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26 Killed At Pak Railway Station Blast

Agencies

Quetta — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a train station in restive southwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 26 people, including soldiers and railway staff, and wounding about 62 others, some critically, officials said.

The explosion on Saturday happened as nearly 100 passengers waited on a platform at about 8:45am local time (03:45 GMT) in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, for a train to Peshawar.

More than a dozen soldiers and six railway employees were among the dead at the station and 62 people were wounded, many of whom were in critical condition, said Wasim Baig, a Balochistan health department official.

Pakistan's largest and poorest province, resource-rich Balochistan, is home to separatist armed groups and has been a frequent target of deadly attacks. The province borders

Afghanistan and Iran.

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack, saying in a statement that a suicide bomber targeted troops present at the railway station.

The outlawed BLA has long sought an armed rebellion seeking independence from Islamabad. It is the biggest of several ethnic rebel groups battling the government, claiming it unfairly exploits the province's gas and mineral resources.

When asked about a security breach that led to the bombing, Shafiqat told reporters that "it is usually very difficult to stop such suicide attacks."

However, Shahid Nawaz, who is in charge of security at Quetta's train station, insisted there was no breach as the attacker was disguised as a passenger and blew himself up among people at the station.

TV footage showed the steel structure of the platform's roof blown apart | [More on P6](#)



India Slams Pak For UNMOGIP Remark

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: In a strong re-tort, India slammed Pakistan for peddling "falsehood" after it referred to Jammu and Kashmir during a debate on peacekeeping operations in the UN.

"India chooses its right to reply in response to the comments made by Pakistan that has yet again made an attempt to divert this

August body from its agenda," Member of the Rajya Sabha and National Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sudhanshu Trivedi said.

His remarks came during a debate on peacekeeping operations at the Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth Committee) of the UN General Assembly here Friday.

Trivedi asserted that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

India A Powerhouse Of Science, Spirituality: J&K LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: India has been a powerhouse of science and spirituality for thousands of years, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday as he reiterated the government's resolve to promote ancient Indian ideals and values.

Sinha, who was addressing the first Vedic conference, also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had rekindled a sense of self-respect in the country's 140 crore people.

The event, based on the theme "Vedon Mein Vigyan", was held at the Shri Ranbir Campus of Central Sanskrit University in Jammu.

The lieutenant governor also commended the endeavours of Vigyan Bharati, Central Sanskrit University and everyone



associated with the event.

Highlighting the significant scientific achievements of the Vedic period, Sinha said, "Our Vedas are the first and a complete scientific knowledge system of mankind, which has been inspiring learning traditions since ages."

"India has been a powerhouse

of science and spirituality for thousands of years. When the Vedas were composed, India was the centre of the world's economy, education, culture and philosophy. It was the engine of world civilisation and our country laid the foundation of socio-economic progress through science, mathematics, astronomy and medicine," he said.

Sinha claimed India was not only emerging as the new economic power of the world under Modi's leadership but also gaining the respect and glory "achieved by our ancestors thousands of years ago in the Vedic period."

He underscored the need to utilise the treasure of knowledge in science, mathematics, medicine, botany, arts and humanities to enrich the existing knowledge system and | [More on P6](#)

North Kashmir Sees 2nd Encounter In 24 Hrs



Terrorist Killed In Sopore Gunfight

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A terrorist was killed in a gunfight that broke out on Saturday evening between the security forces and terrorists

in the forest area of Rampura Rajpora in Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Officials said that an encounter broke out when joint teams of forces launched a search operation in the area.

"During a search operation, as the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot,

the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon them, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter," they said.

"Acting on a specific input regarding the presence of #terrorists in Rampura #Sopore area of #Baramulla, a joint anti-terrorist operation was launched | [More on P6](#)

6 THE AREA WAS SUBSEQUENTLY cleared of terrorism more than 15 years ago and the latest incident is a cause of concern for the villagers."

UT CM Sets Winter Preparedness In Motion Says 'Plans Announced, But Execution Crucial'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday reviewed the preparations for winter in the Kashmir and Jammu divisions of the Union Territory.

The review for the 2024-25 season was held at a meeting chaired by Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesperson said.

"Plans have been announced, but execution is now crucial. Our preparations will truly be tested with the first snowfall. The prolonged dry spell is already creating challenges of depleted water levels and reduced power generation due to a decrease in water flow," the chief minister said during the meeting.

"The credibility of the government rests on us. Once plans are announced, effective implementation becomes paramount," he said.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, and Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta. All



Secretaries, divisional commissioners, senior police and security officers, deputy commissioners, and BRO officers also attended the meeting.

Officers from Jammu and other district headquarters participated via video conference.

The Kashmir Divisional Commissioner gave a presentation on | [More on P6](#)

J&K Union Territory but a State. "We are clear on our stand for the restoration of statehood. We will continue to fight against the forces who downgraded J&K to a | [More on P6](#)

Don't Consider J&K As UT: Dy CM

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Saturday said that the National Conference (NC) is dedicated towards restoring Statehood to the region, saying that they don't consider

J&K Union Territory but a State. "We are clear on our stand for the restoration of statehood. We will continue to fight against the forces who downgraded J&K to a | [More on P6](#)

Art 370 Echoes In BJP's Maharashtra Poll Pitch

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the run-up to the Maharashtra elections, Article 370 has once again emerged as a rallying cry for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), portraying it as a testament to the party's commitment to national integrity.

Following a recently passed special status resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with top BJP leaders Amit Shah and Smriti Irani, has sharply criticised the Opposition for allegedly backing the return of the scrapped Article 370.

Modi launched a scathing attack on the Congress on Saturday for supporting a resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly calling for the restoration of Article 370, and said it reflects the party's disregard for the Constitution and its architect BR Ambedkar.

Addressing an election rally at Akola, Modi said, "Congress wants to push Jammu and Kashmir back into violence by restoring Article 370. Article

Class 1-9 Exams To Begin From Nov-25

School Edu Deptt Issues Uniform Date Sheet For Summative Assessment

Observer News Service

Srinagar: School Education Department Saturday issued a uniform date sheet for summative assessment from classes 1st Primary to 9th standard for all Schools.

