling a new era of governance. The PM assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir of his commitment, stating, "This is Modi's guarantee, and this will continue."

The visit also witnessed the launch and foundation stone laying for several key projects, spanning education, railways, aviation, and road sectors. The projects worth over 32,000 crore for Jammu and Kashmir were inaugurated, among them the first Electric Train and the train service between Sangaldan station and Baramulla station.

The PM's visit came ahead of the parliamentary polls scheduled to be held by May-June. It will thus go a long way in shoring up the BJP's position in the union territory. The party already looks favourite to win the polls in the Jammu region and given its current formidable political standing in the country could be a force to reckon with in the Kashmir Valley. More so, considering the fact that the INDIA Alliance in J&K is finding it increasingly difficult to stick together. Already the National Conference has decided to go solo in the upcoming elections for parliamentary seats in Kashmir Valley. It remains to be seen how the PDP and the Congress would respond to this and whether the three parties would still be able to work out an electoral arrangement that doesn't fragment anti-BJP votes.

It also remains to be seen whether the centre would also hold Assembly polls alongside parliamentary elections. The last Assembly elections date back to 2014, which makes for a prolonged absence of a democratic governance in the UT. J&K has not had an elected government since June 2018 when Governor's rule was imposed after the PDP-led coalition government lost its majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP. As of now, there is no clarity on this. The PM also stopped short of indicating any possibility of holding Assembly simultaneously with general elections. However, the visit has both its development and political spin-offs and the latter will play out in the weeks and months to come.



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

**In our government establishments or private institutions, we find many officers and professionals making casteist remarks against their employees. Even during our social gatherings or family functions, we make utterances which are derogative and casteist in nature. Many times this is unintentional but on many occasions we intentionally use such words to undermine other people or to ridicule them**

# Casteist Society, Casteist Comments

DFO Langate has apologised but this disease is prevalent in Kashmiri society

Not only untouchability but differentiating on the basis of caste or profession is a social killer. We might have heard and read about discrimination against Dalits, which is still prevalent in Indian social fabric. We must also be aware of the fact that our own Kashmiri society is also afflicted with this disease.

In many states of the country, especially in rural India, there is a tradition of two tumbler systems in tea shops, denial of temple entry, denial of use of public property, discrimination in schools and other institutions. Infact, the Dalit Panchayat members in many villages are denied access to spaces and are not even allowed to sit on the chair during panchayat meetings. Infact, Dalit grooms aren't even allowed to ride on a horse during their own marriage functions in the village if it is dominated by so-called 'upper caste' people.

Untouchability or casteism has prevailed in Kashmiri society as well in the past for over 50 to 60 years but it was not so severe. Infact, things have changed a lot in Kashmir over the years but discriminating against people on the basis of caste or profession is still widely prevalent.

In our government establishments or private institutions, we find many officers and professionals making casteist remarks against their employees. Even during our social gatherings or family functions, we make utterances which are derogative and casteist in nature. Many times this is unintentional but on many occasions we intentionally use such words to undermine other people or to ridicule them.

DFOs calling his official 'Shepherd' A few days back, I came across an official communication issued by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Langate in Kupwara district wherein he made a casteist remark which was like undermining the other community.

The forest officer had gone for an inspection of a forest check post in Langate area and found a Forest Guard dressed 'improperly'. The official was wearing a Kashmiri Pheran (Long woollen cloak) and DFO reprimanded him and called him a 'Shepherd'.

The grammatically poor official letter making these remarks was deeply casteist. This letter issued by the Divisional Forest Officer Langate on February 17th 2024 reads as: "During my surprise inspection of the forest check post Langate on 17.02.2024 at 12:25 PM one forest official named Bashir Ahmad Dhobi, Forest Guard, was found wearing Pheran and looking like a Shepherd. The territorial forest officials are part of a disciplined force and are always duty bound to wear proper dress code while performing their duties at sensitive postings.

Therefore, pending departmental enquiry Shri Bashir Ahmad Dhobi Forest Guard is hereby placed under suspension attached with Range Office Rafiabad with immediate effect. The Range Officer Mawar will make an internal arrangements in place of suspended official till suitable staff is posted in the said check post."

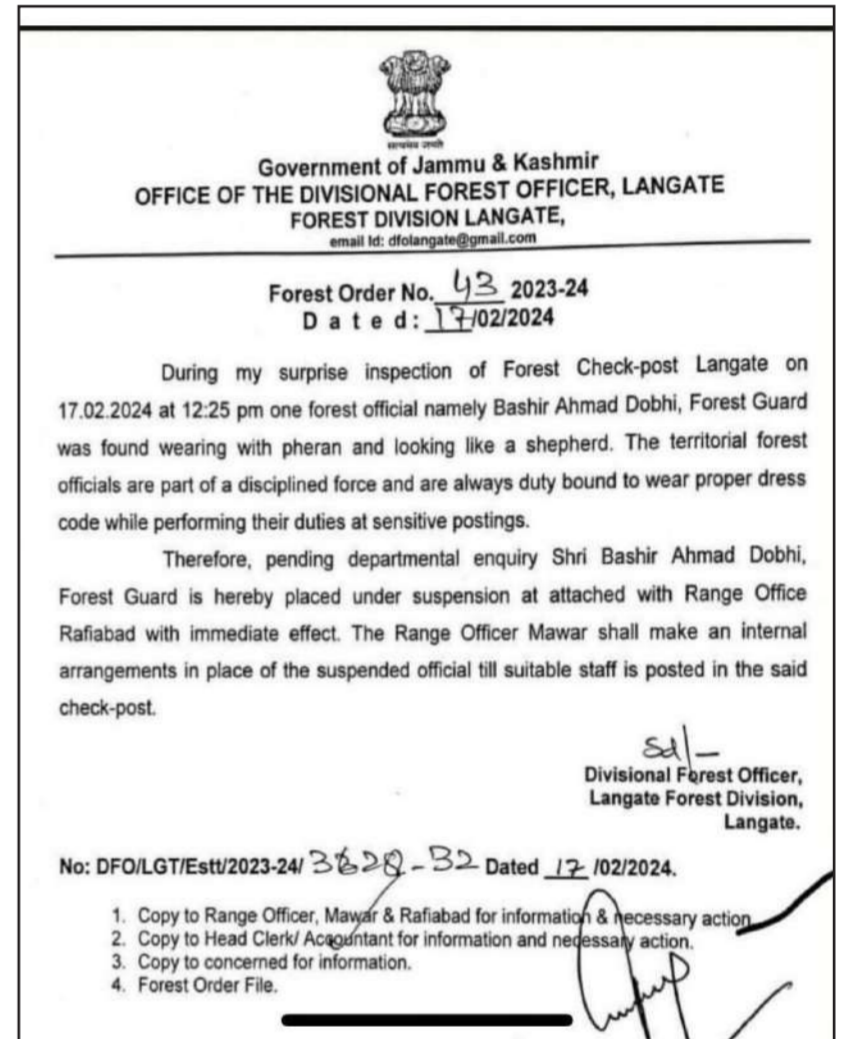
This author got hold of this official communication and I posted this on social media and sought an apology from the said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). Several people commented and demanded a written apology and some even demanded the officer's suspension for hurting Shepherd communities like Gujjars, Bakerwals or Chopans of J&K. Infact, many Gujjar, Chopan and tribal activists like Guftar Chowdhary, Ghulam Mohiudin Chopan, Abdul Ahad Chopan, Chowdhary Javaid from Rajouri condemned the DFO Langate for making such derogatory comments on an official document.

By February 20th 2024 afternoon the DFO issued a corrigendum and sought an apology on social media as well. The officer in his fresh official communication said:

"The word Shepherd inadvertently crept is hereby expunged from the records as mentioned in the forest order no: 43 of 2023-24 dated

Kashmiris ridicule our officials for wearing this dress at the workplace.

If the pheran of the forest guard was really shabby and looked awkward, the DFO shouldn't have mentioned the word Pheran in the official letter. He could have said that the official was not in a proper dress. The DFO not only called his official



17.02.2024 issued under endorsement No: DFO/LGT/ Estt 2023-24/3628-32 dated 17.02.2024"

The officer didn't seek an apology through this corrigendum but recorded his video byte which was carried on social media wherein he sought an apology from people who were hurt and also added that he used the word Shepherd unintentionally.

Let us be proud of our Pheran Centuries of colonial rule taught us to look upon ourselves as an inferior race. In Kashmiri context, we would feel awkward wearing a Pheran in Govt offices or public places or during different social gatherings.

Things changed gradually and now the same pheran is not only worn by many men and women in Kashmir proudly but even the former US Secretary of State wore it in India after she was gifted one by noted Kashmiri handicrafts businessman Manzoor Wangnoo when she visited New Delhi some decades back. The pheran is now worn by many elite women across India as well. Unfortunately, we still have people in our society take this dress as a sign of inferiority or backwardness. We need to get rid of this mindset.

