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**BOOK APPOINTMENT**



**66**  
**ACCORDING TO A STUDY, 75 PERCENT**  
 of the diet of bears in the area comprised human-made garbage dumps including plastic and organic food waste."

## Tourism Threatens Himalayan Brown Bear Habitat In Kashmir: JKPCC

Press Trust Of India

The National Green Tribunal has been informed that tourism activities and tunneling projects in Kashmir's Sonamarg have negatively impacted the habitat of the Himalayan brown bear. Earlier, while hearing the issue of the depleting

habitat of the Himalayan brown bear because of several reasons, including the unplanned disposal and treatment of waste in the Sonamarg region, the tribunal sought a response from the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC). The tribunal had noted that according to a study,

75 percent of the diet of bears in the area comprised human-made garbage dumps including plastic and organic food waste. In its reply dated November 11, the JKPCC said it had directed the regional director of the pollution control committee in Kashmir to submit a comprehensive report.

Pursuant to its directions, the committee formed a panel to find the status of tourism and its impact on brown bear habitat, besides assessing the quantification and disposal of the food waste in the area, the reply said. The panel's report, which was annexed to the reply, said | [More on P6](#)

## Light Snowfall Likely From Nov 14: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Light intermittent snowfall continued in some of the higher reaches of Kashmir, resulting in the closure of vital routes in the upper areas of the valley, officials said on Tuesday.

The season's first snowfall in Kashmir, which began on Monday, continued at many places during the night, the officials said.

They said reports of snowfall were received from upper areas of Gulmarg and Sonamarg tourist resorts.

Parts of Kupwara and Bandipora districts also witnessed snowfall.

The snowfall led to the temporary closure of Srinagar-Leh national highway and other vital routes in the higher reaches of the valley, the officials said.

Authorities, including the Border Roads Organisation, pressed their men and machinery into service to clear the snow this morning, they said.

The officials said while the Srinagar-Leh highway was cleared for traffic, Mughal Road, the alternate route connecting the Kashmir valley with Jammu region, and Sinthan Top, which connects Bandipora with the frontier Gurez sector, were closed for traffic due to accumulation of snow.

The Meteorological Department has forecast generally dry weather till November 13.

From November 14-15, there is a possibility of light rain/light snow, especially in the higher reaches, at many places of Kashmir and few places of Jammu Division, while on | [More on P6](#)

## Drug Trade Goes High-Tech

# Peddlers Turn To Drones In Kashmir

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The arrest of a 20-year-old student for drug peddling has exposed a sophisticated operation that involved the use of drones and encrypted messaging apps to evade law enforcement.

The young man, who was caught with a significant quantity of illegal opioids and a high-end drone, had been under surveillance for some time. However, his clever use of technology made it difficult for authorities to gather concrete evidence, ETV Bharat reported.

"We could not find how he was dis-

pening drugs to people. It was very challenging to catch him. But some time ago, we learned his supplies dried up. During those days, we tirelessly made a breakthrough and got to know about the arrival of a drug consignment for him from Delhi," a senior official said.

The consignment, which he arranged through encrypted messages, was part of a larger network involving suppliers in Delhi, with payments transferred via digital means to remove transaction trails. Authorities were shocked to discover the extent of his technology use, particularly a high-end DJI drone equipped with a camera capable of providing

aerial views of his neighbourhood. This drone was used to monitor his clients' movements and ensure no police were nearby before he completed transactions. A second toy drone was also found in his possession, likely used for less intense surveillance.

"He had two drones including a toy drone and a DJI drone with a good camera resolution costing above Rs one lakh to get the aerial view of the neighbourhood. The drone was seized alongside 140 bottles of codeine phosphate and a cash of Rs 38,530, perhaps proceeds of the narcotics," ETV Bharat

reported the official saying, who added that his challenging to two associates, hailing from Athwajan and Safa Kadal in Srinagar, were also caught by the Srinagar Police and booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS).

