

J&K Bank Q2 Net Profit Rises 44.6%

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank's net profit rose substantially by 44.6% Year-on-Year (YoY) to Rs 550.92 Cr for the September Quarter (Q2) of current financial year (CFY) when compared to Rs 381.07 Cr recorded for the corresponding quarter of previous year. The Bank's net profit for half-year (H1) grew 36.6% to Rs 966.41 Cr from Rs 707.52 Cr recorded for H1 last FY.

The Bank announced financial numbers today after its Board-of-Directors reviewed and approved the quarterly and half-yearly figures during a meeting held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Key Highlights

Backed by both core and non-core income growth, the Bank's operating profit for Q2 rose more than 47% YoY and 32% QoQ to Rs 787 Cr. The Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) is up by 7.7% YoY to Rs 1435.93 Cr for the September quarter from Rs 1333.83 Cr and has increased by 7.2% to Rs 2805.15 Cr for the H1 when compared to corresponding periods of previous year. The Bank's other income surged 55.6% YoY to Rs 296.08 Cr for the September quarter.

The Bank's NIM improved to 3.90% QoQ from 3.86% recorded for the Q1 of CFY, while as the Cost to Income Ratio has improved significantly to 54.56% YoY from 64.93% and in sequential terms from 61.96% recorded in June quarter, 2024.

Commenting on the Bank's Q2 numbers, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Our Q2 results are almost in line with our expectations. The

October 24
Gulmarg, Baramulla
**3 Soldiers,
2 Civilian
Porters Killed**

October 24
Tral, Pulwama
**Laborer From
UP Shot,
Critically Injured**

October 20
Ganderbal (Z-Morh Tunnel)
**7 People, Including
6 Non-local Laborers
Shot Dead**

October 18
Shopian
**Laborer from
Bihar found
dead**

October 9
Anantnag
**Territorial Army
Soldier Abducted
And Killed**

Rise In Terror Attacks In J&K: 13 Killed In 2 Weeks

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over the last two weeks, Jammu and Kashmir has been struck by seven terror attacks, with the most recent one being on October 24 evening in Gulmarg which claimed five lives.

On Thursday evening, a terror attack targeted an Army vehicle just a few kilometers from the tourist hotspot in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Three soldiers and two civilian porters engaged by the Army were killed in an attack on an army vehicle in Gulmarg on Thursday.

Defence spokesman in Srinagar in a statement said that Pakistani terrorists, with



Intensified security checks underway amid heightened terror threats in Jammu & Kashmir. KO photo | Abid Bhat

a view to disrupt peace and stability in Kashmir, cowardly targeted an Army column

in general area Butapathri, Baramulla which was ferrying soldiers and

'How Is My Son?' Slain Porter's Last Words To Family

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A wave of grief and despair swept over Nowshera, a small village in Baramulla's Boniyar, following the tragic death of Mushtaq Ahmed Chaudhary, a 27-year-old porter killed in the terror attack near Botapathri, Gulmarg recently.

The violence left a young child fatherless, an ailing father without his caregiver and a wife with

shattered dreams — all left grappling with a tragic and uncertain future.

Mushtaq, the sole breadwinner for his family, was one of the five individuals, including three army personnel, who lost their lives in the attack. His loss has left his family in deep mourning, questioning the senseless violence that robbed them of their only support.

In his last phone call, made around

'720 Terrorists Neutralized In Last 5 Yrs'

Agencies

Jammu: The Northern Army Commander, Lieutenant General M.V. Suchindra Kumar, Friday said that the Army is focusing on "breaking the cycle of violence and dismantling the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir" while the army was also empowering youth and women as well.

He also said that recruitment in militancy rank is in single digits while 720 terrorists were neutralized by security forces in last 5 years, which frustrates adversary

"In the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, our efforts are concentrating on breaking the cycle of violence and dismantling the terror ecosystem, empowering youth and women, facilitating education, promoting sports and reviving the rich historical and cultural legacy. The core of this strategy is to strengthen the relationship amongst the citizens and the soldiers while encouraging nationalist and mainstream narratives, particularly amongst the youth," Lt Gen Kumar said at Northern Command Headquarters, during his median media briefing since assuming the charge of Army Commander.

He added that through integrated military and social outreach efforts, the Indian army is contributing to the broader process of Nation-building.

Ganganeer/ Gulmarg Attack
Speaking about the recent surge in terrorist attacks including one at Ganganeer, Ganderbal that left seven labourers including a doctor dead and the fresh attack on army convoy at Baramulla's

Kin Of Porters Killed Get Rs 6 lakh


Jammu and Kashmir government Friday gave Rs 6 lakh each to the kin of two army porters killed in a terror attack in Baramulla district a day earlier.



LG, CM Pay Tributes To Fallen Soldiers

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid wreath and paid homage to Rfn Jeevan Singh, Rfn Kaisar Ahmad Shah, and Defence Porters Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary and Zahoor Ahmad Mir, who laid down their

lives for the nation. The Lieutenant Governor posted on X: "Paid homage to the brave soldiers and Defence Porters who made the supreme sacrifice in the service to the nation in Butapathri Sector on




J&K Bank
YOUR BANK SINCE 1938
Serving To Empower

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
CIN : L65110JK1938SGC000048

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FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

S. No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED						
		QUARTER ENDED			HALF YEAR ENDED			QUARTER ENDED			HALF YEAR ENDED			YEAR ENDED
		30.09.2024 (REVIEWED)	30.06.2024 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2023 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2024 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2023 (REVIEWED)	1.03.2024 (AUDITED)	30.09.2024 (REVIEWED)	30.06.2024 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2023 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2024 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2023 (REVIEWED)	31.03.2024 (AUDITED)	
1	Total income from operations (net)	341963	318848	295446	660811	583981	1203785	342431	319278	295734	661709	584486	1205087	
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	75446	61215	54441	136661	99573	238457	75683	61372	54520	137055	99680	238807	
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	75446	61215	54441	136661	99573	238457	75683	61372	54520	137055	99680	238807	
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	55092	41549	38107	96641	70752	176727	55278	41850	38377	97128	71501	177122	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	Refer Note No. 2						Refer Note No. 2						
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	11013	11013	10316	11013	10316	11013	11013	11013	10316	11013	10316	11013	
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year							1085664						
8	Securities Premium Account	291950	291945	218242	291950	218242	291945	291950	291945	218242	291950	218242	291945	
9	Net Worth	1209036	1146471	904563	1209036	904563	1096677	1205227	1142477	900621	1205227	900621	1092381	
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	288100	288100	288100	288100	288100	288100							
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-							
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.24	0.25	0.32	0.24	0.32	0.26							
13	Total Debts to total assets	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02							
14	Operating Margin (%)	23.01%	18.65%	18.09%	20.91%	18.19%	18.91%							
15	Net Profit Margin (%)	16.11%	13.03%	12.90%	14.62%	12.12%	14.68%							
16	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (₹ 1/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations													
	Basic : (* not annualized)	5.00*	3.77*	3.69*	8.78*	6.86*	16.80	5.02*	3.80*	3.72*	8.82*	6.93*	16.84	
	Diluted : (* not annualized)	5.00*	3.77*	3.69*	8.78*	6.86*	16.80	5.02*	3.80*	3.72*	8.82*	6.93*	16.84	
17	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-							
18	Debt Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-							

NOTE :
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter and half year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and half year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on Bank's website www.jkbank.com
2. Information relating to Total comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to Banks.

Place : Srinagar
Dated : 25th October, 2024

For and on behalf of the Board
BALDEV PRAKASH
Managing Director & CEO
DIN : 09421701



Tuberculosis Found To Disrupt Glucose Break-Down, Possibly Push Patients Towards Diabetes

Press Trust Of India

Tuberculosis disrupts glucose metabolism in the liver, thereby potentially pushing vulnerable patients towards developing related diseases such as diabetes, a study has found. Using lab models, researchers found that during the early stages of the bacterial infection, an immune response was triggered in liver cells that changed how glucose was broken down in the body. In the next stage, the researchers from the University of Leicester, UK, analysed metabolism-related data of individuals from the PubMed database, which is maintained by the US National Institutes of Health. Glucose metabolism in the liver was disrupted in people who advanced to tuberculosis from latent or asymptomatic infection, the team found. The findings complemented the current understanding that diabetes worsens symptoms of tuberculosis, the au-

thors said. "Our paper changes the focus from diabetes making tuberculosis worse to the possibility that late diagnosis of (the disease) can contribute to the disruption of glucose metabolism, insulin resistance and therefore can promote progress towards diabetes in those that are susceptible," Andrea Cooper, a professor at the University of Leicester and corresponding author of the study published in the journal PLoS Pathogens, said. The researchers said that tuberculosis patients should be screened for insulin resistance prior to treatment. "As diabetes compromises drug treatment, our paper also supports the idea that metabolic screening should be involved in any drug or vaccine trials," Cooper said. "In summary, we have shown that despite the liver not being a primary site of infection, both lipid and glucose metabolic gene and protein expression are perturbed during TB," the authors wrote.

Experts Advocate Using Activated Charcoal For Skin Benefits Amid Rising Pollution

Press Trust Of India

As air pollution rises in the national capital, experts have advocated the use of activated charcoal as a natural remedy for preventing clogging of skin pores and keep out toxins. The experts said activated charcoal masks are effective in reducing sebum (oily substance) from the face skin, thus helping treat acne as they have good absorbing properties. Dr R P Parasher, the national president of the Integrated Medical Association (Ayush), said that activated charcoal -- dubbed as 'Black Diamond' has good sebum absorbing properties. As pollution levels escalate, it causes concern for the skin as particulate matter ranging from PM2.5 to PM10 may lead to the blockage of the skin pores and lead to breakouts, Dr Parasher said. Further, chemicals like lead and nitrogen which increase in the atmosphere during the pollution surge, may damage the skin and may even enter the blood stream through the skin pores which may further damage organs in the body in the long term, he said. "Activated charcoal is not absorbed in the skin but absorbs the toxic elements as well as microbes present in the acne and in this way it saves the skin from getting damaged," he said.