The DFO Langate called his Forest Guard a 'shepherd' because he was wearing a Pheran at his workplace. I won't argue whether Pheran should be allowed in Govt offices or not but the DFO's derogatory comments were unwarranted.

Had this blunder been committed by some non-Kashmiri officer it would have been a huge news but unfortunately our own officers and people are undermining our rich heritage and culture. The imposition of English culture has impacted our mental growth and this continues to be prevalent in our society even now which is a matter of serious concern. US and British citizens feel proud wearing a Kashmiri pheran and we

shepherd but also undermined the Kashmiri dress Pheran as well.

### Conclusion

The intention of writing this piece is not to make a personal attack on the Divisional Forest Officer Langate for his derogatory comments against the Shepherd community or Kashmiri Pheran but the idea is to make people aware about our mental slavery which continues to prevail in our society.

We should be proud of our pastoralist community which infact has been a prophetic profession. We should also be proud of our culture, food and dress as well. Never undermine this even if you don't like your own dress or food. There are many people in our society who make casteist comments intentionally but as far as the DFO Langate is concerned I believe his comments were unintentional. Had this been intentional, he wouldn't have mentioned it in an official document.

Let us pledge to respect our working class - the Chopans, Gujjars, Bakerwals, Fishermen, Sweeper community, Carpenters, Blacksmiths etc.

We need to respect our dress and culture as well and come out of this colonial mindset and thinking. We should feel proud of our heritage, our culture, and our forefathers. We must go back to our roots and give up our colonial mindset and teach our children to take pride in their culture and traditions.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement

### OTHER OPINION

## Red Sea blues

For the second successive month, India's goods exports grew last month, albeit with a mild 3.1% uptick from a 1% rise in December. This marks only the fourth month of growth in outbound shipments in 2023-24, and the overall value of merchandise exports this year is down 4.9% at about \$354 billion. While January's \$36.9 billion exports are above this year's monthly average, they are 4% lower than December's tally. To be clear, such sequential, post-Christmas demand dip is not unusual and all of the decline cannot be ascribed to the elephant haunting global trade corridors - the Houthi rebels' orchestrated disruptions of shipping lines' operations around the Red Sea hitting goods flow to the European and U.S. markets. January's trade numbers, to that extent, suggest that the impact so far is not overtly worrying, although a few key segments seem to be feeling some pain. Engineering goods' exports growth faltered to a little over 4% in January while the labour-intensive gems and jewellery slipped into a mild contraction, dropping 1.3%.

Apart from the lack of a broader discernible impact from the Red Sea shenanigans yet, the sharp decline in the goods trade deficit is notable as it hit a nine-month low of \$17.5 billion - just three months after touching a record high of nearly \$30 billion. The flip side is that the recent import bill compression has been driven by some slack in imports of items such as project goods and electronics which suggest weakening of investment and consumption impulses in the economy. The government has exuded confidence that India will match its record export performance of \$776 billion in 2022-23, this year as well, despite multiple global headwinds. On the goods front, though, attaining last year's \$451 billion tally looks difficult, especially with cooling commodity prices. Exports of services, reckoned to be up 6.3% this year, may still help bring the overall export figure for the year close to \$760-odd billion if they sustain this pace. The outlook for the coming year remains mired in uncertainty and risks. There are weak or mixed signals about demand trends from economies such as the U.S. and Germany, even as the U.K. recorded the sharpest sequential jump in retail sales since July 2020. Interest rate cuts remain elusive for now. Finally, despite the U.S.-led Operation Prosperity Guardian to protect commercial traffic through the Red Sea, shippers have warned that the Houthi factor could compel the use of longer routes for several more months. Longer delivery times apart, the spiked shipping rates and operational costs of exports could force some price hikes and deter already frail demand in some markets and make prospective buyers look for more competitive options for Indian wares.

The Hindu

# BRIDGING THE GAP

## The Crucial Role of Education in Social Justice

Faria Bhat

The pivotal role of education in the dismantlement of the structural oppressive forces behind social injustices and inequity in our community is irrefutable. One must not forget about the role of education as we observed World Social Justice Day, which bears the huge potential of barriers eradication and attainment of empathy and equality, the most important ideas of our lives.

**EDUCATION: THE GREAT EQUALISER**  
Education is more than just theory; it is a powerful tool that transcends boundaries and drives societal progress. It is an investment that has the power to create an equal society, providing opportunities for people from all walks of life, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or social standing.

**GENDER DISPARITIES**  
Education comes to stand as the strongest of the tools that are used to dismantle the existing gender-based inequalities. When this tool makes the same opportunities and resources available to both boys and girls, they can fight the old tendency of stereotypes and biases. It creates equal opportunities for all and facilitates the growth of a society where people are judged for their abilities and goals rather than being imprisoned by outdated gender norms. Nevertheless, the gender gap still exists in education, opposing the goal of social justice.

UNESCO has declared that there are 122 million girls who remain out of school across the globe today. (1) This gender discrimination fuels social inequalities in general.

To overcome this gap, the supply of education resources must be improved, and efforts should be intensified to remove cultural barriers that restrict girls



from education.

### EMPOWERING MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

In the face of social injustices and past mistreatment, education becomes a powerful tool, enlightening marginalised individuals and providing 80M them with the means to escape the cycle of poverty, oppression, and inequality.

It helps them to demand their rights, participate in the democratic process, and add value to the nation's socio-economic growth.

### EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Furthermore, education builds up a person and becomes a source of income for the person. Filling in the education gap helps



**IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOVERNMENTS AND SOCIETIES TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TOWARDS TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE THAT ELECTRONIC LEARNING RESOURCES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS** from diverse social and economic backgrounds. By investing in technological infrastructure, we can create a more equitable and inclusive learning environment for all

combat the problem of income inequality. It levels the playing field where success is based on abilities, not social or economic backgrounds.

### BARRIER AGAINST IGNORANCE

Furthermore, education serves as a crucial defence against ignorance and the propagation of false information, which can lead

to social injustices if not counteracted. Well-informed individuals possess better resources to combat discriminatory attitudes, advocate for policy reforms, and work towards the establishment of a fair and equitable society.

### THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

In today's tech-driven world, technology plays a crucial role in providing educational solutions for learners from underprivileged communities. Leveraging e-resources, e-learning platforms, and new educational technologies can help bridge the distance gap and offer excellent educational opportunities in rural and poor regions.

However, it is essential for governments and societies to al-

locate funds towards technological infrastructure to ensure that electronic learning resources are accessible to students from diverse social and economic backgrounds. By investing in technological infrastructure, we can create a more equitable and inclusive learning environment for all.

### GLOBAL COLLABORATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY

Education equity comes through people's combined action and cooperation on a world scale. Global coordination and collaboration among governments, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector are vital prerequisites for achieving an inclusive policy framework with no child left behind. Projects such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4 promote that all primary and secondary schoolchildren must get a free completion of their education by 2030. (2) It is also aimed to provide equal access to educational opportunities of a vocational kind, to keep away gender and wealth bias and to approach universalisation of higher education of a quality kind.

### CONCLUSION

Today, on World Social Justice Day, we must keep in mind that the commitment towards ending poverty, inequality, and social injustice by educating the uneducated is not just an issue anymore but a priority with no alternative. When we pour resources into education, we not only produce healthy citizenship but also build justice. "Justice is a positive aspect of society and plays an essential role in our social lives." Here is a chance for us to make this world a better place where all will live peacefully and freely, so we should take it and use education to build a world of higher inclusion and fairness.

# New Data On Physical Activity As An Antidote To Depression

Susan Krauss Whitbourne

When you wake up and begin to plan your day, how much do you factor in time for exercise? Perhaps you're saddled with obligations, not only for work, but also for childcare, housekeeping, and/or the many little nuisances that can invade your waking hours. A dedicated time for physical activity seems like a luxury that you might get around to at the end of the day, maybe.

You know that logically you should exercise and that there are myriad benefits to putting your body through various forms of being in motion. You're not happy with yourself for not finding time for it in your schedule, but you feel you have no choice.

As stressed and frantic as you feel at times about your hectic life, has it ever occurred to you that exercise could do more than build your bodily strength and vitality? Could it be worth carving out those chunks of time to get up and move?

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

According to Central China Normal University's Fei Tian and colleagues (2024), there is reason to believe that physical activity could indeed play an important role in combatting not only the development of chronic health problems but also depression. Prior research supporting this possibility used observational methods to show an overall association

between physical activity and depression but failed to zoom in on the precise nature of this relationship. What was lacking was the demonstration that changes in physical activity could be linked with changes in depressive symptoms. Furthermore, these studies failed to control for initial levels of depressive symptoms in the samples. They also did not sufficiently represent low- and middle-income countries, limiting the generalizability of the findings.

