

## Waqf (Amendment) Bill Introduced In LS Referred To JPC, Oppn Calls It Draconian

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday introduced The Waqf (Amendment) Bill and proposed sending it to a joint parliamentary committee after opposition parties objected to its provision.

He also introduced The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024. Home Minister Amit Shah said since the Waqf Act of 1995 came into being, there was a need to repeal the Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923 which had lost its relevance.

He accused the opposition of "misleading" Muslims and saying that amendments had to be brought in as the present act had many mistakes and could not serve its purpose.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill also aims at renaming the Waqf Act, 1995, as the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995.

The bill was circulated among Lok Sabha members on Tuesday night ahead of its introduction.

Soon after Rijiju sought leave to introduce the bill, many opposition MPs, who had given notices to oppose the bill, alleged that the proposed legislation was an "attack on the Constitution and federalism".

Responding to | More on P6

# High-level ECI Team Visits J&K, Reviews Poll Preparedness



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI), headed by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, along with Election

Commissioners (ECs) Gyanesh Kumar and Dr SS Sandhu commenced a pivotal two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to oversee poll preparations for Assembly Elections in the Union Territory.

The visit underscores the ECI's unwavering commitment to facilitating a seamless and transparent electoral process in the region.

The ECI team engaged in extensive | More on P6

## ECI Commends UT Admin For Successful LS Polls Calls For Sustained Diligence

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India Thursday lauded the successful conduct of Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the first after Article 370 was revoked in 2019.

The ECI team which is on a 2-day visit to J&K to review assembly poll preparedness complemented the UT administration, local poll body besides district teams for their successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections. ECI also cautioned against

complacency.

The commission emphasized the need to continue working diligently, aiming to set new standards beyond the benchmarks established during the Parliamentary elections of 2024.

As soon as the meeting with political parties culminated at SKICC, the top officials from civil and police administration Thursday met the high-level team of Election Commission of India (ECI) here. The top officials including | More on P6

## J&K's Statehood To Be Restored Before October?

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Thursday said that the Centre may announce restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir before October this year.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said that the legislative assembly elections may also be held in October.

"Polls are scheduled to be held in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh before October. I think before October, statehood can be restored and elections may also happen in October," he said while appealing to people to ensure record breaking turnout.

He reiterated that the home minister had announced at the time of abrogation of Article 370 that assembly elections and statehood will be restored. He hailed the high voter turnout in Lok Sabha and lauded people for strengthening democracy.

Speaking about his half an hour meeting with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar, Athawale said tourism has flourished since the abrogation of Article 370.

"More than 2.11 crore tourists including foreigners have visited here. People don't fear going to Kashmir now.

Earlier, they wanted to come but terrorism | More on P6

## Political Parties Demand Early Assembly Polls

With the Supreme Court deadline for holding Assembly polls looming large, the Election Commission (EC) held a series of meetings in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday with political parties and district heads of the civil administration and police in order to get feedback for holding the election. The EC team, led by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and including

election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu, met representatives of registered political parties, including the National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party (JKPP), at the International Convention Centre (SKICC) here. Immediate Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir | More on P6

## BJP Makes Manifesto Committee For J&K

Say Holding Assembly Elections Prerogative Of ECI

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K unit said on Thursday that the party is prepared for the forthcoming assembly elections in J&K, announcement of which is at the Election Commission of India's 'discretion'.

BJP as a political party is prepared for the next assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, for which the preparations have been started far in advance, J&K BJP general secretary, Sunil Sharma said at a press conference here.

"Holding elections is the prerogative of the Election Commission of India (ECI), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a political party is prepared to contest elections anytime the poll body makes an announcement," Sharma said.

The BJP, he said, is busy getting its cadre ready for the

democratic exercise well in advance, and that a twelve member poll manifesto committee has also been constituted to solicit the public opinion.

"The twelve-member committee led by Dr. Nirmal Singh, the chairman of the party's manifesto committee, will be drafting the BJP's electoral manifesto in run-up to the assembly elections based on inputs gathered from the ground," he said.

The exercise, Sharma said, is being carried out to prepare an electoral manifesto based on the aspirations of the people of J&K, and the party manifesto committee will be visiting every district of the UT in this direction.

"J&K Election Affairs Incharge and Union Minister GK Reddy during a meeting in Jammu constituted a twelve-member BJP manifesto committee. The BJP leaders would knock on people's doors | More on P6

## Kashmiri Students Recount Horrors Of Bangladesh Protests

Agencies

Srinagar: When Malaika Masood, 21, arrived at Srinagar Airport and spotted her family, she rushed towards them and hugged them tightly.

"It felt like my second birth," she says.

Masood's parents and other family members waited for her at the airport for hours to receive the final-year medical student from Dhaka, Bangladesh, which is engulfed in massive anti-reservation protests.

It was a mixed feeling for the relieved family when they got Masood's first glimpse, embracing, kissing, and sobbing.

A student of Dhaka National Medical College (DNMC) in Old Dhaka, Masood was among nearly 8,000 Indian students who arrived from Bangladesh since the protest broke out in the neighbouring country.

"It was a horrific experience to stay in a locked hostel for



many days with no food, no internet, and lots of fear and uncertainty," she said.

"The authorities were not allowing anyone to move outside. The Bangladeshi Army also ordered shoot at sight, which scared everyone at the hostel."

Masood said she was unable to contact her family in Srinagar, which made her situation tough and gave her sleepless nights.

Somehow, her brother,

Sehal, who is presently in Sydney, Australia, contacted her, and she re-established a connection with the family, her mother Daraksha said. She said it was after many days of negotiations and calls to the Indian Embassy and consulates that Masood could leave the hostel for safer destinations.

"College authorities arranged ambulances for them while the Indian Embassy facilitated a safe journey to the airport and | More on P6

## 'NHAI Boosts Road Infra In J&K' Over 130 km Highways Constructed In 3 Yrs: GoI

Observer News Service

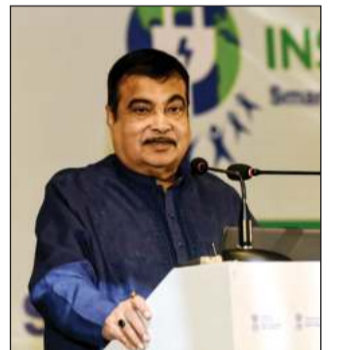
Srinagar: The Government of India (GoI) on Thursday said that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has made significant progress in enhancing road infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir with over 130 kilometers of highways constructed over the past three years.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Jairam Gadkari was replying to a query of Rajesh Ranjan.

Gadkari said the NHAI constructed 48.30 kilometers of highways in 2021-22, 42.90 kilometers in 2022-23, and 39.10 kilometers in 2023-24.

These figures are part of a broader national effort, with a total of 33,137 kilometers of highways built across India during the same period.

"The total expenditure on these projects exceeded Rs 7 lakh crore, with Rs 2,15,207 crore spent in 2021-22, Rs:



2,21,490 crore in 2022-23, and Rs 2,68,711 crore in 2023-24, all over India," he added.

Furthermore, the minister added that the government has implemented various measures to expedite the process. These include streamlining land acquisition procedures, revamping the Parivesh Portal for quicker environmental approvals, introducing online systems for obtaining railway clearances, and holding regular review meetings with all stakeholders.

## Pvt Schools On State Land Invitation For Land Grabbers: HC Asks Schools On State Land To Exchange Proprietary Land

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday said that the existence of a private school infrastructure on Kahcharie land if permitted to operate, run, and continue, will only encourage unscrupulous elements to make "use/misuse" of such instances/examples to grab common land.

Disposing of a number of petitions, a bench of Chief Justice (Acting) Tashi Rabstan Kahcharie land is meant for a particular purpose, "that is, for common purpose, which cannot be permitted to be deviated."

Replying to a query "whether the existence of the school



infrastructure on Kahcharie land is relevant for the purposes of carrying out the educational programme and activities", the Court said: "...A private school in any manner cannot be treated and deemed as a government

with connected matters school. So, existence of a private school infrastructure on Kahcharie land, if permitted to operate, run, and continue, will only encourage unscrupulous elements to make | More on P6

## 6th Schedule Demand Ladakh Councils Have Decision-making Powers: Govt

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The democratic representation and decision-making powers of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) have been retained following the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh in 2019, the government informed Parliament on Thursday.

These LAHDCs continue to exercise executive powers over different subjects within their respective districts, the government also said in response to a query regarding the extension of tribal area status to the Union Territory (UT).

The LAHDCs in Leh and Kargil function as District Planning and Development

Boards and prepare plans for different programmes and policies. They reflect the demands and aspirations of the local population, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey said in response to a question by Congress MPs Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka and Tanuj Punia. Ulaka and Punia had asked whether the government intends to extend the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to Ladakh, and the reasons behind the delay in granting tribal area status to the UT.

The minister said the matter of the Sixth Schedule under Article 244(2) of the Constitution and the UT of Ladakh falls | More on P6

## J&K Sees 92% Surge In 'Ladli Beti' Coverage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the last four years, the coverage of "LadliBeti" scheme in Jammu and Kashmir has increased by more than 92 percent.

As per the figures, the government has expanded coverage of "Ladli Beti" from 16,095 cases in 2017 to 1,61,552 cases upto 2023-24.

During this period, the financial assistance for the deserving girl children under this scheme has increased from '24 crore to '847 crore

Under the "Ladli Beti" scheme, every girl child born on or after April 1, 2015, to parents or guardians with an

annual income not exceeding Rs 75,000 is eligible for coverage.

The scheme provides financial assistance of Rs 1,000 per month, directly credited into the girl child's bank account through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode, until she reaches the age of 14. Upon attaining the age of 21, the girl child will receive an approximate sum of Rs 6.50 lakhs.

In September 2022, the Jammu and Kashmir government fully digitized the "Ladli Beti" scheme to maximize its reach and ensure transparency, making it easier for eligible beneficiaries to access the program.

Officials | More on P6

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# AI-Powered Antibiotic Breakthrough Offers Hope For Drug Development

**I**n a major advancement for tackling antibiotic resistance, researchers at The University of Texas at Austin have developed a promising new antibiotic using artificial intelligence. The research, published in Nature Biomedical Engineering, marks a significant step forward in creating safer and more effective treatments. The research team employed a large language model (LLM), similar to the technology behind ChatGPT, to re-engineer Protegrin-1. This potent antibiotic, naturally produced by pigs, was effective in killing bacteria but

was previously too toxic for human use. By modifying Protegrin-1, the researchers aimed to preserve its antibacterial properties while eliminating its harmful effects on human cells. To achieve this, the team generated over 7,000 variations of Protegrin-1 through a high-throughput method, allowing them to quickly identify which modifications could enhance safety. They then used the LLM to evaluate these variations for their ability to selectively target bacterial membranes, effectively kill bacteria, and avoid harming human red blood cells. This AI-guided approach led to the creation



of a refined version known as bacterially selective Protegrin-1.2 (bsPG-1.2). In preliminary animal trials, mice treated with bsPG-1.2 and infected with multidrug-resistant bacteria showed a significant reduction in bacterial levels in their organs within six hours. These promising results suggest that bsPG-1.2

could potentially advance to human trials. Claus Wilke, a professor of integrative biology and co-senior author of the study, highlighted the transformative impact of AI on drug development. "Large language models are revolutionising protein and peptide engineering, making it possible to develop new drugs and improve existing ones more efficiently. This technology not only identifies potential new treatments but also speeds up their path to clinical application," Wilke said. The breakthrough underscores how AI is being harnessed to address critical health challenges.

## انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ محترمہ مرحومہ نغمہ سوسومہ ساکنہ چیک صدرہ بل حضرت بل بروز منگل وار 16 اگست 2024 کو اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر کے خالق حقیقی سے جا ملیں۔ مرحومہ خدیجہ نہایت شریفہ انشس، خوش اخلاق، اور پابند صوم و صلوات ایک ملتساریک سیرت خاتون تھیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو رحمت و جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے آمین اور ساتھ ہی ان کے غمزہ خاندان ولواحقین کو صبر و جمیل عطا فرمائے آمین اس سلسلے میں مرحومہ کی فاتحہ خوانی 10 اگست 2024 کو ان کے آبی مقبرہ مدفنہ نزدیکی نو بہنہ پولیس سٹیشن شیشی گری محلہ میں صبح ساڑھے دس بجے انجام دی جائے گی اور دن بھر گھر میں تعزیتی مجلس رہے گی

سوگواران خاندان

inf 7889383374

## AN URGENT APPEAL

(My Daughter Needs Liver Transplant)

I would like to appeal all the generous, kind hearted people that my daughter Seerat Gul R/O Nowgam, Tehsil Sumbal is suffering from Wilson's disease with partial HTN with recurrent ascites and SBP. The patient needs liver transplant as recommended by doctors. The liver transplant estimate is about Rs 40 lacs as certified by Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. Subsequently I request general public, who are bestowed with means and sense of charity and empathy to provide me assistance so that I can save the precious life of my daughter.