Till now, drones were mainly deployed for smuggling of drugs and ammunition from Pakistan to India via Punjab or Jammu borders. Border Security forces reportedly seized 200 drones at the Punjab border mostly with drug consignments, a departure from previous practice of involving pipes placed across the border or items flung over the fence.

Notably, drones have emerged as a new tool in the arsenal of | [More on P6](#)



A group of young women enjoy a leisurely stroll through the golden Chinar Bagh in Srinagar. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

## TRC GRENADE ATTACK

# Mother Of 3 Succumbs To Injuries

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A narrow, dimly lit lane leads to the modest home of Abida, lovingly called Sumaiya by her family, in the Naidkhai area of Sumbal, Bandipora district. The air is heavy with grief; every eye brims with tears, and hearts ache deeply.

What moves everyone to tears even more are Abida's three young children—a six-year-old daughter, Aubihyah Zubair; seven-year-old older son, Zuhair Zubair; and the youngest, a five-year-old boy, Mohammad Hafi.

On November 3, Abida visited Srinagar's weekly Sunday



market to buy winter clothes for her children, unaware that it would be her last outing. She was gravely injured in a grenade explosion and succumbed to her wounds at SMHS hospital Tuesday afternoon. | [More on P6](#)

## Encounter Underway in Bandipora Village

An anti-terrorist operation is underway in the Nagmarg area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district, after terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on security forces, following a search operation on Tuesday. The gunfight marks 7th in Kashmir valley in the past few days, with 8 terrorists killed in six encounters, ranging from Srinagar's Khanyar to Shangus, Anantnag in south Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

## NGT Slams JK Over Jaundice Outbreak In Shopian

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has pulled up the authorities over the outbreak of jaundice at a village in the district, and also castigated the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and the Shopian Deputy Commissioner for filing a "casually prepared" report on the matter.

The bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said the authorities failed to take remedial measures to ensure the residents of Pahnoo village had

access to clean drinking water. It directed the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Deputy Commissioner of Shopian to ensure the village had proper sanitation and safe drinking water.

The green body took suo motu cognisance of a news report regarding several children in the village getting jaundice earlier this year ostensibly because of drinking contaminated water.

In its order passed on November 6, which was uploaded on the tribunal's website on Tuesday, the bench, also | [More on P6](#)

## JKBOSE 10th Bi-annual, Private Results Declared

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The results of the Class 10 Private/Bi-Annual examinations conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) are out.

Candidates who have appeared for the Class 10 examination and would like to check their results can visit the board's official website at jkbose.nic.in.

Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) conducted the Class 10 or secondary school private, bi-annual examinations on August 24, 27, 29, 30, September 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 13, 2024.

According to | [More on P6](#)

## J&K's Hydel Power Potential Hindered By Indus Water Treaty: CM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is restricting the ability of the Union Territory to harness its huge hydel power potential primarily due to constraints on storage.

India and Pakistan signed the IWT in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory to the pact which sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the



use of waters of a number of cross-border rivers in Jammu and Kashmir. "As a fallout of the treaty barriers, J&K pays a heavy

price in peak winter months when power generation hits low, creating hardships for its people," Abdullah, who also holds the | [More on P6](#)

## 'MUGHAL ROAD CORRUPTION CASE' ACB Files Case Against Ex-Chief Engineer

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau has registered a case under against former chief engineer and others over corruption charges.

According to a statement, the matter involved serious financial stakes, resulting in huge loss to the government exchequer.

The statement reads that during the course of verification, it came to fore that tender was invited through Joint Commissioner Works/

Chief Engineer Mughal Road Project PWD (R&B) Department on March 15, 2005 and after due procedure, the award of contract was allotted to M/s Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. for Rs 214,40,00,000 by Development Commissioner Works on the approval/recommendation of State Contract Committee.