Before turning to the details of the Chinese study, it's a good idea to take a step back and try to understand why exercise could have this beneficial effect. The authors did not specifically address this issue, but there is ample evidence in the research literature to suggest several possible mechanisms. Physiologically, exercise creates its own internal set of mood boosters by activating some "happy" neurotransmitters, which induces a natural high. Psychologically, as you move your body, you also gain a sense of competence and efficacy. Maybe you thought you couldn't do that deadlift with more weight than you used in the past, but, surprisingly enough, you did. Practicing yoga and flexibility exercises can also alleviate joint pain while also helping you establish a connection with your body's inner workings.

Evidence for the effectiveness of exercise as an alternative treatment for depression has accumulated over the past



30 years. However, it has been slow to catch on compared to the focus in the mental health literature on medications and psychotherapy. The Tian et al. study therefore could provide important new data to refocus attention on physical activity's benefits in its own right.

### TESTING THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY-DEPRESSION RELATIONSHIP

Using the Chinese Family Panel Survey (CFPS), the research team had access to longitudinal data from a nationally representative sample of 7,633 adults studied over the years of 2016 to 2020. Through online survey software, the participants reported over the course of three test occasions on their depressive symptoms and two on their engagement in physical activity (frequency

and duration). The tracking over time allowed Tian and colleagues to estimate the effects of changes in activity as they corresponded to changes in depressive symptoms.

The findings supported the study's prediction not only that regular participation in exercise would be related to lower depression scores but also that people who ceased physical activity were more likely to develop depression across the years from 2016 to 2020. Unlike previous researchers, the author team eliminated participants with baseline depressive symptoms, wiping out the possibility of "reverse causation" of depressive symptoms on fluctuations in activity.

Over the course of the study, 20 percent of participants de-

veloped significant depressive symptoms. However, these rates varied by physical activity fluctuations with those who persisted in the same levels of activity over time less likely to develop symptoms (16 percent) compared to those who infrequently exercised (22 percent). These differences were maintained after the researchers controlled for demographic factors as well as health status and lifestyle, but, additionally, with these controls in place, the authors found higher rates of depressive symptoms developing in those who ceased physical activity altogether.

### TURNING ON YOUR OWN MOOD BOOSTERS

The moral of the story from this large and well-controlled study is that persistence matters when it comes to boosting your mood through exercise. The authors also supported the position from prior work in the mood-exercise link that by moving your body, you can feel better about yourself, both in terms of your sense of self-esteem and feelings of self-efficacy. Exercise has the additional advantage of bringing you into contact with other people, expanding your social support network as well as just plain socializing. From an overall health perspective, when you exercise, you are healthier, and so are better able to withstand some of the stresses that could come from the development of a chronic disease such as hypertension or reduced mobility.

Alright, you say, "I promise I will start to exercise. Really!" How can you turn this vague assertion into action? Based on the study's findings, your commitment has to begin with an exercise program you can maintain. Gym owners are all too familiar with

the January surge in memberships, which eventually falls off in the ensuing weeks. You need to avoid becoming one of those casualties.

Because exercise can be moderate, as Than et al. showed, making a decision as simple as not taking the elevator when you could take the stairs, not parking as close as you can when you're out shopping, or not taking public transportation to the stop nearest your destination. If your mobility is limited, you can get your exercise minutes in by stretching, working on your balance, or doing chair exercises with weights. The regular physical activity in the Chinese study amounted to 30 minutes a day for at least three days a week. Although more is generally better according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, anything is better than zero. Surely you can take a half hour every other day to devote to some form of exercise.

To sum up, it may seem like an impossibility for you to become a regular exerciser, but by making the commitment for this hour and a half a week (and maybe more), you can lessen the time and effort needed to alleviate the stress associated with your day-to-day life. Fulfilling your body's need to move can, in time, fulfill your mind's ability to free itself of those stresses.

*The article was originally published by Psychology Today*

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1



## PM's Jammu

cannot think of the welfare of the common people. I am happy to see Jammu and Kashmir is getting free from the dynastic rule," he said

"A developed India means a developed Jammu and Kashmir."

Modi said the common people of Jammu and Kashmir got assurance of social justice mentioned in the Constitution for the first time after abrogation of Art 370. "There is a lot of enthusiasm in the whole world today about a developing Jammu and Kashmir."

Referring to the projects which he either inaugurated or laid the foundation stone for, Modi said it was a remarkable day for Jammu and Kashmir.

"The projects in Jammu and Kashmir will propel holistic development of the region," he said.

The prime minister said that a record number of schools, colleges and universities were established in India in the last 10 years, with 50 new degree colleges set up in Jammu and Kashmir alone.

Modi asserted that his government was committed to transforming the Valley into a tourist destination that could rival Switzerland.

Modi heralded a new era for the region and declared that Jammu and Kashmir is breaking free from dynastic rule, with his government now directly engaging with the populace.

During his over 30-minute speech, Modi reminisced about the tumultuous past of J-K marred by violence and separatism and commended the current shift towards a harmonious and prospering Jammu and Kashmir, attributing it to balanced development initiatives.

"We have seen the days when only disappointing news used to come from J-K. Bomb, guns, kidnapping and separatism had become its misfortune. Today, we are seeing a new J-K with balanced and holistic development," Modi said in his speech which he began in Dogri language.

Despite rain, thousands of locals attended the rally. It was Modi's second visit to the Jammu region after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Earlier he had addressed a public rally in Samba district in April 2022.

Expressing his vision for a flourishing Jammu and Kashmir, Modi vowed to construct infrastructure to rival international destinations like Switzerland.

"We have pledged a developed J&K and I have full faith that we will make Jammu and Kashmir more developed and fulfill all your dreams within the next few years...We will create such infrastructure in Kashmir that people will forget going to Switzerland," he said.

The prime minister lauded the newfound spirit of the youth in the region, highlighting the transition from desolation to vibrancy in everyday life and also shared his optimism regarding investments from Gulf countries, underscoring the positive reception towards the erstwhile state.

Reflecting on the global interest ignited by the G20 event in Srinagar, Modi expressed satisfaction over the surge in tourism and devotees visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

"The beauty of Kashmir, traditions and culture which got highlighted during the G20 event (in Srinagar last year) had left an impression on the people and everyone wants to visit the place," Modi said expressing satisfaction over the footfall of a record number of over two crore tourists and highest number of devotees to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in a decade.

He said there is a lot of enthusiasm in the whole world today about a developing Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising the monumental impact of scrapping Article 370 in ushering in an era of inclusive growth and social justice.

Modi urged the nation to grant his party 370 seats in the upcoming Parliamentary elections, marking the significance of the Article 370 annulment.

Stating that J-K was a victim of "dynastic rule" with those at the helm of affairs only working for their self-interest, the prime minister said he is happy that the UT is getting freed of this.

"The dynastic rulers were only concerned about their own interests. They had no concern for the future of the youth and your families as they were only concerned about their own families. The government whose priority is the welfare of just one family cannot think of the welfare of the common people," Modi said in an apparent reference to Congress, National Conference and PDP who ruled the erstwhile state in the past seven decades.

Taking on the Congress party, he said this party only believed in lip service to the armed forces and it was his government which fulfilled promises like 'One Rank One Pension', benefiting soldiers. He rounded off his address by affirming that a prosperous India is synonymous with a thriving Jammu and Kashmir.

## J&K Touching

post August 5, 2019, terrorism, separatism and injustice has ended forever. "For the first time, West Pakistan Refugees, PoK displaced people and downtrodden people got their share. Panchayat polls would have been done but there was a reservation pending for the Pahari community. Pahari community people have been given their rights without touching the rights and reservation of Gujjar and Bakerwal community," he said.

The LG said that Panchayat elections will be held in time and efforts are afoot in that direction.

"Today with the active support of PM Modi, J&K is on the path of peace and development. There is a 75 per cent decline in the terrorism related

incidents, stone pelting is a history, local terrorist recruitment is at an all-time low. Nightlife has returned to Kashmir and Cinemas are functional. People are spending time late at night on Jhelum river fronts and time is not far when people of Jammu will spend time on the River Tawi," the LG said.

MoS in the PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh said that it was due to PM Modi's efforts, 70 years of injustice ended in J&K. "Every section of society, be that Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis, Valmikis and KPs are living a dignified life," he said. "Today, we have the world's highest rail bridge over Chenab and Asia's longest tunnel on the highway. Modi hai to mumbai hai..."

## LG Expresses

and Kashmir Divisions despite inclement weather. Your affection, support and dedication to development is the biggest strength of the Administration. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has ensured holistic development of Jammu Kashmir and under his leadership Jammu Kashmir will attain greater heights of development in the future," the Lt Governor said.