The summative exams of these classes will commence from Nov-25 and will culminate December-12.

The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in an official communique said, "The question papers shall be set by the concerned and individual schools as per student evaluation and assessment scheme keeping in view the competencies, curricular goals and learning outcomes of the students as envisaged in holistic progress card."

"The Heads of the institutes (Hols) shall ensure all requisite arrangements are in place for the smooth conduct of the examinations," reads the official communique.

It also said that the Hols shall also ensure | [More on P6](#)



6 RAHUL GANDHI NOW RIDES MOTORCYCLE

IN KASHMIR & plays snowball with his sister because of the abrogation of Article 370- Amit Shah

370 will never be restored." Without naming Rahul Gandhi, Modi remarked that the Congress leader, who frequently brands the Constitution | [More on P6](#)

'Misusing Mumkin Scheme' Ex- Assistant Director Employment Booked By ACB

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Jammu and Kashmir lodged a case against a government official on Saturday for allegedly taking bribes from the representatives of a car dealership for recommending its vehicles.

The ACB verified the allegation that as the nodal officer under the Mumkin scheme for Kupwara and Bandipora districts, Shabnam Arif Mir, the then assistant director,

employment, demanded and accepted bribes from officials of the Himalayan Motors showroom at the Tenggpora bypass here for processing and recommending their vehicles under the scheme during 2021-2022, a spokesperson of the agency said.

"The verification has revealed that under the Mumkin scheme, the applications of eligible candidates were to be placed before the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) by the | [More on P6](#)

ED Files Complaint Against Gujarat Conman

The Enforcement Directorate Srinagar has filed a prosecution complaint against the Gujarat conman, who was arrested for posing as a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in March this year. In a post on X, ED Srinagar said that it filed a prosecution complaint | [More on P6](#)

Govt Seeks List Of School Land Donors Awaiting Compensation

Agencies

Srinagar: Following a short span of time of government formation, authorities have raised concerns over those families and individuals who have given their land for construction of schools but have not been given any appointment or compensation so far.

In this regard, Education Minister, Sakina Itoo has sought a list of such cases from the concerned authorities in a week's time.

The minister in a review meeting of the School Education Department asked the directors of school education of both Jammu and Kashmir regions to prepare a list of such cases.

Sakina in the meeting said, "It has come to my notice that some individuals or families

have given their land for construction of schools and neither their family members have been given appointment nor any kind of compensation has been provided to them."

In the meeting, it was advised that Directors of School Education in both Jammu and Kashmir regions shall prepare the lists of such cases and submit the same within one week positively.

Pertinently, in times of 7th pay commission wherein government employees enjoy the perks of 7th pay commission, thousands of Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) in school education departments are being paid a meager monthly salary—ranging from Rs 25 to 500.

The majority of the CPWs have provided the land to the school education department. Some CPWs | [More on P6](#)



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از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن
معاون: درخواست منجانب ظریف بیگم زوجہ بیہوش احمد راسول ساکنہ پانچ پورہ تحصیل پٹن براد
حصول لیگل ہیئر سرفیکٹیف بکن بیہوش احمد راسول
ایشیہار ہر خاص و عام
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکنہ ایک درواست بھڑا وصول لیگل ہیئر سرفیکٹیف ہیئر کی
ہے جو کہ بریکاروا کی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں
ہے کہ ساکنہ کا شوہر بیہوش احمد راسول مورخہ 23-10-2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متونی
کے پسماندگان بذیل ہے۔
ظریف بیگم 44 سال گھریلو کام
شمیرہ بنت بشیر 17 سال زیر تعلیم
اعظم ان بشیر 10 سال --
حفظہ بنت بشیر 13 سال --
علی محمد راسول 70 سال عمر سیدہ
شانی بیگم 65 سال والدہ
اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افرا کوئٹہ نہیں ہے سرفیکٹیف زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو
کوئی عزیار یا عزیار ہو تو وہ بعد شہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر نامہ لے کر پٹواری عزیاروں و دولت حذاکو
پٹواری اذقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں سے میجا کوئی عزیار یا عزیار قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Office of the Executive Magistrate
1st Class Narbal Budgam
Tele Fax 01951-260-276 Pin Code 193401
Notice For General Public
It is hereby notified that the applicant namely Ghulam
Mohammad Sheikh S/o Habib Sheikh R/o Aarath tehsil Narbal
District Budgam had applied for the issuance of Death Certifi-
cate of his father namely Habib Sheikh S/o Mohammad Sheikh
. The applicant intends to register the DOD of his Father as per
school record/vaccination card School Record as 06-12-2014
In this connection, if anybody having any objection
regarding the same he/she may contact office of the under-
signed within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall
be entertained.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Narbal
bmg
Dated: 09-11-2024

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect
of delayed Birth
Public Notice
The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/
Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file
pertaining to Birth of Tehsil Singpora District Baramulla with
verified date of event (birth) as 18-05-2022 occurred at SDH
Pattan
In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the
issuance of said registration may contact this office within
seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

NOTICE
I have changed my name from
(Old Name) Nadiya Zargar
to (New Name) Nadiya Khajwal
Zargar. In future I will be known
as (New name) Nadiya Khajwal
Zargar. If any body is having any
objection he/she may contact
Passport Office, Srinagar with
in 7 days. After 7 days no
objection will be accepted.
MEDIA LINE ADS

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Application of Sameera Rasool, Nelofar Rasool, Afroza Ra-
sool & Parveena Rasool Ds/o Gh Rasool Teli R/o Chanderseer
Tehsil Pattan Regarding Obtaining OBC Certificate
PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed through this notice that
the applicant file is currently under process in the office of
undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to
the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident
of village Chanderseer tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and
have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not
migrated from the said village the annual family income of
the applicant from all sources is Rs 84000/-. Family details of
the applicant are give below.
S.No Name Parentage Age Occupation
01 Gh Rasool Teli Gh Qadir Teli 60 Labour
02 Saja Begum W/o Gh 60 H/ work
Rasool Teli
03 Parveena Rasool D/o Gh Rasool 32 Student
Teli
04 Afroza Rasool -- 30 Student
05 Nelofar Rasool -- 27 --
06 Sameera Rasool D/o -- 25 --
In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/
she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the
date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will
be considered.
Naib Tehsildar
fko

