

Kashmir's Urban Centers Face Diabetes Epidemic: Dir SKIMS Says SKIMS Set For Major Overhaul; To Lead In Innovation & Research

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Director Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and senior Endocrinologist Dr Muhammad Ashraf Ganaie said that the proportion of diabetes and prediabetes in Jammu and Kashmir is higher than the national average, especially in urban areas like Srinagar and other townships of Kashmir.

Dr Ashraf Ganaie voiced these remarks in an exclusive interview with Kashmir Observer web TV. "I was a part of the largest diabetes survey in the world, known as India Diabetes from The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), testing over 100,000 people. The proportion of diabetes and prediabetes in Jammu and Kashmir is higher than the national average, especially in urban areas

like Srinagar," he said. He added that diabetes has reached epidemic levels, particularly in urban areas like Srinagar, and townships of Baramulla, Anantnag, and Pulwama. "Approximately 15.5 percent of the population in Jammu and Kashmir is prediabetic, while 10.5 percent are diabetic. This means that about one in four urban residents has either diabetes or prediabetes, totaling roughly



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25 percent. Nationwide, the diabetes rate stands at one in nine people, indicating that the prevalence is higher in Jammu and Kashmir." There is a significant concern about prediabetes converting to diabetes, but it also presents an opportunity for intervention, Dr Ganaie told Kashmir Observer. On being asked if the SKIMS institute prepared for the 'Diabetes | More on P6

Rahim Rather Tipped As J&K Assembly Speaker

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior National Conference leader and MLA Charar-e-Sharif, Abdul Rahim Rather is likely to be appointed as the new speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative assembly.

Sources said that the former finance minister and seven-time MLA will be appointed as the speaker of the legislative assembly.

Mubarak Gul, who held the position of Speaker during the NC-PDP coalition government, was sworn in as the pro-tem speaker by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on October 19.

The ruling Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has issued a clarification following the appearance of the name Rahim Rather in a list of politicians | More on P6

BJP To Elect Legislature Party Leader Today

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit will hold a meeting in Srinagar on Sunday to elect its legislature party leader ahead of the first assembly session in the Union Territory to be held on November 4 after a six-year gap.

The BJP bagged its all-time high of 29 seats in the recently held Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

However, its MLA Devender Singh Rana, who won the Nagrota assembly segment by a margin of over 30,000 votes and was a frontrunner for the leader of opposition post because of his political stature within the party, died on Thursday following an illness.

Known as the "voice of Jammu", he quit the National Conference along with his close associate and | More on P6

Kashmir Valley Sees 3 Encounters In A Day

LeT Commander Among 3 Terrorists Killed In Srinagar, Anantnag



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A top Pakistani commander of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) who was active in the Valley for several years was killed and four security personnel were injured in an encounter in the Khanyar area here on Saturday, officials said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the densely populated locality of Khanyar in the interior city following inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area. The search operation

TIMELINE OF SRINAGAR ENCOUNTERS

- NOV 2, 2024 Khanyar
- SEP 14, 2022 Nowgam
- JUN 13, 2022 Bemina
- MAY 27, 2022 Soura
- APR 10, 2022 Bishambar Nagar
- MAR 10, 2022 Hazratbal
- MAR 16, 2022 Nowgam
- FEB 5, 2022 Zakura

turned into an encounter as the terrorists opened fire at the search party, which retaliated, a police official said. During the operation, a fire broke out in the house where the terrorists were holed up and thick grey smoke was seen billowing into the sky. One terrorist has been gunned down in the ongoing encounter, the officials said. Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans and two policemen were injured in the encounter. They were taken to the Army's 92 Base Hospital and their condition | More on P6

First Encounter In Srinagar After Over 2 Yrs

After a lull of over two years, Srinagar witnessed an encounter Saturday, leaving a top commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) dead and four security personnel injured. As per details, the last firefight in Srinagar was witnessed on September 15, 2022, in the Nowgam area, where two terrorists were killed. Even though many parts of the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region have continued to see | More on P6

TERRORIST KILLED IN SRINAGAR ENCOUNTER has been identified as Usman alias Chota Waleed of Pakistan, who was involved in killing of a Police Inspector last year."



Smoke billows into the sky as a residential house involved in the Khanyar encounter catches fire. PTI PHOTO

Terror Incidents Surge In J&K After Election Results? NC Cries 'Conspiracy', BJP Reacts

Farzana Nisar

Srinagar: A recent spike in terror-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir has raised alarm, with questions emerging over whether the surge is tied to the recent election results. While violence in the region is not uncommon, the recent timing of these incidents has prompted discussions about whether the post-election environment may be influencing the current security situation. Notably, since Omar Abdullah's swearing-in, Jammu



and Kashmir has experienced 10 terrorism-related incidents within a span of 17 days. These incidents include the killing of a non-local laborer from Bihar, in | More on P6

Reacting to the terrorist-related activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that there was no question of security lapses, but added that the number of incidents is low compared to the past. Talking to the media persons in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Rajnath, said that it cannot be said that the terrorist activities have increased after the elections, | More on P6

Incidents In J&K Low Compared To Past: Rajnath

Work Together For An Inclusive & Progressive Society: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday called upon the people, especially the youth to work with dedication towards building an inclusive and progressive society to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Sinha was speaking at a cultural evening hosted at Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan to commemorate the Foundation Day of Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which was celebrated on November 1 across the country. Students, Security personnel



and people of the respective states and UTs were the special invitees on the occasion. While addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha recalled the significant contribution of the great personalities from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana,

Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He said the observance of the Foundation Day of different States and UTs is an occasion to celebrate the Unity in Diversity of our great nation and to strengthen | More on P6

Regulating Mining Activities J&K High Court Closes PIL Filed in 2016

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has closed a Public Interest Litigation, seeking among others effective steps for curtailing, restricting and arresting illegal mining in Jammu and Kashmir. The PIL, filed in 2016 by an NGO 'Peoples Forum' had also sought "enforcement of Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988", saying that the statutory requirement of registered and qualified

managers was not being complied with by the authorities. "After having considered the submissions made at the Bar and also having gone through the pleadings on the file, we are of the firm opinion that the issues raised in the writ petition by the petitioner with regard to implementation of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, are being taken due care by the respondents (authorities) and in view thereof the issues | More on P6



Canada Names India In Cyberthreat List

Accuses It Of 'Likely' Spying

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Amid an ongoing diplomatic row, Canada has for the first time named India in a list of cyberthreat adversaries and suggested state-sponsored actors could be spying against it, an allegation that New Delhi slammed on Saturday terming it to be "another example" of Ottawa's strategy to "attack India." India is named fifth after China, Russia, Iran and North Korea in the National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026 (NCTA 2025-2026) report. "We assess that Indian state-sponsored cyber threat actors likely conduct cyber threat

activity against Government of Canada networks for the purpose of espionage," the report said. India is also mentioned in the trend on 'Geopolitically inspired non-state actors are creating unpredictability' citing as example how a pro-India hacktivist group claimed to have defaced and conducted brief attack against Canadian websites after India was accused of involvement in the killing of a Canadian citizen. The NCTA 2025-2026 that highlights the cyber threats facing individuals and organisations in Canada was released on October 30 by the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (Cyber Centre), which is Canada's technical authority on cyber security, | More on P6



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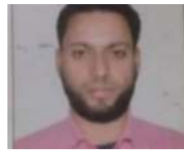
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THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA SRINAGAR

Attention Please

The Candidate whose photograph is above reports that he/she has lost his 10th pass DOB certificate having the following description Class 10th under Roll No 736500 Session and Year: bi annual 1999 Name: Aijaz Ahmad Shah. Father's Name: Ab Gani Shah. Mother's Name: Jameela Bano. Date of Birth: 02-02-1982 bearing registration No W-96-28917-7035. Residence:- Samboora. Now the candidate has applied for the issuance of duplicate certificate. Before the case will be proceed under rules. If some body have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained. (Besides, the losted certificate bearing Serial No 937678 is/are be treated 'CANCELLED". No.F(Certs-I-DQC)/B/KD/20 Dated:..... Sd/- Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD fko



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Dated: 14.10.2024 Present: Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of: J&K Bank Ltd BU: Fateh Kadal, Srinagar V/S M/s Dar Steels & Others 1 M/s Dar Steels, Baba Demb, Khanyar, Srinagar, through its Proprietor 2. Abdul Rashid Dar S/o: Mohd Ramzan Dar R/o: Baba Demb, Khanyar, Srinagar 3. Bilal Ahmad Shangloo S/o Gulzar Ahmad Shangloo R/o Baba Demb, Khanyar, Srinagar 4. Riyaz Ahmad Sofi S/o Abdul Ahad Sofi R/o Kursu Padshahi Bagh Srinagar 5. Shabir Ahmad Mandoo S/o Khazir Mohd Mandoo R/o Gulshan Abad Bemina Srinagar 6. Noor Mohd Dar S/o Mohd Ramzan Dar R/o Firdous Colony Bemina Srinagar(Non-Applicants)

In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement

Whereas, applicant Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts. Whereas, number of notices were issued against non-applicants on many occasions but services could not be effective due to insufficient/incomplete address.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicants could not be effective in ordinary mode.

Therefore, the non-applicants through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 11.11.2024

Sd/- Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

ab

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Dated: 26.08.2024 Present: J.A. BAKSHI

In the Case of: J&K Bank Ltd, BU, Safa Kadal Through Attorney Holder Jaweed Ahmed Shera.

Address:- The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd, a banking company incorporated under the J&K Companies incorporated under the J&K Companies Regulation No. XI of 1977 (Samvat), having its registered office at Corporate Headquarters Safa Kadal, Srinagar, through Mr. Jaweed Ahmed Shera, Code No. 12190, Designation Executive Manager/constituted attorney of the Applicant Bank presently posted as Branch Manager of the Branch Office Zonal office of the Applicant Bank. Applicant

V/s

Mrs. Asmat Ara W/o: Bilal Ahmad Naika R/o: Kanimazar, Nawa Kadal, SrinagarBorrower.

In the matter of: Commercial Courts (Pre-Institution Settlement) Rules, 2018 Mediation and

ORDER

The above matter was listed today for settlement. Ld. Counsel for the applicant present. Nemo for the non-applicant. Perusal of the file reveals that notices has been issued to the non-applicant for their appearance before this authority through registered post but notice has been returned to this office on the ground that the address of the non-applicant is not sufficient for effective service.

Ld. Counsel for the applicant submitted that address available with the applicant (Bank) has already furnished and applicant (Bank) is unable to furnish the fresh address of the non-applicant. Ld. Counsel accordingly prayed that substitute service through issuance of notice by publication may be issued for effecting service of the non-applicant.

Heard and considered, in view of above facts and circumstances substitution notice is hereby issued against the non-applicant in Leading Local Daily for their appearance before this authority by or before the next date of hearing, P.U.T upon 14/11/2024.

Secretary District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

ab

NOTICE

I intend to rectify the name in my Electricity Connection from **Ab Rashid Kawa to Ghulam Mustafa Kawa R/o Gulab Bagh**, Sgr Bearing Consumer ID 0204050004895. In this regard, if any person/quarter should have any kind of objection he/she may file to the Sub-Division office ZAKURA within a week at the most, after that no objection will be entertained. Media Line Ads

NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing c.id no; 240500039894 from **Sajad Ahmad Sheikh To Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh**. If anybody has any objection in this regard he may contact PDD Sub division gulbagh within 7 days . After that no objection shall be entertained. Muzafar Ahmad Sheikh S/O Mohammd Rafiq Sheikh R/O Main Road Gulab Bagh mdl

NOTICE

I have changed the name of my daughter from (old name) Feba to (new name) Yusra Ajaz. In future she will be known as Yusra Ajaz. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Evcs Garden Educational Institute Bota Kadal Lal Bazar within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained. **Ajaz Ahmad Banday F/o Yusra Ajaz R/O Dangpora Nawakadal Srinagar** mdl

NOTICE

I Fatima Begum Resident of Khanpora Wakura Ganderbal wants to make a slight change in my name and date of birth. Fatima Begum should be read as Fatima Begum While as date of birth should be read as 16/03/1958 instead of 01/01/1946 Anybody having any objection in this regard should report to Regional Passport Office Srinagar within 5 days After that no objection will be entertained **Fatima Begum R/O Khanpora Wakura Ganderbal Kashmir** fko

Government of UT Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER POLICE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PHQ J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

TWO COVER SYSTEM

e-NIT No.EE-PCD/PHQ/68/2024-25 Dated:-31-10-2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs)	Earnest Money (EMD) (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Police Station Litter Pulwama (Under Zero Terror Plan Phase-I)	302.80	5000.00	605600/-	12 Months	15-11-2024	AAY

Position of AAA = Accorded Position of TS = Sanctioned Position of funds = Available

1.	Date of Publish of Tender Notice	01-11-2024, 16.00 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-11-2024, 16.30 P.M to 14-11-2024, 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	05-11-2024 From 09.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	14-11-2024 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	The Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR/ In favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jmu/ Sgr.	As per time specified in SBD.
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	15-11-2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar in presence of S.E.PHC J&K Jammu/ Srinagar.
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

2. The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy and short fall if any found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected. 1.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-Challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly crediting to 0055 MIHA (Revenue) uploading a same copy of treasury challan/receipt & in case of firms / agencies outside the UT of J&K the cost of tender shall be submitted in the shape of demand draft (DD) of any nationalized / scheduled Bank pledged to Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. In addition to this the bidder shall submit the demand draft through Registered post/courier by or before 21-10-2024. The department shall not be responsible for any delay in submission of DD due to any reasons. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD pledged to Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division Jammu/Srinagar and relevant documents of LI must be submitted to the Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5 days after opening of price bid.