## PM Launches

employees of Jammu and Kashmir and also interacted with the beneficiaries of various schemes as part of the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu' programme.

Among the railway projects that Modi inaugurated are the railway line between Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan (48 km) and the newly electrified Baramulla-Srinagar-Banihal-Sangaldan section (185.66 km).

He flagged off the first electric train in the Valley and the train service between Sangaldan and Baramulla stations.

The commissioning of the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section is significant as it features the usage of ballast-less track (BLT) all along the route providing a better ride experience to passengers.

India's longest transportation tunnel T-50 (12.77 km) lies in the portion between Khari and Sumber.

The railway projects are expected to improve connectivity, ensure environmental sustainability and boost the overall economic development of the region. The prime minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several projects worth about Rs 13,500 crore for other parts of the country.

The projects include permanent campuses for IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Tirupati, IIT Jammu, IIITDM Kancheepuram, Indian Institute of Skills (IIS), a pioneer skills training institute on advanced technologies located at Kanpur, and campuses of Central Sanskrit University at Devprayag (Uttarakhand) and Agartala (Tripura).

He also inaugurated three new IIMs in the country -- IIM Jammu, IIM Bodh Gaya and IIM Visakhapatnam -- besides 20 new buildings for Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 13 for new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) buildings across the country.

As part of his government's efforts to provide comprehensive, quality and holistic tertiary-care health services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister also inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu, officials said.

The institute, whose foundation stone was laid by him in February 2019, has been established under the central government's 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana'.

Set up at a cost of over Rs 1,660 crore and in an area spanning over 227 acres, the hospital is equipped with 720 beds, a medical college with 125 seats, a nursing college with 60 seats, an AYUSH block with 30 beds, residential accommodation for faculty and staff, hostel accommodation for UG and PG students and a shopping complex among other facilities.

Among other projects, Modi laid the foundation stone for a new terminal building at the Jammu airport.

Spread over 40,000 sqm, the new terminal building will be equipped with modern facilities catering to about 2,000 passengers during peak hours, and will be environment friendly.

Modi laid the foundation stone of important road projects including two stretches (44.22 km) of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway connecting Jammu to Katra and phase-two for the four-laning of the Srinagar Ring road.

He laid the foundation stone for a project to develop the CUF (Common User Facility) petroleum depot at Jammu as well.

## 3 Crore 'Lakhpatis'

beneficiaries of the Centre's major schemes in Jammu and Kashmir for setting an example for the rest of the country. He interacted with the beneficiaries during his visit to Jammu to ascertain how the schemes have transformed the lives of the people in the Union Territory.

During a public rally, the PM encouraged a self-help group (SHG) head Kirti Sharma of Basohli area of Kathua district to leverage the loan scheme under Grameen Aajeevika scheme and contribute to the success of rural women.

Kirti, whose SHG had purchased three cows on a loan of Rs 1 lakh and repaid the loan, has a big cowshed now due to the efforts of several women.

She said, "The lives of women are changing and they are becoming the engines of change in rural India. The credit of the changes goes to such schemes gifted to us by the prime minister".

Lauding Kirti for her contribution, the PM sought support from the country's women folk and said he wants to make three crore women in India "lakhpatis".

"You have brought a revolution. I have a big dream for sisters like you who work in self-help groups. Among them, I want to make three crore women lakhpatis. Can you help me with this?" the prime minister asked Kirti.

She replied saying she will fully support Modi's mission of "lakhpatis".

"There are 5,871 women in groups in the district. I will help them become 'lakhpatis' in order to help you," she said.

Narrating her story, Kirti said that her group is named as Ayaan.

"I had no employment before joining a self-help group. I had no identity of my own. By joining the group, I got an opportunity to depend on self. I was successful in empowering other women. I took a loan of Rs 30,000 and purchased one cow. It has boosted my economy. We took three cows," she said.

She further said her endeavour is to make women of these groups in the district self-dependent and empowered.

From farmers to SHG members, Modi interacted with five beneficiaries - including three from Jammu and two from Kashmir - to learn about the impact of schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), PM Kisan, Jal Jeevan Mission, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), Ayushman Bharat, PM Ujjwala and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) on their lives.

The prime minister acknowledged the exemplary role played by Shaheen Begum, a post-graduate entrepreneur from north Kashmir's Bandipora area.

Shaheen, a beneficiary of the Deendayal Antyodaya scheme, has transformed the lives of rural women in Kashmir by setting up SHGs and various units, including a poultry farm.

She credited the prime minister for her success, stating, "Your schemes have changed our lives. I never dreamt that such a change would take place. It was a difficult life for us but you changed it. We thank you, Sir."

PM Modi praised Shaheen for her entrepreneurship skills and also commended her parents for educating her.

He said, "I bow before your parents for educating you. You are becoming a successful entrepreneur. That shows everything is possible under the Modi rule," he said.

Continuing the engagement, he greeted Lal Mohammad, a Gujjar from Poonch district, who has successfully constructed a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

Mohammad recited a poem in praise of Modi and India, expressing his support to them.

The prime minister extended greetings to Riyaz Ahmed Kohli from Pulwama and Veena Parihar from Atholi (Paddar) in Kishtwar district, the first time beneficiaries of the Jal Jeevan Mission and PM Ujjwala schemes which gave them piped water supply and gas connection respectively, in the remotest areas of J&K.

Kohli shared his story about the manner in which his remote village got connected through piped water under Jal Jeevan Mission to provide water supply to their village.

"We have got water connections for the first time since Independence. We got benefited from the forest rights law after the abrogation of Article 370. We thank you, Sir. I never thought about talking to the PM like this. We are fortunate to talk to you," he said.

## 'Kashmir Will'

2009, the 18-km Banihal-Qazigund section in June 2013 and the 25-km Udhampur-Katra section in July 2014.

Development works are happening simultaneously, unlike in the past when work was done in the rest of India but its benefits were either not available to the people of Jammu and Kashmir or were made available very late, the prime minister said here while addressing a public rally.

"Today new airports are being built across the country. Jammu and Kashmir is also not behind. Today the expansion work of the Jammu airport has started. The dream of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari by rail has also moved forward today with the commissioning of the (48.1-km) section between Baramulla and Sangaldan," he said.

Officials said the work on the Katra-Sangaldan section is likely to be completed by May or June.

Prime Minister Modi said that "the day is not far when people will be able to travel across the country by taking a train from Kashmir".

"Today such a big campaign for electrification of the railways is going on in the entire country, and this region has got a big benefit from it," said Modi, who also flagged off the first electric train in Kashmir from Baramulla to Sangaldan.

This is going to help a lot in keeping pollution down, he highlighted.

He said when a modern train service in the form of 'Vande Bharat' was started in the country, one of its initial routes was in Jammu and Kashmir. "We made it easier to reach the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine (at Katra in Jammu) and I am happy that two Vande Bharat trains are presently running on this route," Modi said.

The prime minister, who also inaugurated many roads and laid the foundation for new ones, said road-connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir, including in villages, cities and national highways, has been given due priority.

"The second phase of the Srinagar Ring Road on completion will make it easier for people to visit the Manasbal Lake and the Kheerbhawani temple, while the completed works on the Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri highway will benefit farmers and the tourism sector," he said.

He said the expansion of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway will further improve connectivity and the travel between Jammu and Delhi will become easier.

India's Longest  
flagged off two electrified trains simultaneously -- one from Srinagar to Sangaldan in the down direction and the other from Sangaldan to Srinagar in the up direction," a railway official said.

He added that the prime minister also inaugurated the 48.1-km-long

Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section. "This longest tunnel, which is 12.77-km long and known as T-50, falls between the Khari-Sumber section," the official said.

According to the Northern Railway (NR), trains can now run from Baramulla to Sangaldan via Banihal, which used to be the last or originating station earlier.

T-50 is supposed to be the most challenging of the 11 tunnels in the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section.

According to railway officials associated with the project, the tunnel work started around 2010 and it took almost 14 years to operationalise it.

"All safety measures have been taken inside the tunnel to meet emergency situations. An escape tunnel has been constructed parallel to T-50 to evacuate passengers in case of any emergency," an official said.

"At every 375 metres, a connecting passage between the escape tunnel and T-50 has been made so that the passengers can be brought to the escape tunnel and then, carried to their desired destinations in vehicles," he added.

The official told PTI that in order to tackle a fire incident, water pipes have been laid on both sides of the tunnel with an opening valve provided at every 375 metres so that water can be sprayed on a train from both sides to douse the flames.

"Escape tunnels have been created for other bigger tunnels too," he said.

According to NR officials, the opening up of the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section has brought them a step closer to achieving the dream of running a train from the Kashmir valley in the north to Kanyakumari on the southern tip of the country.