GENERAL NOTICE
In my Son's School records my name has been wrongly written
as Ashraf Mohi-Din Lone which is incorrect. The actual name is
Ashraf Mohi-Ud-Din Lone. Hence correction is needed. In this
regard anybody having any objections may contact Principal
Morning Star Public School Hajin within 7 days from the date
of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be
entertained at all.
Ashraf Mohi-Ud-Din Lone
F/O. Tajamul Fazlie
R/O. Sadunara Sonawari Bpr. fko

Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries
Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
2nd floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar

Tender NOTICE No: 12-PEK of 2024-25 dated:08-11-2024
For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Cooperation
Limited, online tenders are invited from reputed contractors who are registered with CPWD/MES/PWD of
appropriate class in India.
Name of work Adv. Cost. Earnest money Class of contract Cost of tender document Time of completion Position of AA
Fencing to newly retrieved land at Industrial Estate Radbug Kupwara ₹40.55 lacs ₹ 0.811 lacs "A" & "B" Class civil 2000.00 30 days Accorded

Terms and Conditions:
1. The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 08-11-2024 (1200Hrs)
2. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 08-11-2024 (1200Hrs) onwards.
3. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 08-11-2024 1200Hrs upto 29-11-2024 (1630Hrs) only.
4. The uploaded Pre-Qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 30-11-2024 (1200Hrs). In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in pre-qualification bid, intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
5. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Bank Receipt with seal and signature of bank official in favor of Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir in Account No CC-0148020100001980, IFSC Code JAKAOKARRAN, J&K Bank Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of bank receipt should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir. (tender receiving authority) and EMD 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir.
6. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.
7. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect liability period (DLP) of the work.
8. The advertised cost shown above is inclusive of 9.5% SICOP service charges and other taxes as admissible.
9. Complete bidding process will be online (price bid not to be submitted in physical form).
DIPK-NB-2293/24 dated: 09-11-2024 Project Engineer SICOP Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER BUDGAM

Advertisement Notice: No- of 2024
Dated: - 11-2024
Subject: Re-Advertisement for Recruitment of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) in Anganwadi Centre of POSHAN Project Budgam. Pending against 2nd Phase due rectification of Panch Ward No.
Reference: 1. Government order No 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022
2. Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023
3 SMD/ICDS/Requirement/2022-23/6239-42 dated: - 21-02-2024.
4. CDPO/Poshan/Bud/2024/1388 dated 04-11-2014/
5. DPO/ICDS/Bud/2024/2296 dated 06-11-2024.
Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 for filling up of various vacancies of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centre of POSHAN Project Budgam, as per the details given below:

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Name of Project, Name of Post, No of Post. Row 1: 01, Poshan Project Budgam, Sahayika (Anganwadi Helper), 01. Total Posts: 01.

The rest of the eligibility conditions and terms and conditions remain the same as mentioned in references.
a) Date of commencement for submission of application 12-11-2024
b) Last date for submission of applications is 02-12-2024
c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
d) Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'S.No..... Format of Application
1. Name of POSHAN Project Budgam
2. Name of Anganwadi Centre
3. Post applied for
4. Name of the Candidate
5. Father's Name
6. Husband's Name
7. Residence
8. Ward No.
9. Address for correspondence
10. Contact No.
11. Date of Birth
12. Age as on 01.01.2024
13. Academic Qualification:
14. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)
15. Document Attached:
Signature of the Candidate
ANNEXURE 'B'
Detail of Vacant Posts Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper along with name and location of AWC.
Sr. No. NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE WARD NO. NAME OF POST NO. OF POSTS
01 Soibugh "B" 04 Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) 01

Eligibility:
A. Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers:-
1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
3. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
4. Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
5. In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
6. The committee shall select the most destitute/needly married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.
B. In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.
Document Verification
1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
a) Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
b) Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
c) Domicile Certificate.
d) Unmarried Certificate (where required)
2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
i) Aadhaar Card
ii) Voter ID card.
3) The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.
ANNEXURE C
All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:
1. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
2. The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi Helper.
Child Development Project Officer Budgam
No.: CDPO/Poshan/Bud/2024/Adv/ DIPK-7703/24 dated: 09-11-2024

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/70/2024-25 Dated:-08-11-2024

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 Additional Accommodation of Police Station Baramulla (Under Zero Terror Plan Phase-I) 516.73 10000.00 1033460/- 18 Months 23-11-2024 AAY
2. Construction of Additional Accommodation of Police Station D. H. Pora Kulgam (Under Zero Terror Plan Phase-I) 526.93 10000.00 1053860/- 18 Months 23-11-2024 AAY

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of TS = Sanctioned
Position of funds = Available
1. Date of Publish of Tender Notice 09-11-2024, 16.00 P.M
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents From 09-11-2024, 16.30 P.M to 22-11-2024, 4.00 P.M
3. Bid submission Start Date 12-11-2024 From 09.00 A.M
4. Bid Submission End Date 22-11-2024 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) 23-11-2024 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

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:
Note:- 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 MHA (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 L1 must be submitted to the Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5 days after opening of price bid.
Sd/- (Er. Neeraj Gupta) Executive Engineer
PCD PHQ J&K Jmu/Sgr. No: -PCD/PHQ/2024-25/5154-61 DIPK-7694/24 Dated: 09-11-2024

"Urdu Journalism's Legacy & Future Discussed At World Urdu Day Event

Agencies

Srinagar: The Anjuman Urdu Sahafat organized a significant event at Tagore Hall today, marking World Urdu Day.

The event focused on the current state of Urdu journalism, its opportunities, and the challenges it faces.

During the ceremony, Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Manzoor Anjum, Editor of Daily Uqab, and Abdul Rashid Shah, Editor-in-Chief of Daily Nida-e-Mashri, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Urdu journalism.