**Mushtaq Ahmad Najar**  
 F/o Seerat Gul  
 R/o Nowgam Sumbal  
 A/C No: 0729-0420-0000-0089  
 J&K Bank Branch : Gadakhud Gamdoo  
 IFSC Code: JAKA0GAMUDD  
 Cell No: 9622428470

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer**  
**R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.**  
 Email ID: xenbemina@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**NIT No. 30/EE/R&B/BM/CS/3538-44 of 2024-25 DATED: 07.08.2024**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Restoration of Sunked portion of road near main entrance gate and pot holes at block A&D of fruit and Vegetable market parimpora Srinagar. (2) Replacement of Damaged Main Entrance Gate near entry point with new one along with construction of Cement concrete pillars and foot path at FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET PARIMPORA SRINAGAR. (3) providing of Reinforced Cement Concrete Road Dividers from Main Gate upto shop No.31a and 157-B at F&V market Parimpora Srinagar. (4). "Repairs/Renovation of AMO office Srinagar by way of white washing, repair of damaged existing gate, gate pillars and boundary wall, landscaping of park area and providing of sign board etc". (5) "Construction of surface drain at spots and cleaning / disliting of existing surface / deep drain / manholes at FRUIT AND VEGETABLE Market Parimpora Srinagar. (6) "Renovation of pump house by way of raising of height, construction of side control room ,development of area and providing of chain link fencing etc (civil work only)	55.984	1600/-	1,11,968/-	40 Days	4401 Capex Budget 2024-25	"AAY"

Position of AAA: **Accorded**  
 Position of Funds: **Available**  
 Project Authority: **Director Horticulture (P&M) J&K.**

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

S.No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07.08.2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08.08.2024 from 10.00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	08.08.2024 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	21.08.2024 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22.08.2024 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

1. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

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

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

4. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquire bid submission process.

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

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

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

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

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

5. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

6. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar. (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

7. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

8. Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

9. Any item/items of work found necessary during execution of work though not in the BOQ shall have to be got executed and shall be paid At Par the %age quoted by the bidder, after proper authorization from the Competent Authority.

10. Any addendum issued shall be the part of NIT.

11. Price escalation and Taxes: Bidders are advised to quote Rate without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority. Deduction on account of taxes (Gst etc.) shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

- All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitutional legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
- Registration Card duly renewed/valid for the year 2024-25
- All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate duly issued by the card issuing authority or an Affidavit duly certified by 1<sup>st</sup> class Judicial Magistrate to the effect of genuineness of the registration.
- All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan/Earnest Money.
- All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card.

f. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter i.e. April-June 2024-25 or preceding month i.e. June-2024.

15. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

16. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

17. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

No: EE/R&B/BM/CS/3538-44  
 Dated: 08.08.2024

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

## E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
FZR CLOAK ROOM19	26.08.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for cloak room facility at Amritsar & Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 2472/2024

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Directorate of Colleges**  
**Higher Education Department**

### Public Notice

**Awareness Campaign on PM Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students**

The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from economically weaker sections, helping them meet their day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies.

**Objective of the Scheme:** The primary objective of the scheme is to provide financial support to meritorious students from poor families to assist with their higher education expenses. Scholarships are awarded based on the results of the Higher Secondary / Class 12th Board Examination.

**Benefits of the Scheme:**

- Rate of Scholarship:**
  - ₹12,000 per annum at the Graduation level for the first three years of college and university courses.
  - ₹20,000 per annum at the Postgraduate level.
  - ₹20,000 per annum in the 4th and 5th year for students pursuing professional courses, in cases where the duration of the course is five years/integrated course.
  - Students pursuing technical courses such as B.Tech, B.Engg. will receive scholarships up to graduation level only, i.e., ₹12,000 per annum for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year and ₹20,000 in the 4th year.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- The applicant must have a score of above 80 percentile in the relevant stream from the respective Board of Examination in Class 12th of the 10+2 pattern or equivalent.
- The applicant must be pursuing regular degree courses.
- The applicant must be pursuing courses at colleges/institutions recognized by the All-India Council for Technical Education and the respective Regulatory Bodies concerned.
- The gross parental/family income of the applicant should not exceed ₹4,50,000 per annum.
- For renewal of the scholarship in each year of study, besides getting at least 50% marks in the Annual Examination, maintenance of adequate attendance (at least 75%) is required.
- The students are required to have bank accounts opened, especially in their name.

**Exclusions:**

- Students pursuing correspondence or distance mode or pursuing Diploma courses are not eligible.
- Students already availing benefits from any other scholarship schemes, including State-run scholarship schemes/fee waiver & reimbursement schemes, are not eligible.

**Application Process:**

**Online New Registration:**

- Visit the Registration page of the National Scholarships Portal.
- Read the guidelines and accept the terms. Click "Continue".
- Fill in the registration form and click "Register". Your Application ID and password will be displayed and sent via SMS to your registered mobile number.

**Fresh Application:**

- Visit the applicant Login page of the National Scholarships Portal and enter your Application ID and password.
- Provide the OTP received on your registered mobile number. Create a new password and confirm.
- Fill in the application form and upload the required documents. Verification will be done through the DIGILOCKER facility of the MeitY, Govt. of India.
- You can either "Save as Draft" to complete the application later or click "Final Submit" to apply.

**Contact Information:** For more details and assistance, please visit the official PM-USP Yojana website or contact National Scholarship Division Tel: 011- 20862360 E-mail: [es3.edu@nic.in](mailto:es3.edu@nic.in)

**The last date to apply for the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarships for College and University Students is 31 October 2024**

**This notice is issued in public interest.**

Sd/-  
 Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir  
 Director Colleges J&K  
 Higher Education Department

DIPK-4404/24 DATED: 08-08-2024

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving license bearing dl no: JK 0420120015224. Now I Have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zahoor Abbas  
 S/o Mohd Bashir Wani

BMG

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my particular in my J&K Bank account details from Bileges Akhter D/O Gh Mohidin Mir To Bileges Akhter W/O Mukhtar Ali Wani R/O Arampora Singhpora Pattan . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned J&K Branch Manager within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bileges Akhter  
 W/O Mukhtar Ali Wani  
 R/O Arampora Singhpora Pattan

bmj

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Yasir Ahmad Parra from Larkipora had been playing cricket with Royal Warriors Bunsharan for long time . Being the permanent member of this team I have never played cricket with Larkipora Cricket Team or any other village cricket team. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven day from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

bmj

**Blue Balloon Educational Institute**  
 Sharatpora Shopian 192303 Kashmir  
 Ref. no: 712/2024 dated: 07-07-2024

Fee Structure For 2024

S.No	Class	Monthly Fee
01	8th	800
02	7th	750
03	6th	750
04	5th	690
05	4th	670
06	3rd	650
07	2nd	600
08	1st	600
09	UKG	550
10	LKG	550
11	Nursery	500
12	Pre-Nursery	450

Principal  
 Blue Balloon Educational Institute  
 Sharatpora Shopian

**New Roseland Educational Institute**  
 Herman Shopian 192303 Kashmir  
 Ref. no: NRLEI/HR/24  
 Monthly Fee scale of students For the year 2024-25

S.No	Class	Monthly Fee
01	Nursery	600
02	LKG	600
03	UKG	650
04	1st	650
05	2nd	700
06	3rd	700
07	4th	750
08	5th	750

Headmaster New Roseland  
 Educational Institute

## ACS Inaugurates Workshop On Integrated Management Of Wular Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Forest, Ecology and Environment, Dheeraj Gupta said that Wular Lake is a societal asset and we all have a responsibility towards its protection, preservation and conservation.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a multi-stakeholders workshop for management of Wular Lake at Banquet Hall here.

The workshop is being organized by Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) in association with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)-German Development Cooperation (GIZ) Technical Cooperation project 'Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection'.

The workshop aims to facilitate discussions on ongoing management actions, their effectiveness and jointly identify future priorities and strategies for integrated management of Wular Lake.

In his keynote address, ACS said that we all should feel our responsibility towards the nation and the people and proves true saviors of the Wular Lake. He said that stern efforts were required and we as a society have to rise to the occasion to work for its protection, preservation and conservation.

Gupta said that the government has embarked on a transformative journey to restore and revitalize the Wular Lake with special focus

on the ecotourism and livelihood of the local communities.

He urged upon the need for a thorough analysis of past efforts and emphasized for the need of improved inter-departmental collaboration to ensure cohesive and coordinated efforts across various governmental and non-governmental organizations.

He further said that tourism in Kashmir has experienced a significant surge over the past four years, leading to an increased interest in the region's natural and cultural attractions. In response to this growth, the WUCMA is actively developing a comprehensive zonal master plan for ecotourism around Wular to develop it as a symbol of tourism in Kashmir valley.

He said that this master plan is designed to integrate sustainable practices that maintain the ecological balance of the lake and its surrounding areas, while simultaneously fostering the livelihood of the local communities.

Dheeraj Gupta further said that the workshop will produce actionable points for the management and conservation of Wular that will provide a clear and comprehensive roadmap, outlining specific timelines with milestones and measurable indicators. This roadmap will guide the future efforts of WUCMA aiming at enhanced coordination among stakeholders towards achieving a sustainable and thriving ecosystem around Wular Lake.

## LG Inspects Progress Of Balidan Stambh In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today reviewed the progress of the 'Balidaan Stambh' at Pratap Park, Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor made an inspectional visit to the prestigious project site and directed the Officials for accelerating the pace of works and timely completion of the project.

The Lt Governor was accompanied by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; RR Swain, DGP; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Law & Order, Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Dr Owais Ahmad, CEO Srinagar Smart City Ltd. and other senior officials.



LG made an inspectional visit to the prestigious project site and directed the Officials for accelerating the pace of work and timely completion of the project.

## Swachhta Pakhwada Campaign SMC Enhances Cleanliness Drive At Religious Places In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Demonstrating a praiseworthy commitment in fostering cleanliness and hygiene within the community, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation has undertaken an extensive cleanliness drive at various religious places, viz temples, mosques, churches, and other places of worship. This initiative is an integral part of the ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada campaign, which aims to nurture a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents.

During this dedicated drive, officials from the SMC and volunteers have collaborated to conduct cleaning activities, implement waste management strategies, and raise

awareness about cleanliness at these revered religious places. The primary goal is not only to uphold the cleanliness standards of these culturally significant places but also to instill a sense of civic responsibility among all.

As a key aspect of this initiative, the SMC has worked closely with religious leaders and community representatives to disseminate messages advocating cleanliness and hygiene among citizens. Religious leaders have been encouraged to integrate discussions on cleanliness and environmental stewardship into their sermons and teachings, emphasizing the crucial importance of maintaining a clean and sustainable living environment.

## DLSA Srinagar Organizes Cleanliness Drive To Mark 78th I-Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar in collaboration with Public Library Baghe Mehtab Thursday organized a comprehensive cleanliness drive at Legal Aid Clinic, Bagh Mehtab within the library premises.

The event was held under the guidance of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA Srinagar (PDJ, Srinagar) and under the supervision of Jahangir Ahmed Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

The cleanliness drive, inaugurated by Secretary DLSA Srinagar witnessed enthusiastic participation from

officials of the DLSA Srinagar, library staff, and para-legal volunteers of DLSA Srinagar and workers from Municipal Committee Srinagar, who worked together to ensure a sparkling clean environment for the library patrons.

The cleanliness drive, held in the spirit of national pride and community service, served as a powerful symbol of the shared commitment towards maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

The cleanliness drive served as a meaningful gesture to commemorate the spirit of 78th Independence Day, which will be celebrated on August 15th.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Office Of The Child Development Project Officer**  
POSHAN PROJECT BONIYAR  
(PUBLIC NOTICE).  
Sub: Selection List of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Boniyar.

In pursuance to Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023, and approval conveyed by Mission Director Poshan J&K Srinagar vide No: MD/Poshan/Estt/13281-94 Dated: 08-05-2023, and posts advertised by this office vide No: CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2024/1395-1404 dated 10-06-2024 followed by extension vide No: CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2024/160-72 dated 20-06-2024 for selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Boniyar, and selection list of eligible candidates has been prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023/ Government Order No.222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30-11-2022 and No: SWD-ICDS/43/2022 Dated: 14-08-2023 and selection list has been framed is herewith as Annexure "A" are hereby published for information to general public and inviting appeal/objections if any. The appeal/objection if any against the said selection list, shall be filed in the office of Poshan Project Boniyar against proper receipt by or before 16-08-2024 up to 4:00 Pam, no appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filing appeal/objections.