"Earlier, eight diesel trains (four each from one side) were operating between Baramulla and Banihal. Today, Prime Minister Modi not only inaugurated the extension of the Banihal route to Sangaldan via Khari and Samber, but also flagged off the first electrified trains on the whole route from Baramulla to Sangaldan," the official said.

Now, eight electrified trains have started running between Baramulla and Banihal and four of those have been extended to Sangaldan.

"The four other trains will also be extended up to Sangaldan after a couple of months," the official added.

According to experts associated with the project, the first section of the USBRL -- the Qazigund-Baramulla section -- was operationalised by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2009. In July 2013, the Banihal-Qazigund section, which included the operationalisation of the 11.2-km-long T-80 Pir Panjal tunnel, was opened.

"Once the complete USBRL opens in the coming months, passengers will enjoy infrastructural marvels, such as the Chenab bridge, the highest railway bridge in the world, and the Anji bridge, which is the first cable-stayed bridge of the Indian Railways," an NR official said, adding that the total length of the USBRL is 272 km and the cost of the project is Rs 41,119 crore.

## Reservation Law

said Act shall come into force," according to a notification issued by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

The act aims to uphold the principles of fairness and inclusivity in local governance, thereby addressing long-standing disparities and ensuring justice for OBCs.

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

The act states that in future, all local body polls will be conducted by a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner, instead of the Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

The act was passed by Parliament recently.

## 'People Won't'

AIIMS Jammu, the prime minister said the Union government has added 15 new AIIMS in the last 10 years, including two in J&K alone.

"After the commissioning of AIIMS Jammu, people of Jammu will no longer have to leave for Delhi to avail specialised medical treatment, which will help them save valuable time and resources," he said.

The prime minister highlighted the rapid speed of transformation of infrastructure in all the sectors of the country.

He reiterated his vision of India to become Viksit Bharat by 2047 and appealed to the people to work towards that vision.

He said a Viksit Jammu & Kashmir is a pre-requisite to Viksit Bharat and the various developmental and upliftment projects of the central government in J&K are aimed at fulfilling that vision into reality.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha thanked the Union government for fulfilling many long-cherished aspirations of the people of J&K, be it in bringing development and benefits of central schemes to the marginalised sections or in provisioning two AIIMS to the region.

"The last five years have witnessed a transformation in J&K especially in improving the health, education, security and infrastructure landscape of the region which is evident in the decline of terrorism by 75 per cent and growth of investment and new opportunities," he said.

Sinha also pointed out that "under the leadership of Modi, J&K has become the only region in India having AIIMS, IIT, IIM and other institutions of eminence".

Union Minister Jitendra Singh highlighted the importance that the government has given towards enhancing infrastructure development in

the country and especially in J&K.

He said many of these development projects were very ambitious from the start and credited the prime minister for pro-actively pursuing them to ensure that development reaches the last mile.

The AIIMS Jammu is set to offer comprehensive medical services, with an expected daily footfall of 2000-3000 patients in the outpatient department. The Phase-1 consists of establishing 750 beds, including 193 ICU beds catering to trauma care, general care and super-specialties, an official spokesman said.

He said AIIMS Jammu plans to build approximately 50 departments, encompassing both general and specialised care.

Advanced facilities like Nuclear Medicine, 20 Modular OTs, MRI and CT Scan operating round-the-clock will ensure that humane and continuous care is readily available, he said.

Additionally, the spokesman said AIIMS Jammu's dedicated two-storey 'Ayush Block' with 30 beds alongside other facilities and partnerships, reflects a holistic healthcare approach merging traditional and modern medicine to enhance regional health outcomes.

AIIMS Jammu will have an annual intake of 100 students for its MBBS programme and 60 students for nursing. It will also introduce post-graduate programmes in Medical, Dental (MD/MS/MDS), Nursing, Super Specialisation programmes (DM/MCh), Doctorate (PhD) degrees, and more in the future.

With 54 per cent of its faculty and nearly 80 per cent nursing officers being women, AIIMS Jammu prioritises women empowerment through equal opportunities, supportive work environments and gender-sensitive policies, the spokesman said.

## PM Inaugurates

Rs 13,375 crore, including permanent campuses for three IITs, 20 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 13 Navodaya schools.

The prime minister dedicated, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of the campuses and buildings at a public function at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.

"The advancement of education and skill development sectors on such a scale was a distant reality 10 years ago. But this is the new India... The government of the day indulges in maximum expenditure for modern education of the present and future generations," he said on the occasion.

"In the last 10 years, the country has witnessed a record number of schools, colleges and universities, including 50 new degree colleges in Jammu and Kashmir. As many as 45,000 children, who did not attend schools, have now been admitted to schools and girl students need not travel far for education. There was a time when schools were run while today, schools are enhanced," Modi added.

The projects that were dedicated to the nation include permanent campuses for the Indian Institute of Technology-Bhubaneswar, IIT-Tirupati, IIT-Jammu, IIITDM-Kancheepuram, Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) -- a pioneering skill-training institute on advanced technologies -- in Kanpur and two campuses for the Central Sanskrit University in Uttarakhanda's Devprayag and Agartala, Tripura.

Modi also inaugurated 20 new buildings for Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) and 13 new Navodaya Vidyalaya (NV) buildings across the country. The prime minister will also lay the foundation stone of five KV campuses, one NV campus and five multi-purpose halls for NVs across the country.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended the event virtually from the PM-SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Goshala in Odisha's Sambalpur.

For Bihar, the prime minister inaugurated 24 new academic and residential buildings of the IIT-Patna, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 466 crore. The facilities include a central library, an auditorium, a central lecture hall and academic buildings, a students' activity centre, hostels and residential quarters for teachers and employees.

The IIT-Patna campus was inaugurated by Modi on July 25, 2015.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, besides several other ministers, virtually attended the function from the Bihar Assembly.

Modi also inaugurated the newly-constructed permanent campus of the IIM-Bodh Gaya.

Established in 2015, the institute was functioning from a makeshift campus.

The full-fledged new campus has been developed in an area spanning more than 60,000 square metres at an estimated cost of over Rs 400 crore.

The prime minister also inaugurated the IIT-Bhubaneswar and two newly-constructed KV buildings in Chhattisgarh.

At present, the IIT-Bhubaneswar has a strength of 1,250 students and in the next three-four years, its capacity will be increased to accommodate nearly 2,500 students, an official said, after Modi dedicated the institute and two KVs to the nation via video-conferencing from Jammu.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Durg MP Vijay Baghel, Chairman of the IIT-Bhubaneswar board of governors K Venkatraman and the institute's director, Professor Rajiv Prakash, were present at the inaugural ceremony on the campus.

The prime minister also inaugurated the Academic Complex East and Academic Complex West at IIT-Delhi. Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi attended the event in the national capital.

The two multi-storey complexes have been developed at a cost of Rs 260 crore, with a plinth area of more than 60,000 square metres, and have come up as an addition to the existing academic area on the campus.

"The establishment of premier educational institutions, such as the IIM-Jammu, exemplifies a transformative approach, bringing quality education closer to home and empowering the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir on a national scale," Modi said.

He said that earlier, the youths of Jammu and Kashmir had to go outside for higher education and professional courses but now the Union Territory "is becoming a hub of education and skill development with the establishment of various educational institutes like IITs and IIMs as per promise."

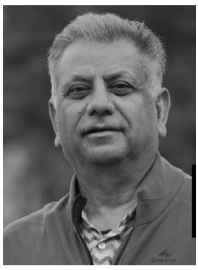
"The mission of modernising the education sector is expanding further," Modi said and referred to the inauguration of various IITs, IIMs, academic blocks, hostels, libraries, auditoriums and many such facilities across the country.

## Kashmiri Architect Akshay Kaul Gets ID Honours Award 2024

KO Web Desk

New York, Syracuse, USA and Oxford University, UK.

**SRINAGAR:** Akshay Kaul, a distinguished academician and landscape architect from the valley has been honored with the prestigious India Design (ID) Honours Award for Landscape Design in 2024.



ID - India's foremost design event - this year was held in New Delhi from February 15 to 18. India Design brings together the best of Indian and international names from the field of architecture, design, and interiors under one place.

Akshay Kaul, whose roots trace back to Seher-i-Khas, Habba Kadal, and Aaali Kadal through his parents, has worked a lot in Kashmir. He specializes in the field of ecological planning, landscape planning and design.

He has more than 30 years of work experience in India and USA in practice and teaching. He has advised on the Master Plan and Smart City for Srinagar and other cities in India, on large scale campus planning and design, hospitality projects focussing on ecological sensitive planning and design.

He received his master's degree in landscape architecture from College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of

He was Advisor to Rajasthan Government on State Urban Agenda for Rajasthan for Master Planning for City of Jaipur and urban environmental development and heritage conservation issues. He has been on several expert committees for conservation of natural and heritage landscape including Teen Murti Bhawan, CDP tool kit by UNESCO for Heritage component for Cities of Madurai, Srinagar.