Additionally, Shamim Ahmad Shamim Award was presented to Mohammad Shafi Samanani, founder Editor-in-Chief of Daily. The event also honored late stalwarts of Urdu journalism, including the founder-editor of weekly Rahbar, Late. Ghulam Mohiuddin Rahbar and the founding editor of Daily Roshni, Aziz Kashmiri, who were recognized with posthumous awards for their immense contribution to the field.

Furthermore, Dr. Ruhi Jan, an academic scholar in Urdu journalism, was also honored with an award for her scholarly contributions.

The ceremony was attended by several prominent personalities from the media and political spheres, including former Minister Naeem Akhtar, Anjuman Urdu Sahafat's patron Hamid Hamid, Javaid Azar of Kashmir Uzma, Mohammad Aslam Bhat of Kashmir News Service, Haroon Rashid of Nida-e-Mashriq,

Zahoor Ahmed Shoria of Roznama Roshni, Rashid Rahil of Asian Mail, Haroon Reshi, Tariq Bhat of The Vivek, Majid Jahangir of BBC Hindi Service, Qurat-ul-Ain, Hawa Basheer, Professor Muslim Jan, Javaid Matji of Urdu Council, Professor Hamida Naeem, Anjuman's Jammu Provincial President Jeahangir Khan, Kashmir Provincial President Raja Irshad, and Chief Coordinator Firdous Rehman.

The event was hosted by Showket Sahil and Nazim Nazir. The chief guest, BBC correspondent Riyaz Masroor, in his address, emphasized the growing involvement of Urdu journalists in digital media over the past few years, which he described as a positive development.

He pointed out that although the number of journalists in print media is declining, the production of content and interest in Urdu journalism on digital platforms continues to thrive. Kashmir Life's Editor-in-Chief, Masood Hussain, emphasized the professional responsibility of journalists, urging the need for better training and skill development for new journalists to improve the standards of Urdu journalism.

Professor Nasir Mirza, speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of promoting the Urdu language, calling it a vast and rich language that requires serious efforts for its development.



SMC Ignoring Illegal Constructions: Ex-Deputy Mayor

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Former Deputy Mayor Sheikh Imran has accused some officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) of turning a blind eye towards illegal constructions in Srinagar city. Imran took to social networking site 'X' formerly twitter to voice his anger. "Welcome to Srinagar where illegal construction sites are busier than a politician's wallet after elections — back in action with a grand comeback. The election recovery scheme

is thriving brick by brick with politicians and officials sharing & caring like besties. Wah, kya teamwork hai!" he tweeted.

"In Khawajabazar-Nowhatta a building with some 'extra toppings' gets a green light from SMC's enforcement wing — courtesy of a JKNC leader's election recovery drive. Deviations galore: residential turned commercial - norms thrown out the window. Surprise - Even R&B officials are acting like they've taken a vow of silence due to kharcha Pani. ACB: Complaint

registered. SMC: Arrey bhai, pehle chai, phir complaint." The tweet added.

Imran also accused the enforcement officer of allowing the illegal construction. "Heard the recording where an enforcement officer is telling juniors: 'Top se order hai, bas allow karna hai.'"

Former Mayor Srinagar Junaid Azim Mattu retweeted his tweet. In a bid to take an official version, Kashmir Observer tried to reach SMC Commissioner Dr Owais Ahmed, however, he did not respond to repeated calls.

Woman Held With Heroin In City Outskirts

Agencies

Srinagar: As part of efforts to curb the drug menace in Srinagar city, police on Saturday arrested a 27-year-old woman between Gangbough and Khumani Chowk, while carrying about 3.65 grams of heroin, officials said.

An official said that acting

on specific intelligence, the police from Tengpora—Batamalo intercepted a 27-year-old woman in the Bund area between Gangbough and Khumani Chowk.

He said that during the search, they recovered 3.65 grams of heroin from her possession. "Investigations have been initiated, and further actions as per legal proceedings have been taken up," he said—(KNO)

DC Reviews Functioning Of Health Sector

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Saturday chaired a meeting of senior health functionaries here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex in order to review the health sector of the District to ensure better healthcare facilities to the patients.

At the outset, the Deputy

Commissioner took a detailed review of achievements under Health Sector Schemes, functioning of health Institutions, infrastructure upgradation and the healthcare facilities being extended to patients.

The DC also took the first hand appraisal about the City Hospitals from respective Medical Superintendents with respect to the healthcare facilities being extended to the patients and works being

executed for infrastructure upgradation and procurement of machinery.

The DC asked the Medical Superintendents of SMHS, Lal Ded, Bone & Joint, JLN, Children Hospital Bemina, Chest Disease Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital to submit detailed issues so that necessary interventions are taken to resolve the issues at the earliest to further strengthen the patient care system in the District.

FSD Conducts Milk Quality Drive In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Food Safety Department (FDA), Drug and Food Control Organization, conducted a surprise milk quality drive in Srinagar city on Saturday.

As per a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the operation, carried out by Food Safety Officer (FSO) Zone I, Zone II and Zone IV aimed to inspect the quality of loose milk supplied in the city.

28 legal samples of loose milk collected for analysis, it said, adding that the drive focused on ensuring compliance with food safety standards. Intensified inspections to continue in Srinagar city in coming days.

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Zonal Office, Srinagar

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8(1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 16.02.2023 thereby calling upon the borrower namely M/S Al Kabir Fleshy Food Centre Prop. Mr. Feroz Ahmad Charloo S/o: Kh. Ali Mohammad Charloo R/o: Qaziya Zainakadal Srinagar presently residing at Shahi Hamdan Lane House No 99 behind Noora Hospital HMT Srinagar to repay an amount of Rs 84,01,000/- (Rupees Eighty Four Lac One Thousand Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.01.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general, that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 5th day of November of the year 2024.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Ltd for the in aggregating to Rs. 92,29,765.88 (Rupees Ninety Two Lac Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Five and paise Eighty Eight Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Mortgage of leasehold rights of land measuring 12 Marlas allotted in favour of the party by SIDCO / DIC Srinagar along with Civil Structures constructed thereupon situated in Industrial Estate Khonmoh Srinagar.