Activated charcoal can help balance and control sebum production which can otherwise lead to breakout and acne, Dr Parasher said. A study "Review of Green Synthesis: Activated Charcoal to Reduce Sebum Levels in Oily Facial Skin" by researchers from Indonesia stated that the porous texture of activated charcoal positively captures and attracts negatively charged molecules. Since activated charcoal is not absorbed by the body, it carries its surface-bound toxins out of the body. Director of Ayouthveda, a skin-care brand, Dr Sanchit Sharma, said that the process of creating activated charcoal involves carbonising harvested bamboo at very high temperatures, enhancing its surface area to weight ratio of about 1200:1. This method not only maximises its effectiveness in absorbing

toxins but also makes it a powerful ally in the fight against acne, he said. As awareness grows, several varieties of charcoal products are gaining popularity in Asian and European markets, promising a natural solution to many skin issues exacerbated by pollution, Sharma said. Talking about his facewash product, he said, "Ayouthveda charcoal face wash prepared from activated bamboo charcoal effectively cleanses the skin by removing dirt and impurities. "It protects the skin from pollution and absorbs excess oil, making it easy to remove makeup. It also eliminates sweat and toxins accumulated, for instance, during workouts or after a long day." Though charcoal face wash are generally safe, overuse can cause some skin dryness, Dr Parasher pointed out.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K], Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Mizrab Tour & Travel Situated at J&K Bank Main Branch Magam

Public Notice

Whereas I, Mr. Abid Hussain Mir S/o Showkat Ali Mir R/o Iskanderpora intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Mizrab Tour & Travel Situated at J&K Bank Main Branch Magam 193401 KASHMIR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card, Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs of the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained. bmg

The Jammu & Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus, Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in SSE /HSE-I/ HSE-II(Class 11th) under roll no 232021107 Session Annual Regular Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir board of school education. The error committed by school / parent/board against my Mother's Name as Dimmy Ganjoo instead of Dimmy Ganjoo. 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 Deputy 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. This is published for the information of the general public. that particulars be recorded as under: - Name: Deepak Kumar Ganjoo Father's Name: Sanjay Kumar Ganjoo Mother's Name: Dimmy Ganjoo Date of Birth:-12-05-2008 Residence:- Monshama Pulwama fko



PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from old name Afroza bano to new name Aneesa in future I will be known as Aneesa if anybody has any objection in her regard he/ she may file his/ her objection in the office of the block development officer Lalpora kunzer within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained
Ab Rashid wani
F/O Aneesa
R/O Waripora Bangil bmg_r

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name , M/s Nadir Ali Tour and Travels " situated at Bemina Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr Nadir Ali R/o Ali Pora ,Bagi Ali Mardan Srinagar Kashmir Compass Tour and Travels intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/ s Kashmir Compass Tour and Travels "situated at Bemina Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12. Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate,Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting),Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection,if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained fko

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed Homestay under the name , M/s Asian Hut Homestay " situated at Harwan Srinagar
PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./ Ali Mohd Khan S/o Sadak Ali Khan R/o 2/5-B JangPura -A, South Delhi 110014 intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Homestay under the name and style" Asian Hut Homestay situated at, Harwan Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12. Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate,Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting),Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection,if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my of 10 pass certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal GOVT BOYS SECONDARY SCHOOL ANDERGAM PATTAN within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
NAME : FIRDOUS AHMAD SHAH
S/O : AB RAHIM SHAH
R/O : KHAMBAYAR
D.O.B: 01-02-1991 fko

The Jammu & Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus, Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in SSE /HSE-I/HSE-II(Class 10th/11th/12th) under roll no 342324 Session Oct -Nov Year 2003 through the Jammu and Kashmir board of school education. The error committed by school /parent/board against my caste as Geogri instead of Sheer Gojree. 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 Deputy 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. This is published for the information of the general public. that particulars be recorded as under: - Name: Showkat Ahmad Sheer Gojree Father's Name: Gh Hassan Sheer Gojree Mother's Name: Gulshana Date of Birth:-29-02-1988 Residence:- Pahallan Pattan fko



PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to information to the general public that in my driving license bearing no JK_0120090015884 my name has been mentioned as Yasmeena Khan instead of Yasmeena Shaffaq.Now I applying for its correction as per my Aadhaar in this regard if any body having any objection he/she may contact R.T.O Srinagar within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Yasmeena Shaffaq
W/O: Nasrullah Shaffaq
R/O: 17 Mukhdoom pora,Nowshera, Srinagar,Kashmir inf
Srinagar(North)Srinagar 190011

DRIVING LICENSE LOST

I have lost my driving License bearing Registration No: JK020110005570 while travelling from Madeen Sahib to La. Baza somewhere. Now I want to apply for its duplicate. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days after publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.
Mirza Ashiq Hussain
Son of Mirza Ghulam Mustafa
R/o Madeen Sahib
Hawal, Srinagar inf

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed Homestay under the name , M/s Palm Paradise Homestay " situated at Raj Bagh Srinagar
PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./ Mohmad Amin Shah S/o Ghulam Mohamad Shah R/oG-1, Cooperative Colony Hyderpora Srinagar intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Homestay under the name and style" Palm Paradise Homestay situated at, Raj Bagh Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12. Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate,Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting),Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection,if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained inf

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth
Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Afshana Nazeer D/o Nazeer Ahmad Khanday R/o Zangam pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 01-09-2008 occurred at Home. In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Public Notice
List of Managing Body of Salfia Edu. Instt. Russu

S. No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation	Qual.	Phone. No.	
01	Ab Rouf Parry	Mohmad Ramzan Parry	Kanihama	Chairman	M.Ed	962243825	
02	Mohammad Rafeeq Lone	Ghulam Mohammad Lone	Russu	Member	M.Ped	6006010689	
03	Tawseef Ahmad Dar	Ghulam Mohammad Dar	Peth Kanihama	Secretary	M. Sc M.Ed	9149725309	
04	Abdul Waheed Dar	Ghulam Mohammad Dar	Russu	Principal	M.Sc, B.Ed	7889513088	
05	Ab Lateef Dar	Ab Razak Dar	Russu	Parent	10+2	7006695842	
06	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Gh. Ahmad Dar	Russu	Member /Parent	10+2	8899247346	
07	Javid Ahmad Wani	Farooq Ahmad Wani	Bachipora	Member	Molvi Fazil	7006312426	

Principal Salfia Edu. Instt. Russu Budgam
BMG

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
The Jammu & Kashmir State Board Of School Education
CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR
ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th.) under Roll No. 117011001 Session A/ R Year 2024. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the Institute Level against my Fathers Name as Ghulam Mohamad Malik instead of Ghulam Ahmad Malik. Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & 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 Deputy 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. This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under: Name: YAWAR ABASS MALIK, Fathers Name: GHULAM AHMAD MALIK, Mothers Name, FAHMEEDA Date of Birth: 05-08-2009, Residence:- Labertal Budgam. Mobile No:- 9149905776, 7006046288 mcb



CME On Infectious Diseases Inaugurated At SKIMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: CME on Infectious Diseases was inaugurated today at SKIMS Auditorium. The event was organized by Infectious Diseases Division, Department of General Medicine in collaboration with the Clinical Infectious Diseases Society of India.

The event marks a significant milestone for bringing together leading experts in the field from all over India to share their knowledge and insights. The event was aimed to address the teachings and emerging concepts in Infectious Disease, equipping healthcare

Prof. M Ashraf Ganie welcomed the experts and appreciated their valuable presence. Prof. Ashraf acknowledged the contribution of organising Chairman & Head Infectious Disease Unit Prof. Aijaz Nabi Koul & his team and expressed hope that they will continue to render their services in future.

He also congratulated the team for taking an initiative to set up local Chapter of Clinical Infectious Diseases Society of India and assured his support. Director SKIMS laid emphasis on preparedness of pandemics and remarked that role of Infectious Disease Unit &



professionals with the tools and information necessary to enhance patient care.

The event hosted guest faculty from renowned institutions across the country who had discussions and presentations on critical topics affecting infectious disease practices.

Director SKIMS & Ex-officio Secretary to Govt.

Clinical Infectious Diseases Society of India very significant in this.

He mentioned that Third World Countries like India have double whammy of infectious & non communicable diseases (NED's). The two make a deadly combination & research should focus to mitigate the occurrence of these epidemics, he added.



Moulana Muhammad Abass Ansari, a revered Islamic scholar and Shia leader, remembered on his 2nd death anniversary.

LG Reviews Key Developmental Projects In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today conducted the on-site inspection and reviewed the progress of key infrastructure and Smart City projects of Srinagar.

The Lt Governor visited the project sites of Noor Jehan Bridge, Qamarwari; Wooden Pedestrian Bridge, Amira Kadal and Jhelum Riverfront Development project from Right River Bank beyond JK Arts Emporium to Amira Kadal and directed the officers and implementing agencies to expedite the works for completion of the projects in a time-bound manner.

He also visited Srinagar Square, Lal Chowk and interacted with the shopkeepers and traders.

The Lt Governor was accompanied by Sh Bhupinder Kumar,

Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Dr.



Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir;

Owais Ahmed, CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited and other senior officers.

Unidentified Male Body Recovered From Jhelum

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An unidentified male body was recovered from the river Jhelum near Nalbandpora

area of Srinagar this morning, officials said.

An unidentified male body, according to officials, was found from river Jhelum, which was later taken

into custody.

Meanwhile, police have begun the probe and sought help from the public in identifying the dead body.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS
 Srinagar: 0194-2103259
 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
 BJBHERA: 01932-228243
 PAMPORE: 01933-294132
 PATTAN: 01954-293507
 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
22 Rabi-ul-Sani
1446

PRAYERS
 FAJR 5: 21
 ZUHR 12:15
 ASR 4: 07
 Magrib 5:48
 ISHA 7: 09

- 740 - An earthquake strikes Constantinople, causing damage to city walls and buildings
- 1366 - Comet 55P/1366 Ul (Tempel-Tuttle) approaches 0.0229 AU of Earth
- 1524 - Spanish troops give Milan to France
- 1905 - Union of Sweden & Norway ends
- 1917 - World War I: Brazil declared in state of war with Central Powers.
- 1918 - Germany's supreme commander General Eric Ludendorff resigns, protesting the terms to which the German Government has agreed in negotiating an armistice
- 1922 - Italian government resigns under pressure from fascists & Benito Mussolini
- 1942 - Battle of Santa Cruz: Japanese naval offensive against US forces near Solomon Islands
- 1950 - Mother Teresa founds Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India
- 1955 - British troops occupy Saudi Arabian oil field at Boerami
- 1962 - Nikita Khrushchev sends note to JFK offering to withdraw his missiles from Cuba if US closed its bases in Turkey; offer is rejected
- 1962 - US performs atmospheric nuclear test at Johnston Island
- 1967 - Shah of Iran crowns himself after 26 years on Peacock Throne
- 1968 - Soviet Union launches spacecraft Soyuz 3
- 1971 - UN votes to replace Taiwan with China
- 1973 - Israeli forces reach Suez, trapping Egyptian army
- 1973 - President Nixon releases first White House tapes on Watergate scandal
- 1975 - Anwar Sadat becomes the 1st Egyptian president to officially visit the United States
- 1975 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1976 - Trinidad & Tobago becomes a republic
- 1977 - 5th & final test of space shuttle Enterprise
- 1977 - Last natural case of smallpox discovered in Merca district, Somalia. Considered the anniversary of the eradication of smallpox, the most spectacular success of vaccination

From KO Archives

J&K Team For Tibet To Find Truth Of 'Shahtoosh Threat'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today said the Centre would be approached to seek China's permission for facilitating the visit of a team to Tibet to find if continuing Shahtoosh trade threatens antelope.

Speaking at a function held in observance of the millennium's first wildlife week here this afternoon, the chief minister said the team will comprise wildlife officials and representatives of Shahtoosh traders whose trip would be sponsored by the government. "If the team feels threat to antelope as genuine, the Shahtoosh traders will have nothing to do with it", he said, adding that with this the controversy over the issue would end once for all.

The chief minister said that as a result of measures taken to preserve wildlife, their population is on increase in the state. He stressed for creating awareness among the people especially students about the need for protecting wildlife and said that two zoos would be set up at Manda in Jammu and Dachigam in Srinagar for people to see nature's fauna. He asked for preparing comprehensive plans for conservation of various sanctuaries like Hokersar, Hygam and Mirgund.

Abdullah called for evolving a mechanism and adopting an integrated programme for making use of dead wood as fuel by those living near forest while stringent measures would be taken for preserving the green trees. Steps have to be taken for bridging the gap between energy-need and energy source. This has become imperative in view of growing pressure of forest resource since other sources of energy like electricity and LPG have become costlier and scarce. He made a fervent appeal to the people for making judicious use of electricity, generation of which is affected during winter due to lesser water flow.