He served as a Professor in Practice at Manipal University Jaipur until recently, where he played a pivotal role in setting up a unique program in Masters in Landscape Architecture. He has been a visiting faculty at Jamia Millia Islamia Masters program in Recreation Architecture and Adjunct Professor in Department of Architecture, DIT University Dehradun.

He has been a visiting faculty at the Department of Landscape, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, TVB School of Habitat Studies (TVB SCH), New Delhi, Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Gurgaon. He has conducted workshops in landscape architecture and ecological planning for leading hotels, institutions, industries, NGO's and various other agencies.

## Forest Official's 'Shepherd' Remarks Spark Outrage

Expunge Mention As 'Inadvertent'

Majid Nabi

**SRINAGAR:** A senior forest official's derogatory remarks against a particular community and disregarding the significance of "Pheran," traditional Kashmiri winter attire, in an official order, on Tuesday triggered backlash from politicians and netizens, prompting him to 'expunge' the mention.

It may be in place to mention that the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Langate Forest Division, placed an on duty Forest Guard posted at forest check-post Langate under suspension and attached him with Range Officer Rafiabad for not adhering to the official dress code.

The DFO concerned, in his order, referred to the suspended Forest Guard as a 'shepherd'. The insulting remarks made against a particular community, however, did not augur well with some politicians, who referred to the terminology as 'insulting' and demanded an action against him.

PDP president, Mehbooba Mufti demanded immediate action against the DFO concerned.

The former Chief Minister also lashed at the DFO Langate for disregarding the importance of 'Pheran'.

"During my surprise inspection of forest check-post Langate on Feb 17, at 12:25 pm, one forest official namely Bashir Ahmad Dhobi, Forest Guard was found wearing Pheran and looking like a shepherd. The territorial forest officials are part of the disciplined force and are always duty bound to wear proper dress code while performing their duties at sensitive postings," reads the order, copy of which lies with Kashmir observer.

The disciplinary action against the erring forest official was initiated on 17th of this month.

The order for suspension and subsequent attachment of the forest guard, identified as Bashir Ahmad Dhobi, was issued by the DFO concerned, who as per the order, has claimed to have found Dhobi wearing a Pheran, instead of a proper uniform during office hours.



"Therefore, pending departmental enquiry, Shri Bashir Ahmad Dhobi forest guard is hereby placed under suspension and is attached with Range Officer Rafiabad with immediate effect. The range officer Mawar shall make internal arrangements in place of the suspended official till suitable staff is posted in the said check-post, it adds.

After facing a backlash, the concerned DFO obliterated the word shepherd later and issued a rebuttal, claiming the mention inadvertently crept is hereby expunged from the records.

"As mentioned in forest order No 43 of 2023-24 dated 17.02.2024 issued under endorsement No.DFO/LGT / Estt/ 2023-24/3628-32 dated 17.02.2024. Further Range Officer Mawar is directed to expedite his enquiry report in the matter within five days for taking appropriate action as warranted under rules at this end in this regard," reads revised order of the DFO Langate Forest Division.

## Mushroom Farming Has A Potential To Generate Employment: Govt



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today addressed the eight days skill entrepreneurship development programme under the theme 'Mushroom farming as an Agribusiness' at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The programme was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Srinagar in collaboration with 10 Bn Sashastra Seema Bal and department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Kashmir.

In his address, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of small scale Agri-cottage industries like Mushroom Cultivation, Bee keeping, etc in the overall development of the agriculture sector. He said the main aim of organising such programs is to promote such enterprises and to generate a skilled farming community.

Mushroom farming has a potential to generate employment opportunities and the units already established by many educated youth are making success stories out of it, he added.

Director Agriculture expressed satisfaction that many people, mostly educated youth are able to earn their livelihood because of mushroom farming. He said the mushroom farming forms the potential part of integrated farming and could play an important role in complementing the farmers income. He also said mushroom farming as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation and contribution to rural economic growth.

The programme was also attended by the Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir, Program Coordinator KVK Srinagar, Officers from Agriculture department and a large number of mushroom farmers.

## Health Department Probes Dental Assistants' Malpractice in Kashmir

Auqib Javed

**SRINAGAR:** The directorate of Health service, Kashmir have asked the Chief Medical Officers of all the districts to provide comprehensive, factual reports regarding a complaint lodged against Dental Assistants and Technicians suspected of engaging in malpractice within the valley.

The complaint, according to the health department, has been filed by the Divisional Secretary, All India Dental Surgeon Association J&K, that the Dental Assistants in Kashmir Division are performing dental procedures without proper qualifications and licenses and that improper infection control and sterilization procedures are posing significant health risk to patients.

The complaint further says that the Dental Assistants are over charging for dental services from the poor patients.

It further says that certain

Dental Surgeons have sold their registration to the Technicians and a number of Dental Clinics are not registered in Kashmir.

Notably, the valley is witnessing the dearth of dentists with reports suggesting that there has been no appointment of dental surgeons in Jammu and



Kashmir's over the past 15 years

Taking advantage of the shortage of the dentists, many Dental Assistants and Technicians are illegally running the clinics across Kashmir putting the life of the patients at risk.

Since 2008, the J&K Public Services Commission has failed to create the posts for dental surgeons due to many reasons

and the matter is pending in the court of Law.

Last year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Dental Education Section wrote to J&K Health and Medical Education Department regarding the unemployment of dental surgeons and urging them to take appropriate action.

However, as of now no "action" was taken.

As per a report, there are more than 10,000 Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) and approximately 2,000 Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) students in union territory who remain unemployed due to the dearth of opportunities in the government sector, despite the existing shortage of dental surgeons.

Meanwhile, according to an order from the department, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the medical chiefs of the districts have been asked to furnish a "factual detailed" report in the matter for further "course of action".

## HC Rejects Ex-Councillor's Bail Plea for 'Cheating' to Secure Brother's Release

M Ahmad

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday rejected anticipatory bail plea of a former Municipal Councillor in Baramulla facing "serious allegations" of receiving huge money from a complainant to release his brother arrested on charges of killing an army soldier.

"The allegations against the applicant are very serious in nature and in light of the amount transferred in his account, as is evident from the bank statement, it is, prima facie, established that the applicant has received an amount of Rs.3 lakh from the complainant," a bench of Rajesh Oswal said, while rejecting bail plea by the former councillor Ashiq Hussain Ganai.

"The applicant (Ganie) has himself admitted that he is an accused in FIRs Nos.63/2021, 155/2016, 65/2022 and 283/2016. FIR bearing No.319/2016 was registered under Section 420, 427 and 473 RPC and FIR No.65/2022 was also registered for commission of offence under Section 420 IPC," court said and rejected contention of Ganie's counsel he did not receive any amount from the complainant in view of the record of the Bank procured by the Investigating Officer.

"There are very serious allegations against the petitioner in respect of receipt of money for procuring release of brother of the complainant," the court said, adding, "No doubt offence under section 420 IPC is punishable with maximum imprisonment of seven years but the antecedents of the applicant are also not clear enough for grant of bail in anticipation of arrest."

The court observed that Ganie only appeared once before the investigation officer and thereafter never appeared as urged police.

"... the antecedents of the accused (Ganie) and the conduct of the accused are also the relevant considerations for grant of bail in anticipation of arrest," the court said while referring to a judgment of Supreme Court.

The Court said that the applicant did not deserve to be admitted to bail in anticipation of arrest and accordingly, dismissed the application being "misconceived".



Case history

The complainant had filed an application before Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, against Ganai and others, alleging therein that his brother was lodged in Jail at Jagadari Haryana under Section 302 IPC in connection with killing of an Army soldier. Three persons including Ganie, claiming to have high political and bureaucratic influence, assured the complainant that they could secure release of his brother and demanded an amount of Rs.5.50 lakh.

Believing the assurance of the accused, the complainant said that he made a payment of Rs.3 lakh Ganie and Rs.1 lakh to another person while the remaining amount of Rs.1.50 lakh was handed over to Ganie in cash. However, he said, despite receiving the payment, the accused persons failed to get his brother released from the custody and demanded an additional amount of Rs.1 lakh which the complainant flatly refused. On his request to do the needful pursuant to the settlement, the accused persons threatened the complainant of dire consequences, the complainant said. The application was forwarded to concerned Police Station and an FIR No.152/2023 for commission of offences under Section 420 and 384 IPC was registered against Ganie and other accused persons.

Ganie had sought bail in anticipation of arrest after a similar request made by him through the medium of an application for grant of bail in anticipation of arrest was turned down by the Sessions Judge, Baramulla on 19 August last year.