(The Date of Treasury Challan/Demand Draft must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

12. All bidders have to submit Earnest money, as part of the Bid, earnest money mentioned in column no. 05 of NIT.

2. All the bidders have to submit Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar shall be valid for minimum 6 months or more, after the last date of receipt of bids.

2.01. Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period (ie 12 months), the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work on the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.

3. Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR of Recognize scheduled / Commercial Bank within 5 days after opening of price bid, pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. The CDR/ FDR shall be valid for minimum six months or more after the last date of receipt of bids along with the bid document as per following breakup:

S.No	Percentage of unbalance bid viz., advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Performance Security to be deposited on quoted bid by L1.
01	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
02	>15% & upto and including 20% below	5%
03	>20% & upto and including 25% below	10%
04	>25% & upto and including 30% below	15%
05	> 30% below	20%

The additional CDR/FDR shall be released only after successful completion of the work.

4. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

5. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online by opening committee in the Office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

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

7. The CDR/ FDR (Earnest Money) and performance security shall be forfeited if:
- Any bidder /Tenders withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and condition of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the work as per agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
 - The contractor shall be solely responsible for carrying out mandatory tests required for ensuring quality control as per specifications and codes prescribed for execution of work. No claim shall be entitled for payment without quality tests conducted for the works including RCC works and maintained by the Contractor for transparency & accountability.
 - A class contractor must have to engage qualified engineer 'staff at work site, at his own cost for better execution/ monitoring of works.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required EMD/ performance security within specified time period mentioned in NIT.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. 8.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process. 8.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors. 8.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form. 8.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in e-NIT. 8.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid. Documents which have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises. 9. All bidders shall upload Enlistment Registration Card Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer / Superintending Engineer. Note - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. 10. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. 10.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. (The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of publishing of e-NIT and Bid Submission End date).

11. Bidders may contact office of the Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process. 12. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the percentage rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains. 13. The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise specified. 14. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required. 15. Defect Liability Period shall be 01 Year after date of completion. 16. All key construction material (i.e. cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge. 17. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the Standard Bidding Document. 18. In case of delay in completion of the work beyond scheduled period of completion (as per allotment), a penalty at the rate of 1% per week (on pro-rata basis) on the amount of work shall be imposed on the contractors subject to a maximum of 10% of the contract value. 19. The accepting authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders before or after their opening without assigning any reason thereof. The allotting authority in view of the exceptional circumstances reserves the right of granting the contract to any of the tenderer if deems proper in the interest of the work of course at the lowest received rates without assigning any reason thereof. 20. In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates in vogue with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation. 21. Any item of work not advertised in the rate list but found necessary during execution of work should be got approved by the competent authority before proceeding further beyond the allotment and payment for the same shall be made on sanctioned schedule of rates and LMR with contractor's overall appreciation/depreciation.

Sd/- (Er. Neeraj Gupta) Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jmu/Sgr.

No:-PCD/PHQ/2024-25/5072-81 DIPK-7173/24 Dated: 02-11-2024

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHEEP BREEDING FARM KRALPATHRI

email:- adsbfk123@gmail.com

No :- ADSBFK/Store/2024-25/845-47

Dated :- 31.10.2024

Subject :- Tender Notice for supply of Maize for sheep.

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders on prescribed format are invited from registered dealers for supply of Maize to SBF Kralpathri for the year 2024-25. Interested parties can submit tenders on prescribed format from 04.11.2024 to 16.11.2024 in the office of Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Kralpathri along with the photo copy of following requisite documents for identify proof and other formalities. Date and time of opening of tenders on 17-11-2024

1. Aadhar Card
2. PAN Card
3. Registration (If any)

General Instructions / Terms and conditions

1. Bidders have to quote the rates of item along with GST, Carriage, Loading and unloading Charges.
 2. The above schedule regarding date and time is tentatively fixed, however, the Assistant Director reserves the right to change the date and time of activities in case of any exigency through a notice.
 3. The Assistant Director SBF Kralpathri reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or any part of the tender before, during or after the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
 4. The payment shall be made after the Checking /complete supply of item. No advance payment shall be made under any circumstances.
 5. Feed should be palatable and without any evil smell.
 6. No conditional tender will be accepted / entertained.
 7. It shall be obligatory for successful bidder, certify that the rates quoted are reasonable and are same as charged to other Govt. or any other semi Govt. institute.
- For any clarification bidders can contact this office from 10:00 AM to 4:00 AM during working hours.

DIPK-7212/24 dated: 02-11-2024

-sd-

Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Kralpathri

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION TANGDAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E- NIT No.45-R&B Div./TDR /of 2024-25 e-tendering Endt. No:2378-86 DATED:29.10.2024..

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are being invited on a percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contracts registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
01.	Providing water supply facility at Chiyari Chitterkote.	4.00	200	8000	20 days	DEE	District Capex Budget 2024-25
02	Sluice Chamber to SR Dringla WSS Dringla.	4.00	200	8000	20 days	DEE	District Capex Budget 2024-25
03	Stabilization of pipe network in Tangdar nar Bukhyan.	2.00	200	4000	15 days	DEE	District Capex Budget 2024-25
04	Construction of Head work on Dringla Khule and bed Treatment at various Spots/Extension of left over portion.	3.94	200	7880	20 days	DEE	District Capex Budget 2024-25

Position of AAA/TS=Accorded.

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	29.10.2024
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29.10.2024
03.	Bid submission start date	29.10.2024
04.	Bid submission end date	11.11.2024 up to 4:00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	12.11.2024 at (11.00) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar

Terms and Conditions :-

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contract along with Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar.
2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
3. Special Conditions regarding Specifications and Quality control for Machine laid B.T. Works:
 - All work components shall be executed strictly in accordance with the specifications laid out in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways publication "Specifications for Road and Bridge Works" and any amendments made up to the date of issuance of N.I.T.
 - A periodic sieve analysis of each type of aggregate, as well as a periodic check of aggregates at the gradation control unit, shall be performed to ensure that the specified proportion of aggregates is complied.
 - Conducting mandatory quality control tests in the lab and/or field for various components of the advertised work, such as thickness tests, impact value tests, stripping, flakiness, gradation of aggregates, determination of Binder content in bituminous mix, density tests, Viscosity test, and other tests as prescribed in MORTH at the frequency recommended therein, will be the sole responsibility of the Contract, as will the correct execution of the work.
 - The location of the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality, from which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean, tarpaulin covered vehicles/Tipper, and shall be placed in such a way that the manufacturing laying/spreading and rolling temperatures are kept within the specified limits.
 - All other terms and conditions as laid down in the CPWD shall also remain in force.

DIPK-7148/24 dated: 02-11-2024 Camp Clark DM. AAO Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangdar

Art Exhibition Celebrating Kashmiri Culture Inaugurated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir's rich cultural heritage takes center stage at a three-day art exhibition organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, held at the Government Arts Emporium in Srinagar. Open through November 4, the exhibition celebrates the vibrant artistry of renowned local artist Yousuf Naqshbandi, offering a unique window into the essence of Kashmiri culture through its traditional art forms, customs, and natural beauty.

Naqshbandi's work brings Kashmir to life with an intimate portrayal of its customs, calligraphy and the region's distinctive flora and fauna. The exhibition showcases a diverse collection, with highlights including evocative landscapes, scenes honoring local craftsmanship and tributes to the region's artistic

heritage.

"Yousuf Naqshbandi's artwork is a treasure for anyone who wishes to understand and appreciate Kashmiri culture. His commitment to showcasing our heritage is inspiring and crucial for preserving our identity," said Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, who inaugurated the exhibition.

Open to the public, the exhibition invites art lovers and cultural enthusiasts to immerse themselves in the stories of Kashmiri life. Beyond celebrating the region's aesthetic beauty, it honours the enduring spirit of its culture. The exhibition also gains added significance as Srinagar was recently recognized as a UNESCO Creative City and a 'World Craft City' by the World Crafts Council, underscoring the Department's commitment to preserving Kashmir's artistic legacy.



DC Chairs Meeting On Mission Youth Schemes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A meeting of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission Youth Schemes was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

Among others, the meeting was attended by, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Deputy Director Employment, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Lead Bank

Manager, and the General Manager of the District Industries Centre (DIC) participated in the meeting.

The meeting focussed on evaluating cases under Mission Youth Schemes, specifically Mumkin, Tejaswini, and SEI (Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative). After thorough discussions, 46 cases were approved for the implementation of self-employment initiatives. Additionally, SEI candidates were interviewed, facili-

tating a direct assessment of their applications and suitability for their proposed projects.

The DC Srinagar emphasized the importance of timely execution, directing the Deputy Director Employment to expedite the submission of these approved cases to partner banks. This prompt action will ensure that candidates receive the necessary support and financial assistance to establish their entrepreneurial units.

The DC said that the Administration administration remains committed to empowering young aspirants and building a robust ecosystem of employment and entrepreneurship in the region.

Mission Youth schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswini, and SEI are instrumental in promoting self-employment among the youth of Srinagar, providing them with the necessary resources and support to lead independent, sustainable livelihoods.

Vigilance Week Celebrations Held At Islamia College

Observer news Service

Srinagar: In a spirited initiative to promote integrity and transparency in governance, Literary Club, Islamia College of Science and Commerce organized a programme to celebrate the Vigilance Awareness Week under the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity." The event took place today on 2nd November 2024 and was attended by students, faculty, and guest speakers from various fields.

The program commenced with an inaugural address by Prof Rehana Bhat, Convenor Literary Club, who emphasized the importance of ethical values in building a prosperous nation. "While wealth and power may offer a temporary gratification, it is our moral compass that shapes the essence of a meaningful life", she stated.

Principal Prof. Tehmeena Yousuf in her formal welcome address stressed the importance of Vigilance since corruption hampers the growth and development of society. She impressed upon the students to learn and get enlightened during such expert lectures. "Awareness is the first step to combat corruption," she added.

Mr Sheikh Ayaz, SSP Anti Corruption Bureau enlightened the audience about the genesis of corruption and elaborated on varied and diverse manifestations of corruption. He discussed at length the working of Anti Corruption Bureau as mandated under Prevention of Corruption Act. He also stressed for the eradication of corruption as a menace by the proactive approach of the citizens toward this direction.

Prof Abdul Majid, Head, Department of English in his address emphasized the importance of quality education cutting across the barriers of religious, ethnic, linguistic and regional divide for creating a system rooted in Indian Ethos of Culture and Plurality.

National Level Conference 'PED GASTROCON' Held By GMC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Pediatrics, GMC Srinagar today hosted a highly informative national conference on gastroenterology, (PED GASTROCON) bringing together leading experts from across the country to discuss the latest advancements, research, and best practices in pediatric gastroenterology.