"An agreement into this effect was entered vide Agreement No. 61 PW(R&B) of 2006, dated 06.02.2006 wherein the date of start was 01.03.2006 | [More on P6](#)

## 'ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES' NC Leader Suspended For 6 Years

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) on Tuesday suspended its senior Vice President, Haji Mohammad Syed Akhooon from the basic membership of the party for the period of six years.

The decision was taken by the party president Dr Farooq Abdullah. As per a letter issued by Party's provincial president Showkat Ahmed Mir, Akhooon was suspended for anti-party activities. "As directed by Jb. Dr. Farooq Abdullah Sahib | [More on P6](#)



To place an advertisement  
**CALL +91-194 2502327**  
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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

**'Children With Regular Bedtime Showed More Control Over Emotions, Behaviour'**

Press Trust Of India

**A** consistent bedtime for children displayed better control over emotions and behaviour while working with others or under stress, a new study has found. Researchers, including those from The Pennsylvania State University, US, analysed sleep and behaviour data of 143 six-year-olds, mothers of whom were trained about responsive parenting in the first 2.5 years following birth. The parenting style revolves around responding to a child's emotional and physical needs in a warm and consistent manner. One of the aspects of responsive parenting involves creating a supportive and predictable sleep environment, techniques for which include comforting babies by rocking or patting, among others. Responsive parenting helped children develop bedtime routines and sleep behaviours in the first year after birth, according to a 2016 study, published in the journal Pediatrics, which was conducted by researchers at The Pennsylvania State University. The latest study, which is a long-term one, showed the continued benefits of regular sleep

timing in children, the authors said. "Findings support the importance of consistency in sleep timing and how this may play a greater role in children's behavioural and emotional outcomes than mean actigraphic sleep duration and quality (measured using wearable devices)," they wrote in the study published in the Journal of Developmental and Behavioural Pediatrics. "Children who had consistent bedtimes were generally able to regulate their behaviour and emotions. On the other hand, children whose bedtimes and sleep times were all over the place showed more impulsivity and less control," lead researcher Adwoa Dadzie, a doctoral student in biobehavioural health, Pennsylvania State University, said. For the study, the children wore a monitor on their wrist for seven days that measured nighttime sleep and activity. Aspects such as time of falling asleep and waking up, along with sleep efficiency and duration were recorded, the researchers described. The data was compared with the children's performance on a task designed to test their response to feeling frustrated, the team said. Each child selected a toy that they wanted to



play with from a large selection. The chosen toy was placed in a clear box and locked. The child was given a set of keys, none of which unlocked the box, the authors explained. The team then observed the child for self-regulated behaviour, including self-talk and trying each key, and a lack of self-regulation -- which included throwing the keys without trying them all. After four minutes, the children were handed the correct key to the box and allowed to play with the toy. Another task involved in the study was collaborative, which tested the children for their ability to cooperate. The results showed that the more a child's bedtime changed each night, the worse they regulated their behaviour and emotions. For example, a child whose bedtime varied by 20 minutes a night over the week of the study typically displayed more self-regulation than a child whose bedtime shifted by two hours across the week. The children participants were a part of the university's Intervention Nurses Start Infants Growing on Healthy Trajectories (IN-SIGHT) study.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0204040004819 from Mohammad Yaseen Bhat to Tahira W/o Nazir Ahmad Baba R/o Malapora Jamia Masjid Srinagar S.R.Gunj . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Mohammad Yaseen Bhat  
R/o Umer Colony B Srinagar **mdl**

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No: 139064053 Session: Annual Regular Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/ Board, against my cast as Yasir Hussain Hajam Instead of Yasir Hussain Hakim  
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.  
**Name: Yasir Hussain Hajam**  
**Father's Name: Parvaiz Hussain**  
**Mother's Name: Shahista**  
**Date of Birth: 20/07/2005**  
**Residence: Kathimaidan Alamgari Bazar**  
**Mobile No.: 6006200451** **bko**