Annexure-A								
S.No	Name of the Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Residence	Ward No	Marks in class 8th	Max Marks	Percentage	Whether Married /Un-Married
1	Gulshan Akther	W/o Mohammad Ashraf Ganie	Peer Mohalla Batangi	01	202	600	33.68	Yes

Child Dev. Project Officer  
Poshan Boniyar

No: CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2024/  
DIPK-4383/24  
Dated: 08-08-2024

## TRAINS HANDLING PLAN TO UNDERTAKE UPGRADATION WORK

In order to further upgrade the existing infrastructure at Sanehal station on Sanehal - Amritsar Jn. section, Northern Railway will undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work from 13.08.2024 to 27.08.2024. To execute this work suitable traffic blocks will be taken. As a result, following 'Traffic Handling Plan' will be adopted during the above mentioned period:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)	
12411/12 Chandigarh - Amritsar Jn. - Chandigarh Intercity Exp.	24.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
14505 Amritsar Jn. - Nangal Dam Express	14.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
22430 Pathankot - Delhi Jn. Express	14.08.24 to 27.08.24 except 16.08.24 & 23.08.24	
22429 Delhi Jn. - Pathankot Express	13.08.24 to 26.08.24 except 15.08.24 & 22.08.24	
04652 Amritsar Jn. - Jaynagar Special	14, 16, 18, 21, 23 & 25.08.2024	
04651 Jaynagar - Amritsar Jn. Special	16, 18, 20, 23, 25 & 27.08.2024	
04654 Amritsar Jn. - New Jalpaiguri Superfast Spl.	14.08.2024 & 21.08.2024	
04653 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Jn. Superfast Spl.	16.08.2024 & 23.08.2024	
12497/98 New Delhi - Amritsar - New Delhi Shane Punjab	20.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
12242 Amritsar - Chandigarh Express	24.08.2024 to 27.08.2024	
12241 Chandigarh - Amritsar Express	23.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
14614/13 Firozpur Cantt. - Chandigarh - Firozpur Cantt. Exp.	24.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
14506 Nangal Dam - Amritsar Jn. Express	14.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
14503 Kalka - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	23.08.2024	
14504 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Kalka Express	24.08.2024	
04579 Ambala Cantt. Jn. - Ludhiana Jn. MEMU	14.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
04504/03 Ludhiana - Ambala Cantt. - Ludhiana MEMU	14.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
04582 Ludhiana Jn. - Ambala Cantt. Jn. MEMU	14.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
04591/92 Ludhiana - Chheharta - Ludhiana MEMU	14.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	
04690/89 Jalandhar City - Ambala Cantt. - Jalandhar City DMU	24.08.2024 to 26.08.2024	

SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate at / originate from	Date(s) from originating station
14630 Firozpur Cantt. - Chandigarh Sutlej Express	at Ludhiana	13 to 25.08.2024
14629 Chandigarh - Firozpur Cantt. Sutlej Express	from Ludhiana	14 to 26.08.2024
22551 Darbhanga - Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express	at Ambala Cantt.	24.08.2024
15531 Saharsa - Amritsar Jansadharan Express	at Chandigarh	18 & 25.08.2024
22552 Jalandhar City - Darbhanga Antyodaya Express	from Ambala Cantt.	25.08.2024
15532 Amritsar - Saharsa Jansadharan Express	from Chandigarh	19 & 26.08.2024

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Route	Date(s) from originating station
12357 Kolkata Terminal - Amritsar Jn. Durgiana Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	17.08.2024, 20.08.2024 & 24.08.2024
22125 Nagpur - Amritsar Jn. AC Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	17.08.2024
12317 Kolkata Terminal - Amritsar Jn. Akal Takht Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	18.08.2024 & 25.08.2024

12549 Durg - Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Superfast Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	20.08.2024
14617 Purnia Court - Amritsar Jn. Jan Sewa Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	20.08.2024, 23.08.2024, 24.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
14649 Jaynagar - Amritsar Jn. Saryu Yamuna Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	20.08.2024, 23.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
12379 Sealdah - Amritsar Jn. Jalianwala Bagh Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	23.08.2024
14615 Lal Kuan - Amritsar Jn. Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	24.08.2024
14673 Jaynagar - Amritsar Jn. Shaheed Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana	24.08.2024
14610 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Hemkunt Exp.	Via Ludhiana - Sanehal - Rajpura - Ambala Cantt.	24.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
14609 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Hemkunt Exp.	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Sanehal - Ludhiana	24.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
14632 Amritsar Jn. - Dehradun Express	Via Ludhiana - Sanehal - Rajpura - Ambala Cantt.	24.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
14631 Dehradun - Amritsar Jn. Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Sanehal - Ludhiana	24.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
11906 Hoshiarpur - Agra Cantt. Express	Via Ludhiana - Sanehal - Rajpura - Ambala Cantt.	24.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
11905 Agra Cantt. - Hoshiarpur Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Sanehal - Ludhiana	24.08.2024 & 25.08.2024
12926 Amritsar Jn. - Mumbai Central Paschim Express	Via Ludhiana - Sanehal - Rajpura - Ambala Cantt.	25.08.2024 & 26.08.2024
12925 Mumbai Central - Amritsar Jn. Paschim Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Sanehal - Ludhiana	23.08.2024 & 24.08.2024
18102 Jammu Tawi - Tatanagar Express	Via Ludhiana - Sanehal - Rajpura - Ambala Cantt.	24.08.2024
18310 Jammu Tawi - Sambalpur Express	Via Ludhiana - Sanehal - Rajpura - Ambala Cantt.	25.08.2024
18101 Tatanagar - Jammu Tawi Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Sanehal - Ludhiana	23.08.2024
18309 Sambalpur - Jammu Tawi Express	Via Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura - Sanehal - Ludhiana	24.08.2024

REGULATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Regulation of Trains at Station
12920 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Malwa Express	Train will be Regulated by 125 min. in Firozpur Cantt. on 26.08.2024
14650 Amritsar Jn. - Jaynagar Saryu Yamuna Express	Train will be Regulated by 105 min. in Firozpur Cantt. on 26.08.2024
12476 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Hapa Express	Train will be Regulated by 80 min. in Firozpur Cantt. on 26.08.2024

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways Website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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## The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 132014024 Session: Annual Regular Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/Board against my father's name as Bashir Ahmad Budn instead of Bashir Ahmad Bund



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Bushra Bashir  
Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Bund  
Mother's Name: Shameema Akther  
Dob: 04-02-2008  
R/O Puchal  
Mobile 954148096

fko

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Friday | 09-08-2024

## Go Beyond Gulmarg, Pahalgam

Like the last two years, Kashmir Valley is witnessing a massive tourist rush this year also. The government data over the past few shows an impressive growth in tourist arrivals: a total of 1,08,41,009 tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir between January to June 2024 and 2,11,24,674 in 2023, which is an all-time high so far, followed by the visit of 1,88,64,332 tourists in 2022, 1,13,14,884 in 2021 and 34,70,834 tourists in 2020. The growth, in a sense, maps the steady improvement in J&K situation since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, persuading holiday-makers to visit the region. It also reflects the recovery from COVID-19 pandemic.

That said, the spike in tourism is creating a realization that it may not be environmentally sustainable in the long run. This was also acknowledged by the Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendera Singh Shekhawat Wednesday while talking to the media on the sidelines of an event at the International Convention Centre (ICC) on the banks of Dal Lake here. Shekhawat said there was no denying the fact that the prominent tourist destinations were witnessing congestion due to the growing rush of tourists. The minister underlined a dire need "to divert both foreign as well as domestic tourists towards virgin and offbeat destinations across the country including J&K."

Kashmir desperately needs creation of more tourist destination to take pressure off the usual haunts like Gulmarg Pahalgam, and also Mughal gardens along Dal lake. There is no regulation of tourist numbers to these places. Moreover, the influx of tourists and the booming film industry can put pressure on local resources and infrastructure. This calls for prioritization of infrastructure development, including improved connectivity, efficient waste management systems, and the promotion of eco-friendly practices. Also, the roads leading to key tourist spots must be expanded and maintained to reduce traffic congestion and ensure safer travel. Investing in public transportation options, such as shuttle buses to major attractions, could also alleviate some of the pressure on the roadways.

But the excessive focus on fewer resorts are drawing tourists away from other equally scenic places. There is an urgent need to develop new tourists sites, so that the benefits of tourism reach people across the Valley. There are plenty of such places in the Valley - Bangus Valley in North Kashmir, for example. The government needs to invest in the infrastructure in these places to facilitate the tourists to travel to lesser known resorts.

However, in past two years, the UT government has increased the options for tourists by developing more resorts. For example, Aharbal, Yusmarg, Tosamaidan, Gurez, historic old city in Srinagar are finding a prominent place on the tourist map of Kashmir. These places need further development of tourist infrastructure and also wider publicity for people to visit. At the same time, the administration should ensure that the excessive tourism doesn't adversely impact the fragile ecology of the Valley. At some level we have to proactively work to regulate it.



### Did you know? Why Should We Invest?

Inflation erodes capital over time? Investing in the right assets is key to safeguarding your wealth. Check out these high-return options for long-term financial growth!

Inflation erodes capital over time. Rs 10 lakh today will significantly lose value over 20 years due to an annual inflation rate of 6-7%.  
Investment Options Historical performance as under :-

<b>1. Gold:</b> Annual return: 12% Rs 10 lakh Rs 96.5 lakh in 20 years	<b>Annual return: 15%</b> Rs 10 lakh Rs 163.7 lakh (Rs 1.64 crore) in 20 years
<b>2. Fixed Deposit (FD):</b> Annual return: 8% Rs 10 lakh Rs 46.6 lakh in 20 years	<b>5. Mutual Funds:</b> Annual return: 16% Rs 10 lakh Rs 188.4 lakh (Rs 1.88 crore) in 20 years
<b>3. Insurance money back policy as Investment:</b> Annual return: 10% Rs 10 lakh Rs 67.2 lakh in 20 years	<b>6. High-Quality Shares:</b> Annual return: 18% Rs 10 lakh Rs 265.0 lakh (Rs 2.65 crore) in 20 years
<b>4. Kashmir Real Estate:</b>	

#### Prudent Investment Choices for High Returns

Given the potential volatility and market conditions, here's why you should consider quality shares, mutual funds, and ETFs for higher annual returns:

**1. High-Quality Shares:**  
Potential annual return: 18%  
Flexible withdrawal options  
Acceptable short-term fluctuations for long-term stability

**2. Mutual Funds and ETFs:**  
Potential annual return: 15-20%  
Diversified portfolio reduces risk  
Professional management ensures quality investment choices

**3. Consulting Trusted Advisors:**  
Professional guidance ensures a diversified, high-quality portfolio  
Full-service brokerage and experienced advisors bring valuable insights and stability  
Helps avoid the pitfalls of emotional investing and intraday trading risks  
Investing is about planting seeds today for a fruitful future. Rely on experienced financial advisory services to craft a robust investment plan. Remember, quality shares and mutual funds, backed by solid professional advice, significantly outperform other investments over the long term. Investing is not about quick gains; it is a strategic build-up over time.  
In contrast, investing emotionally, such as in speculative Kashmir real estate or poor-quality shares, may lead to disappointment and regret. Avoid intraday trading unless you're prepared for high risks and potential losses.  
Take your time, seek professional advice, and invest wisely in diversified, high-quality shares or mutual funds. These investments not only offer flexibility but also maximize returns over the long term. The goal is to ensure your future financial stability with a well-thought-out investment strategy today.

Learn from the insights of @IshadMushtaq, writer, investor, entrepreneur & Founder of MI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)

Sabzara Ali  
Sophomore at Smith College.

### Digital Marginalisation of women

One of the greatest aftereffects of COVID-19 has been the rapid digital transformation. The surge in digitalization saved many firms during the pandemic, enabling them to adapt to lockdowns through remote work and online operations. Many continued with these online practices even after the pandemic. Online operations such as digital hiring, payments, remote work, and upskilling opportunities on web platforms have significantly benefited advanced economies. However, a critical question remains: How has the digital shift impacted women in developing countries, who have historically had limited access to digital resources?

#### How digitalisation brings the empowerment of women?

Digital transformation is playing a significant role in promoting gender equality by providing women with unprecedented access to knowledge, markets, and advocacy platforms, which have been traditionally restricted due to societal and cultural norms. In India, digitalization has empowered women by granting them access to resources and networks that were previously out of reach. This shift has empowered women to share their stories, voice their opinions on crucial issues, and actively participate in advocacy efforts.

One of the major benefits of digitalization is the access it provides to institutions and services that were previously out of reach for women. Women can now easily connect with banks, start their own businesses, and enter the labor market with greater flexibility. This has been crucial in promoting an inclusive labor force in India. As a result, the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India has seen a remarkable increase, rising from just 4.2% to 37.0% by 2023.