This highly informative conference was

attended by principal/Dean GMC Srinagar Prof. Dr Iffat Hassan, patron of the CME, Principal GMC Handwara, Dr. Khurshid Wani, former principal/Dean GMC Srinagar Dr. Kaiser Ahmad, HOD pediatrics Dr Muzafar Jan, Medical Superintendent Dr Ab Rashid Parra, HODs, Pediatricians, health-care professionals, researchers, and student's from different medical colleges eager to deepen their understanding of the complexities surrounding gastrointestinal health.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Iffat Hassan, Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, emphasized the significant strides being made in the field of pediatric Gastroenterology. She noted that the introduction of specialized subspecialties marks the realization of a long-standing aspiration within the institution. The establishment of subspecialties is particularly crucial in ad-

rounding gastrointestinal health.

The top notch experts in the field of pediatric gastroenterology deliberated on a diverse array of topics ranging from cutting-edge research in gastrointestinal bleed, current trends in pediatric acute liver failure management, advancements in endoscopic techniques and innovations in liver disease management.

dressing the diverse and complex needs of pediatric patients, ensuring that they receive targeted and expert care.

The top notch experts in the field of pediatric gastroenterology deliberated on a diverse array of topics ranging from cutting-edge research in gastrointestinal bleed, current trends in pediatric acute liver failure management, advancements in endoscopic techniques and innovations in liver disease management.

- 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 ✈

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- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
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- BIJHERA: 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

1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 27
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 59
Magrib	5:40
ISHA	7: 01

- 644 - Umar ibn al-Khattab, second Muslim caliph, is killed by a Persian slave in Medina
- 1493 - Christopher Columbus discovers island of Dominica
- 1861 - Battle of Port Royal, fought in Port Royal Sound, South Carolina begins, Union victory (US Civil War)
- 1862 - Battle until the 5th November between gunboats at Bayou Teche, a waterway in Louisiana
- 1863 - Battle of Grand Coteau in Southwestern Louisiana in the American Civil War
- 1928 - Turkey switches from Arabic to Roman alphabet
- 1931 - First commercially produced synthetic rubber manufactured
- 1936 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt wins a second term in office, defeating Republican candidate Alf Landon in the most lopsided election in American history in terms of electoral vote
- 1944 - Pro-German government of Hungary flees
- 1946 - Emperor Hirohito proclaims a new Japanese constitution
- 1952 - Egypt protests German retribution payments to Israel
- 1954 - Nobel for physics awarded to Max Born & Walter Bothe
- 1955 - First virus crystallized (announced)
- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik 2 with a dog (Laika), 1st animal in orbit
- 1958 - USSR performs nuclear test
- 1961 - UN General Assembly unanimously elects U Thant as acting
- 1967 - Vietnam War: The Battle of Dak To begins, becoming one of the bloodiest battles of the war
- 1970 - US President Richard Nixon promises gradual troop removal of Vietnam
- 1970 - Marxist Salvador Allende inaugurated as President of Chile
- 1978 - USSR & Vietnam sign peace & friendship treaty
- 1984 - 3,000 die in 3 day anti-Sikh riot in India
- 1984 - Body of assassinated Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi cremated

From KO Archives

DTH TV Okayed

Agencies

New Delhi: The Union cabinet today gave its nod for al-lowing direct-to-home (DTH) television services, which would revolutionize broadcasting in the country. The decision came three days after an eight-member Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Home Minister L K Advani prepared a unanimous, report favouring DTH, official sources said.


The KU-band DTH service offers greater and direct connectivity to the viewer providing over 100 channels through a small dish antenna doing away with intermediaries like cable operators. It has enormous penetration power to cover far flung and remote areas.

Promising enhanced picture quality, it also has the scope for interactive TV services like movie on demand and possibility of introducing value-added services like internet access, e-mail, home-shopping, banking and tele-education.

The GoM was formed nearly two years ago to go into the controversial DTH issue and place its recommendations to the Union Cabinet when Pramod Mahajan was the Information and Broadcasting Minister.

Besides Advani, others in the group are Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha, Defence Minister George Fernandes, Information and Broadcasting Minister Sushma Swaraj, Information Technology Minister Mahajan, Communications Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister Vasundra Raje and Law Minister Arun Jaitley.

(Kashmir Observer, November 03, 2000)



HAJI BARKAT ALI KASHOO

Today is 3rd November 2024 which marks your 3rd death anniversary and I hope you are fine wherever you are. This day will always sting but your memory will always be with me.

You are the first person I want to tell when something happens in my life But losing you was something I could not cope with. It is said that prayer is the best weapon. I am praying for you daddy, may you shine in heaven as you used to do here. I miss you so much every moment.

Your beloved daughter


You are remembered every moment in our lives for being the guiding light. You live in our soul mind and hearts.


Your presence we miss, your memories we treasure.

loving you always forgetting you never.

From
Zaffar Hussain,
Rahila Ali,
Zoya Zaffar and
Mehreen Zaffar

Dated: 02-11-2024





SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar - 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT No. (61) of 2024-25

Dated: 28.10.2024

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST (K), e-tenders (single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2025 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Construction of Calf Rearing Station-I (CALF Station) under "Strengthening Dairy Sector in UT of J&K" (HADP), at MLRI Manasbal, Skuast-Kashmir	93.84	1,87,680	A Class	1500/-	06 Months
2.	Construction of Calf Rearing Station-II (BULL Station) under "Strengthening Dairy Sector in UT of J&K" (HADP), at MLRI Manasbal, Skuast-Kashmir	93.84	1,87,680	A Class	1500/-	06 Months

- Position of AAA: Accorded
- Position of T.S: Sanctioned
- Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	28.10.2024
2.	Date of start of downloading	28.10.2024
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	28.10.2024
5.	Bid submission end date	11.11.2024 (18.00 PM)
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	12.11.2024 (11.30 AM)
7.	Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	13.11.2024

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(61)/655
DIPK-NB-2120/24
Dated: 02.11.2024

Rising Drug Abuse and Trafficking Among Women in J&K

Liza Gupta

“

The problem of addiction can be solved by increasing opportunities for women, increasing availability of mental health services and decreasing the negative attitude towards people that seek help

The Indian subcontinent, being located in the midst of 'Golden Crescent' and 'Golden Triangle', the two major opium production zones, has made India vulnerable to the menace of drug trafficking and abuse. The region of Jammu Kashmir is not an exception to this phenomenon. According to the Standing Committee report of 2023 on Social Justice and Empowerment, over 9 lakh people of Jammu-Kashmir are drug addicts. The issue is increasing every day and is one of the grave threats. In the year 2023, the state authorities have busted around 29,306 kg of drugs and destroyed around 74,179 pharmaceuticals, with 4,365 kg of drugs and 26,772 pharmaceuticals destroyed in the first half of 2024 which reveals the amount of drug peddled into Kashmir.

The drugs are reportedly smuggled by Pakistan which has been allegedly using the dual strategy of sending weapons and drugs to keep the conflict alive to tear the social fabric of the society. There has been tremendous increase in this terror financing specially post the constitutional reforms in Jammu-Kashmir that has undermined Pakistan's chance to claim the region.

Over the past years, rising and increasing surge has been noticed in the rise of women consuming drugs in the region. Apart from that, the number of women involved in drug trafficking and peddling has also increased. Women are being preferred to peddle and traffic drugs by the organizations. This article focuses on exploring the causes of the rising drug abuse and trafficking among women in Jammu and Kashmir, explores the existing legislation, and suggests measures to address the rising menace.

Rising Drug Abuse by Women

Historically, the cases of drug abuse in the region were considered as the males' domain, but statistics collected in the current years and the reports received from the de-addiction centres show that there is a sharp increase in the number of female drug addicts. This change has sparked much concern as the women in the region face multiple vulnerabilities.

The foremost reason for women's increased consumption of drugs is conflict in Kashmir that has increased stress levels amongst women due to the double brunt on women. To overcome this stress caused both by the ongoing conflict as well as increased care-giving responsibilities, women



have got engaged in consumption of different drugs ease tension. Domestic abuse by enraged local youth, death of husbands in the conflict, missing family members during the conflict has further aggravated the situation of women, increasing their consumption of drugs.

Further, the rising substance abuse has been noticed because women's husband/ spouse/ family member is a drug addict or a peddler leading women to abuse drugs out of curiosity, eventually getting addicted towards them. The impact of mass media has also led women to try these drugs. Furthermore, lack of good healthcare system which has led to loss of babies, pregnancy-related issues has also led women to consume drugs.

Lack of awareness and recognition of mental health issues like depression, anxiety, guilt, trauma is also one of the reasons for rising drug abuse. Further, families belonging to both upper, middle and lower class do not pay much attention to their girls even from an early-age just because they are girls. This neglected parenting, lack of supervisors amongst women have increased mental health issues wherein it is difficult for girls and women to cope with difficult emotion, rising drug abuse amongst them.

Additionally, the unemployment scenario in the valley, lack of industrial structure, lack of private enterprises for employment has also caused frustration amongst them. In a lower- and middle-class household, women face the double brunt of this unemployment status since the unemployed family members or spouse led their frustration on the women. Lack of any avenue for entertainment, easy availability of drugs because of overflow of it from

Pakistan and production in the state itself is also a major factor. Lastly, the COVID lockdown and the shutdown of internet has also lured many women to indulge in drug abuse.

Rising Drug Trafficking by women

Incidents where in women are preferred by drug lords to traffic drugs is also on the rise. In May 2024, a women peddler was arrested with Rs 15,670 cash and narcotics in Kathua district of Jammu. In early June 2023, three women were arrested with 7 kilo grams of narcotics. Similarly, various women have been arrested by the police for trafficking drugs reflecting women are being preferred to peddle drugs.

The foremost reason for rising drug trafficking by women in Kashmir is that they manage to stay below the radar of police and thus manage to easily transport drugs across the state. Women manage to escape frisking in various places primarily due to the assumption of their innocence and non-availability of female frisking staff. Even in various nakas, cars with the presence of women are let off without checking due to the assumption of innocence by women and the non-presence of female cops. Lastly, absence of female staff in the border areas have also let women to go unchecked with their belongings and peddle drugs.

Legal Possibilities and Frameworks: The Current State of Affairs

India has NDPS of 1985, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which regard strong legal measures to prevent drug abuse and trafficking. The India NDPS Act makes the manufacture, use, sale, transport and demand for narcotics illegal. Even

though the laws are in practice, drug trafficking abuse is on rise in the UT, reasons being at once evident that the region enjoys porous borders which are not heavily policed coupled with the fact that the enforcement agencies are itself not strong enough.

The problem is even more acute owing to the nature of UT's politics and society. The war-torn context also hampers police and law enforcement work which also lack the adequate resources and the capacity needed fight the insurgencies and terrorism activities.

Nonetheless, we have laws in place, but what is required most of the time is a very active community participation and sensitization among people about the harms of using drugs. Community reinforcement facilities and mental health care providers are also still scarce for giving sufficient treatment for drug dependents, especially females.

Tackling the Crisis: A Multi-Pronged Approach

The problem of drug abuse and trafficking by women in the region requires a multi-faceted strategy. The problem of addiction can be solved by increasing opportunities for women, increasing availability of mental health services and decreasing the negative attitude towards people that seek help. Second, law enforcement agencies have to employ adequate number of women police officers for the check-points and border areas as women involved in drug trafficking cannot be effectively searched by male officers. Third, community leaders, educators, and healthcare professionals must embark on awareness campaigns that will reach women. It means women can be helped not to fall into the trap of substance abuse if those root causes are addressed adequately, and the support done for treatment is provided. Lastly, the government is required to set up centres for rehabilitation and counselling to go for treatment to be cured. Emphasis on reformative rather than retributive measures will assist the women to be reabsorbed into society and educated and employed. The region of Jammu Kashmir needs to come out of this silent epidemic creating a healthier and safer future for everyone.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is from the Department of International Relations, O.P. Jindal Global University

Trump Could Be Heading Back To White House

M K Bhadrakumar

A common refrain is that the race in the US presidential election between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris is a 'toss-up', that it hangs on a 'knife's edge', and could 'go either way'. All that is true, insofar as both candidates still have possible paths to 270 electoral college votes—out of the total 538 distributed among the states. That said, there's good reason to anticipate the unthinkable—that Trump might be on track for a landslide electoral college victory and a national mandate.

Trump has managed to stem the tide of the race in his favour. His ratings are growing, although not yet significantly ahead of Harris's. He is strengthening his position in both the key states and nationally. This trend has steadily accrued through the past six weeks or so, and seems sustainable in the 10-day period ahead for the poll on November 5.