**Subject: Grant Of Registration Of Travel Unit Under The Name And Style "Guide To Paradise" Situated At Nagal, 90 feet road near petrol pump Srinagar, Pincode 190024**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Where, I Mr/Ms Sadiya Firdous S/o D/o W/o Firdous Ahmed Khan R/o Murwarabad Srinagar Kashmir, intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Tour and travel under the name and style "Guide to paradise" Situated at Nagal, 90 feet road near petrol pump Srinagar, pincode 190024 Kashmir under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011. Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub- Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit. **Media Line Ads**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of Discharge and character certificate . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the office of the Al Noor Educational Trust Palhallan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**NAME :-INSHA MANZOOR**  
**D/o :-MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT** **fko**  
**R/O:-PALHALLAN**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The DOB of my daughter namely Falak Jan has been wrongly written in her school records as 01-02-2017 while my her correct DOB is 01-02-2014 which needs to be corrected. In this regard I have applied for fresh DOB Certificate with correct DOB. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Executive Magistrate Tehsil Office Wagoor / BDO Wagoor within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Mohammad Shaifi Chowpan**  
**F/o Falak Jan** **fko**  
**R/o Watergam Tehsil Wagoor**

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR**  
Dated: 06.11.2024  
Present: Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:  
J&K Bank Ltd BU: Fateh Kadal Srinagar through Javed Ahmad Shera (Attorney Holder) V/S  
1. M/S Shabnam Arts, through its sole Proprietor Shabnam Ara D/o Abdul Razaq Dar R/o:Chinkaral Mohalla,Fateh Kadal Srinagar (Borrower)

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.30.12.2024  
**Sd/-**  
**Secretary (Sub Judge)**  
**District Legal Services Authority Srinagar**

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR**  
Dated: 28.10.2024  
Present: Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:  
J&K Bank Ltd BU: Residency Road Srinagar through Mr. Javed Ahmad Shera V/S  
1. M/S Z.I. Enterprises,Gani Mohalla Old Barzulla Srinagar, Proprietor Fayaz Ahmad Ganie R/o Gani Mohalla Old Barzulla Srinagar  
2. Mohd Ashraf Ganie S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Ganie R/o , Ichgam Budgam,  
3. Mehraj Ud Din Khan S/o Abdul Hamid Khan R/o Nundreshi Colony,Bemina, Srinagar

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.28.11.2024  
**Sd/-**  
**Secretary (Sub Judge)**  
**District Legal Services Authority Srinagar**

**Union Territory of jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT MECHANICAL IRRIGATION  
DIVISION ANANTNAG,  
H/Q Awantipora**

**CANCELLATION**

**SUBJECT: DESIGN MANUFACTURE SUPPLY INSTALLATION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 04 CUSEC 45 MTS HEAD HZ PUMP AT LIS BEHIBAGH**

REFERNACE : E NIT NO 11 OF 2024-25 DATED: 15-10-2024  
Due to no response, the above referred E NIT is hereby cancelled.

No MIDA/2302-08  
DIPK-7866/24  
Date: 12-11-2024 **sd/=**

**Executive Engineer,**  
**Jal Shakti Deptt Mech. Irr. Div., Anantnag**  
**H.Q. Awantipora**

**Email: eomckupwara@gmail.com  
(Government of Jammu and Kashmir)  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KUPWARA**

**Subject:- Imposition of Fine for Open Defecation and open urination**

**NOTICE**

It is informed, through the medium of this Public Notice, to the General Public of Town Kupwara as well as for outsiders that if anybody has been found guilty of committing open defecation and Open Urination with the limits of Town Kupwara shall be imposed fine and action under rules will be initiated against the defaulter.