The digitization wave in India is particularly revolutionizing workforce dynamics for women entrepreneurs. Women-owned enterprises now make up 20% of all Indian businesses, a notable increase from 14% a decade ago. Digital platforms, especially mobile phones, are essential tools that lower entry barriers, provide market access, and facilitate training for women. These platforms allow women to navigate financial services and pursue entrepreneurial endeavors more efficiently.

Government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) under the Digital India programme are also playing a vital role. These initiatives promote digital literacy, especially among rural women and girls, helping to bridge the digital divide and ensure that more women can benefit from the opportunities provided by digitalization.

#### The Paradox of Digital Learning for Women

There's a paradox at the heart of digital learning: those who would benefit the most from it are often the least likely to have access. Women, in particular, are disproportionately affected by the digital divide, which impacts them the hardest. According to the Observer Research Foundation Indian women are 15% less likely to own a mobile phone and 33% less likely to use mobile internet than men. Jammu and Kashmir is amongst the top places having such poor and depressing status of women in relation to access to digital devices. Kavita Suri from Jammu



# Left Behind In The Digital Age

## The Paradox of Women's Exclusion in a Rapidly Evolving World

University, in her research paper "Bridging the Gap," mentions that only 38.9% of rural women and 55% of urban women in Jammu and Kashmir have ever used the internet.

#### Cultural and Socio-Economic Barriers

Women especially in rural areas have limited access to digital resources for several reasons. In many rural communities, there's a prevailing belief that digital technology may expose girls to undesirable influences or compromise cultural values. Consequently, families often restrict girls' access to resources like phones, limiting their opportunities for education and employment.

Traditional patriarchal beliefs further dictate that girls should not have independent access to technology, viewing it as a threat

#### Impact on Professional Development

In today's world, digital skills and engagement with technology are essential for securing higher-end jobs and for continuous upskilling. However, women often hesitate to use it for professional development due to safety concerns and fears of unnecessary exposure. This reluctance prevents them from acquiring the digital skills needed for high-skilled, high-income jobs.

Consider online platform based work. While there is a rise in online platform-based work, a lot of women do not opt for these opportunities due to unequal access to digital technologies, safety concerns, and limited access to mobility assets like cars and scooters. Working in unfamiliar locations and with unknown organizations is concerning for many wom-

#### What's in the future?

In recent years, the rise in female labor force participation has been notable, largely fueled by the growth of the IT sector and the expanding digital economy. As of 2023, the female labor force participation rate reached 36%. However, Rosa Abraham from Azim Premji University highlights that much of this increase is driven by unpaid family work rather than paid employment. She calls this "distress-led employment," where financial pressures push more women into self-employment, with earnings remaining stagnant.

Despite improvements in primary and secondary education, women have missed out on opportunities in fast-growing sectors due to a growing demand for technically and digitally skilled labor, where men often have higher levels of tertiary education and vo-

Unfortunately, many women remain excluded from these benefits due to limited digital literacy. Connecting them to these initiatives is essential for promoting digital inclusion and empowerment

to familial honor or control. This leads to intra-household discrimination, preventing women from accessing digital devices. Their online activities are often controlled by male relatives.

Socio-economic disparities also play a significant role. With limited financial resources, essentials are prioritized, and mobile phones are seen as luxuries. In financially constrained households, girls are frequently overlooked when resources are allocated. According to the Oxfam Inequality Report, the percentage of men with phones is more than women, with as many as 61 per cent of them having a mobile by the end of 2021 as compared to 31 per cent females, a gap of 30 per cent.

Women are often deterred from using digital resources due to hostile online environments filled with hate speech and harassment. Lower digital literacy and skills make them more vulnerable to cyberbullying and cyberstalking, which restricts their use of technology and widens the digital divide.

Women also face challenges with acquiring technological skills and understanding how to use digital resources effectively. The ASER Report from 2021 shows that although 72% of students in Jammu and Kashmir have smartphones at home, only 40% can use them for academic purposes, highlighting a digital disparity in educational technology access.

en, and in many cases, their families do not permit it. A study by Nikita sangwan and Farzana Afridi found that women are less likely to apply for jobs online. Even when they do, they often accept lower offers due to mobility restrictions and societal norms.

Take the case of Arbeen, a soon-to-be graduate from a top professional college in Kashmir. She has been searching for a part-time job but hasn't found any offline opportunities. Despite the availability of many online opportunities, Arbeen is hesitant to pursue them due to her unfamiliarity with online platforms and discomfort with sharing her personal details. She is also concerned about assessing the credibility of these platforms, which adds to her reluctance.

Similarly, digital illiteracy and unfamiliarity with online marketplaces have hindered women entrepreneurs and job seekers from tapping into opportunities in the gig economy and online workplaces, especially in the post-COVID-19 era. Many women entrepreneurs still do not use online methods for payments, marketing, and sales. The disparity in digital payments highlights this divide: 69% of men in India use digital payments and internet banking, compared to just 31% of women. While more than half of Indian women own cell phones, only 22.5% engage in financial activities through them.

Studies show that women are still largely concentrated in routine back-office services that require basic skills, while men dominate specialized jobs and managerial positions requiring advanced digital skills. Steven Kapos's research found that less than 19% of new job opportunities in India's ten fastest-growing occupations were filled by women.

Moreover, many women in the digital labor force are engaged in part-time gig work rather than permanent positions that offer legal benefits. Gig workers often lack traditional employment benefits and social protections enjoyed by formal sector workers. This lack of a safety net is especially challenging for women, who may face additional vulnerabilities. Without access to maternity benefits, health insurance, compensation, allowances, or retirement benefits, women are exposed to greater risks and find it difficult to advance in their careers.

This structural organization of women's work is particularly concerning. In the developed world, female workers in low-skill clerical, service, and sales jobs are at risk of being replaced by automation. The International Monetary Fund's 2018 "Gender, Technology, and the Future of Work" report warns about this issue. Dr. Sona Mitra from IWWAGE emphasizes that as automation rises, it will create a new class of jobs requiring different skill sets. To help women

access these new jobs, there must be targeted digital skill development programs.

Lack of digital skills has prevented many women from accessing many opportunities. To bridge this digital divide, there is an urgent need for initiatives that provide women with the necessary training and support. Without these steps, women risk being further marginalized in an increasingly digital world, facing lower standards of living.

#### Bridging the Digital Divide for Women?

Ensuring digital inclusion for women and girls is essential for equitable progress. Schools, as the first point of contact with technology for children, play a crucial role in this effort. It's important to ensure that girls have equal access to technical skills and digital literacy education, both in schools and through specialized training programs. They should be made aware of digital resources early on in their education. Unfortunately, nearly 70% of schools in Jammu and Kashmir lack digital devices, according to the Government of India, underscoring the need for urgent intervention. To make digital tools more accessible, especially for rural women and the urban poor, reducing the cost of devices and services through subsidies or free data is crucial. Enhancing network coverage and quality, as well as ensuring the safety and accessibility of public facilities, can significantly promote digital inclusion.

Digital technologies offer numerous opportunities for remote part-time work. Connecting women to online job platforms and freelance marketplaces can open new employment avenues. To support this, short-term courses and skill-building programs should be conducted in colleges and community centers, focusing on cybersecurity, online content reliability, and job-oriented skills to keep girls competitive in the job market.

One of the reasons girls face a digital divide is strict family values. Counseling sessions and workshops can encourage parents to change their attitudes and ensure there is no discrimination between men and women in the use of digital resources. These workshops should also focus on cybersecurity and can be conducted by community centers, schools, and colleges.

There is a pressing need to familiarize women with existing programs run by the State, Central government, and nonprofit organizations. The Central government has launched several initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) which aims to make six crore individuals in rural areas digitally literate, empowering them to use digital devices, access the internet and government services, send and receive emails, and make digital payments.

Similarly, the Jammu and Kashmir government has launched programs like Manzilein ([jkcareportal.org](http://jkcareportal.org)) and Aao Baat Karein (Tele Counseling Helpline). Manzilein, managed by SAMAGRA Shiksha, offers students a personalized career dashboard with information on over 550 careers, 21,000 colleges, and numerous programs, entrance exams, and scholarship opportunities. Unfortunately, many women remain excluded from these benefits due to limited digital literacy. Connecting them to these initiatives is essential for promoting digital inclusion and empowerment.

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

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Mindful Fridays

# When Personality Disorders Destroy Marriages

## Navigating the Challenge

Wasim Kakroo

Numerous challenges can cause strain in somebody's marriage. Among such challenges that can cause issues in a marital relationship, a mental health issue known as personality disorder can contribute significantly. Personality disorders are long-lasting patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving that differ significantly from what is expected in a person's society. These patterns can cause significant distress or impairment in a person's individual life as well as their social relationships. Hence it is important to understand what these disorders are and how they can affect a person's married life so that their impact is reduced through proper interventions in order to have healthier marital relationship. This article talks about different types of Personality Disorders and how each of them can affect a marital relationship and the various ways to deal with them.

### Types of Personality Disorders

Personality disorders have been broadly categorized into three clusters:

Cluster A (Odd or Eccentric Disorders): Includes Paranoid, Schizoid, and Schizotypal Personality Disorders.

Cluster B (Dramatic, Emotional, or Erratic Disorders): Includes Antisocial, Borderline, Histrionic, and Narcissistic Personality Disorders.

Cluster C (Anxious or Fearful Disorders): Includes Avoidant, Dependent, and Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorders.

Marital relationship can get affected by each type of the above mentioned personality disorders, but each of them causes its own specific obstacles and disturbs the marital harmony. Let us now try to go in detail to understand how they can affect a marital relationship.

### Communication Breakdown

A healthy marriage is highly dependent upon how effective the communication is between the two partners. This communication can get adversely affected by various types of Personality disorders that can lead to misunderstandings and con-



licts. For example, a person with Paranoid Personality Disorder can be highly suspicious towards their partner and can misinterpret their benign remarks as hostile or critical. This suspicious behavior and misinterpretation can result in constant arguments that can lead to sense of mistrust between them.

Similarly, intense and unstable emotions experienced by those with Borderline Personality Disorder can lead to erratic and unpredictable communication. Such people may idealizing their partner one moment and devalue them the next, thus creating a turbulent and unbalanced relationship dynamic.

### Emotional Dysregulation

Poor emotional regulation is a common finding among various personality disorders. Borderline Personality Disorder, for example, is characterized by the presence of rapid and intense mood swings, and hence partners of such individuals may find it challenging to navigate through the relationship. It is like walking on eggshells for them while being in a marital relationship with individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder, as the healthy partner tries to avoid triggering

negative reactions.

Another personality disorder called Narcissistic Personality Disorder is characterized by a lack of empathy. Such people are in excessive need for praise and admiration. Lack of empathy and an excessive need for admiration can make it difficult for the narcissistic individual to recognize or validate their partner's emotions. This can result in the feelings of neglect and emotional distance in the relationship.

### Trust and Intimacy Issues

A healthy marriage is highly dependent upon the level of trust partners have for each other. This basic sense of trust can get badly impacted by the presence of Personality disorders in one or both partners in various ways. For example, a person affected by Antisocial Personality Disorder may breach the trust of their partner by showing deceitful or manipulative behaviors. The relationship can get severely impacted if a person with Antisocial Personality Disorder continues to show their disregard for the rights and feelings of others.

One more aspect that can affect a marital relationship and that needs to be mentioned here is the level of intimacy partners

hold for each other. It has been seen that people with personality disorders can have Intimacy

issues. For instance, individuals with Avoidant Personality Disorder may have difficulty in engaging in close relationships with their partner as they have a deep fear of rejection and criticism from their partner or from any person who wants to come close to them emotionally. This can create a significant emotional distance between partners, making it difficult to establish a deep and meaningful connection.

### Control and Dependency

One more factor that can be detrimental to a marital relationship is an urge to have an extreme control or dependency on another person. For example, a person with Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder may have a persistent urge for control and perfectionism. Such individuals may impose rigid standards and expectations on their partner, due to their tendency for perfectionism. This can lead to the buildup of frustration and resentment in their relationship.

On the other hand, individuals with Dependent Personality Disorder may show disproportionate dependence on their partner to fulfill their physical and emotional needs. It can result in the dependent partner being overly submissive and the other partner feeling overwhelmed by the responsibility, hence creating an imbalance in the relationship.

### Conflict Resolution

It is important for maintaining a harmonious marriage that the conflicts that might arise from time to time are handled in a healthy way. However, this ability to handle and resolve conflicts constructively can get badly impaired by Personality disorders. For example, individuals with Histrionic Personality Disorder, with tendency for attention seeking and validation may show dramatic and exaggerated behaviors. This can lead to escalation of conflicts rather than resolving them.