On the other hand, for two weeks in a row, while Trump's ratings have kept up a strong momentum, Harris's began losing ground both nationally and in key states. The rating aggregator RealClearPolitics still gives Harris an advantage of 1.3 points (as against 2.2 percentage points a week earlier), but that is a shaky lead within the margin of error. Remember, at this point in the presidential race in 2000, Joe Biden was ahead of Trump by 8.9 percentage points.

Harris's popularity has also dropped from 48 percent to 43 percent during recent weeks, while Trump stands at around 46 percent. The Hill wrote last week, "During the late summer and heading into fall, Harris appeared to be the candidate with the momentum, with Democrats comparing her candidacy to former President Obama's 2008 run... But recent polls suggest that energy has levelled off. While Harris still has a narrow edge over former President Trump nationally and in several battleground states, she has been losing

ground... In the past two weeks, there has been a slight trend toward Trump in some of the battleground states."

Simply put, the electoral struggle is escalating, and for the fight for key states, the scales may have already tilted in favour of Trump with an average advantage of 1 percentage point. Arguably, the presidential race is now actually reduced to a struggle for three 'battleground' states—Wisconsin, Michigan (which traditionally vote for the Democratic Party) and Pennsylvania (where Trump has a slight advantage of 0.7 percentage points).

Trump also appears to enjoy significant 'hidden support' among the electorate, which voters are simply afraid to communicate honestly with sociologists. Simply put, voters can claim that

“Trump has managed to stem the tide of the race in his favour. His ratings are growing, although not yet significantly ahead of Harris's. He is strengthening his position in both the key states and nationally. This trend has steadily accrued through the past six weeks or so, and seems sustainable in the 10-day period ahead for the poll on November 5.

they will vote for Harris, but at the polling station actually vote for Trump. Another alarming signal for the Democrats is the results of 'early voting', which has begun in a number of states. The Democratic electorate usually prefer to cast their vote by mail or take to 'early voting.' But this time, the gap between Democrats and Republicans in terms of voting activity is not so great.

In a guest essay in the New York Times on Wednesday, Nate Silver, the famous pollster forecast that every single one of the seven swing states expected to decide the election —

Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada — has been moving toward Trump over the course of both the last week and month. With ten days to go until election day, that's a big deal — especially considering the positive 'early voting' returns for Republicans.

The NBC News (no friend of Trump) recalled in a report on Tuesday that the Blue Wall states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — "paved the path to the White House for the last two Democratic presidents. But... there are concerns within Kamala Harris' campaign about whether the vice president can claim all three states. Losing Wisconsin or Michigan would mean that even if Harris secures Pennsylvania — where both Harris and Trump have spent the

most time and resources — she would not reach the necessary 270 electoral votes to win the White House without winning another battleground state or possibly two."

The New York Post had a similar report on the Democrats quietly panicking over the Harris campaign strategy as the 'Blue Wall' crumbles; MSN headlined 'Crack in the Blue Wall?' The Hill had an even more interesting twist to the tale. In a report titled 'Senate Democrats running away from Harris in Blue Wall states', the influential US political website—reportedly read by White

House officials and more lawmakers than any other site vital for policy, politics and election campaigns—reported that Democratic candidates for the Senate in the Blue Wall states "are signalling that they are... careful about criticising Trump during the high-stakes debates. They have focused on policy and their own records without taking many—or any—shots against the Republican nominee".

Pennsylvania's incumbent Senator Bob Casey has even embraced Trump's tariff policies. The Democratic candidate, who is seeking re-election, launched an ad campaign last week that described him as an 'independent' candidate. Apparently, he senses that party affiliation is a liability and he would rather run as an incumbent on his own record, distancing himself from an administration that is viewed negatively by the most part.

The crux of the matter is that the Biden-Harris record is a dismal one, especially regarding parts of the economy and the border. Americans are still stinging from the damage high inflation has done to their living standards. And they're unhappy about the seven million migrants who are reported to have entered the country illegally, with many states now experiencing the crime and chaos previously limited to border states. Harris has no answers to these issues, and has not been able to distance herself effectively from Biden.

There is little about Harris that is authentic, and given her lack of policy depth and flip-flops on positions like banning fracking, defunding the police and decriminalising border crossings, people don't know who she is or what she stands for. Her entire campaign strategy is pivoted on the tired 'Trump is Hitler' trope. For many Americans, it simply doesn't add up.

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 New Indian Express

A House with a Tailor and an Officer

All professions deserve dignity and respect

Showkat Ali

In recent discussions surrounding the qualification of a young woman for the Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS), a troubling narrative has emerged: her success is often framed in relation to her identity as a "tailor's daughter." While it is certainly commendable to celebrate her achievement, it is equally important to address the implication that being a tailor somehow diminishes her accomplishments or reflects poorly on her family's status. This narrative not only misrepresents the dignity of skilled trades but also perpetuates damaging stereotypes.

Tailoring, like many artisanal professions, demands immense skill, creativity, and patience. The work of a tailor is not merely about sewing fabric together; it is a meticulous craft that requires an understanding of design, material properties, and client preferences. Tailors possess an artistic vision and technical ability that are often overlooked in favor of more traditionally esteemed occupations. To insinuate that tailoring is a lesser profession is to disregard the dedication and expertise involved in this vital trade.

The framing of this young woman's success should be centered on her hard work and determination, not on a perceived hierarchy of professions. Celebrating her qualification for KAS is essential, but it must be done in a way that honors her journey without denigrating her father's trade. By framing her achievement as a triumph over the stigma of her background, we inadvertently reinforce the notion that certain jobs are inferior, which is not only misleading but harmful.

This trend, often referred to as "engagement farming," thrives



Elevating one person's accomplishments does not require us to diminish another's worth. Instead, we can embrace a narrative that uplifts all individuals, acknowledging that success takes many forms and comes from various paths

on sensationalism and divisive comparisons. In the pursuit of likes and shares, the media can sometimes prioritize sensational narratives over balanced reporting. By contrasting this young woman's success with her father's profession, we risk fostering a culture where value is assigned based on job title rather than individual merit. Such an environment alienates skilled workers and creates unnecessary resentment among different sectors of the workforce.

Moreover, the implications of

this narrative extend far beyond social media. It affects young people who aspire to various careers.

When we celebrate achievements by contrasting them with the perceived shortcomings of other professions, we send a damaging message: that some paths are more valid than others. This can discourage talented individuals from pursuing careers they are passionate about, leading them to abandon their true interests in favor of what society deems more prestigious.

For young people from working-class backgrounds, the pressure to conform to societal expectations can be particularly

overwhelming. They may feel compelled to forsake family traditions and pursue careers that do not resonate with their passions simply to gain societal approval. This disconnect between personal aspirations and external expectations stifles creativity and potential, ultimately leading to a less fulfilled society.

Instead of fostering this culture of comparison, we should promote a broader understanding and respect for all professions. Each role—be it a tailor, doctor, teacher, or administrative

officer—plays an essential part in our communities. Recognizing the unique contributions of each profession helps to create a more inclusive society where everyone feels valued.

Additionally, we need to re-evaluate how we define success. Celebrating one individual's achievement should not come at the cost of demeaning another's livelihood. Rather, we should focus on the qualities that lead to success—such as hard work, integrity, and determination—qualities that are not confined to any specific profession. By doing so, we cultivate an environment where every contribution is recognized and celebrated, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

As we navigate discussions about success and achievement, let us be mindful of the language we use and the implications it carries. Elevating one person's accomplishments does not require us to diminish another's worth. Instead, we can embrace a narrative that uplifts all individuals, acknowledging that success takes many forms and comes from various paths.

In conclusion, as we celebrate the achievements of individuals like the tailor's daughter who has qualified for KAS, let us do so with a commitment to inclusivity and respect. We must honor every profession and recognize that no job is beneath us. By promoting a culture that values diverse contributions, we can build a society where all individuals are free to pursue their passions without fear of judgment or condescension. Only then can we truly celebrate success in a meaningful and equitable way.

The author can be reached out for feedback at: showkat.ali.sa@gmail.com

Is 'Coaching' a Shortcut to Mental Health Care?

Emily Hemendinger

Life coach, wellness coach, business coach, weight loss coach, breakup coach – the list goes on and on. All are different titles for similar jobs, with the same limitation: Anyone can claim to be an expert.

Yet the profession is poorly regulated, which can make it a utopia for scammers; untrained people providing advice about health, psychology and nutrition; and, in some cases, cult-like behavior, such as a coach encouraging customers to cut ties with family and friends.

And now that AI health coaching has entered the chat, these problems are likely to grow.

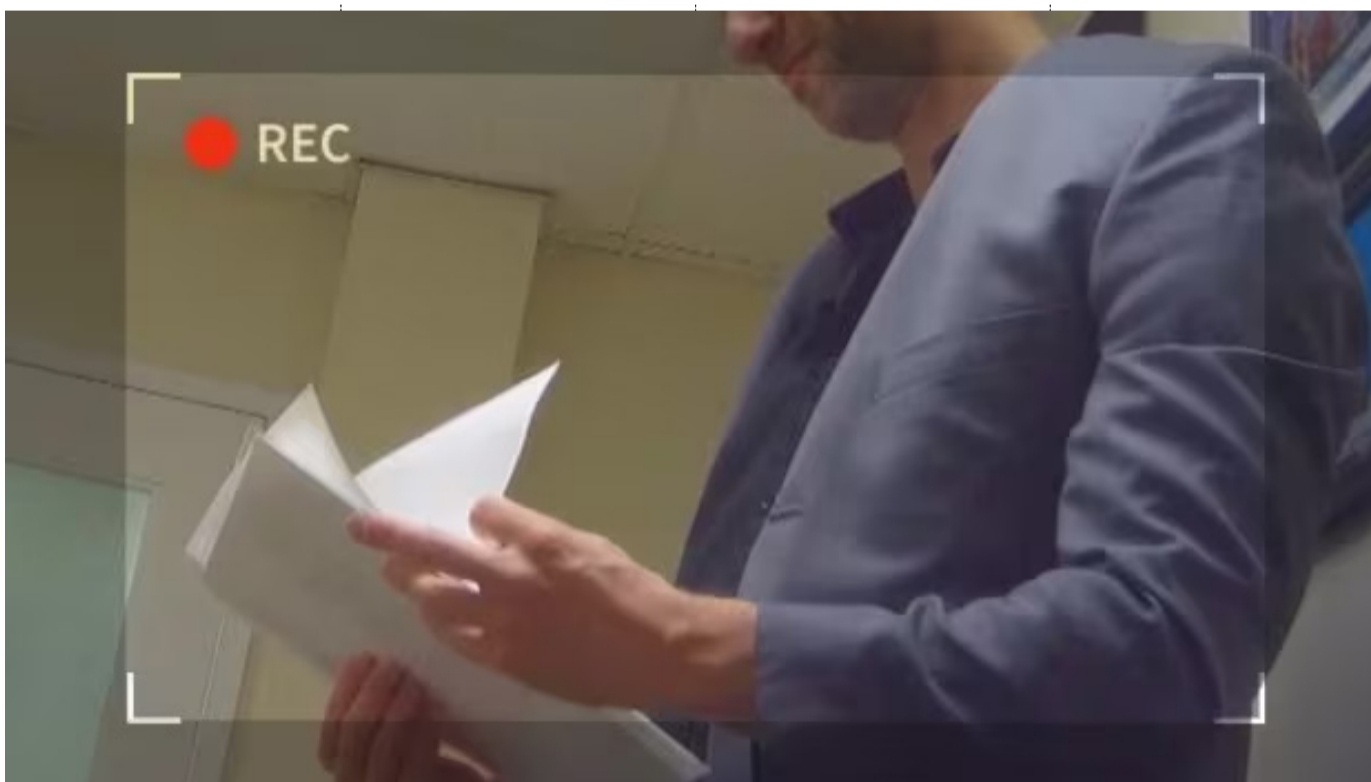
As a licensed clinical social worker who specializes in mental health and public health, I have observed coaching's growing popularity and how patients' interest appears to stem from a lack of affordable and accessible mental health care.

Coaches have the potential to fill a gap and work alongside therapists to assist clients. Many people seek coaching to help them make a big decision or hold them accountable for making progress toward a set goal – from launching a business to sticking to their wellness routines. Because the industry is unregulated, however, it's important for people to understand its limits before using a coach's services.

Why is coaching so popular?

In broad terms, coaches assist someone in creating a plan for achieving specific goals – for example, making a change in their career, diet or relationships. It can be effective in helping people manage chronic conditions, such as diabetes, between doctors' visits and to follow their treatment plan.