No.MC/Kup/G/2024-25/1672-75  
DIPK-NB-2333/24 Dated: - 12-11-2024

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Municipal Council**  
**Kupwara**

**J&K Bank** **The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
**Zoneal Office, Srinagar**

**EXTENSION OF TIME**

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zosgr/Est/24-28, Dt: 15-10-2024, issued by this office, regarding advertisement of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its Branch at Brein Nishat, Srinagar, the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Bank's Official website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). The parties who have already applied in response to the tender notice No. jkb/zosgr/Est/24-28, Dt: 15-10-2024 need not apply again.  
Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

No. jkb/zoSgr /Est/24- 30  
Dated:-11-11-2024. **Sd/-**  
**Zoneal Head**  
**Zoneal Office Srinagar**

**Registered office :** Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK19385CC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928;  
E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

**DIPK-NB-2332/24**  
**dated: 12-11-2024**

**J&K Bank** **The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
**Zoneal Office, Srinagar**

**EXTENSION OF TIME**

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zosgr/Est/24-27, Dt: 15-10-2024, issued by this office, regarding advertisement for premises for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing ATM at KaniKadal-Habbakadal, Srinagar, the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). The parties who have already applied in response to the tender notice No. jkb/zosgr/Est/24-27-Dt:15-10-2024 need not apply again.

Other terms and conditions shall remain the same. **Sd/-**  
**No. jkb/zoSgr /Est/24-32**  
**Dated:-11-11-2024.** **Zoneal Head**  
**Zoneal Office Srinagar**

**Registered office :** Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK19385CC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928;  
E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

**DIPK-NB-2330/24** **dated: 12-11-2024**

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE AGROSTOLOGIST KASHMIR  
FOREST DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR.**

**TENDER NOTICE**

**E-NIT NO: - 03 of 2024-25 DATED: 09/11/2024**

**Name of the Work** Fencing using Rubina wooden fence posts of length 1.85 mtr., minimum mid girth 8 inches to be fixed 1.6 feet to 2 feet deep in the ground at spacing of 8 feet an d with 04 strands of black annealed barber wire conforming to product code BA-BW

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with Union Territory of J&K/Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-  
**SCHEME: CAPEX**

S.NO	PARTICULARS OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR PWD/CPWD/ Forest/ JKFC/	Cost of Tender Document	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Fencing using rubina wooden fence posts of length 1.85 mtr., minimum mid girth 8 inches to be fixed 1.6 feet to 2 feet deep in the ground at spacing of 8 feet an d with 04 strands of black annealed barber wire conforming to product code BA-BW  Area to be treated :- 11 Ha. Location:- Comptt.No. 69a/M Cheki Doodipora, Kupwara Agrostology Division Kashmir.	2.50	5000.00	"D"	Rs.200/=	20 Calendar Days
2.	Fencing using rubina wooden fence posts of length 1.85 mtr., minimum mid girth 8 inches to be fixed 1.6 feet to 2 feet deep in the ground at spacing of 8 feet an d with 04 strands of black annealed barber wire conforming to product code BA-BW  Area to be treated :- 11 Ha. Location:- Comptt.No. Rl-32 Sonbajar Doodipora Agrostology Division Kashmir.	2.50	5000.00	"D"	Rs.200/=	20 Calendar Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- <https://ktenders.gov.in>.

**Position of Funds:** Budgeted  
**Position of AA/TS:** (Accorded)  
**Receiving / Opening Authority, Tender Opening Committee**

Publishing Date:-	11-11-2024
Download Start Date :	12-11-2024 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	12-11-2024 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	<b>19-11-2024 upto 06:00 PM</b>
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:-	20-11-2024 at 2:30 PM In the office of the Agrostologist Kashmir Forest Department, at Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar, J&K

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website :- <https://ktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany **Govt. Treasury Receipt** (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Agrostologist Kashmir Forest Complex at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The successful bidder shall furnish a performance security in the form of CDR or Bank Guarantee from any scheduled Bank for an amount not less than 3% of the original contract value. No formal allotment orders shall be issued till requisite performance security is submitted. Failure of the successful bidder to furnish the required performance security shall be a ground for the annulment of the award of the contract and his debarment for participation in future departmental tendering. Performance security has to be submitted within 07 days of issue of the letter of intent from the competent authority.
- In case the bid of lowest/successful bidder is found unbalanced then he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR /Bank Guarantee from scheduled bank valid till completion of work before issuance of contract allotment as per details given below:-

- Upto and including 15% below rate over advertised cost-Nil.
  - Greater than 15% up to and including 20% below rate over advertised cost -05% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee.
  - Greater than 20% upto and including 25% below rate over advertised cost 10% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee.
  - Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below rate over advertised cost 15% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee.
  - Greater than 30% below rate over advertised cost 20% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [ktenders.gov.in](http://ktenders.gov.in)
  - To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
  - The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
  - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e., CDR, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest/JKFC duly renewed for the current year 2024-25, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document).
  - The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.

- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The successful bidder have to produce hard copies of original CDR/FDR and Govt. Treasury receipt on next day after opening Technical/ Financial bid.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- If any Tenderer faces any difficulty in uploading the Tender, he can contact the Office of Agrostologist Kashmir Forest Complex, at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar during Office hours as he can be facilitated.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

**No:-Agros/Kmr/2024/E-NIT/708-14**  
**Dated: - 09/11/2024**

**DIPK-7895/24**  
**dated: 12-11-2024**

**Sd/-**  
**Agrostologist Kashmir,**  
**Forest Department,**  
**Srinagar**

## DIPR Stages Nukkad Natak On "Say No To Drugs" At Ghanta Ghar



Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of its ongoing efforts to combat substance abuse, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K, organized a captivating Nukkad Natak at the historic Ghanta Ghar Lal Chowk.

The street play, titled "Say No to Drugs," highlighted the devastating consequences of drug addiction through a compelling narrative and powerful performances. The talented artists showcased the physical, emotional, and social ill effects of drug abuse, resonating with the large gathering of people.

Pertinently Cultural Unit Kashmir is committed to using creative platforms to educate and sensitize the public on critical social issues.

## Jamkash Vehicle Leases Kashmir Pvt Ltd Unveils All New Dzire.

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Leading Maruti Suzuki Dealership of the state Jamkash Vehicle Leases Kashmir Pvt Ltd unveiled New Dzire.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Gurdeep Singh Thakur Divisional Manager Mahindra Finance

(J&K, Ladakh) along with Area Managers of Srinagar & Ganderbal, Mehraj U din Sheikh and Sameer Ahmad Khan and large gathering of Auto lovers and Managerial Staff of Jamkash were present during the occasion one hundred ten customers invited during the launch.



Golden hour over Lal Chowk - where the vibrant heart of city meets the beauty of sunset. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## KU Law Students Protest Against Premature Examination Schedule

Agencies

Srinagar: Law students from Kashmir University's B.A.LL.B 10th semester and LL.B 6th semester programs have expressed frustration over what they describe as an "untimely" and "unjust" examination schedule announced by the university.

According to the date sheet issued earlier, the examinations for B.A.LL.B students are scheduled to begin on December 9, while those for LL.B students are set to start on December 6.

Various students including from various law colleges; Kashmir Law College, Vitasta Law College, and Sopore Law College, voiced concerns about insufficient class time and incomplete syllabus coverage, stating

that the early scheduling of exams has caused them immense stress.

Shakir Parray, a student from Kashmir Law College, said that having started classes in mid-September, approximately 60 percent of their syllabus remains incomplete. "Our semester only began in September, and now, within three months, we're expected to be fully prepared for final exams," he stated.

The students highlighted that under the Legal Education Rules, 2008, universities are required to provide a specified number of classes before final exams, which they have not yet received. Students contend that the statutory requirement for the number of classes has not been met, thereby violating legal education

rules, UGC guidelines, and BCI rules.

A student from Vitasta Law College added, "Conducting exams this early is a clear violation of academic statutes. The administration must understand that this is our final semester, and rushing exams could have serious consequences for our future prospects."

A student from Sopore Law College expressed that with the limited classes received so far and incomplete syllabus, they face significant academic challenges that may impact their performance in these critical final exams.