## Snow Disrupts Normal Life In Kashmir Valley

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Normal life came to a standstill on Tuesday after the fresh snowfall across the valley led to the cancellation of nearly two dozen flight operations and also the closure of main roads and highways in Jammu and Kashmir. The weatherman however, has predicted the improvement in weather conditions from Wednesday afternoon.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Kashmir valley and some parts of Jammu division continued to experience fresh snowfall including the summer capital of the Union Territory, Srinagar where a snowfall of 5.5 mm was recorded till 05:30 PM.

A fresh Western Disturbance (WD) started affecting J&K on February 18 and under its influence, many areas received fresh snowfall for the third consecutive day while after receiving rains for two straight days, Srinagar experienced a fresh snowfall today.

According to the local Meteorological department, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort and Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a snowfall of 28.0 mm today till 05:30 PM while Pahalgam received a snowfall of 27.7 mm today.

As per the reports, Sonamarg has recorded a snow depth of 5 ft in the last two days while Gulmarg has recorded a snow depth of 3.5 to 4 feet.

In plains of south Kashmir, snow depth ranged from 3 inches to 9 inches today, reports said.

At least 23 flight operations were cancelled in wake of the fresh snowfall and low visibility in Srinagar.

Director Srinagar International Airport, Javid Anjum told KNO that 11 flights were operated while 23 were cancelled due to the bad weather conditions. The flight operation has been completely suspended now, he said.

Due to the fresh wet spell, the major roads and highways including Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, Mughal Road, Bandipora-Gurez Road and others continued to remain closed for vehicular movement.

The officials had said that heavy rains triggered landslides and shooting stones along NH-44. The landslides blocked the road at Dalwas, Mehad-Cafeteria, Ramban, Chamlwah and Gangroo while the shooting stones occurred at T2, Jaiswal bridge, Gangro, Marog and other places along

- 23 FLIGHTS CANCELLED
- HIGHWAY CLOSED
- TRAIN SERVICES AFFECTED
- EXAMS POSTPONED
- AVALANCHE WARNING ISSUED
- HELPLINE NUMBERS ESTABLISHED

NH-44 on Monday. "Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) is still blocked due to landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at several places. People are advised to avoid journeys on NH-44 till the weather improves and the road is clear," the officials said.

At least six train services were cancelled today due to the inclement weather conditions. Officials in the Railway told KNO that six trains were cancelled today while many others got delayed due to bad weather conditions.

In wake of the prevailing weather conditions, the authorities in the University of Kashmir postponed all examinations scheduled for tomorrow.

"It is notified for the information of all concerned candidates that due to inclement weather conditions, all examinations of University of Kashmir which are scheduled to be held on 21st of February 2024 stand postponed. Fresh dates shall be issued soon," KU officials said.

Authorities in Islamia College have also postponed the examinations scheduled for tomorrow

"In continuation to this office notification No/ICS/Exam: 563/ D2-20 dated 06.02.2023 the examination of UG 6th Semester (batch 2020 backlog) scheduled on 21.02.2024 (Wednesday) is postponed and shall now be held on 24.02.2024 (Saturday)," the official hand-out said.

Besides, all the internal/practical/Continuous assessment examination scheduled on 21.02.2024 stands postponed. Fresh dates shall be communicated to the students by the respective departments, it added.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate snow at many places till afternoon and late afternoon tomorrow. There will be gradual improvement thereafter following which no significant weather activity is expected till February 27, he said.

Read full story online at [Kashmirobserver.com](http://Kashmirobserver.com)

## Teachers To Attend Schools From Feb-21: Govt

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Amid inclement weather conditions, School Education Department Tuesday clarified that there will be no rescheduling for reopening of schools for teachers and students.

Administrative Secretary School Education Department, Piyush Singla informed the news agency that the scheduled date for reopening of schools for teachers and students remains stand.

"There is no question of extending the winter vacations for teaching staff," he said.

Singla clarified that the teaching staff shall report back to their respective schools on February-21.

Pertinently, in Novem-

ber-2023, School Education Department had announced closure of schools in a phased manner in Kashmir division from November-28-2023 to February-29-2024.

For primary level classes up to 8th standard, the vacations were announced from November-28 to February-29-2024.

However, from 9th standard onwards upto 12th standard, the vacations were announced from December-11 to February-29-2024 respectively.

The School Education Department had ordered that the teaching staff shall report back to their respective schools on February-21-2024, so that they remain available for making arrangements regarding preparation of ensuing examinations—(KNO)

## Muzaffar Baig Says 'Not Associated with PDP'

KNO

**JAMMU:** Former deputy minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig on Tuesday said that he is not associated with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Talking to reporters, Baig, who attended the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally today in Jammu, said that he is not affiliated with PDP nor would join it.

"No, I am not affiliated with PDP nor would I approach them (for joining). If they would ask me to join, I would tell them to prefer national interest rather than political and

personal benefits," he was quoted as saying by the news agency KNO.

Baig had last month claimed that he had never quit PDP. "I didn't leave the PDP. I was inactive for quite some time but I'm still associated with the party. The relation between me and PDP is like a single soul," Baig told reporters in Bijbehra on January 7, 2013. He had even said that his two daughters are the biggest supporters of Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti.

Even Mehbooba Mufti had welcomed Baig's re-entry in PDP and termed him as elder brother.

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/24/TEND/ELE/LTPCMB/03 Dated: 20-02-2024.

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K UT, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State UT / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following work.

<b>Name of work: SITC of LT Power Panels for Civil &amp; Mechanical Block at IUST Awantipora.</b>	
Advertised Cost of Construction	Rs. 22,68,780.00
Class of Contract	Class "A"
Bid submission Start Date	20-02-2024
Bid submission End Date	27-02-2024 Up to 6:00 PM
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy).	28-02-2024 From 10:00 AM Up to 4:00 PM
Bids shall be opened at IUST on 29-02-2024 at 2:00 PM.	
Tender document can be downloaded from website. ( <a href="https://iktenders.gov.in">https://iktenders.gov.in</a> )	
Detailed Tender Notice is available on university website <a href="http://www.iust.ac.in">www.iust.ac.in</a>	

DIPK-NB-5758-23  
DT: 20/02/2024

sd/  
Executive Engineer, IUST

**GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.**  
**GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.  
E-mail:- phevwd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:- 0194-2411285

**EXTENSION NOTICE 13th**

**Sub:- Construction of 01 No.125mm machine drilled tube well at Khanpora Near Chinar Orphanage District Budgam.**

Due to "Poor /No Response" for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No.32/ JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, issued under No: - JS- PHE/GWDS/Corrs./5855-68, Dated: 25-10-2023.

Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 20-02-2024 (02.00PM) are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	02-03-2024 up to 02.00PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	03-03-2024 11.00AM

**NOTE:-**  
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e- NIT.  
No: - JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs.10502-12  
Dated:- 20-02-2024  
DIPK-16735-23  
DT: 20/02/2024

sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

## Khelo India Winter Games 2024 Add Glitter To Gulmarg

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amidst the snowflakes hitting the slopes without a break, the preparations for the Khelo India Winter Games continued unabated.

As the preparations for the Night Ski demo, which has been a traditional way all through the previous editions to warm up for the games were completed, the program had to be deferred as many athletes could not reach the venue due to the cancellation of several flights hit by bad weather.

Earlier in the day, despite the heavy snowfall the engineering team of CDK Sports Council after an initial assessment of the situation, meticulously planned for the execution of non-stop work to not affect the schedule. Though due to the heavy snowfall, it was difficult for the vehicles to move, the team made a quick decision and prepared a



sledge to transport some of the required material to the inaugural venue without wasting any time.

Gulmarg Development Authority on the directions of its CEO Waseem Raja also aided the ef-

forts by pressing snow groomers into the service despite heavy snowfall to facilitate the efforts of workers on the ground.

The administration also ensured that the roads leading to Gulmarg were cleared of snow and

maintained properly for smooth traffic movement.

Meanwhile, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull said that this event opens gates of opportunity not only for our athletes to showcase their talent but also to various

stakeholders for whom Gulmarg is a source of livelihood.

Nuzhat Gull while speaking to one more media outlet at Highland Slopes where she was supervising the preparedness of the venue for the night ski demo said that the Gulmarg is ready to welcome the athletes and guests.

The games are set to be inaugurated today and the events scheduled for the day include a Nordic sprint for women and a 10 kilometres distance race for men to be held at the Gulmarg Golf Course.

The signages and glow boards erected in and around the Gulmarg bowl and the Upper vat have made the Gulmarg colourful and pleasing to the eye said one of the tourists, Ritika Vaidya from Maharashtra.

The live streaming of the Khelo India Winter Games apart from multiple online platforms shall be also aired on DD Sports.