DATE : 05.11.2024

PLACE : Khonmoh

Bilal Ahmad Wani
Authorised Officer

Govt of Jammu & Kashmir
SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE/HOSPITAL
BEMINA, SRINAGAR 0194-2493226 Department of Materials Management

Sub: -Extension of e-tender for procurement of Mannequins for the department of Pharmacology, SKIMS MCH Bemina.

Ref:
1. SKIMS MCH 09 Tender of 2024 dated: 22/10/2024.

E-tenders for procurement of Mannequins for the department of Pharmacology, SKIMS MCH Bemina, invited vide above referred NleT No., is hereby extended up to 19/11/2024 as per following schedule.

1. The last date for depositing the bids in electronic format on website www.iktenders.gov.in 19/11/2024 upto 02:00 P.M.

2. The date of opening of e-tenders will be on 21/11/2024 at 3:00 PM.
3. Other terms and conditions of the NleT shall remain unchanged.

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/24/ 24/3430-35
DIPK-NB-2301/24
Dated: 09/11/2024

Materials Management Officer
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

- 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
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 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
07 Jumada al-Awwal
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 32
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 54
Magrib	5:34
ISHA	6: 56

This Day In History

- 1938 - Nobel for literature awarded to Pearl Buck (Good Earth)
- 1945 - Heavy battle in Surabaya between Indonesian nationalists and returning colonialists after World War II, celebrated as Heroes' Day (Hari Pahlawan).
- 1950 - Nobel for literature awarded to William Faulkner
- 1970 - Luna 17, with unmanned self-propelled Lunokhod 1, is launched
- 1975 - PLO leader Yasser Arafat addresses UN in NYC
- 1975 - UN General Assembly approves resolution equating Zionism with racism
- 1978- Israel's top negotiators broke away from Middle East peace talks
- 1979 - Train derailment in Mississauga, Ontario; a 106 car train derails causing the evacuation of 200,000 people
- 1980 - Iraq captures southern port of Khorramshahr
- 1982 - IMF lends Mexico \$3.8 billion due to threatened bankruptcy
- 1982 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened
- 1986 - Bangladeshi Constitution restored
- 1989 - Germans begin demolishing the Berlin Wall
- 1993 Slovakian government of Vladimir Meiar forms
- 1995 - In Nigeria, playwright and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa along with eight others from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) are hanged by government forces
- 1996 - 46th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Terry Labonte wins
- 2001 - An agreement is reached at talks in Marrakech, Morocco, on rules for implementation of the Kyoto climate change treaty
- 2006 - Sri Lankan Tamil Parliamentarian Nadarajah Raviraj assassinated in Colombo.
- 2012 - 20 Syrian troops are killed by suicide bombings in Daara
- 2012 - 27 people are killed and dozens injured in a prison conflict in Colombo, Sri Lanka

From KO Archives

US Hostage's Wife Wants Write-Ups Back

Srinagar- The wife of an American hostage missing in Kashmir for more than five years has issued an emotional appeal for the return of draft articles he wrote for foreign journals.

"If I never see my husband again, at least to have something he wrote would be of comfort to me Jane Schelly said in a letter sent to media offices in the Kashmir summer capital.

Schelly is the wife of Donald Hutchings, who was abducted along with five other foreigners in Kashmir in July 1995.

One of the hostages escaped, one was beheaded and the other four—including Hutchings remain missing, presumed dead.

Schelly said Hutchings used to write for some journals, and the rough articles were with him when he was kidnapped.

"Some of the pages of that written material might exist somewhere, left in some hut or home, passed to the side and forgotten, she said, appealing to anyone who might have found the papers to send them to her.

Hutchings would have been 48 on November 12, and Schelly said the return of his writings would comprise the perfect birthday gift.

"I have done my utmost to find out what has happened to him... There is no conclusive answer," she wrote. If I have no closure to this sad situation...only the assumption that my husband and three westerners were most likely killed. (AFP)

(Kashmir Observer, November 10, 2000)

Trump's Triumph and the 'Message' It Holds for US and Beyond

Haider Abbas

The Republican Donald John Trump has been elected as the 47th President of the US, in the most eagerly awaited results. He has drubbed Democrat Kamala Harris. His triumph has stomped his commitment against the 'corrupt establishment' which he had 'called for' as the last chance to defeat. The 'establishment' is of course, the Central Investigation Agency (CIA), US secret-services, US military industrial complex, Pentagon command and media. The vote has been cast. The countdown is now set to begin. But, how the things would unfold, make me reflect to an article I did write in November 2020 in CounterView, as to how Trump wanted to cleanse the 'establishment' but could not and the darling of 'establishment', the outgoing Joseph Biden, self professed Zionist and the biggest war monger ever, won over to run havoc on the whole world, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine, in the last four years.

I feel tempted to quote from my previous copy. Trump had to relinquish the power then but "it was on November 10, 2020, when he had 'fired defense secretary Mark Esper shortly after as he (Esper) had sent a classified-memo to the White House on Afghanistan, in which he had expressed 'concern' towards the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan. Esper was toeing Biden's line, as against Trump, who had announced that US troop s(w)ould return by Christmas. It won't be a surprise if Trump next in the 'fireline' would be the CIA director, the FBI chief, and the Pentagon command. The tussle throws 'wide-open' the US establishment into deep clash with Trump."

This clash which could not begin then, is set to make a new kickstart.

It would also be interesting to know that then in the wake of China and Pakistan gearing-up tensions with India, India and US had signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). The signatory from the US side, ironically, was Mark Esper.