Personality disorders that belong to cluster A, such as Schizoid Personality Disorder, may lead a person to withdraw from conflict and even from day to day affairs of the household completely as they prefer isolation over confrontation. This can cause long-

term damage to the relationship as this approach can leave issues unresolved festering over time.

### Impact on Parenting

Personality disorders do not affect only marital relationship, their effect can extend beyond that and can adversely affect parenting as well. Personality disorders can compromise patience, consistency, and emotional stability of parents and hence impair their parenting skills.

For instance, children of parents with Borderline Personality Disorder may feel confused and insecure as such parents may have difficulty in maintaining consistent boundaries and discipline while dealing with their children.

In addition, the stress that gets buildup while managing a partner's personality disorder, can affect parenting, thus impacting the overall family dynamics. Children from such households may get caught in the crossfire of conflicts between their parents or may get exposed to erratic and unpredictable behaviors, which can have long lasting impact on their psychological wellbeing.

### Seeking Help and Intervention

First step towards recovery and change is to accept and recognize the impact of personality disorders on marriage. In this regard, couples therapy can be beneficial as it can provide a safe space for partners to understand each other's feelings and learn to communicate and resolve conflicts more effectively. It is equally important for one and/or both the partners to go for Individual therapy, as it can help to develop better coping mechanisms and emotional regulation strategies. In some cases, particularly if there are co-occurring conditions such as anxiety or depression, a person may require medication to handle the situation.

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# 3 Ways to Navigate an Ultra-Processed World

Jeff Siegel

We live in an age where our food and media are ultra-processed. There are too many calories that are too good to pass up, and there is more free (often clickbait) content than one could ever consume.

While abundant food and free media offer unparalleled ease and pleasure, they pose significant challenges to our health and well-being. New research suggests that ultra-processed foods (UPFs) raise the risk of cognitive impairment and strokes as well as other adverse health effects. Meanwhile, the amount of research on problematic use of social media has dramatically increased in the last decade.

I've met many people who are vigilant about their food, yet consume "media snacks" equivalent to Pringles—I bet you can't eat just one headline. On the other side are media "restrainers" who have forsaken the relentless digital news cycle in the name of mental health but consume ultra-processed snacks that are just as damaging to their brain.

We need to start thinking of media consumption like our food consumption, recognizing the parallels and developing strategies to manage both. As bestselling author Brad Stulbinger says, "TikTok is like an endless bag of Skittles. Reality television is like fast food. Trending topics on the internet are akin to cheap whiskey."

Consuming these things feels good in the short term but can undermine our health in the long run.

### Navigating an Ultra-Processed World

I don't want to demonize ultra-processed food or media—I still consume my fair share—but I want to examine how we can live healthfully with these facets of modern life. We must first acknowledge how food and information have been refined, packaged, and marketed for maximal consumption with minimal nutrition. We must also develop the skills for reclaiming control over what we consume—both physically and mentally—to enjoy the pleasures of an ultra-processed world while mitigating the dangers.

Here are three actionable strategies to help you navigate this ultra-processed world:

#### 1. Know Your Source and Read Labels Critically

Identifying what is an ultra-processed concoction is an important first step in skillfully balancing your consumption.

- **Food:** Always check the ingredient list and nutritional information on food labels. If there are things you cannot pronounce or look like they belong in a chemistry lab instead of your kitchen, they're likely signs of ultra-processed ingredients. Emulsifiers, hydrogenated oils, and artificial additives are the

- **Information:** Be wary of articles that rely heavily on clickbait headlines, lack sources, or display clear bias. If there are end-



less one-sentence paragraphs, generic or vague information, or errors in context or coherence, you're probably dealing with an ultraprocessed piece of writing. Prioritize information from reputable sources offering deep insights—humans with a story and perspective you appreciate and trust. Ask yourself, "Who wrote this and why?"

#### 2. Befriend the "Bland" and "Boring."

Blandness and boredom are subjective. What appears bland or boring results from what you've conditioned your nervous system to interpret as enjoyable.

Navigating an ultra-processed world involves redefining your relationship with bore-

dom. By intentionally engaging in "boring" activities—such as reading a book, gardening, gazing at the clouds, or practicing mindfulness—you can reset your tolerance for what you perceive as mundane.

- **Food:** Forgo immediately slathering sauces and dressings on your meal and focus on emphasizing the flavors that are already present. While this might sound unappetizing at first, you can retrain your taste buds to find simpler foods that are

more rewarding by engaging all five senses as you eat. Smelling, touching, and looking deeply at your food helps you reconnect with the present moment and appreciate the subtler texture and flavors. Over time, if you eat slowly and

mindfully, you may get way more enjoyment in a single unadulterated bite than you initially thought possible.

- **Information:** Remember, boredom is a construct you create, and you can recreate it with training. Just like with food, you can retrain your brain to find less stimulating tasks more rewarding by embracing the simplicity and slowness of "boring." Regularly consuming long-form writing (i.e., books

over status updates) allows your mind to reset its "boring baseline," thus enhancing your ability to focus and process information critically.

#### 3. Mind the Margins

"Minding the Margins" involves paying attention to how you mindlessly fill the gaps in your day with ultra-processed snacks or ultra-processed media bites. The issue is that ultra-processed items require little preparation, little chewing (and often little critical thinking), perpetuating a cycle of overconsumption. Whether between meals or activities, reaching for another hit of mouthwatering flavor or inbox-clearing pleasure can fuel a compulsive pattern. Become aware of these moments at the margin so you can break the cycle and be more deliberate.

- **Food:** Recognize situations and times of day when you are most likely to reach for ultra-processed snacks. Is it during mid-afternoon energy slumps? Late-night cravings? Make less-processed alternatives like fruits and vegetables the obvious and convenient option. You'll soon discover how hard it is to mindlessly eat hundreds of calories of something like an orange or carrot.
- **Information:** Let the blank spaces in your day be precisely that: blank.

Set boundaries and create specific rules for when and where you check your phone. For instance, don't check your phone every time you're waiting in line. Don't look at your email as you're getting ready for bed. You'll soon find that you look forward to this white space as a fertile ground for creativity and introspection.

#### Finding Balance Between the Extremes:

No one can totally escape living in an ultra-processed world, nor should that necessarily be the goal. Cutting out all ultra-processed food and information risks cutting yourself off from some of the pleasures and joys of modern life—snacking on bags of chips with friends while laughing at hilarious Instagram memes.

While there are dangers to over-consuming ultra-processed food and information (the very nature of ultra-processing makes overconsumption more likely), we don't want to swing compulsively in the other direction. Instead, we want to develop the awareness to recognize when we are indulging in ultra-processed items and do so mindfully so we can take full responsibility for the long-term impacts on our minds and bodies.

*The article was originally published by Psychology Today*

## BIS J&K Branch Office Conducts Orientation Program At IUST

Srinagar: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office, successfully organized an orientation program at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Kashmir. The event aimed to enlighten students and faculty about the critical importance of standardization, quality assurance, and conformity assessment in various sectors.

Tilak Raj, Director and Head of BIS-JKBO, delivered the welcome address, offering valuable insights into the significance of standardization in ensuring quality and safety. Prof. A.H. Moon, Dean Academic at IUST, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the



NABL-accredited Spices Lab of the Food Technology Department at IUST.

Ashish Kumar Dwivedi, Standard Promotion Officer at BIS-JKBO, highlighted the importance of Standard Clubs and the BIS Care App in promoting awareness and adherence to standards.

The program was well-received, with over 100 students actively participating. The event sparked a keen interest in BIS's



pivotal role in fostering quality and safety across industries.

This orientation program marks a significant step towards cultivating a culture of quality and excellence in the region. The BIS Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting standards and quality assurance, contributing to the overall development and growth of the region.

## ITC Sunfeast launches nutritious biscuits for kids 'Super Egg & Milk'

Srinagar: ITC Sunfeast, known for bringing new and innovative experiences to consumers, today hosted a one-of-a-kind conference between hen and cows. A lively discussion took place between their representatives, where they humorously highlighted the challenges of making milk and eggs more appealing to children while emphasizing their contributions to providing good nutrition.

Following their conversation, a larger panel discussion was held, featuring eminent personalities from various fields. Mr. Madan Mohan Maiti, Chairman, National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) West Bengal, Dr. Dulal Chandra Sen,



Vice-Chairman, IDA East Zone, Dr. Ananya Bhowmik, Clinical Nutritionist and Lifestyle Consultant, celebrity mom Koneenica Banerjee, Archana Sinha, Co-Founder and CEO of Nourishing Schools. The panel

iterated that both egg and milk are extremely crucial during the developing years of the child, as they are a source of protein with many other nutrients like Vitamins A, D, E, iron etc. The panel further discussed

innovative ways to make milk and egg consumption more exciting for kids.

Building on similar insights and understanding an industry gap for egg and milk biscuit, ITC Sunfeast today introduced its latest product innovation, Sunfeast Super Egg & Milk Biscuit, with 'Goodness of Protein'.

The biscuit has been carefully crafted by ITC's product development team to ensure children derive nutrition along with delicious melt-in-the-mouth experience with a super crunch. Further, the tagline, "Super Combo, Super Tasty," reflects the brand's commitment to delivering 'Good for you' products to its consumers.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Waqf (Amendment)

the concerns flagged by opposition members, Rijju said there will be no interference with freedom of any religious body in the Waqf bill.

He also asserted that no provision of the Constitution has been violated in the draft law.

He said that the Waqf Act 1995 did not serve its purpose and told Congress members that the proposed amendments seek to achieve what the Congress government couldn't.

The minister told the House that a joint parliamentary committee had recommended that Waqf Act 1995 should be re-looked and said the opposition was opposing the measure for the sake of politics.

Rijju said the opposition was trying to mislead people about intention of the Waqf bill. He said no law can be above Constitution but 1995 Waqf law has such provisions.

He claimed that many MPs have privately told him that Waqf boards have been captured by mafia.

He underlined that extensive consultations have taken place before the bill was drafted.

Rijju claimed such MPs were opposing the bill due to party pressure.

According to its statement of objects and reasons, the bill seeks to omit Section 40 of the current law relating to the powers of the board to decide if a property is Waqf property.

It provides for a broad-based composition of the Central Waqf Council and the state Waqf boards and ensures the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies.

The bill also proposes the establishment of a separate board for the Boharas and Aghakhans. The draft law provides for the representation of Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, Agakhans and other backward classes among Muslim communities.

The bill also aims to clearly define "Waqf as Waqf by any person practising Islam for at least five years and having ownership of such property."

One of its objectives is streamlining the manner of registration of Waqfs through a central portal and database. A detailed procedure is established for mutation as per revenue laws with due notice to all concerned before recording any property as a Waqf property. The Waqf Act, 1995, was brought to regulate 'Auqaf' (assets donated and notified as Waqf) by a 'wakif' (the person who dedicates a property for any purpose recognised by Muslim law as religious or charitable).

#### High-level ECI

deliberations with a spectrum of stakeholders, including representatives from national and state recognized political parties to solicit valuable insights and understand their concerns, thereby fostering their active involvement in the electoral process.

Later in the day, the ECI reviewed the poll preparedness with District Election Officers and Superintendents of Police (SPs) to deliberate on administrative and security arrangements crucial to the conduct of elections.

Additionally, an evening session was held with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Special Police Nodal Officer (SPNO), and Central Police Forces (CPMF) Nodal Officer to review coordination efforts among various agencies involved in election management.

On August 9, the visit will culminate with a final meeting with the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police.

The ECI team will then travel to Jammu for review with enforcement agencies and culminating in a press conference.

#### ECI Commends

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, all 20 Deputy Commissioners and 23 Senior Superintendents of Police and Superintendents of Police (SPs) briefed the ECI team about the poll preparations, security situation.

Notably, Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest voter turnout in the recently held Lok Sabha poll in the last 35 years, with the Kashmir Valley

witnessing a "massive" 30 points jump in poll participation compared to 2019.

In a statement issued after the LS poll results, the chief election commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu thanked the polling personnel and security officials for the peaceful conduct of elections in the UT.

"This achievement sits on a credible weave of 25% increase in number of contesting candidates since 2019, C-vigil complaints showing enhanced citizen involvement and Suvidha Portal showing 2,455 requests for rallies etc., reflecting the steady retaking of the election & campaign space away from hesitation and to fuller participation. Compare this outcome of the layered depth of electoral mobilization and participation, as reminiscent of the fame and deft of the legendary Kashmiri artisanal weave. This active participation is a huge positive for Assembly elections to be held soon so that the democratic process continues to thrive in the Union Territory," Kumar was quoted in the ECI's press statement.

#### J&K's Statehood

was stopping them from arriving here. Now LG told me peace is prevailing amid some untoward incidents."