Amid COVID-19, physical and mental health care became more difficult to access, which may have contributed to coaching's popularity. People who were al-



ready skeptical of the health care system have turned to coaches in hopes of one-on-one, specialized treatment.

Another contributing factor may be the rise of the gig economy, with coaching appealing to people wanting to be self-employed. Social media and the internet also have fueled coaching's popularity by making it easier to research and receive health advice, regardless of whether that advice is accurate.

Is coaching therapy?

The simple answer is no. While resembling therapy, coaching does not require licensing, credentialing or formal education. Practicing therapists, on the other hand, are required to be in good standing with the law, have years of training, are regulated by governing bodies and professional associations, and abide by licensing bodies' guidelines to keep the

6 YET THE PROFESSION IS POORLY REGULATED, WHICH CAN MAKE IT A UTOPIA FOR SCAMMERS; untrained people providing advice about health, psychology and nutrition; and, in some cases, cult-like behavior, such as a coach encouraging customers to cut ties with family and friends. And now that AI health coaching has entered the chat, these problems are likely to grow

client safe.

There's a common stereotype that coaching is for "high-functioning" people and is oriented toward the future, while therapy is focused on the past and finding problems with people. As a licensed, practicing therapist, I think this could not be further

from the truth. Therapists focus on helping a person process their past, focus on the present and work toward goals in the future.

In my experience, I find that these falsities reinforce the stigma around mental health and keep people from getting appropriate help.

According to one academic study, 25% to 50% of people engaging with a life coach have mental health conditions that require a higher level of support. And even though many coaches are savvy in "therapy speak," they often lack the training to recognize when the client's needs

are beyond what they should be providing.

Risks and regulation

One of the biggest concerns about coaching is that it lacks a central governing body to regulate and oversee members. The industry has taken some steps toward better oversight, and there is one established, accrediting body – the International Coaching Federation.

It is not a requirement, however, for people identifying as coaches to join this organization. Certifications can be provided by anyone or any program, but training is not standardized.

This lack of regulation means anyone can provide coaching, including therapists who lost their licenses for unethical conduct. It has also led to social media coaches and influencers spreading misinformation and confusion about mental health conditions. This is concerning because nonlicensed providers, including coaches, are legally not allowed to diagnose mental health conditions, such as depression or anxiety, or provide treatment for them.

Another concern is coaching clients' vulnerability to being scammed financially, mistreated or given dangerous advice, such as abusive child-rearing suggestions. Coaching clients do not have the legal rights that therapy clients have, such as patient confidentiality.

Finally, life coaching relies heavily on positive psychology, which focuses on personal strengths and positive traits for happiness – in short, to look on the bright side and not focus on the negatives. Since its founding, positive psychology has come under scrutiny for debunked scientific claims of the therapy's success. And while this approach works for some, others find that it is too individualistic, not giving enough weight to how external issues such as systemic racism can play a role in mental health.

What to look for

Ultimately, each person's needs are individual, and a life coach might be helpful. However, there are some considerations to keep in mind during an initial consult:

- What training does the coach have? What's their background? I recommend looking into their education and licensing, as well as any titles or certificates that you find unfamiliar.
- Is someone telling you that they can cure you or that they have a product that can fix your problem – a meal plan, diet, coaching course, etc.?
- Do they have research and evidence, not just anecdotes, to back up the claims they are making? If something is being touted as "tested" or "proven," make sure you ask about the data.
- Is the person touting their service as the "only" way to get better? Are they making unrealistic claims, such as being able to cure someone of their trauma symptoms in one month? A credible life coach is not going to promise to completely change your life or cure you.
- Is there a formal contract with the services provided clearly laid out? Does this contract discuss limitations of services provided? Is there clarity around fees and charges?
- Is the coach willing to be flexible about their approach? Do they become defensive when you ask questions?

Life coaching has the potential to be an evidenced-based, short-term practice, but potential clients need to carefully consider whether it is appropriate for them.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Kashmir's Urban

Epidemic' he said that their department, with six faculty members, sees around 300 outpatients daily and each doctor manages around 50 patients, making it challenging to give thorough care to every patient.

"Beyond treating patients, our mandate is research—understanding the risk factors driving diabetes. If we identify these causes, we can work toward a preventive vaccine, similar to our efforts during COVID-19," he said, adding that Coronavirus was a communicable epidemic, while diabetes, heart diseases, hypertension is a slow epidemic.

Dr Ganaie said that our mandate is to identify risk factors and provide guidelines to policymakers.

Troubling Cancer Cases

The director also highlighted the troubling rise in cancer cases within Kashmir society, noting the inadequacies of the current healthcare infrastructure to address this issue. He pointed out that the SKIMS lacks a fully equipped cancer institute, operating instead with a limited budget of 60 crore and restricted resources. The facility currently manages only three departments and does not have sufficient outpatient facilities or a dedicated surgical theater.

Dr. Ganaie is considering establishing a cancer consortium that would incorporate various specialized departments, including radiotherapy, radiation oncology, surgical oncology, nuclear medicine, and hematology, to enhance cancer care and treatment in the region. Talking about the expansion of the cancer institute he said, "We will need to request additional land from the government and secure funding from external sources or the center because substantial funding will be required. Only then can we develop it into a comprehensive cancer center dedicated to research, teaching, training, and the treatment of patients."

'Patient Care Top Priority'

Dr. Ganaie outlined the three core objectives of a medical institution: patient care, teaching and training new medical personnel, and conducting medical research, which he emphasized as the backbone of any institution. "SKIMS was established to provide high-quality medical care in the region, preventing patients from needing to seek treatment out of state for complex or rare conditions," he said.

However, he acknowledged that over time, the focus shifted primarily to immediate patient care due to rising demands, which led to research and training being somewhat neglected. Despite these challenges, he said that SKIMS has made significant contributions, particularly during difficult times.

"Patient care at SKIMS is my priority," Dr. Ganaie asserted, emphasizing his commitment to ensuring that no patient from the region is left unattended in emergencies.

"Our doctors are highly experienced and provide top-level care, although in public perception and within the government, the institution's role has not been fully understood."

Changes Made In First 100 Days As Director

In his first 100 days as director, Dr Ganaie highlighted the significant changes made to enhance hospital operations.

A separate block for children's emergencies has been established, and the emergency lab has been relocated to the casualty area for more direct access to sample testing and reporting. Furthermore, five major labs—genetic, pathology, biochemistry, hematology, and radiology—now operate around the clock.

"To address the challenge of individuals attempting to exploit the system by seeking tests during the evening, restrictions have been introduced. Access to tests now requires the signature of a senior dentist doctor or consultant. The Ayushman Bharat counter, previously located on the lower floor, has been decentralized to each ward, allowing patients to present their cards directly without needing to go downstairs for medication. Plans are also in motion to establish a medication counter in each ward," Dr Ganaie said.

Challenges in outpatient department (OPD) registration have been tackled by moving partially online to minimize long queues, especially for patients traveling from remote areas like Jammu and Ladakh. Recognizing that not everyone has a smartphone, 30% of the registration process remains offline to accommodate all patients.

"Each patient now has a dedicated ID linked to their medical records, and efforts are underway to transition towards a paperless hospital with fully integrated systems by December, aiming for cashless transactions as well. Patients now have a dedicated ID linked to their medical records, and we are working towards a paperless hospital with fully integrated systems by December, aiming for cashless transactions as well."

Budget Lapse In Previous Administrations

"We have utilized almost 60 to 70% of the funds," the endocrinologist stated, highlighting the progress made since his appointment as Director SKIMS.

He said that he cannot comment on the factors or issues that prevented previous administrations from utilizing the grant, but, "There are some liabilities from the previous period that also need to be fixed. I approached the government and requested a package because the previous grant lapsed."

"There are patient care issues, manpower issues, and machinery that has deteriorated. Currently, 40% of manpower is working, and the patient load has increased significantly. Beds have been expanded, so there is a need for more allocation. I believe the government is considering this, and with the new government in place, I am hopeful that they will address our issues, including our backlog,

liabilities, maintenance of the hospital, and new visionary projects, to assist us in restoring this institute to its former glory," he said.

Establishing SKIMS Medical University

According to the Director, besides patient care, SKIMS is also focused on two other important areas for teaching and training.

"Although we grant degrees, the university has not yet developed, so we created a new block by repurposing the old block. We will temporarily shift there until we construct a new building so that our university can achieve international standards."

Regarding research, he said, "after I left my position as Head of Clinical Research, research somewhat froze. To rekindle it, especially among young faculty and doctors, we provided seed grants and started capacity-building workshops. We hold a faculty research day to create new projects. We are also working on various futuristic projects like new parking facilities, all types of hostels, and planning for a trauma center, emergency center, neuroscience center, cardiac science center, and transplant center."

These projects should be ready for funding agencies within two to three months, he said.

On Autonomy Of SKIMS

In 2013, the semi-autonomous Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science (SKIMS) in Srinagar lost its autonomy, with the Centre striking off the special status that allowed the premier super-speciality hospital and deemed university of J&K to work somewhat independently.

Despite this, Dr Ganaie said that he remains optimistic. "Challenges inspire growth, and I see this as an opportunity to enhance transparency through e-governance. By fostering cooperation with the health department, we can address operational issues internally, ensuring the institute's integrity and improving patient care."

On the allegations of land encroachment of SKIMS land, he said that he has created a blueprint for the entire institution so that they can focus on expansion and maintenance. "We have also sought help from Div. com and local revenue departments to identify SKIMS land."

"We had a piece of land, around 28 kanals, which we fixed, and we also retrieved 8 kanals of land. This land is essential for expansion and achieving international standards because land is shrinking," he said.

Rahim Rather

with pending criminal cases under review by the High Court.

This clarification emphasises that the reference is not to Abdul Rahim Rather, the veteran JKNC leader and seven-time lawmaker, but rather to another individual with a similar name. The JKNC asserted that their leader has upheld an unblemished record throughout his political career, and no criminal case has ever been filed against him.

BJP To Elect

former minister S S Slathia and joined the BJP in October 2021.

Last month, the BJP's parliamentary board appointed Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and the party's national general secretary Tarun Chugh as observers to elect the legislature party leader in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to BJP sources, the meeting will take place in Srinagar on Sunday morning and will be attended by all 28 MLAs and senior party leaders, including its Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Ravinder Raina.

They said the leader of the opposition will be chosen at the meeting, and the name will be forwarded to the party's central leadership.

Five names are under active consideration but things will be cleared once the meeting takes place, the sources said.

The National Conference (NC) has emerged as the single largest party in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls with 42 seats and has a comfortable majority in the 95-member House as its alliance partners Congress and CPI(M) have won six seats and one seat, respectively.

The NC also enjoyed the support of six of the seven independent MLAs and of the Aam Aadmi Party which has also opened its account in Jammu and Kashmir by winning the Doda segment.

The PDP has won three seats and the Peoples' Conference one seat while five are nominated members.

The first session of the newly elected Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly is scheduled to begin with the election of the Speaker followed by the lieutenant governor's address on November 4.

According to the calendar issued by Protem Speaker Mubarak Gul, the Assembly will make obituary references the next day while the discussion on the motion of thanks on the L-G's address will be held on November 6 and 7. Response to the motion of thanks on the LG's address will be conducted on November 8.

Kashmir Valley

is stated to be stable, the officials said. The police said that they shifted dozens of civilians including women and children of the besieged area to safer locations to ensure no harm comes to them.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V K Birdhi said that acting on a specific lead, police and CRPF laid a siege in Khanyar area of Srinagar early this morning. "As the forces zeroed in on the suspected house, they came under a volley of fire. The fire was responded to after which a fierce encounter took place. All precautions were taken as the area was a congested one," he said.

The IGP said that the operation was conducted in a very professional manner to ensure zero collateral damage. "In the ensuing gunfight, one foreign terrorist was killed. He was identified as Usman alias Chota Waleed, the Lashkar-e-Taiba commander," he said.

The Kashmir police chief said that slain was involved in the killing of police inspector

Masroor Ahmed last year and his further role is being investigated. The IGP said that in the gunfight two policemen and two CRPF personnel were injured who are stable. Asked how the slain terrorist reached Srinagar that was declared terrorist free, the IGP said that inputs keep on coming to police about movement of terrorists. "The killing of Lashkar terrorist is a significant achievement," he said.