(Kashmir Observer, October 26, 2000)

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Sanat Nagar Tehsil Chanapora/Natipora

Sub: Issuance of Legal Certificate in favour of the legal heirs of the deceased Syed Mustafa S/o Lt. Syed Mehdi R/o Rawalpura who expired on 02-01-2004

NOTICE

The above titled application for issuance of legal heir certificate is under process in our office. In this regard a report has been obtained from concerned field staff which reveals that Syed Mustafa Rizvi S/o Lt Syed Mehdi R/o Sanat Nagar Rawalpura died expired on 02-01-2004. The family structure of deceased is as follows.

S. No	Name	Relationship With Deceased	Age (In Years)	Occupation
1	Padsha Begum	Wife	89	Widow
2	Asmat Tajamul	Daughter	69	Widow
3	Syed Shabir Hussain	Son	62	Married
4	Qudsia Sebtain	Daughter	67	Married
5	Rohi Fatima	-0-	47	Married

The applicant seeks issuance of legal heir certificate in favour of legal heirs of the deceased. If anyone is having any objections in this regard, he/she may intimate the office of undersigned either personally or through an authorized agent within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of said period no claim shall be entertained. The notice is issued today under my seal & signature.

Naib Tehsildar Sanantnagar

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No:433-Sig-T-29-24-25 Closing Date/Time: 25.10.2024 18.11.2024, 15:00

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-29-24-25 Closing Date/Time 18.11.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS Portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER:

Contract Type	Works
Name of Work	(i) Indoor works for Electronic Interlocking (Distributed type with 1 RH) in c/w provision of BPCL siding at Suchpind on Jalandhar city-Pathankot section. (ii) Outdoor works for Electronic Interlocking. (Distributed type with one RH) in c/w provision of BPCL siding at Suchpind on Jalandhar city-Pathankot section.
Tender Closing Date, Time	18.11.2024 15:00
Date Time of Uploading Tender	24.10.2024 18:08
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 3,03,51,452.27 (ii) 3,58,59,383.96
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	04.11.2024
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 3,01,800.00 (ii) 3,29,300.00
Period of Completion	12 Months

3316/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No:- 220-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 24.10.2024 DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-13.11.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
23.10.2024	30.10.2024	13.11.2024/ 15:00 Hrs

S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	220-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR	Provision of 02 nos. 225 KL RCC OH tanks in lieu of old abandoned steel over head water storage tank with plumbing pipes with pump house, bore & pump at Amritsar under ADEN-II/ASR and at Beas under ADEN-II/ASR.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	1,88,80,875.84/-
	Earnest Money	2,44,400.00/-
	Validity of Offer	60 Days
	Period of Completion	06 Months

Similar nature of work - "Construction/repairs of Reinforced Cement Concrete Over head tanks/RCC framed structure"

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3326/24

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but... did I clean it enough? Wash it again? Is it clean now?

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN, distress, myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMIR Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT Help Poor Voluntary Trust is initiating a free 8 weeks Group therapy for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial. You do not have to fight your battles alone. There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (1st Floor), Duresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar 9070806160

Should Government Abolish Interviews for Class I and Class II Jobs Now?

Ummar Jamal

Interviews have long been a point of contention in government job selections, especially when compared to the more objective format of written exams. While interviews allow for a face-to-face evaluation of candidates, the lack of transparency, subjectivity, and potential for bias have led many to question their utility in hiring processes for Class I and Class II jobs in the Indian government. Given the 2016 decision by the Government of India to abolish interviews for Class III and IV government jobs, the question now arises whether this move should be extended to Class I and Class II jobs. The answer, quite evidently, is yes.

Lack of Transparency in Interviews

One of the primary concerns regarding interviews in government job selections is the lack of transparency. While written exams are evaluated based on clear criteria—such as the number of correct answers, negative marking, or other established guidelines—interviews do not offer the same level of clarity. Candidates often leave the interview with little understanding of how their performance was judged. Unlike exams, where a candidate can receive a scorecard or marksheet that objectively shows where they excelled or fell short, interviews do not typically provide detailed feedback.

This lack of transparency fosters a sense of arbitrariness in the selection process. For example, candidates frequently express frustration over not understanding the criteria used by interviewers. The panel may consider factors such as communication skills, attitude, or general demeanor, but how these are quantified remains ambiguous. In competitive scenarios, where candidates are often distinguished by slim margins, the absence of clear evaluation standards can lead to confusion and mistrust in the process.

Subjectivity and Bias

Interviews, by their very nature, are highly subjective. While they are intended to assess a candidate's suitability for a role beyond their academic or professional qualifications, the human element involved opens the door to biases—both conscious and unconscious. Several psychological studies indicate that factors like physical appearance, gender, socio-economic background, or even regional accent can influence the interviewer's perception of a candidate, despite being irrelevant to



the job at hand.

The release of final marks for 761 selected candidates in the 2020 Civil Services Examination ignited debates about potential bias against reserved category candidates in interviews. Despite scoring well in the written exam, candidates from OBC, SC, ST, and EWS categories received lower interview scores compared to general category candidates. A statistical analysis of written and interview marks revealed a weak negative correlation for OBC candidates and moderate negative correlation for SC, ST, and EWS candidates, suggesting higher written marks correspond to lower interview scores for these groups. In contrast, general category candidates exhibit a positive correlation, indicating higher written scores often lead to better interview performance. This reflects interviewers unconsciously judge candidates based on their social and educational backgrounds disclosed in the Detailed Application Form (DAF), potentially influencing scores.

Similarly, the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CGPSC) 2021 exam became the center of a controversy over alleged nepotism, sparking demands for transparency in

the selection process. Concerns arose after the results revealed that top ranks were secured by the relatives of bureaucrats and politicians, including sons, daughters, and in-laws.

There have been numerous other such accounts and allegations in India where candidates with lesser qualifications were favored in interviews due to their personal connections or influence.

The subjective nature of interviews always leaves room for nepotism and favoritism. Candidates with influential connections may receive preferential treatment, allowing them to secure positions for which they may not be the most qualified. This not only perpetuates inequality in government job selections but also erodes public trust in the system. Deserving candidates, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, are often overlooked in favor of those with the right connections, further entrenching systemic inequalities.

Corruption and Lack of Accountability

The interview process for government jobs in India has often been criticized for being susceptible to corruption. With little over-

sight and minimal accountability, interview panels have a significant amount of discretion in determining which candidates are selected. In many cases, this power has been exploited, leading to instances where candidates with personal or political connections are favored over others.

Interviews are typically conducted behind closed doors, there is often no mechanism to ensure accountability. While written exams can be reevaluated to check for errors or discrepancies, the interview process offers no such recourse. Once a decision is made, candidates have little to no opportunity to challenge the outcome, further deepening concerns about the opacity and fairness of the process.

Tail piece

Given the issues associated with interviews, there is a strong case to be made for replacing or at least minimizing their role in government job selections. Written exams and other objective assessments provide a much more transparent and equitable process. By using measurable criteria, such as a candidate's knowledge, skills, and abilities, objective assessments reduce the potential for bias and favoritism.

Objective assessments can also help create a more merit-based system. In India, where government jobs are highly sought after, competition is fierce, and even small differences in performance can determine success or failure. By relying on quantifiable measures, such as exam scores, rather than subjective judgments, the government can ensure that the most qualified candidates are selected based on their merit, rather than their connections or influence.

While the Government of India has made strides in addressing these issues by abolishing interviews for Class III and IV jobs, it is time to extend this policy to Class I and II jobs as well. By relying on objective assessments, such as written exams, the government can create a more transparent, equitable, and merit-based selection process, ensuring that the most qualified candidates are chosen for these crucial roles.

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

The author is a columnist and National President of J&K Students Association. He tweets at ummar_jamal and can be reached at umajamal968@gmail.com

Crucial Framework

Where we stand, several aspirants to the rich-country club have explicit self-set goals — China by 2035, Vietnam and Indonesia by 2045, and India by 2047, to name a few

Renu Kohli

Achieving high growth is not easy. But sustaining it is much more difficult. Which is why instances of sustained high growth are fewer than those of growth faltering after a few years. Most countries hit a wall at middle-income levels, failing to catch up with rich nations like the United States of America, Japan, South Korea or the European ones. In its World Development Report 2024, the World Bank stated that only 34 economies ever managed to cross over to the high-income group since 1990 while the average per-person income of these countries never exceeded 10% of that of America. Earlier, in 2008, the Commission on Growth and Development, a body of 19 developing country leaders and two academics that focused on sustainable economic growth, observed that only 13 economies had grown 7% a year on average for 25 years or longer.

These hits and misses explain the periodic global attention on sustaining high growth rates, which can enable faster poverty reduction, generate employment, achieve better living standards and much else. The recent examination of success stories for insights by the World Bank focuses on the 'middle-income trap' and how some countries avoided it. Its past publication, the Growth Report, 2008, on behalf of the abovementioned body, had studied 'catch-up' growth or convergence to rich country levels. The analysis noted that rapid sustained growth of the kind seen in the second half of the 20th century was unheard of earlier. However, it was distinctly possible because of an open and integrated world economy, which enabled sourcing direct investments, knowledge and rapid learning from abroad while markets could be stretched beyond domestic boundaries.

Understanding the causes, consequences, and internal dynamics of the successful cases of sustained rapid growth (the 2008 exercise) or why countries got stuck or failed to become rich is a

reasonable attempt to identify mistakes and challenges over time and across countries. The idea is to look for common underpinnings and distil useful features and policy tips for leaders and policymakers who are directly involved in crafting growth strategies for their countries. The more aware they are, the better the caution about pitfalls and the lesser the tendency to take the sustained high growth rate for granted.

Based on its research understandings, the World Bank proposes a sequenced, three-pronged plan. First, low-income countries traverse the path of attracting investment to move up the income ladder. Then, at the lower-middle-income stage, adopt foreign technology to export more. Because technology diffusion, know-how and learning need skilled people, investing in these and expanding the skilled labour pool by increasing female participation (a noticeable drawback of this country group) are critical requirements. The US's growth in half a century, 1960-2010, is proof of this: more than a third of this came from lowered racial and gender discrimination in education and the workforce without which per-person annual income in the US today (\$80,000) would be \$30,000 less. Finally, catapulting to high-income level demands global innovation. Here, South Korea's outstanding economic performance — a 27.5 times increase in per-person income in 63 years to \$33,000 by the end of 2023 — remains unmatched.

To complete the recall, the 2008 growth report identified some commonalities and policy ingredients for possible emulation or replication by other countries to sustain strong growth. The most important one was that no country had sustained rapid growth without maintaining remarkable rates of public investment — in infrastructure, education, and health; whereas infrastructure spending was widely neglected. Such spending, it reasoned, crowds in private investment, not elbow it out.

Where we stand, several aspirants to the rich-country club have explicit self-set goals — China by 2035, Vietnam and Indonesia by 2045, and India by



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2047, to name a few. How seriously should they take such proposals? Or heed the warnings? Or should they dismiss these altogether considering the 'middle-income trap' concept is not without its critics?

For one, the reasons why growth rates plateaued or slipped to lower trend vary vastly — from economic shocks and crises, especially financial, to political conflict and instability, policy failures, inability to shift course or modify economic structures for fresh impetus and investment opportunities, amongst others. While cross-country experiences offer insights and perspectives, it isn't clear or straightforward whether these are transferable

or replicable for similar success. Contexts, histories, institutions, structures, handicaps, comparative advantages and so on are not fully mappable from one country to another.