According to him, they have given over 2 lakh pre and post-matric scholarships to SC and above 84000 scholarships to OBC students in J&K. "SC and OBC constitute 8 percent each in J&K, but there is not a single SC family in Kashmir," he added.

The union minister said that 74 cases were registered under Atrocities Act against SC and OBCs. "We are planning to start one old age home in each district. Currently, we have 16 old age homes in J&K," he added.

The minister said that his party Republican Party of India will field at least 10-15 candidates in Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly polls. (KNO)

#### Political Parties

was the dominant demand of all the political leaders who met the visiting EC team.

Assembly polls have not been held in Jammu and Kashmir since 2014. The polls were due to be held in early 2019 following the dissolution of the legislative body of the erstwhile state in 2018.

However, after the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories in August 2019, the Assembly polls could not be held due to various reasons, including a delimitation exercise that was completed in 2022.

Talking to reporters after party-wise meetings with the EC delegation, the leaders said they were unanimous in their demand for immediate Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

They also demanded that a level-playing field should be ensured in the polls for the restoration of democracy in the Union Territory.

The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to conclude the election process by September 30. The poll schedule is yet to be announced by the EC, with just a little over seven weeks left for the deadline.

The BJP also battled for immediate Assembly polls. Its Jammu and Kashmir unit spokesperson R S Pathania said, "We told the EC that we want the election to be conducted as soon as possible." The party wants the polls to be held within the apex court's deadline, he added.

NC's Kashmir provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, who led a five-member party delegation to meet the EC officials, said, "Our only demand is that the people of Jammu and Kashmir now want to have their own government. We told the EC that you came here many times and we met you but now, there should be some definite decision on it."

"We said there has been no government in Jammu and Kashmir since 2018 and the Assembly election has not taken place for the last 10 years," Wani told reporters and added that the NC told the poll panel that a lieutenant governor, his lone advisor and a

few bureaucrats cannot run the Union Territory.

Wani said the party also demanded a level-playing field in terms of providing a secure environment for the polls.

Political, developmental and security issues can be addressed when people have their own representatives, he said and added that the EC has assured the leaders that the election will take place this time.

Congress leader G N Monga said democracy should flourish in Jammu and Kashmir. "We call ourselves the mother of democracy but the people of Jammu and Kashmir are going without elections for many years. Democracy should flourish here and the election should be held sooner," he said.

Monga said the Congress delegation also discussed Jammu and Kashmir's security scenario with the EC.

"We told them that there is a discrimination between parties on providing them security. We appealed that every party should be weighed on the same scale," he added.

PDP leader Khurshid Alam, who was part of the party's delegation that met the EC, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should have the right to elect their own government.

"What justification is there not to hold the polls when the government says the situation has improved and is better, when one crore tourists came here and when the parliamentary polls and the (Amarnath) yatra took place without any incident?" he asked.

Alam said the need of the hour is to restore democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. "The county believes in democracy, so we should have the election immediately," he said, adding that there was a very positive response from the EC.

After meeting the political leaders, the EC team received feedback from deputy commissioners and district police chiefs at a marathon meeting on poll preparedness in the Union Territory.

The poll panel is scheduled to meet Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer P K Pole in the evening for his feedback on holding the Assembly polls.

A meeting with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Director General of Police R R Swain is scheduled for Friday morning, before the EC team moves to winter capital Jammu for the second leg of its visit.

The three-day visit will culminate on August 10 at Jammu, where the EC will hold a review meeting with enforcement agencies. It will also hold a press conference to brief the media on the review process.

In March, Kumar, who was then the sole member of the three-member commission to visit the Union Territory, had assured political parties and people that the EC would soon hold the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

At that time, the two posts of election commissioners were vacant. They were filled days before the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 16.

After a record turnout in the Lok Sabha election in Jammu and Kashmir, Kumar had said, "This active participation is a huge positive for the Assembly election to be held soon, so that the democratic process continues to thrive in the Union Territory."

#### Kashmiri Students

then back home," she added.

When protests in Dhaka turned violent, Masoodi's family tried to book a ticket for her. But it was not easy with high demand and few flights. After many days, they were able to book an online ticket for Masood for July 21, but it cost them dearly.

"We communicated the flight details to her through SMS and waited for her arrival," her mother added.

Another medical student, Muntaha Batool, reached Srinagar last month after getting stuck at his college for many days. She had traveled from his college at night to reach the airport in an ambulance. "We faced angry protesters and armed police en route to the airport. It felt as if we were traveling in a war zone," she told KNO.

Like Masood, Batool also had to survive without proper food for several days and plead for rations outside her hostel in Old Dhaka.

Batool said she was lucky to have reached home airport on her first attempt, unlike many of her friends who were either stopped or forced to stay back in hostels.

Many Indian citizens, including students, have alleged apprehensions that they may face discrimination and violence from protesters after Bangladesh ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, resigned, and landed in India for safe refuge.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Indian medical students continue to stay in Bangladesh, waiting for their final year exams. (KNO)

#### BJP Makes

to solicit their opinions. We have formed three teams that will reach out to people of all three zones—Central, North, and South Kashmir," he added.

Making a pro-people election manifesto based on peoples' aspirations is the objective of the exercise, according to the BJP leader. By August 15th, he said the BJP will have the ground report ready and would forward it to the Delhi headquarters.

"People's aspirations and solutions to their issues will be reflected in our manifesto," he said, adding that individuals who prefer not to come out in person should call 9541903938, a toll-free number.

"We will know the issues of the people and then resolve those issues after forming the government," Sharma said.

The BJP leader said the party has formed one team each for central Kashmir, north Kashmir, and south Kashmir.

"We will compile a report based on those issues and deliberations which would then be sent to Delhi and give that a shape of the party manifesto. The party has also dedicated a toll-free number and an e-mail address for the people who want to reach out to the party," he said.

#### J&K Sees 92%

attributed the success of the "Ladli Beti" scheme to the concerted efforts of local administrations and the active participation of the community.

"The scheme's expansion is seen as a crucial step towards achieving gender equality and empowering women in the region. The government initiated a strong awareness campaign soon after launching the scheme. As a result we have got a good number of registration, which still keeps on increasing across Jammu and Kashmir," they said.

Officials said their officials are motivating families at district level to get registered under the scheme for the financial security of girl child.

"Our officials at district offices continue to tour distant places to spread awareness regarding the scheme. Similarly media and social media is also being used to ensure further improvement in the coverage at district levels," they said.

Officials also added that the administration is continuously monitoring the scheme's progress by devising a strategy to ensure coverage of more girls. (KNO)

#### Ladakh Councils

under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

He said the MHA informed that "democratic representation and decision-making powers of the LAHDCs have been retained after the formation of the Union Territory.

"Periodic elections for the Hill Development Councils, Panchayati Raj institutions, and members of Parliament are being conducted to ensure continued democratic representation in the UT," he said.

The minister said LAHDCs exercise executive powers over various subjects within their respective districts. According to the mandate of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act, 1997, the LAHDCs function as District Planning and Development Boards and independently prepare

plans for different programmes and policies of the UT, taking into account the demands and aspirations of the people, he added.

Uikey also said the MHA is providing adequate funds to the LAHDCs through budgetary grants to the UT of Ladakh.

The CAPEX allocation to these councils has been increased from Rs 183 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 600 crore in 2023-24 to meet their funding requirements for developmental activities in their respective districts, he said.

The minister also told Lok Sabha that the MHA has set up a high-powered committee under the minister of state for home affairs for Ladakh to ensure protection of the region's unique culture, language, land and employment.

A section of the local population, led by climate activist Soman Wangchuk, has been demanding that Ladakh be included under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect the land, employment and cultural identity of the local community.

The Sixth Schedule provides for the creation of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) with legislative, judicial and administrative autonomy within a state.

These councils govern areas under their jurisdiction, enact laws on specific matters with the governor's assent, establish village councils or courts for dispute resolution and manage local facilities and services, including education and healthcare. They also have the authority to impose taxes and regulate certain activities.

#### Pvt Schools On

use/misuse of such instances/examples to grab Kahcharie / common land."

The court said the clear-cut directions of the Supreme Court in Jagpal Singh (v. State of Punjab and others, (2011) 11 SCC 396) deprecate the practice of usage of Kahcharie land for any other purpose.

Kahcharie land, the court said, is meant for a particular purpose, that is, for common purpose, which cannot be permitted to be deviated.

"It is true that regularization in exceptional cases might have been given but that does relate to landless labourers or members of SC/ST or where there is already a school, dispensary or other public utility on the land," the court said, adding, "With respect to the petitioner-school, it cannot be said to be a public/government school but a "private school" and, therefore, does not come and fall within the ambit of exceptional cases."

The court also noted that all religions say that education is a must for human beings. "If an individual wants to do a good for human being, let him/her establish a school on his/her proprietary land or on a self acquired land and provide free education," the court said, adding, "It is startling that the land meant for grazing and/or common purpose is being utilized by certain individuals for personal/private purpose. Such acts should be dealt with iron hands."

Responding to another question "whether the recognition and affiliation of the private unaided schools for last several decades has the effect of the tacit consent of the Government authorizing establishment of these schools on Kahcharie etc land to be lawful and, therefore, under no circumstances affiliation and recognition can be denied to these schools, the court said: "Answer to this question is that establishment of private schools on Kahcharie/common land ought not to have been permitted much less allowed to continue by the then authorities/functionaries/departments and, therefore, such practice should be arrested by the Government."

The court also directed the government that grant of affiliation or recognition to private school or schools, running, operating and functioning on Kahcharie land, should be stopped.

"The State holds landed property in trust and for ultimate benefit of its citizens in general; thus, the State/Government is required to save, protect and preserve the Kahcharie/State land for the purpose for which it is

meant for," the court said, adding, "So, a particular party cannot be permitted to reap special benefit from such property at the expense of the interest of the people at large. It was expected of respondents (government authorities) that they would have borne this salutary principle in mind while bestowing any benefit upon an individual school."

A number of schools had filed petition before the court, claiming that they find themselves in a quandary in the context of the land site housing their respective school premises which in most of the case is shamlat or khachari land.

They had stated that the authorities concerned, including the Government itself, all along in the course of time had been well aware about the site status of the schools and still the affiliations and recognitions came to be granted and revised from time to time.

However by virtue of S.O 177 of 2022, they said, the imminent fall out of the operation of S.O 177/2022 would mean that their existing recognition for class 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th was going to be held up, thereby exposing students' career to peril.

They had said that they will not be able to earn issuance of registration return forms (RRFs) from the State Board of School Education for lack of renewal of the permission.

The court also held that if the petitioner's contention is accepted that the amendment has prospective effect, it would amount to opening a floodgate and giving freehand to unscrupulous elements to grab Kahcharie/State land and show that Kahcharie/common land is in their possession since time immemorial.

"Such a practice and/or notion is unacceptable. The Government of J&K should not be loath and inert in implementation of the laws."

Ultimately, the court directed that where the schools are being run on Kahcharie/State/Shamlat etc. land, the petitioners (proprietors) can either acquire the proprietary land and/or approach the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of School Education //J&K Board of School Education) with their plea as is made by them in their respective writ petitions for consideration which can also include the exchange of proprietary land in lieu of Kahcharie/State/Shamlat etc. land, as may be available under and in terms of the Land Revenue Act or any other applicable law(s).

"All these requests/applications shall be made by petitioners within four weeks from today," the court said, adding, "Principal Secretary to Government, Department of School Education, U.T. of J&K/J&K Board of School Education, on receipt of such application(s), shall decide the same either himself/itself or by constituting a Committee, comprising of senior officers of the School Education Department//J&K Board of School Education, Revenue Department or any other department(s) as may be thought appropriate by him/it, and get such applications decided within four months."

While doing so, the petitioner(s) shall also be heard, the court said.

With regard to the writ petitions/cases, where Kahcharie/State/Shamlat land etc. is not involved, the court said, they (writ petitioners therein) can also approach Principal Secretary to Government, Department of School Education, U.T. of J&K/J&K Board of School Education, with their request/plight within four weeks from today.

"On receipt of such application(s), he/it shall either himself/itself decide or get such application(s) decided through the Committee, to be constituted by him/it, within a period of four months and while doing so, petitioner(s) shall also be heard," the court said, adding, "Till then petitioner(s) be permitted to run the school(s) provided they are able to do so having regard to change of circumstances during pendency of instant matter as the students studying in those schools have been shifted to other schools."

## Cold Storages Save Plum Growers From Suffering Losses

Agencies

**PULWAMA:** After a sluggish market during the initial stage of the plum season, several growers preferred to keep their produce in cold storage units that are fetching good returns at present.

Plum growers said that there used to be a good demand for plums during the initial stage of the season but that wasn't the case this year.

They said that due to the low demand for plums, several growers kept their part of produce in cold storage units with a hope that demand will grow and will fetch good returns.