He said the body of the slain terrorist has been retrieved while a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the encounter site. The IGP said that while the operation has been completed, the area is being sanitised.

Today's encounter in Srinagar was first after September 15, 2022 when two terrorists were killed in Nowgam area of the city.

In Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, two militants were killed in an encounter with security forces, officials said.

The encounter broke out near Halkan Gali in the Shangus-Larnoo area of the south Kashmir district.

IGP Kashmir said that acting on a specific information about the presence of terrorists in the rugged area of Halkan Gali, Shangus, Larnoo area of Anantnag district, police, army and the CRPF laid a siege in the area. "As the forces inched closer to the terrorists, they opened fire and in the ensuing gunbattle, two terrorists were killed. The operation is underway in the area," the IGP said, adding that the operation was ongoing in the area.

Addressing a joint presser at Wuzur, Qazigund, headquarters, Commander 2 sector RR Brigadier Anirudh Chouhan said on October 8, Arbaz Mir, one of the slain terrorists had killed rifleman Hilal Ahmed and he along with another one had fled to Kulgam.

"We received information about their movement in Halkan Gali, Larnoo after which a joint team of army and Police launched an operation. The movement of terrorists was noticed and they were challenged by the troops. The terrorists fired indiscriminately after which an intense gunfight broke out," he said, adding that in the ensuing encounter, two terrorists were killed.

The army officer said that from the slain terrorists one US made M-4 rifle and an AK rifle was recovered besides other arms and ammunition. "Arbaz had crossed over to the other side of the LoC and he returned last year," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) South Kashmir Javaid Ahmed Matoo said that two slain terrorists were identified as Zahid Ahmed Reshi of Hassanpora Bujbehara and Arbaz Ahmed Mir of Qaimoh, Kulgam.

"Both the terrorists were involved in a series of attacks including the DIGs on non-local labourers," he said. The DIG said that early this morning, the area of Halkan Gali was cordoned off. "Zahid Rashid was involved in the killing of a non-local in April this year and then he joined terrorist ranks. Arbaz has been missing since 2018. Both these terrorists were involved in many crimes," he said.

Asked whether there were any third terrorists, he said there was input about only two and both were killed. On why often Kashmir is witnessing spurt in encounters and attacks, the DIG said that terrorists have received a serious dent since past few years and now they are trying to show their presence. "We are tracking them and will eliminate the remaining ones as well," he said.

Reports said that the security forces and a group of militants clashed in a remote area of northern Bandipore district earlier on Saturday.

A search operation was launched on Saturday after movement of terrorists was observed in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, Army said.

In a post on X, the Indian Army on Saturday said that terrorists opened fire on security personnel and escaped into the jungle.

"On 01 November 2024 late evening, suspicious movement was spotted, in Panar of Bandipora, by alert troops. On being challenged, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire and escaped into the jungle. Search Operation underway," Chinar Corps, Indian Army posted on X.

Birdhi visited the injured jawans from the police and CAPF who were wounded during an encounter with terrorists in Khanyar, Srinagar, earlier Saturday. "During his visit, the IGP expressed genuine concern for their recovery and inquired about their well-being, acknowledging their vital contributions to maintaining peace and security in the region. He also offered words of encouragement and assured the injured personnel of full support throughout their recovery process," a police spokesman in a statement said. (inputs from agencies)

First Encounter

infrequent terror attacks and other incidents of violence. Srinagar has remained relatively peaceful and was even declared as 'terrorism-free' by the CRPF some time ago.

On June 13, 2022, two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including a Pakistani national, were killed in an encounter with Security Forces (SFs) in the Bemina area of Srinagar.

On May 27, 2022, two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with police in the Soura area of Srinagar.

In Bishamir Nagar, on April 10, 2022, two foreign terrorists of the same group were killed in an encounter with security forces.

On March 10, 2022, in Hazratbal, Srinagar, a Pakistani terrorist of LeT was killed in a brief shootout.

Prior to this, three terrorists of The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were killed in an encounter in the Nowgam area of Srinagar.

In February, the same year, Security Forces (SFs) killed two The Resistance Front (TRF) terrorist during a gunfight in the Zakura area of Srinagar.

A month before on January 3, one foreign terrorist of LeT was killed in Shalimar, Srinagar.

Srinagar city had witnessed an encounter between security forces and terrorists on May 19, 2020, when two Hizb-ul-Mujahideen cadres were neutralised by the

security forces at Nawa Kadal.

Terror Incidents

Shopian, and an infiltrator in Baramulla. A militant attack in Ganderbal claimed the lives of seven people, including six laborers and a doctor, while two soldiers and two army porters were killed in a militant attack on an army vehicle in Gulmarg.

Other incidents include the killing of three militants in an encounter after they attacked an army ambulance in Akhnour Jammu, and two migrant workers injured in a militant attack in Budgam.

Encounters have also taken place in Parner Bandipora, Khanyar Srinagar, and Shangus Anantnag, resulting in the deaths of two militants.

Notably, despite the new government's establishment, control over security operations remains firmly in the hands of the Lieutenant Governor (LG). The LG oversees police matters and law enforcement, chairing crucial counter-terrorism meetings that involve military, paramilitary, and intelligence agencies. Recent amendments have ensured that the LG retains authority over security measures, countering terrorist activities and managing related funding and resources.

"Unified Command head, which is the LG, should streamline the security grid. I have made it clear that Jammu and Kashmir cannot be run under dual control," Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, said.

He said that the responsibility lies with the security forces to ensure stability.

"This is the work of the security grid. They have to fasten the security system; we have seen several attacks in recent days, and this needs to end."

NC Demands Probe

"There should be an investigation as to how these are taking place after government formation. I have doubts that perhaps it is being done by those who want to destabilise this government. Why were not these taking place before? Why are they happening now? There should be an independent inquiry," NC president Farooq Abdullah said as the encounter was raging in Khanyar quarter of the city.

He sought an inquiry into the spike in terrorist attacks in the Valley since Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was sworn in, saying some elements were trying to destabilise an elected government.

Asked if he believed Pakistan was responsible for the attacks, Farooq Abdullah reiterated that an investigation should be conducted into the rise in such incidents after the recently-concluded assembly elections.

The NC president questioned the timing of the increase, saying, "I doubt why there wasn't a spurt in gunfights before the government formation. There should be an independent probe to find out who is doing it."

Referring to the Khanyar encounter, he emphasized that militants should be apprehended rather than killed, stating, "They should be arrested to find out whether there is any agency behind to destabilise the Omar Abdullah-led government.

Dr. Abdullah pointed out that the J&K had seen stability prior to the government's formation, with terrorism at a low point and local businesses thriving. "Tourism is thriving, and people are doing their routine business.

He said the peaceful assembly election was a big achievement for the people of Kashmir, and it united the entire community.

"Terrorism was at its lowest ebb; that's why I am demanding a probe," he remarked.

Pertinently, after the government formation in J&K, there has been a spurt in attacks on non-local labourers and also on the security forces. Nearly one dozen people, mostly migrant labourers, were killed in twin attacks at Gagangir in Sonamarg and Gulmarg areas last month.

Meanwhile, NC's alliance partner Congress also raised suspicion over the timing of the attacks in the Kashmir valley.

"It is a matter of grave concern and the timing of it is actually very suspicious because we had very peaceful elections. Before the elections, we had a very peaceful time, and immediately after the elections, all this has started," J-K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra told PTI Videos here.

"It is concerning that it (terror attacks) has started only after elections," he added.

Karra called for a holistic and inclusive approach to handle the matters of security.

"When LG Manoj Sinha took the security review, I said that time also that it has to be a holistic, inclusive approach like the state government and LG's office should work in tandem," he said.

"On the contrary, things are going cross-roads. I don't find a kind of a congenial environment between the two. It is not in the interest of people and the national interest," he said.

"Instead of going for one-upmanship, the national interest has to be kept paramount as we have very hostile neighbours," Karra added.

Pradesh Congress chief expressed apprehensions that the spike in the violence would impact the restoration of statehood to J&K.

"What we have been hearing from Delhi is that if statehood is granted back to us, it would be an amended state and some vital departments need to be retained. I hope it is not that. I think the situation is getting created for that," he said.

"We will not accept the half-cooked statehood," Karra said, adding, "We need a full, complete statehood. But, I think something is fishy about it. I am not able to explain it right now, but something is not going the right way."

Earlier, the lieutenant governor, prime minister, home minister, and the BJP, all used to say that statehood is round the corner, but now the same BJP is saying the atmosphere is not congenial, the Congress leader said.

"So, the suspicion now is that who is creating this non congenial atmosphere. It needs to be looked into," he added.

National Conference leader and Member of Parliament Rahul Mehdi criticized the

BJP regime for its repeated security failures. He questioned the sudden rise in attacks following the recent elections.

The remark has not gone down well with the BJP, which accused senior Abdullah of "blaming the Indian Army, Indian agencies to escape his responsibility".

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said, "It is very unfortunate that on such a sensitive issue, instead of giving priority to the nation, some people are giving priority to politics, family and vote bank. It does not benefit Farooq Abdullah to blame the Indian Army, Indian agencies to escape his responsibility or to save the sponsors of terrorism".

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina said that the army, police, and security forces should have our full support.

"Farooq Abdullah knows that this terrorism is coming from Pakistan... This is a well-known fact. What is there to investigate in this? He knows that the terrorist attacks that are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and terrorist organisations are involved in this... We all should support our army, police and security forces... We have to fight unitedly against those who are the enemies of humanity..." Raina said.

Meanwhile, the Congress and Sharad Pawa's NCP defended Farooq Abdullah's statement.

By-Elections Loom

of 30,472 votes, a record-breaking win on this seat. This victory was the evidence of a stronghold for the BJP, given Rana's appeal across the diverse demographics of the constituency, which includes Rajput, Muslim, Brahmin, and other communities.

Nagrot's political landscape has evolved over the years, with NC and BJP consistently competing closely. The upcoming by-election is likely to witness a similarly fierce contest as both parties aim to consolidate their influence in the region. Previously, NC had maintained a foothold with victories in 1996 and 2014, while BJP's Jugal Kishore won twice consecutively in 2002 and 2008.

Late Devendra Singh Rana was not only a political figure but a multifaceted personality deeply connected to his community. A civil engineer by training, Rana completed his BSc in Engineering from NIT Kurukshetra in 1986. Alongside politics, he thrived in the automobile sector, managing franchises for major brands like Maruti, Tata, and Harley Davidson. Known for his hands-on approach, he often personally repaired and washed vehicles, exemplifying his ethos of hard work and humility. "His legacy extends beyond politics, remembered as an all-rounder with an enduring dedication to his work and community," says one of his supporters while mourning the leader's demise.(KNO)

Incidents In J&K

but the fact is three-four such attacks have been reported while the security forces are giving befitting reply and many terrorists have been killed as well.

"It is not a question of security lapses; we are familiar with the number of activities in J&K earlier. However, such attacks have reduced compared to the past. The security forces are alert," he said, adding that these attacks will happen till the terrorism will be eliminated completely from the soil of J&K and it will witness development as well.

Following the attacks, the government in Jammu and Kashmir has stated that every drop of blood will be avenged.

Work Together

the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to promote the spirit of national integration through deeper and structured engagement among all States and UTs has strengthened cultural exchange and inspired mutual coordination with the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

He said, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, all the States and Union Territories have realised their true potential and are achieving new milestones across the diverse sectors.

Appreciating the artists for their enthralling performances, the LG said the event today highlighted the rich heritage, culture and tradition fostering a sense of common identity.

J&K High Court

raised by the petitioner does not survive any more," said a Division Bench of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Puneet Gupta. "Therefore, no further proceedings are required to be conducted in the present Public Interest Litigation, which is accordingly closed."

However, the Court left it free for the NGO to agitate the issues, if any in future, before the concerned authorities.

While closing the PIL, the Division Bench referred to a report filed by the Under Secretary to the Government Industries and Commerce Department in compliance with the Court's directions in July 2019, in which it has been stated that the issues raised in the PIL have been examined in light of the various Acts and the Rules governing the mining activities in the Jammu and Kashmir.

In the compliance report, the court said, the government submitted that the Department has posted District Mineral Officers in every District who are responsible to monitor and ensure that mining activities in their respective districts are "strictly" being carried out in accordance with the Acts and the Rules. It stated that sensitization and awareness programmes among the mine owners and workers are being regularly carried out by the Department. The Government has also constituted "Multi Departmental District Level Task Force Cell" under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner concerned, the compliance report reads. Immediate actions are being taken by the Department against the violators by issuing notices besides directing suspension of the mining operations, it said.