To be sure, such learnings and proposals are non-binding, with a caveat that adoption be country-specific. They do however provide a framework, given the observed historical patterns.

Yet it would be difficult to say that the ideas and the lessons are not influential because economic growth is an immensely desirable ideal. Not merely as an end, but for everything it can enable. Lessons and policy prescriptions for accelerating and sustaining rapid growth can therefore be catchy. For example, the observation that exceptional public investment rates went together with sustainable economic growth proved extremely powerful in its acceptance. This is because the global financial crisis sucked out world demand, leaving countries dependent on domestic demand, thereby enhancing its appeal. Many countries, including India, embarked on public infrastructure spending to fill the deficit and stimulate investments and growth. Yet, as India's case shows, years of public capex have supported growth but the crowding-in of private investment remains elusive. The investment drought persists for more than one decade.

That said, the repeatedly observed sources of sustained high growth over time and across the world are expanding markets and trade, which have reaped competitiveness and prosperity for all countries that engaged in it. This includes China and before that, the east Asian tigers, Japan, and so on. It is no coincidence that the World Bank's research finds that more than one-third of the countries that crossed into the high-income region after 1990 either on account of their integration with the European Union (market expansion) or through the discovery of oil. The case rests there

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

Is the Price of Love Too High?

Kashmiri Weddings Say Yes

Mahoor Haya Shah

There is a peculiar madness that has gripped our Kashmiri society, a grotesque theater where stupidity and excess have joined hands with arrogance and ignorance. These modern marriages, not bound by the warmth of union but shackled by the cold chains of ostentation, bear living testimony to erosion of human values. What are we celebrating? Love, or the gluttony of wealth? It is Nietzsche's eternal question of values that we must ponder—what has happened to the spirit of our people, where humility was once a mark of honor, and now, pride wears the crown?

Marriage, once a sacred covenant, has devolved into a competition, a vulgar race to outdo, to outshine, and to outspend. The overindulgence, the wastage, the spectacle! It is as if we are determined to prove to the world that we can consume beyond measure, that we can drape ourselves in luxury while pretending this charade is the culmination of love. Yet, the truth, like a whispered shame, is evident: we are not celebrating love; we are entombing it beneath layers of silk, gold, and glittering emptiness.

The question then rises like the bitter smoke of an overcooked Wazwan: for whom are these grandiose displays? Do we truly find joy in parading our wealth before others, forcing them into the same cycle of debt, or is it that we find solace in the misery we inflict? A thousand dishes, yet not a morsel of sincerity. We throw money at florists, decorators, caterers, and musicians, thinking the more we pay, the more we elevate ourselves. But all we are doing is feeding a hollow beast—one that grows fatter with our pride, and hungrier with our soul's emptiness.

Nietzsche once spoke of the "slave morality," the way in which the masses are driven not by inner purpose but by the external judgments of others. This is exactly what we witness in Kashmir's pompous marriages. We are enslaved by the gaze



In the end, what matters more: a wedding that costs a fortune, or a marriage that lasts a lifetime? The choice is ours, but if we continue down this path of extravagance, we may find that we have nothing left but the fading memories of a pompous wedding and an empty soul

of the crowd, by the whispers of relatives, by the approval of strangers. Our actions are not free but dictated by an unspoken code of material grandeur. How did we, people with such a rich and ancient culture—Kashmiris (who claim proudly we are from Reshwar/Peereywar)—descend into this pit of artificiality?

Let us speak the truth plainly: these extravagant marriages are not just financially ruinous, but morally bankrupt. The bride and groom, decked like mannequins, often become mere props in their own wedding. What meaning can be found in a marriage where the concern is not the union of two souls, but the number of zeros on a bill? Love, real love, requires nothing of the kind. It grows in simplicity, in

shared moments of connection, in the warmth of being known deeply and accepted completely. And yet, we cover this love with layers of finery, as though ashamed of its purity, as though true wealth cannot be measured in laughter or the quiet exchange of promises.

We must ask ourselves, what legacy are we leaving for the next generation? Do we want our children to believe that happiness comes in the form of a grand feast or a glittering stage? That worth is measured by the opulence of the wedding banquet? If this is what we teach them, then they too will follow in our footsteps, and the cycle of extravagance will continue, hollowing out the meaning of love and union. Nietzsche would argue that we

have allowed the "herd mentality" to take over, that we have lost our individuality, that we are no longer guided by our own inner sense of value but by what others expect from us.

The cost of these pompous marriages is not just monetary, though that alone is staggering. Families go into debt, savings are drained, and for what? A fleeting moment of grandeur that is forgotten as soon as the last guest leaves? Okay till evening or other day till they completely nitpick it! But the true cost is deeper—it is spiritual. We are losing the essence of what it means to come together, to build a life, to celebrate love in its purest form. Instead, we celebrate wealth, status, and a false sense of superiority.

However, it is vital to understand that honoring our culture and traditions does not equate to succumbing to frivolous extravagance. We must respect our heritage, cherishing the beauty of our customs while ensuring they do not become burdensome. There are far better ways to pay homage to our culture than through grandiose displays that drown the true essence of our celebrations. We can engage with our traditions in meaningful, respectful ways that foster community and connection, rather than inflating egos or promoting competition.

There is, of course, a way out of this madness, a return to something more authentic, more meaningful. We must reclaim the sacredness of marriage, strip it of its pomp and pomposity, and let it breathe again as the beautiful union it was meant to be. Let us not be ashamed to have simple weddings, where love and sincerity should be the only focus, not wealth or spectacle. Let us teach our children that their worth is not tied to the price of their wedding, but to the depth of their character, the strength of their relationships, and the authenticity of their love.

In the end, what matters more: a wedding that costs a fortune, or a marriage that lasts a lifetime? The choice is ours, but if we continue down this path of extravagance, we may find that we have nothing left but the fading memories of a pompous wedding and an empty soul. Let us, as a society, rise above this madness, this "will to grandeur," and rediscover the true meaning of marriage—a bond of love, simplicity, and shared life. Only then can we truly honor the institution, and in doing so, reclaim a part of our collective soul that we have so carelessly lost.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a Writer, Editor and Columnist from Srinagar

Women at a Higher Risk of Heart Attacks

Amy Huebschmann
Judith Regensteiner

A simple difference in the genetic code – two X chromosomes versus one X chromosome and one Y chromosome – can lead to major differences in heart disease. It turns out that these genetic differences influence more than just sex organs and sex assigned at birth – they fundamentally alter the way cardiovascular disease develops and presents.

While sex influences the mechanisms behind how cardiovascular disease develops, gender plays a role in how health care providers recognize and manage it. Sex refers to biological characteristics such as genetics, hormones, anatomy and physiology, while gender refers to social, psychological and cultural constructs. Women are more likely to die after a first heart attack or stroke than men. Women are also more likely to have additional or different heart attack symptoms that go beyond chest pain, such as nausea, jaw pain, dizziness and fatigue. It is often difficult to fully disentangle the influences of sex on cardiovascular disease outcomes versus the influences of gender.

While women who haven't entered menopause have a lower risk of cardiovascular disease than men, their cardiovascular risk accelerates dramatically after menopause. In addition, if a woman has Type 2 diabetes, her risk of heart attack accelerates to be equivalent to that of men, even if the woman with diabetes has not yet gone through menopause. Further data is needed to better understand differences in cardiovascular disease risk among nonbinary and transgender patients.

Despite these differences,

one key thing is the same: Heart attack, stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease are the leading cause of death for all people, regardless of sex or gender.

We are researchers who study women's health and the way cardiovascular disease develops and presents differently in women and men. Our work has identified a crucial need to update medical guidelines with more sex-specific approaches to diagnosis and treatment in order to improve health outcomes for all.

Gender differences in heart disease

The reasons behind sex and gender differences in cardiovascular disease are not completely known. Nor are the distinct biological effects of sex, such as hormonal and genetic factors, versus gender, such as social, cultural and psychological factors, clearly differentiated.

What researchers do know is that the accumulated evidence of what good heart care should look like for women compared with men has as many holes in it as Swiss cheese. Medical evidence for treating cardiovascular disease often comes from trials that excluded women, since women for the most part weren't included in scientific research until the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993. For example, current guidelines to treat cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure are based primarily on data from men. This is despite evidence that differences in the way that cardiovascular disease develops leads women to experience cardiovascular disease differently.

In addition to sex differences, implicit gender biases among providers and gendered social norms among patients



lead clinicians to underestimate the risk of cardiac events in women compared with men. These biases play a role in why women are more likely than men to die from cardiac events. For example, for patients with symptoms that are borderline for cardiovascular disease, clinicians tend to be more aggressive in ordering artery imaging for men than for women. One study linked this tendency to order less aggressive tests for women partly to a gender bias that men are more open than women to taking risks.

In a study of about 3,000 patients with a recent heart attack, women were less likely than men to think that their heart attack symptoms were due to a heart condition. Additionally, most women do not know that cardiovascular

disease is the No. 1 cause of death among women. Overall, women's misperceptions of their own risk may hold them back from getting a doctor to check out possible symptoms of a heart attack or stroke.

These issues are further exacerbated for women of color. Lack of access to health care and additional challenges drive health disparities among underrepresented racial and ethnic minority populations.

Sex difference in heart disease

Cardiovascular disease physically looks different for women and men, specifically in the plaque buildup on artery walls that contributes to illness.

Women have fewer cholesterol crystals and fewer calcium deposits in their artery plaque than men do. Physio-

logical differences in the smallest blood vessels feeding the heart also play a role in cardiovascular outcomes.

Women are more likely than men to have cardiovascular disease that presents as multiple narrowed arteries that are not fully "clogged," resulting in chest pain because blood flow can't ratchet up enough to meet higher oxygen demands with exercise, much like a low-flow showerhead. When chest pain presents in this way, doctors call this condition ischemia and no obstructive coronary arteries. In comparison, men are more likely to have a "clogged" artery in a concentrated area that can be opened up with a stent or with cardiac bypass surgery. Options for multiple narrowed arteries have lagged behind treatment

options for typical "clogged" arteries, which puts women at a disadvantage.

In addition, in the early stages of a heart attack, the levels of blood markers that indicate damage to the heart are lower in women than in men. This can lead to more missed diagnoses of coronary artery disease in women compared with men.

The reasons for these differences are not fully clear. Some potential factors include differences in artery plaque composition that make men's plaque more likely to rupture or burst and women's plaque more likely to erode. Women also have lower heart mass and smaller arteries than men even after taking body size into consideration.

Reducing sex disparities

Too often, women with symptoms of cardiovascular disease are sent away from doctor's offices because of gender biases that "women don't get heart disease."

Considering how symptoms of cardiovascular disease vary by sex and gender could help doctors better care for all patients.

One way that the rubber is meeting the road is with regard to better approaches to diagnosing heart attacks for women and men. Specifically, when diagnosing heart attacks, using sex-specific cutoffs for blood tests that measure heart damage – called high-sensitivity troponin tests – can improve their accuracy, decreasing missed diagnoses, or false negatives, in women while also decreasing overdiagnoses, or false positives, in men.

Our research laboratory's leaders, collaborators and other internationally recognized research colleagues – some of whom partner with our Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus – will continue this important work to close this gap between the sexes in health care. Research in this field is critical to shine a light on ways clinicians can better address sex-specific symptoms and to bring forward more tailored treatments.

The Biden administration's recent executive order to advance women's health research is paving the way for research to go beyond just understanding what causes sex differences in cardiovascular disease. Developing and testing right-sized approaches to care for each patient can help achieve better health for all.