This tussle which got delayed by four years is now set to be open! The insult Trump had swallowed then as 'immediately after Esper was fired, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley had made clear his dedication to the 'constitution' and not to any dictator, tyrant, king or a queen. Milley has not endorsed Trump's plan to fully withdraw from Afghanistan. He wanted a 'conditions-based' withdrawal-his condition being 'unless peace prevails'. Indeed, Milley was singing to the tune of Biden' but the US despite all that had to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Thereafter, came the tenure of Biden which only brought new wars to Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Iran through US devoted and blatant support to Israel and likewise to Ukraine too. Unbridled US military and money, worth billions and billions of US dollars, have been funneled to Ukraine and Israel during Biden's tenure. Trump was never to forget about how he was forced to abdicate the power then, and had not had then tweeted



Feature image credits: Ahmad Gharabli/AFP/Getty Images via New Yorker

to take to streets, despite the fact that Trump supporters had come unmasked to vote, even after Corona crisis, while Biden supporters had voted from home, or else US streets were to have been littered by riots on the lines when George Floyd episode had taken place. Trump's polity then as well as now is that he was not to start any new war and also bring forces back to the US.

Now it is 2024. From all the seven swing states, Arabs, Muslims and Indians voted in absolute large numbers to give an unassailable victory to Trump, solely on the issue to shut down the wars. Even the Simpson's cartoon, a tool of predictive programming of US establishment, in which it was shown Kamala Harris with the same dress and necklace to don as President (in the year 2000) did not help, and eventually the 'establishment' is now to 'eat the humble pie', its blue-eyed protégé Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, was the first to call-up Trump and thereby, to also seek Trump's support for Israel. Trump will never forget as to how Netanyahu, had not waited for a second to congratulate Biden, back in 2020, which had triggered Trump to f**k him for his disloyalty, had reported Axios in 2021. Therefore, why would Trump turn a blind eye to Netanyahu now, more particularly, when 76% US Jews, according to Times of Israel, have voted for Harris! On the contrary, it is also now a daylight fact, that the Lebanese billionaire Massad Boulos, whose son, has married Trump's youngest daughter, in 2022, is the key figure to align all the Arab-Americans to come to the rescue of Trump.

Trump is set to take his oath on January 20,

2025, the 'inauguration day', but the lines to be followed have been clearly laid down. The heat to surmount the 'establishment' has begun as an inquiry is already underway to nail the faces-behind, which were involved in his July 14 murderous assault. He is now very likely to declassify the files pertaining the killing of JFK Kennedy (1963), by setting up a new Presidential commission, and who knows an Israeli or a CIA hand may tumble out of the closet? A huge political storm is now set to hit US polity. Moreover, Elon Musk, the owner of X, previously twitter, had been by the side of Trump throughout. He has conveyed that soon, the 'client-list and data' of the sex-scandal of Jeffery Epstein (2019), which had been swept under the carpet, is to be made public. Another scandal which is to rock the US political atmosphere even more is that of the rapper Sean Diddy, currently in jail, accused of kidnapping, drugging and coercing women into sexual activities. His list of clients is also to be set-out, thus, a fire is what all to beset in the US.

A new wave is now supposedly to hold sway in the US. Will Trump be able to achieve it? Or to which extent? Is he going to end up with the fate of JFK? Time will tell. Yet, it is clear that never has a President taken the 'establishment' by the horns.

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

The writer is a former UP State Information Commissioner and writes on international issues

Is Manning Up Enough For Womxn?

Sabzara Ali

If you are a woman looking forward to pursuing a traditionally male-dominated profession, this simple strategy can increase your chances of being hired: Man Up. According to a recent study by Michigan State University, using male language to describe themselves in the application process can make women appear more suited for typically masculine jobs.

The patriarchal standards of masculinity have shaped the men's language to a great extent.

Traditionally, men speak in a forceful, abstract, and authoritative way. Men, for example, are more likely to use direct imperatives such as, "Get it done". Women, on the other hand, tend to use a tentative, indirect, and communal speech, relying on collaborative directives such as "let's do it". Since men have dominated the workplace for a long time, masculine styles have now become the gold standard for communicating in professional spaces. As a result, women who use feminine language in the workplace are often seen as less competent. So, to be recognised at the workplace, women are often advised to switch to more "forceful language", or to "man up."

However, the question remains: does Manning Up actually fix all of the issues that women face in the workplace because of their unique speaking styles? In reality, no, because these masculine styles contradict the characteristics of socially acceptable feminine speech. Thus, utilizing these styles diminishes women's likeability in the workplace, which inturn can limit women's professional advancement chances.

When women begin speaking like men, they have to face the social backlash for violating gender norms. Traditionally, men are expected to be "hardcore" and "tough" and women are expected to be "sensitive" and "soft spoken." When women break these norms and switch to a more masculine style of speech, society usually dislikes them because these styles make them appear less feminine, and therefore, less of a woman. The Psychologist Linda



Carli's experiment provides evidence for this. In her experiment, she found that women who spoke assertively were seen as more competent and knowledgeable by the audiences, but they were less likable to both men and women.

The potential downside of appearing less likable might outweigh the benefits of coming across as more competent through the use of masculine language. This could particularly place women at a disadvantage in hiring processes. This is because women using masculine styles like assertiveness are often perceived as "bossy," "rude," and dismissive of others' perspectives. This inturn diminishes their perceived suitability for the workplace. In a meta analysis of dozens of studies, it was found that women who assert their ideas and advocate for themselves are often viewed as less hireable by managers. Although they are seen as equally competent, they are liked less than men who engage in the exact same behaviors.

Further, use of masculine language can attract

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negative feedback from the employers. Ultimately, this can make it harder for women to advance in their careers. It happens because women are evaluated more on their interpersonal traits such as likeability than on their actual skills. Therefore, it becomes important for women to care about how they sound.

By telling women to change their speech, we are reinforcing the notion that women's speech is intrinsically flawed. This can make women feel that they are unfit for jobs traditionally held by men, which, in turn, can prevent them from considering these jobs. Psychologist Tanja Hentschel found that when employers use stereotypically masculine language in job ads, female candidates view these jobs as unwelcoming. They don't apply as often and expect lower chances of success.