## IPL 2024 To Begin March 22



Press Trust of India

**RANCHI:** The much-anticipated Indian Premier League is all set to kick start on March 22 and despite the coinciding 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, it will be held entirely in India, league chairman Arun Dhimal told PTI on Tuesday.

According to details, the Lok Sabha elections are expected to be held in April and May. This is the main reason why the schedule for the IPL's 17th edition has not been unveiled yet.

Dhimal said only the schedule of the first 15 days will be announced and the roster for the remaining games will be decided after the announcement of

the general election dates. The dates of the Lok Sabha polls are expected to be announced early next month.

"We are looking at a March 22 start for the tournament. We are working closely with the government agencies and we will first release the initial schedule. The entire tournament will be held in India," PTI quoted Dhimal as saying.

The IPL was held overseas (South Africa) in 2009 and the 2014 edition was partially held in the UAE due to the general elections. While the tournament was held in India in 2029 despite the elections. The final is likely to be held on May 26, considering

the T20 World Cup begins within days of the cash-rich league's conclusion.

India will play their opening World Cup fixture against Ireland in New York on June 5 while the ICC showpiece begins with the USA and Canada clash on June 1.

As is the norm, the IPL opener will be played between the last year's finalists, the winners Chennai Super Kings in this case and runners-up Gujarat Titans.

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc became the most expensive player in the history of the league after being bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for ₹24.75 crore in the players' auction for the 2024 season was held in December last year.

## Ladakh Dominates 8th National Snowshoe C'ship



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a spectacular display of talent and resilience, Team Ladakh emerged victorious in the 8th National Snowshoe Championships held at Sonamarg in Kashmir Valley, clinching an impressive total of 18 medals.

Led by coach Sajjad Hussain, the athletes showcased their prowess in various categories, bringing home a diverse array of accolades. Notable achievements include Zayidd Khalil and Nasrullah Elya securing Silver and Bronze respectively in the Senior Boys Long Distance category. Gh. Ali claimed a Silver medal in the Senior Boys Short Distance Sprint.

Nusrat Sakina displayed exceptional skill, securing Silver in the Senior Girls Long Distance, while Zareena Batool and Nusrat Sakina added to the glory with

Gold and Silver respectively in the Senior Girls Short Distance.

Gh. Haider took home the Gold in the Junior Boys Long Distance, and Javed Ahmed secured Silver in the Junior Boys Short Distance Sprint. Fareeda Batool impressed in the Junior Girls Short Distance Sprint, securing a Bronze Medal. Faisalullah also contributed with a Bronze Medal in the Junior Boys Sprint category.

Team Ladakh further showcased their teamwork in the Relay 400m events, securing an impressive 4 Gold medals in the Senior Boys category and 4 Silver medals in the Senior Girls category.

President Shahnawaz Var of the Snowshoe Association Ladakh commended the team's exceptional performance and recognized Coach Sajjad's pivotal role in their success. (Ladakh News Service)

## Kohli Becomes Father Of A Baby Boy



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Star India batter Virat Kohli on Tuesday announced that he and his actress wife Anushka Sharma were blessed with a baby boy on February 15.

Kohli and Anushka are already proud parents of a three-year-old daughter Vamika.

"With abundant happiness and our hearts full of love, we are pleased to inform everyone that on 15th February, we welcomed our baby boy Akaay & Vamika's little brother into this world!" Kohli in-

formed in an Instagram post. "We seek your blessings and good wishes in this beautiful time in our lives. We request you to kindly respect our privacy at this time."

Kohli had opted out of the ongoing Test series against England, citing personal reasons. India are leading the five-match series 2-1.

**NEW DEEPFAKE VIDEO ABOUT KOHLI**

Superstar cricketer Virat Kohli has fallen victim to a deepfake scam as a morphed video circulates on social media depicting him endorsing

an online betting app with an AI-generated voiceover.

The manipulated footage stems from Kohli's 2018 interview with Graham Bensinger, raising concerns about credibility.

The misleading content falsely claims Kohli earned Rs 81,000 by investing just Rs 1,000 in three days, promising a '2000% win'.

This misuse of AI follows a similar scam involving cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, emphasising the dangers of deepfake videos exploiting celebrities' influence on their global fanbase.

## 8-Year-Old Beats Polish Grandmaster, Breaks Record



Press Trust of India

**SINGAPORE:** An eight-year-old Indian-origin boy defeated Polish chess grandmaster (GM) Jacek Stopa at the Burgdorfer Stadthaus Open in Switzerland on Sunday, becoming the youngest player to defeat a GM in classical chess.

Ashwath Kaushik, who represented Singapore, defeated Stopa, who at 37 is nearly five times older than him, according to a Channel News Asia report.

The previous record was set only a few weeks earlier when Serbia's Leonid Ivanovic, who is several months older than Ashwath, beat 60-year-old Bulgarian grandmaster Milko Popchev at the Belgrade Open.

Currently ranked World No. 37,338 on FIDE, the international chess federation, the Indian citizen, who moved to

Singapore in 2017, said, "I felt proud of my game and how I played, especially since I was worse at one point but managed to come back from that".

Singaporean grandmaster and CEO of the Singapore Chess Federation Kevin Goh lauded Ashwath's feat on X, saying, "Dad is super supportive, boy is dedicated, school allows flexibility and of course he has natural talent."

"Remains to be seen how far he can go as interests can change as the boy gets older. Still, we are hopeful."

Goh also joked that as he is only eight years old, Ashwath still "needs a booster cushion to reach the other side of the board".

He also attributed Ashwath's success to the "many other coaches and supporters" on his journey.

## Palestine To Become Member Of International Climbing Federation



Agencies

The Palestine Social Sport Climbing Club Association (PCCA) is to become a member of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), officials said on Tuesday, providing recognition to the state in the fast growing Olympic sport. The executive board of the IFSC voted to include the Palestine organisation, along with federations representing Bolivia, Guam and Nigeria, in a decision that will be ratified at the IFSC General Assembly in Chile on March 22 and 23.

"The PCA is the 26th IFSC

member federation on the Asian continent, and is led by president Hiba Shaheen, vice president Tawfiq Alnejada and secretary general Taher Sharaf," the IFSC said in a statement. IFSC has 98 members, including Israel. Russia and Belarus are currently suspended due to the conflict in Ukraine.

Palestine's inclusion in the IFSC comes amid the backdrop of Israel's military war in Gaza, which has since killed more than 29,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, say health authorities in the enclave.

Sport climbing is part of the programme at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games with the final field in the men's and women's competitions still to be decided. There are two remaining qualifier series events to be staged in Shanghai (May 16-19) and Budapest (June 20-23). The sport made its Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020.

## Mbappe Agrees Deal To Join Real Madrid

Agencies

**PARIS/MADRID:** France captain Kylian Mbappe has agreed to join Real Madrid on a five-year deal.

The striker had already informed his club Paris St Germain that he is leaving the club as a free agent after his contract expires in June seven years after joining them.

Mbappe, a member of France's 2018 World Cup-winning team, signed for PSG from Monaco in 2017 for 180 million euros (\$194 million) to become the second most expensive player ever after Brazilian Neymar, who joined the French champions the same year for 222 million euros.

The 25-year-old striker, who helped the capital club win five Ligue 1 titles and three French Cups, is PSG's all-time leading scorer with 243 goals in 290 appearances.

Mbappe last year sent a letter to PSG stating that he would not take up the option to extend his contract by a year



when it expires in June.

He has long been linked with Real Madrid, reportedly rejecting a 200 million euro (\$215.36 million) offer in 2021. He was

again set for a move to the LaLiga side in 2022 before announcing a contract extension with PSG before the transfer window opened.

## Liverpool's Jota Out For Months, Says Klopp



Agencies

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool forward Diogo Jota will be missing for months because of injury, manager Jurgen Klopp said on Tuesday.

The Portugal international hurt his right knee in the first half of Liverpool's 4-1 win at Brentford in the English Premier League on Saturday. "We have Diogo with a knee issue ruled out - it will obviously take months," Klopp said ahead of Liverpool's home match against Luton on Wednesday.

The injury potentially threatens Jota's involvement in the European Championship in Germany starting in June.

Liverpool's injury crisis has deepened, with nine senior players unavailable heading into a key

period of the season that includes the English League Cup final against Chelsea on Sunday.

Klopp didn't give a return date for injured pair Curtis Jones or Alisson Becker and he described Trent Alexander-Arnold and Dominik Szoboszlai as "longer term" problems. Striker Darwin Nunez was replaced at halftime against Brentford as a precaution.

**CHELSEA TARGETS BRIGHTON FOR ITS HEAD OF RECRUITMENT**

Chelsea has targeted English Premier League rival Brighton once again to strengthen its technical staff. Brighton said on Tuesday its head of recruitment, Sam Jewell, was placed on leave after accepting a new position at Chelsea. (AP)