By arrangements with The Conversation

'J&K Assembly Elections 2024: Aspirations and Challenges'

CUKashmir Deptt of Politics and Governance holds panel discussion

Ganderbal, Oct 25: Department of Politics and Governance, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) organised a panel discussion on "Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024: Aspirations and Challenges," at varsity's Green Campus here on Friday.

Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Nikka, Dean School of Social Sciences, Prof. Naidu Ashok from Osmania University Hyderabad, Prof. Rekha Chowdhary from University of Jammu, Prof. Noor Ahmad Baba, former Head Department of Politics and Governance CUK, Dr. K Lakshman Head Department of Politics and Governance CUK, faculty members, scholars and students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Nikka, said that the newly elected government in Jammu and Kashmir needs to work in close coordination with the Central Government to alleviate the sufferings of the masses. He further said that strong, cordial relationship and bonhomie through a convergence in a federal structure is contemplated under concurrent list of division of powers between Central and State Governments. He opined that the larger participation of people in the electoral process speaks of high level of aspirations. "The government has a responsibility to deliver on the promises made in the election manifesto in letter and spirit by involving all the stakeholders with proportional representation to both the regions," Prof



Nika added. He expressed optimism that the Government will increase the "happiness index" of the people by adopting welfare measures and addressing the issue of unemployment.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Naidu Ashok, applauded the people of Jammu and Kashmir for overwhelmingly participating in the electoral process by exercising their franchise in large numbers. "The poll percentage suggests that people have even surpassed the national poll percentage average," he said, adding, "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a clear verdict, reposing their faith in the democratic process and avoiding possibilities of coalition government." Prof. Naidu also remarked that no re-polling was done in any constituency, which indicates that the elections were held in a transparent manner.

In his address, Prof. Noor Ahmad Baba, said that the electoral process is a fundamental bedrock of democracy.

Prof. Baba said people have aspirations about employment and many other things as the National Conference came to power. "However the Government confronts many challenges as Jammu is being represented by BJP and NC represents Kashmir. The challenge is to take the people of Jammu and Kashmir all along," he added.

Prof. Rekha Chowdhary in her remarks said that every election held in Jammu and Kashmir is extremely important because it has a different context from the rest of the country. "The recent election was also important because of the Reorganisation Act," she said. Prof. Rekha said that this election provided a suitable political space for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "This election for new parties was a test-check of their political space and also for old parties to establish their relevance," she added. Prof. Rekha, said that Kashmiris have always valued democracy. However, she

was of the opinion that the BJP gained where Congress failed. The students and scholars on the occasion raised a number of queries which were clarified by the panellists.

As discussant, Sr. Asst Prof. DPG, Dr. Khalid Wasim Hassan, said the elections, held after a gap of ten years, was a good opportunity for people to express themselves.

Earlier, Head Deptt of Politics and Governance, Dr. K Lakshman, in his welcome address, said the objective of organising the panel discussion was to discuss and thoroughly debate the success of the recently concluded electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the peoples' participation in large numbers has further strengthened the democratic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

DPG Academic Coordinator, Dr. Himabindu conducted the programme and Asst Prof. Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Ganaie, proposed the vote of thanks.

India-China LAC Agreement Disengagement Of Troops By Month-End: Sources

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Days after India and China reached an agreement to end the standoff between the armies of the two nations in eastern Ladakh, the disengagement process has begun at two friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Disengagement will be completed by October 29 and patrolling will begin by the end of this month, army sources said.

Troops from both sides will fall back to pre-April 2020 positions and all temporary infrastructure - sheds or tents - will be removed, while ground commanders will continue to hold regular meetings.

Sources said each side will also continue to have surveillance options in the Depsang and Demchok areas, and will inform the other prior to stepping out on patrol "to avoid any miscommunication". Indian soldiers are moving back to the west side of the Charding Nala, while Chinese soldiers retreat to the east side, sources said.

India and China reached a patrolling agreement last week - for these regions only - that will, hopefully, put an end to over four years of military and diplomatic tension arising from the Line of Actual Control.

That tension was fuelled by a series of military skirmishes in the Pangong Lake area in May 2020 and included the clash in Ladakh's Galwan in June, in which 20 Indian soldiers died for their country.

In the weeks and months following the Galwan violence



both countries ramped up military presence along the LAC, the de facto international border; in August last year it was reported that Delhi had airlifted nearly 70,000 soldiers, over 90 tanks, and hundreds of infantry combat vehicles, as well as deploying Sukhoi and Jaguar fighter jets in eastern Ladakh, for rapid deployment in the region.

Beijing had similarly deployed soldiers "in considerable numbers all across Eastern Ladakh and the Northern Front, right up to (India's) Eastern Command", the Army had said earlier.

On the disengagement and de-escalation process, Army Chief General Uday Kumar Dwiwedi said this week that the Indian military is "trying to restore trust" in its Chinese counterpart.

"This (rebuilding of trust) will happen once we are able to see each other, and convince and reassure each other, that we are not creeping into buffer zones that have been created," the General said.

The patrolling agreement was announced - hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia for the BRICS summit where he would hold a bilateral

with China's Xi Jinping. Speaking after it was confirmed, Modi told the Chinese leader, "It should be our priority to ensure there is peace and stability along our border", and stressed the need for "mutual trust, mutual respect".

Earlier External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the agreement was the result of "patient and persevering diplomacy". Speaking at NDTV's World Summit, he said, "I think it creates a basis for peace and tranquillity along the border, which was there before 2020..."

De-escalation is still a concern in other areas, including the Gogra-Hot Springs area in Ladakh, after Indian and Chinese forces backed down in September last year. However, intel indicates China continues to hold large swathes of Indian territory to the north, in the Depsang plains area.

Depsang is seen as critical for India since it provides access to the airstrip at Daulat Beg Oldie and prevents Chinese troops from threatening vital logistics centres in the area. Demchok, meanwhile is divided in two by the LAC; India controls the western part, which is claimed by China.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Bank Q2 Net

bottom-line growth underscores our financial prudence and operational excellence while reflecting our commitment to deliver consistent value for our stakeholders as we stay steady on course to achieve the annual numbers."

"I believe, with a healthy balance sheet, a diversified portfolio and consistent focus on digital transformation, we are well-positioned to maintain this growth momentum and capitalize on emerging opportunities", he added.

Asset-Quality
The Bank's Gross NPA Ratio has decreased by 131 basis-points YoY to 3.95% as against 5.26% recorded in September, 2023. The Net NPA ratio has also moderated by 19 basis-points to 0.85% YoY from 1.04%. Meanwhile, during the quarter the Return on Assets (RoA) has jumped to 1.41% YoY as well as QoQ as against 1.08%. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of the Bank has also improved 55 basis-points YoY to 90.54%.

On the Bank's asset-quality, MD & CEO expressed satisfaction, saying, "Keeping our gross NPA below 4% highlights the success of our robust risk management practices. We have been focusing on proactive asset-quality management and ensuring long-term sustainability in lending. Another highlight of this quarter is RoA, which has surged to 1.41%."

"With continued improvement in key performance indicators, the Bank is reinforcing its position as a leading financial institution focused on profitability and sound asset management", he said.

Business Growth
Deposits and Advances of the Bank have grown YoY 9% and 9.5% respectively to Rs 137918 Cr and Rs 96139 Cr. The Bank's CASA stood at 48.60%, which continues to be one of the highest in the industry.

Regarding business growth, MD & CEO said, "During the September quarter, our growth in advances is near 10% while we have maintained the deposit growth within the range of industry average. Going forward, we will intensify our efforts to strengthen our deposit base and increase loan book to achieve our top-line growth numbers."

Digital Momentum
On the occasion MD & CEO emphasized upon the prioritization of carrying forward the digital momentum, saying, "Since our role as a developmental financial institution here is not just to provide credit, we have to take care that businesses are equipped with the tools they need to manage growth sustainably. Therefore, by carrying forward our digital momentum, we are also revolutionizing the way our customers experience banking, making it more convenient, swift, secure and efficient for them with every passing day."

"Moreover, by embracing cutting-edge technology, we have embarked upon a digital journey that enables our customers to manage their finances online and with ease, from account opening and transactions to applying

for a range of our loan products. Going forward, we have devised a comprehensive roadmap to help businesses particularly MSMEs get equipped with beneficial, convenient and efficient management solutions, through collaborative banking with our fintech partners, so that these enterprises sustain growth and enjoy prosperity", he added.

Rise In Terror

local porters. "On being fired upon, the alert troops swiftly and resolutely retaliated the fire, forcing the terrorists to retreat leaving behind a weapon and rucksack and escaped into dense foliage, exploiting a nala and fading light. Regrettably, two brave soldiers, one from Anantnag district and other from Sirsa District, succumbed to the injuries sustained during exchange of fire, thereby making the supreme sacrifice," the statement said, adding that "Army salutes the bravery of Rifleman Kaiser Ahmad Shah and Rifleman Jeevan Singh, who despite being hit responded and forced the terrorists to flee, before laying down their lives in this cowardly terrorist attack."

The defence spokesman said that actions by these brave soldiers prevented the terrorists from causing any further damage and demonstrated unwavering courage and commitment to safeguard the National Security and counter inimical agenda of Pakistan abetting terrorism in Kashmir. "Their selfless act is a testament to the Indian Army's resolve to safeguard our Nation and the Citizens," he said.

The defence spokesman further said that alongside the brave soldiers, two Kashmiri porters Zahoor Ahmad Mir resident of Boniyar Tehsil and Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary resident of Uri Tehsil also made the ultimate sacrifice, while serving the Nation. "It is evident that Pakistani terrorists are, deliberately and unregrettably, targeting Kashmiri locals to evoke the fear and terror in Valley, which is progressing towards peace and stability. The only ideology these terrorists espouse is of The Reign of Terror in Valley," the spokesman said.

Just a few hours before the Gulmarg attack on the army vehicle in Gulmarg, terrorists shot an labourer from Uttar Pradesh in the Tral area of Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, injuring him severely.

The attack took place just four days after seven people, including six non local labourer and a local doctor, were killed in Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The brutal terror attack took place on October 20 when terrorists opened fire at them victims at the Z-Morh tunnel construction site.

On October 18, a labourer from Bihar was shot by terrorists in the Shopian district. The man was shot nearly a dozen times, and the bullet-riddled body was found in the Wachi area of Zainapora, lying in a field.

In another attack, the bullet-riddled body of a territorial Army soldier was found in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag on October 9. The soldier, identified as Hilal Ahmad Bhat, was abducted along with one of his colleagues who managed to escape the terrorists.

Earlier this year, terrorists attacked the house of a Village Development Committee (VDC) Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri in the middle of a firefight with security forces. One terrorist was killed in the encounter.

In July, five soldiers were killed in the Kathua district after terrorists hurled a grenade and opened fire at two army vehicles. The attack took place on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar mountainous, and the Indian Army retaliated

by firing 5000 rounds at the attacking terrorists.

'How Is My Son?'

1 pm on the day of the attack, Mushtaq asked his wife, "Bacha kaisa hain?" inquiring about their only child, a three-year-old son. "He called to check on our son and then said he would call back. But his phone went dead. It never rang again," his wife, struggling to contain her tears, shared.

Mushtaq's sudden death has left a devastating void for his young family. He leaves behind his wife, a toddler son and a father who is suffering from kidney ailments and is bed-bound. "Our father is ailing, confined to bed, and now this tragedy has shattered us," shared Mushtaq's brother, who lives separately but rushed to be with the family after hearing the news.