Women contribute in workplaces all over the world. As such, the work force carries a responsibility to make changes in their working culture to ensure that women are not discriminated against because of their distinct speech styles. Workplaces should be open to different communication styles. Managers should be trained to recognize unconscious biases in professional language. Clear criteria for evaluating candidates should prioritize performance—not personality or communication style. And if communication metrics are necessary, these should focus on results. Recruiting ads should also use and be checked for gender-neutral language to encourage women to apply for these positions.

We're all entitled to express ourselves how we want, and especially through language. However, why do workplaces expect women to make compromises because of the sexism in so-called professional language. Rather than "manning up," I think it's time for the professional world to try womaning it up instead.

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

The author is a sophomore at Smith College

Downtown Kot Laments

Coffee Shops, Asses, Classes and Fake Westernization in Kashmir

Wajahat Qazi

While I am neither a sociologist nor an anthropologist, but a curious people watcher with a passing (non-theoretical) interest in sociology, I must profess Kashmir presents a fascinating portrait of the intersection of cultural change(s), class(es) and their orientation and globalization and sameness. The picture that emerges is as complex as it is a crude caricature. It is complex because it suggests a Kashmir in the melee and vortex of a zigzagged, crass modernity (that is actually somewhat at odds with modernity itself); it is a caricature because its fundamental premise is mimicry. In terms of a simplified 'reality', we can call it the 'instagram effect' – persons of a certain age cohort take a cue from Instagram trends and then transform their 'lived reality' on the same pattern or form.

But this aped and mimicked reality is at odds with their actual 'lived reality' that is determined and shaped by the contextual setting of Kashmir; it is still very much a traditional, religiously informed family-oriented society. So while Kashmiri yuppies (they are not very successful though by the metrics of money and purchasing power thereof) may get a wee thrill and kick in a simulated 'reality', he or she has to return to the actual reality of Kashmir. This is best reflected in a coffee shop scene and ambiance of Kashmir. A Kashmiri coffee shop will my starting point to delineate the theme of this essay.

A hypothetical may help illustrate the point here.

Enter a snazzy café with a fancy sounding western name. Western music- either the soft or hard variety- will be playing in the background. Waiting staff (mostly from rural areas of Kashmir) will either greet you or they won't. The greeting will be western. If there will be a smattering of customers in the given café, they will be either morose, asocial or passive aggressive. They will pretend not to notice you- as if you're invisible but they will start judging and checking you out in the crassest way. All will be very well dressed- mostly western attire. Some women's hair will be streaked (blonde), others will be defined by latest and trendy haircuts. The guys will have a certain swag-



ger to and about them suggesting confidence (but actually a poor sense of self inflated by a café ambiance). The language spoken between couples and assorted customers will be either a mish mash of Urdu and English or badly spoken English (to me). Barring outliers, our own language Kashmiri will not be spoken in a café. If the waiting staff will not attend a person, he or she will say, 'excuse me', check out the menu or order her or his preference, say for a café latte, or a cappuccino, or a pizza- without actually being a connoisseur of any of these. They will then eat, perfunctorily, suggesting that they are not savoring the food but doing their best to maintain a front or façade of – whether they know it or not- a western experience. The fakeness of this 'experience' cannot be more eloquent than this. Some people will stare rudely; others will be hacking away at their laptops, while others will be people watching and sulking or gawking as the case may be.

Now the moment our Kashmiri coffee shop yuppie or assorted customers will leave the café, smug in his or her brief encounter with a fake western ambiance, he or she will encounter real Kashmir. This will be an urban setting defined by heavy, crazy and crazed traffic, hollering, traffic snarls, clogged roads and so on. He or she will either go to work again overlaid by a Kashmiri ingress and finally home where dad or mum will glower and growl: 'Katio /ka-tee aesekh. Yoot xeer cha garre yivaan: where have you been? You can't come home at this ungodly hour)- even though the



BY ALL MEANS, WEAR RAYBAN SUNGLASSES OR MERRELL SHOES BUT BE SURE TO WEAR THE KASHMIRI PHERAN AND SPEAK your language in a way that would make our greats like Soche Kraal sahib, Rasool Mir Sahib and Mahmud Gaemi sahib proud. It is here – not in fake settings of coffee shops with fake demeanours and fake accents -where respect, dignity and pride lies

time may be 6 pm.

A word about the class characteristics and features of our café going yuppies is called for here: these mostly constitute the 'upper' educated classes of Kashmir. Their exposure to the world and understanding mostly comes from some education and some work experience in Delhi or Bangalore and above all from the internet- social media like Instagram, Facebook, chatrooms and twitter. It is then a mediated experience; not an organic or a real one- an experience that is a mish mash of the rest and the west, is more image than substance, and one which crafts not a synthesis between the East and the East

but a transmogrified corrupted self. It may, on the face of it, look or seem western but in real terms it is far from in. (I am NOT rooting or supporting a western defined and orientated self here. Far from it actually. Each and every culture in the world is unique and has something to offer. Each of us while not denigrating and demeaning other cultures and traditions must respect our own one too. This is where self-respect lies). This is the story, self-narrative and self-concept- a mangled, distorted an inorganic one- of our elite educated 'upper' classes. It's all in a Kashmiri coffee shop that it can be seen and observed.

What about the 'others'?

I can only speak with reasonable confidence about MY downtown Srinagar- where I am from. (I have since a while shifted to suburbia – unfortunately). Downtown Srinagar used to be a place characterized by deep social capital where everyone knew everyone and where everyone cared for everyone. To be sure, there were different economic and social classes in Kashmir but all in all it was a large family. This downtown, unfortunately, is dissipating and disappearing, owing to structural and social changes, trends like periurbanization, the dissipation of the joint family, the breakdown of the extended family, some degree of economic mobility and so on. But despite this downtown retains some of its character – spontaneous sociability, care for and of others, and overall empathy in varying degrees. Downtown Srinagar is perhaps the only urban space in the world that is safe and warm against a baseline comparison of downtowns across the world. Downtown Srinagar is a space where a woman can, bedecked with jewelry, walk alone at midnight without fear of assault, robbery or unsavory attacks. Downtown Srinagar is still a space where people know each other and care for each other, to a large extent. It is also a raw space where fake sensibility and fake culture does not exist. It, to some extent, retains its organic nature. It is a space where after spending time in New York, London or Australia, I feel real, and authentic. It is a space where I connect, where I relate and where I am ME. The snaking alleys of Downtown, the cramped spaces of human habitation, the smells and sounds of downtown Srinagar, the rawness of its denizens, their love, their arguments overlaid by the architecture of the space – the Great Grand Mosque and the Khanqah a Mualla which are spiritual retreats are spaces where I am in my element.