Gulzar Ahmad, a fruit grower told KNO that there was a minimal demand for



Kashmiri plums from the markets across the country due to which the rates plummeted during the initial stage.

He said that due to low demand, many plum growers kept their produce in cold storage units and that is currently fetching good returns.

Sameer Ahmad, another plum grower said that this year rates were down by around 50 per cent compared to last year during the initial stage due to which some growers suffered losses.

He said that earlier one kg of plums were being sold at around Rs 30-50 but cur-

rently one Kg of plums are being sold at around Rs 100.

The growers said that many among them after witnessing low demand have explored the option of keeping their produce in cold storage units. They were hopeful that there will be good demand once they start packing plum from cold units so as to get good returns and that has turned into reality.

Officials said the rates were down due to bumper crop and ripening of crops in Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh at the same time during the initial stage.

Notably, Kashmir on average produces around 8000 tons of plum with about 1,500 hectares of land under plum cultivation—(KNO)

## Scuffle Erupts At GMC Anantnag After Death Of A Patient

Agencies

**ANANTNAG:** A scuffle broke out between attendants, doctors, and security guards at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag after an elderly woman died due to alleged negligence by the doctors.

The situation escalated into a heated argument, with attendants accusing the doctors of being responsible for the patient's death. Security guards intervened, leading to a physical altercation.

Police intervened, and the situation was eventually brought under control. Shortly after the incident, the doctors threatened to go on strike. Attendants alleged that instead of keeping the patient on the Oxygen support system, she was

shifted to a common ward where she breathed her last. They identified the patient as Hajira wife of Abdul Sattar Bhat, a resident of Larkipora Anantnag.

Attendants staged a massive protest demanding action against the irresponsible doctors. Principal of GMC Anantnag, Dr Rukhsana Najeb assured that an inquiry will be conducted to establish the facts surrounding the incident. She expressed concern that doctors are often made soft targets in such situations.

"Patient was around 90 years old and was chronic, admitted to the hospital 3 days ago. Only 30% of her heart was functioning," she said and claimed that this hospital is overburdened. [KNT]

## Shukroo, A Picturesque Destination Craves For Govt Attention

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Shukroo, a breathtaking site in Kell hamlet of South Kashmir's Shopian district has been craving for attention from the authorities.

Locals said that Shukroo is a picturesque place that is around three kilometers from Keller with great tourism potential but needs government attention.

They said the area is as beautiful as famous tourist spots in Kashmir but the government has failed to develop it due to which less people visit the spot.

Umar Ahmad, a local resident, said that hundreds of people from different areas of Kashmir have been visiting this spot and the number has increased this year.

He said Shukroo lush green forest and a canal has crystal water coming from Pir Pan-

chal Mountains, which attracts people towards it.

Ahmad said the spot needs to be developed with proper connectivity by constructing a bridge and road besides other facilities.

Irshad Ahmad, another local, said that this area has huge tourism potential but that needs to be channelized properly. He said that hundreds of people have been visiting and camping at the site but they have been facing problems in absence of the facilities.

Locals said that hundreds of people from this economically backward area can earn their livelihood if it is developed properly.

They said with growing unemployment, the government must develop such destinations that can help in generating employment opportunities for the people.

## PhonePe Launches Pre-Approved Term Life Insurance

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** PhonePe on Thursday announced the launch of a 'pre-approved term life insurance' feature on its platform. The feature aims to make insurance coverage more accessible and affordable for millions of Indians by waiving the requirement for proof of income at the time of policy purchase. With this launch, PhonePe ushers a new era of financial inclusion in India by making insurance products inclusive with the added advantage of quick and convenient access to life insurance coverage, without requiring extensive income verification.

The company has partnered with leading insurers to enable this feature on its platform. This partnership also supports insurance providers to now serve more users, specifically over 30 million individuals, who previously could not avail term insurance due to the lack of income proof.

"Millions of PhonePe users including merchants, self-employed individuals, gig workers and many more user groups who don't have a formal proof of salary or in-

come, can now avail term insurance products seamlessly on the PhonePe platform. The company is focused on scaling up this offer tremendously and expanding its reach to make it accessible for up to 50 million users by later this year," the company in a statement said.

Commenting on the launch, Vishal Gupta, CEO at PhonePe Insurance Broking Services, said, "We are excited to announce the launch of the 'pre-approved sum assured (PASA)' feature on our platform. This launch is aimed at bringing the previously underserved customers into the term life insurance net by making the products more accessible and affordable to Indians across various socio-economic strata. By partnering with industry leaders and collaborating with them deeply we are able to simplify user experience and deliver tailor-made offerings that are industry leading and solving for specific cohorts in an inclusive manner. Our mission is to drive insurance adoption in the country by making the insurance buying process simple, easy and affordable for all."

## Hailstorm-Hit Fruit Growers In Shopian, Demand Compensation

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A severe hailstorm on Wednesday evening caused significant damage to the apple orchards in south Kashmir's Shopian district.



Locals from various areas of Shopian said that the hailstorm caused damage to the fruit on which thousands of families in the area are dependent. The hailstorm-hit villages include Kanjiullar, Adijan, Poshama, Feeripora and other areas of the district as it continued for around 25 minutes due to which there was significant damage to the fruit.

They urged the government to assess the damage and compensate the affected growers.

On Thursday morning,

the Horticulture Department officials visited these villages to assess the damage and guide the growers.

A horticulture officer said that several teams of the department are on the ground to ascertain the se-

verity of the damage.

Director Horticulture Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad told KNO that he visited the spot and there has been damage to many apple orchards.

"These areas have suffered around 60 percent damage, and after proper assessment, the list of the farmers will be forwarded to higher-ups for compensation."

The Director said that growers must follow the advisory of the department to minimise the possibility of damage to the crop—(KNO)

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**

## INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE PATTAN

Phone No. 01954469292 Website: - www.itipattan.org Email: - itipattannew@gmail.com

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO: 15 OF 2024**  
**DATED: 08-08-2024**

Applications are invited on prescribed format for engagement of Guest Faculty for the academic session 2024-25, from the permanent residents of, UT of J&K within the age group of 18 to 40 years at ITI Pattan. The application forms can be had from the office of the undersigned from 09-08-2024. The last date for submission of application form is 18-08-2024, up to 4 PM and can be submitted at the office of the undersigned. The applications should be accompanied with the following self-attested Xerox certificates:-

- Academic Qualification Certificate, 2. Technical Qualification Certificate, 3. DOB certificate, 4. Marks certificate of prescribed qualification.
5. Category if any and experience certificate of relevant field. No applications will be accepted after above mentioned last date and time.

The engagement is temporary and applicant who is selected applicant has no right to claim for permanent absorption or continuation beyond the session in the institute for which he shall have to give an undertaking duly authenticated by 1st class Magistrate.

The details of the post is as under:-

S.No	Name of the Post	No of Posts	Eligibility	Remuneration Charges
01	Vocational Instructor for Stenographer and secretarial Assistant (English)	01	a) NTC/NAC in the relevant trade with three years' experience in the relevant field as Instructor. OR b) Diploma minimum (two years) in Commercial Practice from recognized board or relevant Advanced Diploma (Vocational) with two year experience in the relevant field as Instructor. OR c) B. Voc./Degree in Commerce /Arts with Short-hand & Typing from a UGC recognized University with one year experience in the relevant field as Instructor.	Rs750/= Per lecture not more than 20000=00 for degree holder and 18000 for Diploma Holder

No:-ITI/Ptn/Estt/2024/218-21  
Dated:-08-08-2024.  
DIPK-4398-24  
DT: 08/08/2024

sd/= Superintendent Industrial Training Institute Pattan

## ECI REVIEWS ASSEMBLY POLL PREPARATION

### Scorching Heat Tests Scribes

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** As the Election Commission of India arrived on Thursday for a two-day visit to review the preparedness for holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir at SKICC in Srinagar, the venue turned into a hub of media activity.

Since the early morning hours on Thursday, journalists from print, electronic, and social media outlets lined outside the entrance gate, eager to glean any information from the closed-door discussions between representatives of political parties and ECI taking place inside at SKICC in Srinagar.

Although the scene outside the venue painted a picture of perseverance under tough conditions for media men as the scorching heat was relentless, yet, the journalists remained undeterred, despite the absence of water or nearby shops to offer any form of relief.

A senior journalist working with a national media organisation told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that he had covered several events like that in the past but that the ongoing scorching heat this time posed a big-time challenge for him.

"There is nothing new in covering events like these at SKICC, but this time it was challenging because of the ongoing heatwave. There are not even shops nearby where one can fetch a bottle of water," he said.

Without a place to retreat from the heat, reporters and cameramen were seen sitting on the roadside pavements or even on the dividers in the middle of the road, seeking a brief moment of comfort for their aching backs.

Every time a political leader exited the venue, a surge of activity ensued. Microphones and cameras thrust forward as the journalists scrambled to capture every word, every gesture, hoping to piece together the information of what was happening inside. —(KNO)

**Government of UT Jammu & Kashmir**

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ITI, HAJIN

www.itihajin.in email: iti.hajin@gmail.com

**Selection list for Admission session 2024-2025-2026**

Selection list for ROUND 1 of the candidates who have applied for undergoing training in different trades available at ITI Hajin for the session 2024-2025-2026 against free seats has been issued from admission portal maintained by Directorate of Skill Development, J&K. The selection list is available at ITI Hajin or the candidates can visit our Facebook page on www.facebook.com/govtithajin or access the Google drive links

1. For 10th basis General Merit list, visit: Link	QR code
<a href="https://rb.gy/p0uhuf">https://rb.gy/p0uhuf</a>	
2. For 8th basis General Merit list, visit Link	QR Code
<a href="https://rb.gy/t9klh6">https://rb.gy/t9klh6</a>	
3. For 8th basis Dress Making selection list, visit Link	QR code
<a href="https://rb.gy/bnnpca">https://rb.gy/bnnpca</a>	
4. For 8th basis Plumber selection list, visit: Link	QR code
<a href="https://rb.gy/qg9mma">https://rb.gy/qg9mma</a>	
5. For 10th basis COPA selection list, visit: Link	QR Code
<a href="https://shorturl.at/WgBR">https://shorturl.at/WgBR</a>	
6. For 10th basis Electrician selection list, visit: Link	QR Code
<a href="https://shorturl.at/eSKvl">https://shorturl.at/eSKvl</a>	

All the selected candidates desirous of seeking admission are hereby informed to report to Training Section of ITI Hajin with the requisite fee and submit the following original documents:

- D.O.B certificate.
- Domicile certificate.
- Marks card of the qualifying examination.
- Category Certificate, if any.
- Latest discharge certificate from the institute last attended.
- Self-attested photocopy of Aadhar card.
- One passport size photograph along with a file cover.
- Affidavit with the declaration that the candidate is not pursuing full time course elsewhere and adherence to training rules and regulations.

Discharge/ school leaving certificate will be retained till completion of the course at the ITI. At the time of admission or during the course of study at the ITI if any submitted documents were found fake or the admitted candidate found to be pursuing a regular course elsewhere, the admission of that trainee will stand automatically cancelled without any notice and disciplinary action would follow subsequently.

Last date of submission of Original Documents and requisite fee for Candidates selected in Round 1 is 17th of August, 2024.

No: ITI/Hajin/Trgs/2024/1217-1220  
Dated: 07/08/2024  
DIPK-4371-24  
DT: 08/08/2024

Er. Aijaz Ahmad Wani  
Superintendent  
Industrial Training Institute,  
Hajin

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

## ADMISSION NOTICE

To fill up some vacancies, interested candidates who are desirous for admission in the below mentioned Postgraduate programmes are hereby informed to report to the Office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora on any working day by or before 19-08-2024 (except on Saturday & Sunday) with original documents/ copies thereof and requisite fee as mentioned in the Prospectus 2024 available on the University website www.iust.ac.in for completion of admission formalities. The admission shall be based on first cum first served basis.