"In this regard, it is submitted that while

taking cognizance of the unsafe and dangerous mining practices, mining activities in the three quarry/ mining belts of Athwajan and Panthachowk areas of the Srinagar District have been banned."

In order to monitor the major mineral mines throughout the Country, the government said, the Indian Bureau of Mines GOI, in the year 1917, launched Geo-spatial satellite based Mine Surveillance System and the Department of Geology and Mining has uploaded all the geo-referenced details of Limestone Mining leases on the MSS and IBM and are regularly monitoring the mining activities of major minerals in the Union Territory.

The report also stated that with regard to environmental degradation and adverse impact on ecology, landscape and habitation because of mining activity, State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has been constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and the compliance of the Environmental Acts and Rules is monitored by the Authority and the Department of Environment/ State Pollution Control Board.

Canada Names

and part of the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSE). The assessment reports are released every two years.

While there was no mention of India in the National Cyber Threat Assessment reports of 2018, 2020 and 2023-24, the 2025-26 assessment mentions India – along with China, Russia, Iran and North Korea – in the 'Cyber threat from state adversaries' section that introduces the state cyber threat ecosystem and discusses the cyber threats to Canada.

"India's leadership almost certainly aspires to build a modernised cyber programme with domestic cyber capabilities. India very likely uses its cyber programme to advance its national security imperatives, including espionage, counter-terrorism, and the country's efforts to promote its global status and counter narratives against India and the Indian government," the assessment report said.

"We assess that India's cyber programme likely leverages commercial cyber vendors to enhance its operations. We assess that Indian state-sponsored cyber threat actors likely conduct cyber threat activity against Government of Canada networks for the purpose of espionage," it said further.

"We judge that official bilateral relations between Canada and India will very likely drive Indian state-sponsored cyber threat activity against Canada," it claimed.

CSE and its partners in Canada and across the Five Eyes are attuned to the cyber threats to Canada from state and nonstate cyber threat actors and are tracking them as they evolve, the report said.

NCTA 2025-2026 provides the Canadian public with CSE's current insights on the state and non-state cyber threat actors conducting malicious cyber threat activity against Canada and how we assess the cyber threat landscape will evolve in the next two years, it added.

Canada is confronting an expanding and more complex state cyber ecosystem, the report said, and talked about strategic adversaries, emerging cyber programmes and wider cyber ecosystem.

In the 'Emerging cyber programmes,' it said: "At the same time, countries that aspire to become new centres of power within the global system, such as India, are building cyber programmes that present varying levels of threat to Canada."

"While emerging states focus their cyber efforts on domestic threats and regional rivals, they also use their cyber capabilities to track and surveil activists and dissidents living abroad," it added.

The NCTA 2025-2026 also mentioned "Geopolitical conflicts and tensions are inspiring disruptive cyber threat activity from non-state groups, commonly referred to as hacktivists" and gave example of how geopolitically motivated hacktivists typically conduct attacks to gain attention, such as distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, website defacements, and data leaks from Russia and India.

"Diplomatic tensions are also inspiring hacktivist activity. After Canada accused India of involvement in the killing of a Canadian citizen, a pro-India hacktivist group claimed to have defaced and conducted brief DDoS attacks against websites in Canada, including the public-facing website of the Canadian Armed Forces," the report said.

"This non-state ecosystem is dynamic and unpredictable," it added.

The development comes as the bilateral relationship has gone south since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a year ago that Canada had credible evidence that agents of the Indian government were involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June 2023, a charge dismissed as absurd by India.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on trashed the report.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters in New Delhi: "Another category, Canada has put India into. This categorisation is as per the cyber report that they have issued. It appears to be another example of a Canadian strategy to attack

DRUG MENACE

IUST Announces New Rehabilitation and Skill Programs

Vice Chancellor Calls for Unified Action Against Substance Abuse Among Youth

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: In a multi-stakeholder meeting on substance abuse, Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor of IUST, underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive strategy to address substance abuse among youth, highlighting that they are society's most valuable resource.

Romshoo cautioned that the rising vulnerability of young people to substance abuse could have dire social consequences. He stressed the need for a holistic approach focusing on prevention, early detection, and rehabilitation, calling for coordinated efforts across all sectors of society. He stressed the critical roles that religious leaders, educators, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, community leaders, and influencers must play in this endeavor.

Attendees included Dr. Abdul Majid, Head of Psychiatry; Dr. M. Muzaffar, Clinical Psychologist; Mr. Khan Ansur from NIMHANS Bangalore; Mr. Mir Zubair of Cause NGO; and representatives from the Human Welfare Voluntary Orga-

nization, the Addiction Treatment Facility in Pulwama, the J&K AIDS Control Society, as well as IUST faculty. Participants shared deep concerns about the rise of substance abuse among youth, stressing that this issue impacts every citizen, directly or indirectly, and requires collective action.

The discussions highlighted the links between substance abuse and rising crime rates, increased prevalence of diseases like AIDS and hepatitis, higher dropout rates, and impaired learning abilities in young people. Participants emphasized the need for wide-spread awareness campaigns in educational institutions and recommended establishing community-based rehabilitation centers to support government efforts in combating this crisis.

Romshoo assured attendees of IUST's commitment to addressing this issue, noting that the university will develop specific skill-building programs for substance abuse victims to aid their recovery and facilitate their reintegration into society. He also highlighted IUST's existing Centre for Mental Health and Well-being, which offers regular sessions on substance abuse awareness and mental health support to foster a healthier student community.



A SPECIALLY-ABLED MAN walks past an alert CRPF personnel during an encounter between militants and security forces in Khanyar area of Srinagar city on Saturday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

J&K Records Alarming Spike In Road Accidents

4,457 Accidents Claim 621 Lives, Injure 6,122 In 9 Months, May Emerges As Deadliest Month

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded an alarming rise in road accidents over the first nine months of ongoing year, with a staggering 4,457 accidents leading to 621 deaths and 6,122 injuries across the Union Territory.

The official data reveals stark figures across both Jammu and Kashmir regions with May 2024 reporting the highest spike in both accidents and fatalities as a total of 597 accidents took place in the month, leading to 98 fatalities. While this sharp increase has raised alarm among safety officials, the monthly figures indicate a peak in road incidents during this period.

According to the data, on average, over 16 accidents have occurred daily across the region from January to September this year, pointing to an unrelenting

rise in incidents despite various safety campaigns.

Social activists observing the happening state that reckless driving, poor road conditions and challenging terrain, may be contributing to the high accident rates.

Meanwhile, the statistics from Kashmir reveal stark figures as the region reported 1,722 accidents with 240 fatalities during the first nine months of ongoing year, with Srinagar reporting 362 accidents and 36 fatalities, the highest in the Kashmir region, followed by district Anantnag with 254 accidents and 35 fatalities.

The data for Jammu reveal that Jammu district has recorded the most incidents, with 807 accidents and 96 deaths, positioning it as the hardest-hit area in terms of both frequency and fatality rate.

According to social activists, the high frequency of ac-

cidents in Jammu district and the fatalities in Srinagar point to a growing concern for road safety in these critical regions.

"Both urban centers and rural areas are impacted, authorities should implement more stringent traffic regulations, improve road conditions, and launch safety awareness campaigns to reduce these disturbing numbers," said a social activist.

Shabir Ahmad, a Srinagar resident, said that with the alarming rise in road accidents, there was an urgent need for stronger enforcement and increased awareness campaigns across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Reckless driving contributes significantly to the growing toll on our roads. Implementing speed checks, especially in high-risk areas like Srinagar and Jammu, could serve as an immediate deterrent to speeding and rash driving," he said—(KNO)

BJP Leaders Pay Rich Tributes To Rana In Prayer Meeting

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP on Saturday held a special prayer meeting at its party headquarters here for its legislator Devender Singh Rana who passed away on Diwali night.

The 'shradhanjali sabha' (tribute meeting) was attended by J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina, working president Sat Sharma, parliamentarians, office bearers, and recently elected members of legislative assembly, a party spokesperson said.

"Rana always played clear-headed politics with ethics beyond political barriers," Raina said, fondly speaking of the busi-

nessman-turned-politician who had retained the Nagrota assembly segment in the recently concluded elections by a highest margin of over 30,000 votes.

The J-K BJP chief said Rana's passing was a great loss for both the party and the union territory. He exhorted the party workers and leaders to follow Rana's footsteps and learn the art of friendship and make relations with everyone, whether friend or foe.

A prominent entrepreneur and influential politician often described as the "voice of Jammu", Rana died at a hospital in Haryana's Faridabad on Thursday night after a brief illness. He was 59.

Political leaders cutting



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GMC Kathua Bags Top Slot In NHM Ranking

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of September, 2024.

In the category of New GMCs of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Government Medical College, Kathua followed by Government Medical College Rajouri, Government Medical College Anantnag and Government Medical College Baramulla.

In the category of District Hospitals, the first rank has been secured by DH Kishtwar, followed by District Hospital Ganderbal, District Hospital Reasi, District Hospital Shopian and District Hospital Samba.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), the

first rank has been clinched by CHC Banihal, Ramban followed by CHC Dooru, Anantnag, CHC Ramgarh, Samba, CHC Batote, Ramban and CHC Basholi, Kathua.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER PLANNING AND PUBLICITY DIVISION SRINAGAR

EXTENTION NOTICE To SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No: 05 of 2024-25 DATED: 21-10-2024

Due to poor response received to the above mentioned tender notice the bid submission date is hereby extended as mentioned below:-

Publishing Date:	29-10-2024
Download Start Date:	29-10-2024 from 6:00 p.m
Bid submission Start Date:	29-10-2024 from 6:00 p.m
Bid submission End Date:	04-11-2024 upto 06:00 p.m
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	05-11-2024 at 11.00 a.m (In the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Planning and Publicity Division Kashmir at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar).
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed.

All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in original e-NIT No. 05 of 2024-25 Dated- 21-10-2024.

No. DFO/P&P/NIT-05/2024-25/616-21
Dated: - 29-10-2024
DIPK-7114-24
DT: 02/11/2024

SHOWKAT AHMAD KUTHOO
Divisional Forest Officer,
Planning & Publicity Division
Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R&B DIVISION LOLAB. "CORRIGENDUM".

Subject: Invitation of Tenders .
Reference: NIT No. 24-Lolab/2164-72 of 2024-25 e-tendering DATED: - 22-10-2024

DATE EXTENSION	
Bid Submission End Date	05-11-2024 up to (04.00PM)
Bid Opening date	06-11-2024 (10:00AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab

No: 2309-13
Date 30.10.2024

DIPK-7140-24
DT: 02/11/2024

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Lolab

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION SOPORE. NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

FRESH E-TENDERING/NIT No 49/Sopore/e-tendering/RNB/2024-25 DATE 29-10-2024 (5th call)
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K Expression of Interest (EOI) on percentage bases are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S.No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost for consultancy	Cost of Tender document	E/ Money	Time for completion	Type of consultancy
1	Development of College Landscape at GDWS	2.50 Lacs	200/-	5000/-	10 days	Structural Consultancy

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of Funds Available

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-10-2024
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 31-10-2024 (4:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 31-10-2024 (4:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 06-11-2024 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	07-11-2024 (12:00PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Sopore.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work /NIT No and date to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and the bidders residing Outside UT of J&K can submit DD of any nationalized bank in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore the cost of tender document fee is non refundable.

2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period 06 months.

3. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Response shall be opened online on same WebSite in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Sopore.

No.- 4994-4504
Dated:- 29/10/2024.

DIPK-7136-24
DT: 02/11/2024

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

3 Dead As Car Plunges Into Reasi Gorge



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Three persons, including a woman and her 10-month old son, were killed and an equal number of people critically injured when their car skidded off a hilly road and rolled down into a deep gorge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir early Saturday, officials said.

The accident took place at Chamalu Morh and the victims belonged to the same family, the officials said.

The driver of the private car, which was headed for Chassana from their Malikote village, lost control in the early hours of the day, resulting in on-the-spot death of Kulcha Devi (27), her 10-month-old baby Neeraj Singh and nephew Sandhoor Singh (23).