"Why must innocent labourers, who are only trying to make a living, be targeted? Are we no longer safe just because we go out to work?" he said. "We want justice for Mushtaq. Authorities should see our condition and understand the pain of families like ours who suffer from such tragedies."

Why should someone be killed for trying to earn a living, asked another family member.

In Nowshera, a village located around 18 kilometres away from the district headquarters Baramulla, the slain porter's friends and neighbours remember him as a hardworking young man who took on the role of porter to support his family. "His financial condition was never good," shared Sheikh Muneeb, a neighbour. "He was the only breadwinner, struggling to provide for his ailing father and young son. He had just received a 20-day salary."

Meanwhile, the villagers expressed a hope that authorities will take steps to ensure the safety of civilians and prevent such tragedies from recurring. "These incidents should not happen. We want justice for Mushtaq and hope such tragedies, which devastate families, do not repeat in the future," grieving villagers said. (KNO)

720 Terrorists

Gulmarg in which three soldiers and two porters were killed, the GoC-in-C said that the matter was discussed during Unified Headquarters meeting in Srinagar on Thursday, where a strategy was formulated.

The GOC-in-C further stated that the Army is reassessing strategies in light of suspected cross-border support for the attackers. He stated that while specific operational details couldn't be shared, the Army is adjusting its strategies to address emerging threats.

"I would not like to share details of an ongoing operation but what I can inform you is that we took stock of the new challenges, the modus operandi of the terrorists, the support they are likely to be getting from across the border and we are making a strategy to tackle this," he said.

Jammu region
Referring to the security situation in the Jammu region, the army commander said that various agencies are undertaking operations to achieve the desired outcomes.

"This region which is starting from Kathua and Samba along the border and then Poonch and Rajouri besides hinterland areas of Reasi Kishtwar and Doda... was largely peaceful for the past ten to 15 years. There is a huge challenge along the International Border and Line of Control. There is nearly 210 kilometres of International Border and about same in LoC,"

he said adding, "Army and other agencies making sure that anti-infiltration grid along the Line of Control is strengthened with due focus on counter-terrorism operations in the hinterland which certainly created an environment of peace and development in the Union Territory.

"The adversary is frustrated due to our successes. Their aim is to push terrorists across, but we have foiled infiltration attempts. Their goal is to instil fear among the population, but we will not allow it," he stated.

Calibrated action on terrorism
The army commander said security forces have been able to neutralise 720 terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years.

"Security forces have been able to neutralise 720 ultras in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years. As far as residual terrorists are concerned, multiple agencies keep updating figures. They are varying between 120 to 130. Now, the recruitment figures are in single digits and are at its lowest," the general officer said and adding, "anti-infiltration grid along the Line of Control and focused counter-terrorism operations in the hinterland have managed to create an environment of peace and development in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

Without naming Pakistan, the Officer said. "Adversary is frustrated due to our successes and their aim is to push terrorists across, but we have foiled infiltration attempts. Their goal is to instil fear among the population, but we will not allow it."

Synergy Stakeholders
Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar emphasized the importance of the synergy between the Indian Army, civil administration, Central Armed Police Forces, Police, and Intelligence Agencies in achieving a peaceful and secure environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also mentioned the Army's commitment to the principle of 'Service Before Self' and its role as a key facilitator in Nation Building through various activities such as border security, counter-terrorism operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and aid to civil authorities.

"In addition to our role in internal & external security of the nation, we are also focusing on carrying out development activities in the region. He noted that the synergy between the Army, civil administration, Central Armed Police Forces, police and intelligence agencies has yielded substantial benefits.

"Village Defence Groups (VDGs) have ensured the security of remote areas for decades. The VDG setup is being strengthened, with over 600 VDGs being established and 10,000 modern weapons provided to them. They are also being trained," he said, adding "Army also provides training to Jammu and Kashmir officials and officers."

Youth and Women empowerment
The Officer said that Indian Army is making efforts to empower youth and women, enhance education, promote sports, and revive the rich historical and cultural legacy.

"Empowering youth and women, facilitating education, promoting sports and reviving the rich historical and cultural legacy is one of core focus of army in Jammu and Kashmir. This strategy is to strengthen the relationship amongst the citizens and the soldiers while encouraging nationalist and mainstream narratives, particularly amongst the youth," Lt Gen Kumar said.

He also said that through integrated military and social outreach efforts, the Indian army is contributing to the broader process of

Nation-building.

"These initiatives have not only fostered greater community engagement but also supported the successful execution of kinetic operations in the region. Through integrated military & social outreach efforts, we are contributing to the broader process of Nation-building," he said.

Operation Sadbhavana Projects are being undertaken to execute development activities in border / remote areas of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. We are providing quality education to a large number of students from the Union Territories in the Army Goodwill Schools. Students are also being sponsored to study outside the Union Territories through the Jammu & Kashmir Special Scholarship Scheme and Army Public School residential School programs which are being conducted by us," he said.

Kin Of Porters

The compensation, paid through cheques, was handed over by Baramulla Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa.

The porters were killed in a brutal attack in Bota Pathri, Gulmarg, on Thursday. Sherpa visited the house of Chaudhary Mushtaq Ahmad in Nowshera Boniyar and Zahoor Ahmad Mir in Barnate Boniyar to condole with their families and hand over the money, an official spokesperson said.

LG, CM Pay Tributes

October 24, 2024. India will never forget their selfless service & their supreme sacrifice. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also wrote on X that "Very unfortunate news about the attack on the army vehicles in the Boota Pathri area of North Kashmir which has resulted in some casualties & injuries. This recent spate of attacks in Kashmir is a matter of serious concern. I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms & send my condolences to the loved ones of the people who lost their lives. I also pray that the injured make a complete & swift recovery."

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti also stated on X that "shocked & deeply saddened by the militant attack on an army convoy in Baramulla in which a civilian porter has been killed. Condemn it unequivocally & pray for the swift recovery of the injured soldiers."

Intense Search Op Launched

Security forces on Friday launched a massive search operation along the Line of Control, deploying drones and helicopters to trace terrorists who killed two soldiers and as many porters in the Gulmarg sector of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Army emphasising the focus on dismantling the terror ecosystem.

The combing and search operation began along the LoC and the area near the attack site, but widened to cover the hinterland by the evening, the officials said.

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar said the Unified Headquarters discussed the spate of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir at a meeting in Srinagar and formulated a strategy, with focus on dismantling the entire terror ecosystem.

The routes around the site of the attack was closed and the Gondola ropeway service at the resort town was also shut for a few hours as a precautionary measure, even though tourist movement towards the ski-resort was going on smoothly.

ARTO Budgam Issues 15 Day Traffic Diversion Plan

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Budgam has issued a 15-day traffic diversion plan due to the ongoing restoration work on the damaged expansion joints of Bemina Bridge.

The diversion, which will be in effect from October 25, 2024, aims to alleviate congestion and ensure safety on the Budgam to Baramulla-Jammu NH-44 route.

The notice issued by Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Budgam reads that, as per the communication received from Deputy Commissioner Budgam, all the transporters of district Budgam are hereby informed that there shall be 'Traffic Diversion'

for a period of 15 days w.e.f 25.10.2024 on the existing Budgam to Baramulla-Jammu NH-44 route to alternative route as per the route plan devised by the concerned authorities.

It further reads that, as such, all the concerned transporters of District Budgam shall follow the devised alternate route plan in letter and spirit. The alternative Route Plan is: "Budgam to Ansari Toyota Via Hamdaniya Colony, Durbal, Sharifabad. Budgam to Tengpora Bridge Via Bemina Budgam road, Khomani Chowk, Narkara, Gangabugh."

ARTO Budgam emphasized strict adherence to the new routes by all transporters to facilitate smooth transit and minimize disruption.

J&K's Troubles Will End Only After India, Pak Become Friends: Farooq

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Following a series of terror attacks in the past two weeks in the Valley, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday said Jammu and Kashmir will never be a part of Pakistan and called for an end to the country's promotion of terrorism in the region.

He said that the attacks will keep happening until a solution is found, adding that he has seen this for 30 years.

"Attacks like the one in Gulmarg would continue to occur until India and Pakistan found a way to be friends and that would end Jammu and Kashmir's troubles," he said.

Two soldiers and two Army porters were killed on Thursday after terrorists ambushed a force vehicle near Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Another soldier and a porter were injured in the attack.

"Such attacks will continue to take place in this state. You know where they come from and it will not stop until some way is found to get out of this trouble. I have been witnessing it for the last 30 years, innocent people are getting killed," Abdullah told reporters.

"We are not going to become a part of Pakistan. So, why are they doing this? To disrupt our future? To make us poorer?" he asked.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state said rather than fomenting trouble in the Union Territory, Pakistan should look towards its own plight and work for its betterment.

"They are getting ruined



themselves but are ruining us as well," he said.

Abdullah appealed to Pakistan to stop the violence and find a way to form a friendship with India.

"If they don't find a way, the future will be very difficult," he said.

The National Conference president also paid tribute to the two porters and the two soldiers killed in Thursday's attack.

"I pay my tribute to those who have been martyred. I apologise to their families," he said.

Asked if he thought Pakistan was frustrated by the record turnout in the recent assembly elections, Abdullah said he did not know what happened.

"People voted in the assembly polls and now the assembly will work for the people. We hope the Centre grants full statehood so that the government is able to work for the people," he said.

On Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent meetings with the prime minister and Union ministers in Delhi, the senior Abdullah said coordination with the Centre was needed for smooth functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir government.

Er Rashid Wants 'Darbar Move' To Continue



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Friday held a protest here seeking the restoration of the 'Darbar move' - a bi-annual practice of shifting the seat of power between Jammu and Srinagar during winters and summers respectively.

Rashid, who heads the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), held a protest along with his party workers near the Civil Secretariat - the seat of the Jammu and Kashmir government - here.

Speaking to reporters, Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, said the Darbar move used to happen every year in Jammu and Kashmir, "but for the last few years our capital is neither Srinagar nor Jammu".

"Today, we want to remind (Chief Minister) Omar Abdullah through this protest that he had promised that as soon as the government is formed, the tradition of Darbar move will be restored," he said.

The Lok Sabha MP said our

only demand is that people should be told which city was the capital of J-K. "Our people do not know whether they have to go to Srinagar or Jammu.

There is no solution to people's issues, people are worried whether their files are in Jammu or Srinagar," he said. The AIP chief said either Darbar move should be restored, or Srinagar should be made the permanent capital of the Union territory.

"Our protest today is to seek that either Srinagar should be made the capital or Darbar move should be restored. But Abdullah's method is wrong, he only makes promises and goes back on them," he added.

Abdullah's party, the National Conference, in its manifesto for the assembly election has promised to restore the practice of Darbar move.

Dogra ruler Maharaja Ranbir Singh made the arrangement of shifting the Darbar from Srinagar to Jammu in the 1870s to escape harsh winter in the Valley and Jammu's extreme heat in the summer. (PTI)

Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari Remembered On 2nd Anniversary

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Glowing tributes were paid to Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari on his 2nd death anniversary on Friday. To mark the occasion a feteha and Quran a recitation ceremony was organized at Gulistan-e-Baba-Mazar Zaidal, his final resting place. Hundreds of people from all walks of life, including students from the Madina Public Schools, which he established, attended to honour his legacy.