PG PROGRAMMES	ELIGIBILITY
M. A Philosophy	Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with a minimum of 50% marks from a recognized University/ Institution.
M.Sc. Statistics	Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Mathematics/ Statistics/ Applied Mathematics as one of the core subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 Years at UG level OR B.Sc. Actuarial and Financial Mathematics OR Bachelors in Computer Applications OR B. Tech./ BE Engineering.
Master of Computer Applications (MCA) 2 Year	Having passed BCA OR Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science & Engineering OR B.Sc./ B.Com./ B.A. with Mathematics as compulsory subject at 10+2 Level/ at Graduation Level with a minimum of 50% marks from a recognized University/ Institution.
Master of Science in Information Technology (M.Sc. IT)	Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution in any of the following: Bachelor's Degree in Relevant subject OR B.Sc. having Mathematics as one of the subjects at 10+2 level OR B.Sc. having Mathematics/ Physics/ Computer Science/ I.T. / or any relevant Computer related recognized subject as one of the subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 Years at UG level OR B. Tech./BE.
M. Tech Food Technology/ M. Sc. Food Science	B. Tech. Food Technology and allied disciplines with a minimum of 55% marks from a recognized University/ Institution for M. Tech. Food Technology OR B. Sc. Food Science and allied disciplines with a minimum of 55% marks from a recognized University/ Institution for M. Sc. Food Sciences.
M.Sc. Chemistry	Bachelor's Degree in Science with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Chemistry as one of the subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 Years at UG level OR B.Sc. Hons Chemistry/ Industrial Chemistry OR B.E./B. Tech. Chemical Engineering.
M.Sc. Physics	Bachelor's Degree in Science with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Physics as one of the core subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 years at UG level OR B.E./B. Tech OR B.Sc. Hons Physics.
M.A. International Relations (P&CS)	Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution.
M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication	
M.A. Islamic Studies	
M. A Political Science	Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Political Science as one of the subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 Years at UG level.
M.A. Arabic Language & Literature	Bachelor's Degree or equivalent with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Arabic as one of the subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 Years at UG level OR having Aalimayat/ Fazilah degree with 10+2 of the approved Madrasah OR The candidates who have graduated in any discipline shall be eligible for pursuing M.A Arabic subject to the condition that they are familiar with the Arabic/Persian scripts.
M.A. English Language & Literature	Bachelor's Degree or equivalent with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with English Literature as one of the subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 Years at UG level OR B.A. Hons English.
M.A. Economics	Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Economics/ Mathematics/ Statistics as one of the subjects in at least 04 semesters/ 02 Years at UG level OR Four years Engineering Degree OR Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural/ Horticultural OR Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration OR Bachelor's Degree in Commerce OR B.Sc. Actuarial and Financial Mathematics.

NOTE: Any candidate whose final year result is awaited shall also be considered for admission against the affidavit from 1<sup>st</sup> Class Magistrate. For any further query/ information, the candidates may contact the Admission Officials on: EPABX: 01933-247954/247955 Email ID: admissions@iust.ac.in

No: IUST/DAA-Acad/24/1449  
Dated: 07-08-2024

DIPK-NB-1240-24  
DT: 08/08/2024

sd/- Assistant Registrar Academics

## India Beats Spain 2-1 To Clinch Historic Bronze At Paris Olympics

Press Trust of India

**PARIS:** Skipper Harmanpreet Singh rose to the occasion once again with twin strikes as the Indian hockey team beat Spain 2-1 to claim a second consecutive bronze medal at the Olympics and give a perfect send-off to veteran custodian P R Sreejesh here on Thursday.

The Indians recovered from the heart-wrenching 2-3 defeat to Germany in the semifinal and played positive hockey for most part of the match to come out trumps.

Harmanpreet (30th, 33rd minutes) converted two penalty corners after Spain skipper Marc Miralles gave his side the lead against the run of play in the 18th minute from a penalty stroke.

The Indians regrouped themselves and showed their mental strength to claim another podium finish at the world's biggest sporting spectacle. This was after they broke a 41-year jinx by claiming a bronze in Tokyo three years ago.

The 36-year-old Sreejesh came up with some excellent saves to leave his mark in the final game of his illustrious



career that spanned 18 years.

The Indians were the aggressors in the first quarter, dominating the early exchanges with precision, but Spain came back hard after the first 15 minutes.

Spain had nine penalty corners as

against India's six of which the latter converted two.

Spain did have better share of possession but India were the more offensive side as they penetrated the Spanish defence regularly in the first 15 minutes.

They walked in with more purpose and intensity in the second quarter and pressed hard on the Indian goal.

Spain took the lead in the 18th minute but Harmanpreet brought his A game to the fore yet again to steer India through.

### A Feat That Will Be Cherished For Generations To Come: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the Indian hockey team for winning the bronze medal in the Olympics, saying this feat will be cherished for generations to come.

He said on X, "The Indian Hockey team shines bright at the Olympics, bringing home the Bronze Medal! This is even more special because it is their second consecutive Medal at the Olympics."

Their success is a triumph of skill, perseverance and team spirit, he said, adding that the team showed immense grit and resilience.

Modi said, "Every Indian has an emotional connect with Hockey and this accomplishment will make the sport even more popular among the youth of our nation."

## Short TAKES

### Paris Olympics Medals Tally

Team	1	2	3	4
1 🇨🇳 China	28	25	17	70
2 🇺🇸 United States	27	35	33	95
3 🇦🇺 Australia	18	14	11	43
4 🇫🇷 France	13	18	21	52
69 🇮🇳 India	0	0	4	4

### Olympics 2024 | India's Schedule On Day 14

#### ATHLETICS

Women's 4x400m Relay Round 1: Jyothika Sri Dandi, Subha Venkatesan, Vithya Ramraj, Poovamma MR -- 2:10 pm

Men's 4x400m Relay Round 1: Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Amod Jacob, Santhosh Tamilarasan, Rajesh Ramesh -- 2:35 pm

#### WRESTLING

Men's Freestyle 57kg Bronze Medal Match: Aman Sehrawat vs Darian Toi Cruz (Puerto Rico) -- 9:45 pm

#### GOLF

Women's Individual Round 3: Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar -- 12:30pm

## India Spinner Yuzi Chahal Hails Kashmir's Cricket Talent

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal on Wednesday praised Kashmir's cricketing talent, saying it is great to see players from J&K making their mark and hoped someone will represent the Indian cricket team from here.

Speaking at the final match of a cricket tournament, Chahal said, "I played here in 2009, and it's incredible to see how far the region has come in terms of nurturing cricketing talent."

"It's great to see players from Jammu and Kashmir making their mark, and I'm confident that in the near future, some of them will represent the Indian cricket team," he added.

"The tournament was amazing and I look forward to seeing even



more talent emerge from J&K. I sincerely hope that someone from this region will eventually play for the Indian women's cricket team," the leg-spinner further said.

"My advice to young cricketers here is to keep working hard. The opportunities are there, and with the right effort, success will follow," said Chahal while advising the local youth. (KNO)

## 'MYMP': JKSC's Sports Activities Conclude In North Kashmir



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The sports activities planned for the month of August under J&K Sports Council's "My Youth My Pride" culminated in north Kashmir on Thursday. Handball, table tennis, and badminton competitions came to an end at Indoor Sports Stadium, Baramulla and General Bipin Rawat Stadium in Baramulla.

The closing ceremonies for kabaddi, football, and hockey were held at Indoor Sports Hall in Handwara and Playfield Kulgam, Kupwara.

In District Bandipora, the final

events for hockey and wushu took place at SK Sports Stadium. Additionally, the kabaddi competition at GHSS Shadipora, Bandipora, saw around 120 players compete.

Meanwhile the 8th District Shopian Wushu Championship 2024 continued on the second day at Sports Stadium, Batpora Shopian, with a large number of athletes from various schools, clubs, and JKSC training centers taking part.

Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir, highlighted the enthusiastic response from the youth to the 'My Youth My Pride' activities.

## Provincial Taekwondo Girls Championship Concludes In Budgam

### District Level Baseball For Boys All Age Groups Begins

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports' Inter District Provincial Level Taekwondo competition for girls of all age groups concluded at Sports Stadium Char-i-Shareef on Thursday here. The event concluded with the distribution of medals and mementos to the position holders. Incharge Activity DYSSO Budgam, Shakeel Ur Rahman, presided over the ceremony.

The winners of the Taekwondo competition were:  
1st Place: District Budgam  
2nd Place: District Srinagar  
3rd Place: District Bandipora  
Simultaneously, DYSSO Budgam organised the Inter Zonal District Level Baseball competition for boys of



all age groups at the Sports Stadium Budgam. The event was inaugurated by Activity Incharge DYSSO Budgam, Gh Hassan Khanday, and saw a large number of students

participating.

Both events were conducted under the direction and supervision of Joint Director YSS Kashmir, Mohd Rashid Kohli.

## NIT Srinagar PhD Scholar Wins Table Tennis Championship

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A PhD scholar from National Institute of Technology Srinagar has won the Men's Singles Table Tennis Championship title after a 4-1 victory against a player from GMC Srinagar.

Er Wasid Farooq Reshi, PhD scholar in Civil Engineering Department at NIT Srinagar, won the championship by beating Dr. Rouf Ahmad of Government Medical College Srinagar.

The table tennis championship, organized by the Indian Army under OP-Sadbhavana, was held at the Youth Development Centre in Srinagar from 1st to 2nd August 2024. Around



90 participants from various districts across the valley competed in the tournament.

Er Wasid Farooq Reshi expressed his deep gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath; Indian Army, Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rahman; Prof. MS Mir, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Janani L, Students Activity and Sports

Centre, and other staff members for their constant encouragement and support.

Meanwhile, Er Wasid was felicitated by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, AR (Special Secretary to Director) Shahid Hamid, SAS Officer Kowsar Ali Mir, Sohail Ahmad Baba (SAS Assistant), and Dr. Kurella Swamy were

## Wrestler Aman Sehrawat Enters Paris Olympics Semifinals

Press Trust of India

**PARIS:** Young Indian grappler Aman Sehrawat rekindled India's hopes of a medal in wrestling, demolishing former world champion Zelimkhan Abakarov of Albania by technical superiority to seal a place in the 57kg free-style semifinal at the Paris Olympics here on Thursday.

Aman was in imperious form as he toyed with Abakarov in the second round. The 21-year-old India locked his legs at the start of the second round and turned him over multiple times to earn eight straight points to secure a 12-0 victory.

The bout started with Aman earing a passivity point after his Russian-turned-Albanian opponent did not initiate any attacking move.

Moments later, the In-



dian effected a left-leg hold to earn two more points to showcase his dominance by going 3-0 up at the end of Round 1.

Aman was on song in Round 2 and Abakarov, world champion in 2022, bore the brunt. The Indian's superb agility against the 31-year-old Albanian

was on display as he attacked the left leg to bring him down.

He then effected a 'fitley' (leg lace), turning the Albanian around several times to end the contest with more than two minutes to go.

Abakarov contested the last two points awarded

to Aman but the referee ruled in favour of the Indian and awarded him a point.

Aman will meet Japanese top seed Rei Higuchi in the last-four.

Earlier, Aman ensured himself an easy passage into the quarterfinal with a dominating per-

formance against North Macedonian rival Vladimir Egorov.

The 21-year-old Indian, an Asian Championship gold medalist and the only male wrestler from the country to qualify for the Olympics, was amazingly agile as he kept his defence intact while regularly overpowering his 29-year-old former European champion with leg holds to win the bout on technical superiority (10-0).

Egorov seemed to be in a bit of bother after the first round, requiring medical attention on his knee following Aman's all-out attack.

But the Macedonian could not stage a comeback with Aman effecting a takedown to earn two more points and go 10-0 up with more than two minutes remaining on the clock.

## Indian Wrestler Likely To Get 3-Year Ban For Indiscipline: Source

Press Trust of India

**PARIS:** Wrestler Antim Panghal, who caused embarrassment to the Indian Olympic contingent by trying to facilitate her sister's entry into the athletes' village through her accreditation card, is likely to be banned for three years by the IOA, a source told PTI on Thursday.

Panghal had crashed out of the Paris Olympics after losing her opening bout in the women's 53kg category on Wednesday.

"IOA (Indian Olympic Association) officials discussed the issue that caused embarrassment to all. It is considering a three-year ban on everyone involved, including the coaches," a source in the Indian contingent told PTI.

"First, we need to ensure that she reaches home. The decision will be announced only after she reaches In-

dia," the source added. Panghal is set to take a flight to Delhi this evening.

The IOA decided to send her and her support staff back after the disciplinary breach was brought to its notice by the French authorities.

The body, however, asserted that the ban has not yet been imposed. "A ban has not been imposed as yet," said an IOA official.

Speaking with PTI before her flight back to India, the 19-year-old said, "I did not intend to do anything wrong. I was not well and there was confusion. All of this happened due to confusion." Later, in a video, she admitted that she had to go to the police station but only for the verification of her accreditation card.

"It was not a good day for me. I lost. A lot is being spread about me, that's not true. I had high fever, and

had taken permission from my coach to go to the hotel with my sister.

"I needed some of my belongings which were in the Games Village. My sister took my card and asked the officials there if she could take my belongings. They took her to the police station for accreditation verification."

She also denied that her coaches were drunk and got into an altercation with a taxi driver over fare.

"My coaches had stayed back at the venue and when they wanted to come back, we booked a cab for them. My coaches did not have enough cash and due to the language issues, led to an argument with the taxi driver.

"Since they came to collect some euros from the hotel room, it took some time and led to the situation. I already have had a bad time, please don't spread rumours. Please support me," she said.