Devi's husband Chankaar Singh (32), brother-in-law Dhunkar (19), nephew Ajay Singh (18) were rescued by the local volunteers and rushed to hospital where their condition was stated to be critical, the officials added.

Kashmir's Literary Heritage Celebrated In One-Day Conference



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: A one-day Literary Conference was organized on Saturday at the GDC, Shopian, jointly by the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Shopian and the J&K Maraz Kamraaz Academy.

The event aimed to honor and celebrate Kashmir's literary vibrancy and to inspire the younger generations toward storytelling, poetry and writing.

The conference was graced by the presence of MLA Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay; MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami; DC Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; ACR, CEO, Dy DEO, DIO and other officials of the Information department and Academy.

Poets, journalists, artists, and students from within and outside the district also attended, making it a diverse and engaging literary gathering.

During the inaugural session, a series of thought-provoking paper reading sessions were conducted, highlighting the depth and diversity of Kashmiri literature.

Following this, a Mushaira session saw the participation of over 20 renowned poets from the district and outside who enthralled the audience with their enriching poetic verses.

In his address, MLA Kulgam Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami emphasized Kashmir's rich cultural and literary history,

tracing it from its ancient Sanskrit roots through the Persian era up till now. He noted that Kashmir's heritage, spanning over 5,000 years, continues to inspire contemporary literary expressions. He urged the gathering to channel this heritage to encourage younger generations towards literature and called for unity in diversity within Kashmiri society.

MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmad Kullay highlighted the role of literature as a mirror of society, underscoring the importance of the poetic tradition in reflecting and shaping the community's ethos.

The science of poetry has transcended all barriers and played a pivotal role in changing the course of societies, DC Shopian stated, reflecting on poetry's social impact.

Addressing the attendees, he praised poets as 'scientists of society' who give voice to the public's inner feelings. He encouraged students to pursue wordcraft, whether through poetry or prose, and acknowledged the significant contributions of poets in shaping societal values and culture.

The conference was a resounding success, celebrating the timeless legacy of Kashmiri literature and reaffirming its role in nurturing the intellectual and cultural fabric of the region.

The felicitation ceremony was also held in which local poets were rewarded with a token of love for their services.

Mumbai Test: Gill, Spinners Give India Upper Hand On Day 2

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Exploiting the spin-friendly conditions, Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin chiselled through the New Zealand batting line-up to bring India to a stage from where they can force a face-saving victory in the third Test which is now headed for an intriguing finish.

New Zealand ended day two at 171 for nine with an overall lead of 143, which might look small but even a target in the vicinity of 150 will pose serious challenge for the Indian batters, considering the fast deteriorating Wankhede track.

This was after half-centuries from Shubman Gill (90) and Rishabh Pant (60) and a crucial 38 not out from Washington Sundar gave India a slender 28-run lead as they put on board 263.

A total of 15 wickets fell on the second day, underlining the fact that life won't be easy for the hosts while batting fourth.

Ashwin (3/63) found his rhythm while Jadeja (4/52) added four more dismissals after his 5/65 in the first essay



to keep India's hopes alive to avert a clean sweep at home for the first time.

Ajaz Patel (7) was at the crease when Jadeja cleaned up Matt Henry (10) for the penul-

imate wicket on the final ball on the second day.

Will Young's gutsy 51 was the only resistance from the Kiwis who succumbed to pressure, after Patel (5/103) record-

ed yet another five-wicket haul.

Having made a subdued impact so far, Ashwin's delight on getting Rachin Ravindra (4) stumped was evident as he beat the charge of the batter

with bounce and turn.

With Glenn Phillips (26) using the long handle to a good effect, Ashwin cleaned up the New Zealand batter for another crucial breakthrough.

Young, who batted as solid as he did in the first innings, was Ashwin's third victim giving the bowler catching practice after being outfoxed on a carrom ball.

The 37-year-old Ashwin made impact beyond his bowling when he took an outstanding catch to end a stubborn 50-run association between Young and Daryl Mitchell (21), who, for a passage of play, threatened to take the game away.

Young and Mitchell had steadied the ship after New Zealand's top-order was blown away, but the latter's charge against Jadeja proved costly as he did not get the distance in his stroke.

From mid-off, Ashwin covered 19 metres running sideways to his left and put in a fabulous dive to complete the dismissal, post which New Zealand crumbled further.

News MAKERS

'Not Going To Be Easy, Have To Bat Really Well': Ashwin



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin admitted that a chase of around 150 won't be very easy for the Indian batters on a not-so typical Wankhede turn, where the track is behaving differently at two ends.

New Zealand ended the second day at 171 for 9 in their second innings with an overall lead of 143 which many like former India captain and head coach Anil Kumble believes is a challenging target if one factors in the track.

"Hopefully not many, we should wrap it up with one or two runs here and there. Any runs saved in this innings is going to be much more critical. It's not going to be easy, we'll have to bat really well," Ashwin told former teammate Dinesh Karthik in a snap interview for Jio Cinema.

What surprised Ashwin is the nature of low bounce, not exactly synonymous with red soil Mumbai surfaces which helps the ball to fly.

"Expected a lot more bounce. It has been quite slow which is a surprise. It's not a typical Bombay pitch, much slower."

Ashwin, India's very own "bowling scientist" to many, explained why he used the carrom ball, the one bowled with a flick of two fingers which turns the other way round. The similar delivery got Glenn Phillips who didn't read him from the hand.

"The game itself is divided into two halves. The one from the pavilion end and from the other end, it's slightly behaving differently. It's slightly flatter from the one where we are bowling from the dressing room side, the bounce is much lesser. So I thought I will try and use it the other way.

"The (NZ) batters are also knowing that it's easier to take me on from this side. So I wanted to give something different," he gave his reasons.

On his brilliant catch running 19 metres sideways to pouch in-from Daryl Mitchell, Ashwin said that he trusted his hands.

Kohli Hints At Completing 20 Years With RCB Till 2027



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Virat Kohli has dropped elaborate hints that he would like to continue playing competitive cricket till 2027 with an aim to complete 20 years with Royal Challengers Bengaluru after being retained by the franchise for a hefty fee of Rs 21 crore.

Having entered the twilight zone of his illustrious career, speculations are rife about how long the 36-year-old would continue in top flight cricket having endured a prolonged lull for the last four years since the start of COVID-19.

Kohli has been playing for RCB ever since IPL's inception in 2008 and is the leading

run-scorer in the competition, amassing over 8,000 runs at a healthy if not spectacular strike rate of 131.97, including eight hundreds and 55 fifties.

"At the end of this cycle, it is going to be 20 years that I am going to be playing for RCB and that in itself is a very, very special feeling for me," Kohli told 'RCB Bold Diaries' indicating that he aims to continue for at least another three years till 2027.

"I have never thought that I am going to play so many years for one team, but the relationship has truly become special over so many years.

He reiterated that he doesn't see himself playing for any other franchise.

"I don't see myself anywhere other than RCB, and I am very happy that it happened. I am very excited that I got a chance to create a strong new squad in this auction, something that we are really looking forward to as a franchise, as a team," Kohli said in RCB's Bold Diaries video.

He also pondered on the fact that he shared a close bond with the franchise and its fans, while his goal would be to win the elusive title.

"I am super excited as ever as everyone knows what RCB means to me. It's been a very, very special relationship over so many years, which continues to grow stronger, and what I have experienced playing for RCB is truly special. I hope that the fans and everyone who's connected to the franchise feel the same way," he continued.

"I am also just looking forward to this cycle. Obviously, the goal is to win the IPL title at least once in the next cycle." He promised that RCB will leave no stone unturned to win their elusive IPL title.

"We are going to give it our best shot as always and try to make everyone proud of the way we play our cricket. A big shout out to the fans for your unwavering support over so many years. I am really grateful, really thankful," Kohli concluded.

Pakistan Captain Shan Backs Babar To Return Stronger After Drop



Agencies

Babar Azam could benefit from a break after being dropped from the Pakistan test squad, red-ball captain Shan Masood said as he backed the batter to rediscover his best form.

Babar stepped down as skipper in all three formats last year after Pakistan failed to make the knockout stage of the 50-overs World Cup. He returned as white-ball captain in March for the T20 World Cup, where the team did not make the Super Eight.

The out-of-form batsman, who once again gave up the captaincy last month, was then dropped for the second and third tests against England in October after scoring just 35 runs across both innings in Pakistan's defeat in the first test.

Babar's absence from the Pakistan set-up is set to be brief, however, with the 30-year-old named in the one-day international and Twenty20 squads for this month's tour of Australia.

Asked about Babar's future, Shan told the BBC's 'Stumped' podcast on Saturday: "I think he's one of the

best batsmen in the world. I'm nobody to deny him a future. He has every quality to be one of the greatest batsmen in test cricket.

"He's always there or thereabouts in the rankings. Sometimes, people need a break. I personally think this break will do him a great deal of benefit and he'll come back a stronger player.

"There's no harm in being pulled out at times and having a breather. He's played a lot of cricket and gone through a lot, and he'll always be one of the main batsmen to play for Pakistan." Pakistan next play a test in December in a two-match series against South Africa.

Zaheer Abbas Nominated To PCB BoG

Former Pakistan batting legend Zaheer Abbas finally became the first cricketer inducted into the Board of Governors of the Pakistan Cricket Board in a long time, becoming the nominee of the State Bank of Pakistan.

State Bank had earlier nominated Meraj Mahmood to the BoG before it recommended former International Cricket Council president Zaheer.

AFC 'Recognised' Mohun Bagan's Decision To Forego Match In Iran

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Saturday said the Asian Football Confederation has "recognised" the top Indian club's pullout from their AFC Champions League 2 match in Iran last month as a case of force majeure.

Keeping the players' "safety and security" in mind, Mohun Bagan SG last month decided to forgo their October 2 match against Tractor FC in Iran due to the volatile situation prevailing in the West Asian nation at the time.

The continental body reacted promptly and the Kolkata-based club was withdrawn from the tournament, pending further decision on the matter.

According to the MBSG, the AFC has now recognised their concerns but added the club remained withdrawn from the tournament.

"On 2nd November 2024, Mohun Bagan Super Giant has been communicated by the Asian Football Federation (AFC) that in response to the club's appeal, the AFC Competitions Committee has de-



cid to recognise the matters raised by Mohun Bagan SG as an event of force majeure," the club said in a statement.

"Consequently penal consequences, as per clause 5.7 of AFC Champions League 2 Competition Regulations shall not apply to Mohun Bagan SG."

MBSG added in their statement, "However, in terms of AFC Champions League 2 Competition Regulation clauses 5.5 and 5.6 even in case of force majeure events MBSG shall

stand withdrawn from the tournament for ongoing season."

Mohun Bagan SG were scheduled to play Tractor FC on October 2 in a Group A match of the ACL -- the continent's second-tier club competition.

However, the players expressed their unwillingness to travel to Iran, which was then in a state of mourning following the death of a prominent general of the Revolutionary Guard in an Israeli air strike.

Mohun Bagan had taken the decision to not travel to the country after Iran launched missiles on Israel, escalating political tensions between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the AFC had rescheduled matches across its tournaments due to the security situation in Iran, weeks after Mohun Bagan Super Giants were "withdrawn" from competitions, forcing the Indian club to accuse the continental football body of "unequal treatment".

Isak's Header Gives Newcastle 1-0 Win Over Arsenal In Premier League



Agencies

NEWCASTLE: Arsenal slumped to a 1-0 loss at Newcastle United for the second year in a row on Saturday to make it three straight Premier League games without a win for the Gunners.

Alexander Isak's early header was enough for Eddie Howe's team to end a five-game winless run in the league as the hosts easily neutralized Arsenal's struggling attack the rest of the way.

Newcastle was coming off a

morale-boosting win over Chelsea in the League Cup in mid-week and carried that momentum into the start of the game, as Isak found space in-between Arsenal centre-backs William Saliba and Gabriel to head home a pinpoint cross from Anthony Gordon in the 12th minute.

It was a big contrast from Newcastle's winning goal in the same fixture last season when Gordon bundled home a late winner that stood after a triple VAR check -- leaving Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta furious

and calling the decision "an absolute disgrace."

Arteta can have no complaints about this defeat, though, as Arsenal rarely threatened going forward and looked short of creativity in the absence of the injured Martin Odegaard.

Declan Rice had the team's best chance in the third minute of injury time but headed wide after a cross by Bukayo Saka.

The loss means Arsenal could find itself eight points behind leader Manchester City, which visits Bournemouth later.