Participants described Maulana Abbas Ansari as an emancipated cleric, political leader with foresight and social reformer, who left behind a legacy of unity, compassion and education and took a pledge to follow his path.

Imtiyaz Hussain, a student of Madina public School who attended a memorial service said that through the chain of schools he established doctors, engineers and scholars are passing out which is a great contribution to the Kashmiri society.

Syed Salim Geelani, a Sunni social activist, described Maulana Ansari as a man devoted to the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

Geelani reflected on Maulana's commitment to fostering Shia-Sunni harmony, saying that his approachable nature was such that in his presence, distinctions faded. Having spent over thirty years with him, Geelani expressed that the void left by Ansari's passing is irreplaceable.

He added, "I hope that Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari will continue his father's legacy of fostering unity among Muslims."

Hakim Suhail, a participant at the mourning ceremony said Maulana Ansari was committed to uplifting the marginalized people and improving the lives of the downtrodden.

"He took concrete steps towards his vision by founding the Al Abbas Relief Trust in 1993, dedicated to welfare and education. His tireless efforts led to the establishment



of Madina Public Schools in Baramulla and Budgam the following year, marking the beginning of a series of educational institutions aimed at empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir," Suhail said.

He further said that Maulana created accessible educational opportunities for rural and underprivileged communities and gave countless families hope for a brighter future.

He recalled the words of Maulana Abbas: "The fruits of my life's work are the schools we have built across the valley; they are my salvation in this world and the next."

Dr Mudassir Rizvi, a noted religious cleric described Maulana Ansari as a leader who led his life as a torchbearer of Shia-Sunni unity.

"His life's mission was to bridge sectarian divides, fostering Shia-Sunni unity and emphasizing the importance of peace over violence. His moderating influence in an often turbulent region made him a respected figure across communities and earned him the admiration of people committed to justice and harmony."

Syed Taqi Naqvi, a scholar from New Delhi described the presence of hundreds of children at his anniversary as a testament to the work that he has done at the educational front, the chain of madina public schools that he has established.

"We hope that in the near future, a college is also established which will add to the educational standards of the society," he said.

Oral historian Ilyas Rizvi

paid his tributes by recalling his contribution in the field of education.

"The educational contribution through The Madina Public School across Kashmir is the most outstanding of any religious organization within the community.

Ilyas pinned hope that the legacy which 'Moulvi Abbas' carried would be followed by the juniors as well to be relevant in the future that will see Science, Technology and Religion exponentially fused together.

Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari paid glowing tributes to his father and said that the contribution his father had made on the political, social, educational and economic front will be carried forward.

Popularly known as Molvi Abbas, he was the last surviving politician of the Plebiscite Front era.

An alumni of Najaf seminary, Maulana Abbas founded Anjuman-e- Ittehadul Muslimeen after his return from decade-long stay in Iraq in 1962. He rose to a star position during the Moi-Muqaddas movement of the mid-sixties.

In 1987 Molvi Abbas became founding convener of Muslim United Front (MUF) which changed the political landscape of Kashmir.

He spent years behind bars for his relentless political campaign and penned his autobiography—"Khare Gulistan"—as a political prisoner.

After his release from prison he co-founded the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. He led several rounds of talks with New Delhi during Atal Behari Vajpayee era as he was a strong proponent of peaceful settlement of Kashmir dispute. However his differences with Pakistan's approach later led to his ouster from the multiparty combine by the hardline camp.

Molvi Abbas virtually retired from active political life and was mostly engrossed in spiritual pursuits. He has penned scores of books on spiritual aspects of Islam.

'Too Much Bloodshed In Kashmir' Ready To Engage With Centre To Resolve K-issue: Mirwaiz

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday said the separatist amalgam is ready to engage with the BJP-led Centre for the resolution of the "Kashmir issue".

"When the APHC (All Parties Hurriyat Conference) was formed by the leadership in 1993, the situation was entirely different with militancy at its peak (in Jammu and Kashmir)."

"Even at that time, the APHC, in its proclamation, had clearly stated that it advocates for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict by engagement and even after 30 years, this outlook remains the same," Mirwaiz said here.

He was addressing the Friday congregation at the Jamia Masjid in the city's Nowhatta area.



Mirwaiz said at the BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself spoke about dialogue and diplomacy as the means for settling conflicts and not war.

"The Hurriyat talked to (former prime ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, (former Pakistani president Pervez) Musharraf and is always ready to engage with the current dispensation in

New Delhi. There has been too much bloodshed in Kashmir to allow it to continue," the Hurriyat chairman said.

Mirwaiz called for investigations into recent terror attacks in Ganderbal and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

A local doctor and six non-local labourers were gunned down by terrorists at a tunnel-construction site in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal on Sunday, while the attack in the Gulmarg area in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Thursday left four people, including two soldiers, dead.

"The recent killings in Gagangir are shocking and disturbing. Now, we hear of killings in the high-security area of Gulmarg. These are very serious matters that can escalate and should be investigated," the Hurriyat chief said.

CUS Inks MoU With EDI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) and J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with skill-based training, research and promotion of entrepreneurship, startup and innovation culture as key areas of focus.

The MoU was signed by Director EDI, Rajinder Kumar Sharma and Registrar Cluster University Srinagar, Dr. Syed Wilayat Hussain Rizvi.

Senior officials from both institutes were present on the occasion including Controller of Examinations, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Mir and Dean Social Sciences, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Kotey.

The MoU will be in place for



five years and will facilitate effective utilization of resources.

EDI will extend support for internships to students of Cluster University Srinagar. It will also facilitate the faculty and students of the university with respect to industrial training and exposure visits, providing insight in to the latest developments and requirements of the industry.

As part of the MoU, EDI will provide necessary assistance in setting up of the University

Incubation Centre. Besides, training and entrepreneurship development programs will be conducted for faculty and students.

Cluster University Srinagar and edi have agreed to carry out joint research activities in the fields of entrepreneurship development and startup culture in J&K. Students will be trained in emerging technologies in order to bridge the skill gap and make them industry ready.

Dr Sameer Siddiqui Selected For Hanafi Sopori Award

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Adabi Markaz Kamraz, literary association for the promotion of Kashmiri language and literature has among others selected the prominent Islamic Scholar, public preacher and writer Dr. Muhammad Sameer Siddiqui for the prestigious Hanafi Sopori award which is awarded annually to the persons who have in one way or another contributed their bit towards serving the Kashmiri language.

Dr. Siddiqui has been selected for the award because of his tireless efforts in promoting the Kashmiri language during the course of his public speeches and sermons.

Other two prominent personalities selected for the same



award include Mr. Ghulam Rasool Shah; a functionary of Meeras Mahal Sopore and famous Kashmiri folk singer Mr. Gulzar Ahmed Ganai. The awards will be given to the nominated persons during the 44th annual Kashmiri Conference organised by Adabi Markaz Kamraz on 2nd and 3rd of November respectively at Kashmir University's North Campus in Delina, Baramulla.

Continuous Dry Spell Likely To Impact Saffron Production

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The continuous dry spell in Kashmir over the past several months is likely to impact saffron production this year. Saffron growers from the Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district said that the lack of sufficient rainfall this autumn will adversely affect saffron yields.

Ghulam Rasool, a grower from Dusoo Pampore, said while there was light rain in September, it was inadequate for proper saffron cultivation.

"The ongoing dry conditions have affected the majority of crops this year, and saffron will also be impacted," Rasool said, adding that moderate rain in the next week could still benefit the crop.

Khursheed Ahmad, another grower, said countries like Iran, Spain and Afghanistan enjoy good saffron yields every year due to their effective irrigation systems, which are lacking in Pampore. "We typically experience good autumn rains, but this year we have had almost none, and that will certainly affect production," he remarked.

Ahmad said the government has invested crores of rupees to boost saffron production in Pampore, yet the vital drip irrigation facilities remain non-functional.

Other growers said while these systems were installed years ago, most have never been operational due to unclear reasons. They said if drip irrigation facilities were made functional, growers would not have to rely solely on rainfall, allowing for timely irrigation and potentially better saffron production. They have appealed to



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address this issue and enhance saffron production.

Saffron production has declined by over 67% from 2010 to 2023.

According to details obtained by KNO, saffron production in Jammu and Kashmir has declined from 8.0 metric tons (MT) in 2010-11 to 2.6 MT in 2023-24, marking an overall decrease of approximately 67.5%. However, there was a slight recovery in the last year, with a marginal increase of 4% from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Officials said that in 2013-14, saffron production was 14.01 MT, with a yield of 3.82 quintals per hectare. This fell to 5.57 MT in 2014-15, with a yield of 1.52 quintals per hectare. In 2015-16, production rose to 16.17 MT, yielding 4.41 quintals per hectare, and increased further to 16.45 MT in 2016-17, with a yield of 4.49 quintals per hectare.

However, production took a downturn in 2017-18, dropping to 5.20 MT with a yield of 1.42 quintals per hectare. In 2018-19, production slightly increased to 5.65 MT, yielding 1.54 quintals per hectare. By 2019-20, production fell drastically to just 0.02 MT, with a yield of 4.44 quintals per hectare.

In the following years, production remained stagnant, with 0.02 MT recorded in both 2020-21 and 2021-22, yielding 4.92 quintals per hectare each year—(KNO)

Shopian's Grower Grows Saffron In A Hall

Agencies

SHOPIAN: A progressive farmer from South Kashmir's Shopian district has become an example for others as he has been successfully growing both indoor and outdoor saffron.

Haroon Rashid (55), a resident of Vehil village of Shopian has been growing saffron in a big hall of his house as well on the slab of his house with positive results.

Haroon said that he has been growing different kinds of vegetables, fruits and even some medicinal plants on the slab of his two-storey house for the last seven years now.

He said that while growing different kinds of vegetables and fruits, he has always sought attention and guidance from concerned officials of Horticulture and Agriculture departments, who have always supported him.

Haroon said that last year while meeting officials, he came to know about indoor saffron and with the help of KVK Balpora Shopian and India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IJKSTC) Dusoo Pampore, he gave try to indoor saffron and that showed very positively results.

He said that on his own with guidance of some officials, he also started growing outdoor saffron using hydroponic technique and that too has shown very positive results. This year, both indoor and outdoor saffron has been grown again and the results are much better, he said.

"Outdoor saffron, though on a minor scale has shown good results as flowers are being plucked



while indoor saffron is currently in bloom and are expecting more yield as compared to last year," he added.

He said that with indoor saffron a reality now, the demand can be easily met and even people who don't have land can grow saffron in their homes.

Haroon said where there is a will, there is a way and farmers need to work hard and take benefits of different government schemes besides guidance from scientists and other officials and by doing so, they can do wonders and won't be dependent on others.

He added that indoor saffron cultivation is a reality and it has been showing very positive results as of now and there remains zero impact of climate change, extensive rain or heat on indoor saffron.

Officials said that as climate change has been affecting every crop and like that it has started to put its impact on outdoor saffron and now "we need irrigation for saffron that wasn't required earlier and indoor saffron under these circumstances can play vital role in meeting demand and supply."—(KNO)

Pune Test: Santner, Latham Put NZ On Top With 301-Run Lead

Press Trust of India

PUNE: India's inadequacies against quality spin bowling stood thoroughly exposed, leaving the side staring at its first ever home Test series loss to New Zealand after the visitors claimed a formidable 301-run lead on day two of the second Test here on Friday.

Tom Latham (86) led New Zealand's charge with the bat after Mitchell Santner's brilliant 7/53 destroyed India.