But there is a peril that awaits downtown and that peril emanates from the fake Westernization of our elite educated classes. It is these classes that set the tone for society. Overlaid by the Instagram effect, the titillation and immediate fake and illusory gratification by the internet, aped by our elite classes, this fake westernization can percolate to

OUR downtown, MY downtown. This will not merely dilute its character but destroy its character and nature. If this happens it will be the saddest day of my life. How, the question is, can our downtown which emblemizes our essence be protected from depredations and assaults?

Ultimately, it depends on us. We have to take stock of ourselves by becoming real and not indulging in crude and fake mimicry. This is not to suggest that aspects of western modernity be entirely rejected. No. Not at all. There are some noteworthy aspects of the west that are real and substantive, where our (Eastern) and their values mesh: truth telling, honesty and integrity. (These are, by and large, relative. No human society is perfect; values are reified practically in varying degrees of intensity). But the west has its own culture and we (as Easterners) have our own. We cannot and must not become western clones. Plus the images of the west that are beamed into our living rooms and smart phones, these are just that: images and a mirage. By all means, we must go to the West, understand its wellsprings and nature if only to understand ourselves. This is the path to real and substantive dialogue between us and the West – a dialogue informed and defined by who we are, and by who they are informed by a respectful, dignified idiom, where difference and diversity are the operative dynamics. It is then a Kashmiri man or woman, for example, can be home both in New York City's Manhattan area and downtown Safaa Kadal or Maharaj Gunj. This is where real confidence and authenticity. By all means, wear Rayban sunglasses or Merrell shoes but be sure to wear the Kashmiri pheran and speak your language in a way that would make our greats like Soche Kraal sahib, Rasool Mir Sahib and Mahmud Gaemi sahib proud. It is here – not in fake settings of coffee shops with fake demeanours and fake accents -where respect, dignity and pride lies. The rest is hogwash!

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Tribute to Shri Ratan Tata

Shri Narendra Modi

It has been a month since Shri Ratan Tata Ji left us. From bustling cities and towns to villages, his absence is deeply felt across every segment of society. Seasoned industrialists, budding entrepreneurs and hardworking professionals mourn his loss. Those passionate about the environment and devoted to philanthropy are equally saddened. His absence has been deeply felt not only across the nation but also around the world.

For the youth, Shri Ratan Tata was an inspiration, a reminder that dreams are worth pursuing and that success can coexist with compassion as well as humility. For others, he represented the finest traditions of Indian enterprise and a steadfast commitment to the values of integrity, excellence and service. Under his leadership, the Tata Group ascended to new heights, embodying respect, honesty and credibility worldwide. Despite this, he wore his achievements lightly, with humility and kindness.

Shri Ratan Tata's unwavering support for the dreams of others was one of his most defining qualities. In recent years, he became known for mentoring

India's StartUp ecosystem, investing in many promising ventures. He understood the hopes and aspirations of young entrepreneurs and recognised the potential they had to shape India's future. By backing their efforts, he empowered a generation of dreamers to take bold risks and push boundaries. This has gone a long way in creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, which I am confident will continue to positively impact India for decades to come.

He constantly championed excellence, urging Indian enterprises to set global benchmarks. This vision, I hope, will inspire our future leaders to make India synonymous with world-class quality.

His greatness was not restricted to the boardroom or helping fellow humans. His compassion extended to all living beings. His deep love for animals was well-known and he supported every possible effort focused on animal welfare. He often shared photos of his dogs, who were as much a part of his life as any business venture. His life was a reminder to us all that true leadership is measured not just by one's achievements, but by one's ability to care for the most vulner-



able.

For crores of Indians, Shri Ratan Tata's patriotism shone brightest in times of crisis. His swift reopening of the iconic Taj

Hotel in Mumbai after the 26/11 terror attacks was a rallying call to the nation—India stands united, refusing to yield to terrorism. On a personal note, I had

the privilege of knowing him very closely over the years. We worked closely in Gujarat, where he invested extensively, including in many of the projects he was very passionate about. Just a few weeks ago, I was in Vadodara with the President of the Government of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sánchez and we jointly inaugurated an aircraft complex where C-295 aircrafts would be made in India. It was Shri Ratan Tata who started working on this. Needless to say, Shri Ratan Tata's presence was greatly missed.

I remember Shri Ratan Tata Ji as a man of letters—he would frequently write to me on various issues, be it matters of governance, expressing appreciation for government support, or sending congratulatory wishes after electoral victories.

Our close interactions continued when I moved to the Centre and he remained a committed partner in our nation-building efforts. Shri Ratan Tata's support for the Swachh Bharat Mission was particularly close to my heart. He was a vocal advocate of this mass movement, understanding that cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation are vital for India's progress. I still remember his heartfelt video message

for the Swachh Bharat Mission's tenth anniversary at the start of October. It was among his final public appearances.

Another cause close to his heart was healthcare and especially the fight against cancer. I recall the programme in Assam two years ago, where we had jointly inaugurated various cancer hospitals in the state. In his remarks that time, he had categorically stated that he wishes to dedicate his final years to healthcare. His efforts to make health and cancer care accessible and affordable were rooted in a profound empathy for those battling diseases, believing that a just society was one that stood by its most vulnerable.

As we remember him today, we are reminded of the society he envisioned—where business can serve as a force for good, where every individual's potential is valued and where progress is measured in the well-being and happiness of all. He remains alive in the lives he touched and the dreams he nurtured. Generations will be grateful to him for making India a better, kinder and more hopeful place.

The author is the Prime Minister of India