His knock consolidated a handy 103-run first-innings lead that the Kiwis had grabbed before reaching 198/5 at stumps.

Tom Blundell (30 not out) had Glenn Phillips (7 not out) for company when stumps were drawn.

The only silver lining for India was Washington Sundar's continuing good show.

He completed 11 wickets in the match, adding four more to his career-best first-innings



haul of seven.

New Zealand are looking at a historic maiden Test series win in India, having first come here in 1955-56.

None of the New Zealand batters faced any apparent trouble batting on the pitch shortly after the star-studded Indian line-up cut a sorry fig-

ure for the second time in this series, making elementary mistakes.

In the last Test in Bengaluru, their all-time lowest score

at home of 46 all-out caused India's first loss to New Zealand in 36 years in their own backyard.

India haven't lost a Test series at home since their defeat to England in the 2012-13 season and their unbeaten record in 18 series since then is under serious threat now.

India's highest successful chase in Tests at home was 387 against England at Chennai in December 2008.

On Friday afternoon, India folded at a mere 156 in 45.3 overs as spunky New Zealand continued to perform way better than the hosts.

As India endured yet another 'one bad session of play', six wickets fell in the morning for a mere 91 runs which made the pitch look unfavourable for batting when it was not the case.

Skipper Latham led from the front as he blunted the Indian spinners with ease but New Zealand batters deserved full credit for executing their plans.

News MAKERS

MCA Apologises, No More Water Woes At Pune Test

Press Trust of India

After facing difficulties in finding drinking water during the opening day of the second Test between India and New Zealand here, the host state association has made the necessary arrangements on Friday and the fans are no longer complaining.

Around 1 lakh litres of RO water in 20-litre cans have been arranged for the second day's play on Friday, well distributed among the booths to avoid the lapse on the first day, an official informed PTI.

As many as 3,800 bottles for 20 litre each have been made available for use on the second day as it remains hot and humid on Friday, while another 500 are kept in the stadium's vicinity for back-up.

Angry fans had raised slogans against the hosts Maharashtra Cricket Association here on Thursday after finding no water at the booths.

MCA secretary Kamlesh Pisal had tendered apology later in the day on Thursday.

The volunteers and security personnel had swung into action immediately to provide packaged water bottles to the fans from other storage areas, but the distribution of the same took time and that had led to fans being upset.

The issue occurred due to delay in arrival of the vehicle which was transporting water from the plant to the stadium.

Coach Ishfaq's India U-17s Win Two-In-A-Row

Press Trust of India

Rishi Singh's first half goal helped Ishfaq Ahmad-coached India beat Turkmenistan 1-0 and notch their second consecutive win at the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers in Chonburi, Thailand on Friday.

Rishi struck in the 44th minute which proved decisive in the narrow win.

India now have six points from two matches, and will play hosts Thailand in their concluding group tie on Sunday. India had mauled Brunei Darussalam 13-0 in their opening match.

India's breakthrough came when Lunkim's powerful long-range strike forced the goalkeeper to parry it into Rishi's path, who smashed a first-time shot to put the Blue Colts ahead at halftime.

India had the ball in the net for a third time in the 69th minute, only to see it flagged offside. Lunkim and Arbash combined before the latter finished into the corner.

The assistant referee had called Vishal Yadav offside on the basis that he had interfered with play from an offside position after Arbash shot the ball.

Ton-Up Saud Puts Pakistan In Charge

Agencies

Saud Shakeel's crafty 134 fetched Pakistan a handy first-innings lead before their spinners blew away England's top order to boost their hopes of a memorable series victory on day two of the deciding third test in Rawalpindi on Friday.

Pakistan had slumped to 46-3 but Saud stitched four 50-plus partnerships, including with tailenders Noman Ali and Sajid Khan, to reach 344 all out -- a lead of 77 -- in a remarkable turnaround.

Pakistan further consolidated their position by reducing England to 24-3 when bad light stopped play at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Joe Root, batting on five, will be key to England's survival hopes, while Harry Brook, on three, will also need to respond to the challenge when play resumes on Saturday.

England captain Ben Stokes began the day with spin from both ends and Saud got a life on 26 when he edged Shoaib Bashir low into the shin of wicketkeeper Jamie Smith.

Off-spinner Bashir would not be denied, however, and removed Pakistan captain Shan Masood for 26, caught in the second slip.

YSS Budgam Organises Trekking For Boys At Yousmarg

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam is organising a trekking camp at Yousmarg for boys across all age groups. The camp, set to run from October 25 to October 29, aims to foster physical fitness, resilience and an appreciation for nature among the youth.

The event was flagged off by Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Budgam Tariq Ahmad in the presence of prominent figures Gh. Hassan Khanday, Shakeel Ur Rehman, and Feezoo Jawhar. The five-day camp will include guided trekking expeditions and various activities designed to enhance teamwork, discipline and a sense of adventure among the participants.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, ZPEO Budgam emphasized the department's commitment to providing opportunities for youth to explore the outdoors and develop lifelong skills.

"Through events like this



trekking camp, we aim to promote physical health and mental well-being while encouraging our youth to engage with their natural surroundings," he said.

The Department of Youth

Services and Sports, Budgam, remains dedicated to organising such initiatives that foster sportsmanship, environmental stewardship, and personal growth in the youth of the region.

Friendly Cricket Match Held At Model Academy School

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A friendly cricket match took place at Model Academy School playground between faculty members and students. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Adit Gupta, Director of MIER, who inspired both teams with encouraging words and praised their dedication.

Throughout the match, players exhibited outstanding energy, sportsmanship, and camaraderie, creating a competitive yet friendly atmosphere. The field buzzed with spirited cheers from students and teachers alike, fostering a sense of unity and enthusiasm. Both faculty and student players demonstrated impressive skills, from powerful batting to precise bowling and agile fielding, amplifying the excitement of the game.

In a closely contested match, the Faculty Cricket Team emerged victorious, with Pramod Srivastava, Principal of Model Academy and

captain of the faculty team, lifting the winning trophy. Imran Ahmed, the school's Sports Teacher, earned the Best Bowler award for his remarkable performance, while Vidit Gupta of Class 12, captain of the Students' Cricket Team, received the Best Batsman trophy in recognition of his skill and leadership.

The ceremony concluded with a formal medal presentation led by J.K. Dhimaan, Vice-Principal of Model Academy, who commended all players for their efforts and sportsmanship. Medals were awarded to the winning team and individual students by both the Principal and Vice-Principal, honoring their achievements and commitment to the game.

Organised by Nisha Sharma, Convener of the Sports Department, the event celebrated teamwork, resilience and a shared passion for sports within the Model Academy community.

Warner's Leadership Ban Lifted By Cricket Australia

Agencies

The lifetime ban from holding leadership positions in Australian cricket imposed on David Warner for his part in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal has been lifted,

Cricket Australia (CA) said on Friday.

The prolific opening batsman, who retired from international cricket earlier this year, was branded the ringleader of the plot to tamper with the ball in the third test against South Africa in Cape Town six years ago.

Indian 125th In FIFA Rankings

Press Trust of India

Indian men's football team climbed one place to 125th in the latest FIFA rankings released on Thursday, thanks to a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Vietnam in an international friendly earlier this month.

Under new coach Manolo Marquez, India are yet to win a match. The team under Marquez has lost once and drawn twice, that saw it earn +0.26 points, taking its total points tally to 1133.78.



In the AFC standings, India have also improved one notch to be 22nd, behind Vietnam who have lost three rungs.

PSG v Mbappe: Inside The Mega Wage Dispute Rocking French Football

Agencies

Paris St Germain will take their wage dispute with Kylian Mbappe to court after the French football league's governing body (LFP) ruled in favour of the France captain on Friday.

French media reported the 25-year-old, who has not commented on the dispute, is seeking around 55 million euros (\$59.52 million) in salary and bonuses he says he is owed by the club.

The Ligue 1 champions, however, say Mbappe's contract was "legally amended" and that he reneged on commitments when he left the club to join Spanish giants Real Madrid in the close season.

PSG said last month that Mbappe had refused an offer from the LFP to mediate on the issue.

The LFP's National Joint Appeals Commission heard the parties on Oct. 15 and announced on Friday it had ruled in favour of Mbappe.

"The club must pay him the salary he is claiming. This decision is not subject to ap-



peal, but may be referred to the FFF (French Football Federation) Executive Committee," the LFP told Reuters.

However, PSG said they would be "forced to bring the case before the competent courts" while still trying to find an "amicable solution" with Mbappe, who became the French club's all-time top scorer during his seven-year stay in the capital.

"What is in debate, and will ultimately be heard before an appropriate tribunal, is that the original contract was legally amended in August 2023 relating to

the 2024-25 season, and also fully recognised by the player including in January 2024 - until the player then decided to renege all his commitments upon leaving the club," a PSG spokesperson said.

"As a matter of law and fact, the player has made clear, repeated public and private commitments that the club simply asks are honoured, with the player being afforded unprecedented benefits by the club over 7 years in Paris.

"The club hopes these basic commitments will sim-

ply be respected, knowing that the club will be forced to have the player's bad faith judged by the competent courts if the player regrettably seeks to pursue this incomprehensibly damaging dispute, for himself and for French football, further."

Mbappe's representatives were not immediately available for comment.

In January, Mbappe had said he made an agreement with PSG chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi which would "protect all parties and preserve the club's serenity for the challenges ahead."

Arsenal Coach Arteta Upbeat About Liverpool Clash Despite Injury Concerns

Agencies

LONDON: Arsenal go into the game with Premier League leaders Liverpool with plenty of injury doubts, but manager Mikel Arteta remains confident that his squad is good enough to recover ground in the standings.

Bukayo Saka, Riccardo Calafiori and Jurrien Timber are all injury worries ahead of Sunday's home game, while midfielder Martin Odegaard is still unavailable.

Defender William Saliba is suspended after his red card in last weekend's loss at Bournemouth, Arsenal's first defeat this season, to add to the manager's problems, but Arteta remains upbeat despite the difficulties.

"Obviously we didn't want to be in that situation, but we are really lucky to have the players that we have, to have the squad that we have, to have the attitude that we have," Arteta told reporters on Friday.

"When it comes down to



reacting to a difficult situation, we don't feel sorry for ourselves, we face it. We are a team that knows how good we are and how difficult we can be for opponents.

"We have had very difficult and challenging moments but I don't think this is one of them. We are so energised, the atmosphere will be tremendous and we are really looking forward to the game."

Saka has not played since picking up an injury while on England duty earlier

this month, while Calafiori went off injured during Tuesday's 1-0 Champions League win over Shakhtar Donetsk and Timber has missed Arsenal's last three games.

"We're going to do our very best to somehow have them available. It's very, very uncertain," Arteta said.

"He (Calafiori) needs some more tests. Yesterday he had some, today he's going to have some more. Last time we thought it was really bad and then he ended

up playing two days later. "He's (Saka) done a bit of training on the grass. How far we can get him before Sunday is another question. We will see.

"It was the first session that he (Timber) could have some involvement. He's been out a while. We thought he would be further ahead."

Liverpool, under new manager Arne Slot, have also lost one league game, but after winning their other seven, have a one point lead over champions Manchester City with Arsenal four points off the leaders in third.

"They are in a really good moment and you can see the touch that he (Slot) has given to a team that was already very strong. You can see his fingerprints on that team," Arteta said.

"It is a team that has been competing at the highest level for nine years in every competition.

"We are excited about it, it's a big opportunity. We love these kinds of matches at the Emirates."