He further added, "Not all students are fast learners. Given the incomplete syllabus and lack of preparation time, I fear I may fail. Due to this stress, I have not been able to concentrate

on my studies since the date sheet was issued."

Students have appealed to Prof. Mohammad Hussain, Dean of the School of Law at the University of Kashmir, to reconsider the decision and reschedule the exams to January-February. They believe that adhering to the typical examination schedule would allow them the necessary time to cover the syllabus adequately and prepare effectively.

The students have also requested Dr. Majid Zaman Baba, Controller of Examinations at Kashmir University, to look into the matter and reschedule the exams according to the normal academic calendar (January-February). They urge him to address this "genuine" issue, allowing students a sigh of relief. (KNS)

### NORTHERN RAILWAY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No. NR-FZROCOML(NFR)/4/2024 Date: 11.11.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Firozpur Division, Northern Railway invites the Expression of Interest for Operation, Renovation & Maintenance of Mela Waiting Hall at Railway station Sultanpur Lodhi on non-Mela days.

The parties interested are requested to visit the Railway Station/location/area and familiarize themselves with the earning capacity and submit their ideas with detail proposal to this office upto 11.12.2024. Final decision on the ideas submitted by the parties will be taken by the Railway Administration.

For further detail please visit Northern Railway website <https://nr.indianrailways.gov.in/> or the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, DRM office, Firozpur Cantt. on any working day during office hours.

**Basic terms & conditions to submit the Innovative idea/plan to develop, operate and transfer the mela hall at Sultanpur Lodhi.**

- Innovative idea/plan to develop, operate and transfer the mela hall at Sultanpur Lodhi are invited from interested Individual/Partnership firms/Corporate Societies/Limited Companies.
- Proponent will submit the plan/idea in detail including proof of address and financial status.
- Proposal should not offend public taste propagate any religion or religious belief.
- Proposal should not have any communal and or regional bias.
- Use of name and pictorial representation of National Leaders, martyrs for trade and business shall not be allowed. Pictures of particular leader of a particular section or region shall also not be allowed.
- Proposal related with business of alcoholic drinks, Cigarettes, bids, other Tobacco products and the products banned by the State Govt. as well as Central Govt. time to time.
- Party shall keep Northern Railway harmless and indemnified at all times against all claim demands, suits, losses, damages, costs, charges and from all expenses whatsoever which Railway Administration may sustain or incur by reasons or in consequence of any injury, loss to any person or to any property resulting directly or indirectly for any reason whatsoever or in consequence of the exercise by Licensee or its servants of any of the liberties and licenses hereby granted or the non-observance or non-compliance by Licensee or its servant of any clauses referred to herein.
- All the instructions/guidelines/circulars related with the contract management issued by Railway Administration time to time will also be applicable.

Final decision on the ideas submitted by the parties will be taken by the Railway Administration. The idea submitted by the proponent shall have no claim/ownership and Railway shall not be bound to approve. 3502/24

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Shafi Dar S/O Mohd Qasim Dar R/o Kripalpora Payeen matipora tehsil singhpura district baramulla declare on oath as under That my date of birth is 01/05/1987 and I want to obtain Date of birth from block development office \$inghpura I have attached school document as proof for obtaining Date of Birth in my favour. So that if any body have objection he may contact to Tehsil office singhpura within seven days and no objection will be accepted after seven days.

fko

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Cost of tender form Rs.	Completion period of work
1	OT-23-JRC-2024	Replacement of corroded members of Br no. 188 DN(14X45.7m) on JUC-PTK Line under SSE/BRIDGE/M/PTK	1,04,46,755.24	2,02,200.00	03.12.2024	19.11.2024 to 03.12.2024	0	06 Months

Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender Up to 15:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.

The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) and tender document is available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded

No. 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation Dated: 11.11.2024 3506/2024

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### ZONAL HEADQUARTERS POLICE TELECOM KASHMIR

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Nisar Ahmad Dar S/O Mohd Yousuf Dar R/O Baihama Tehsil Devsar District Kulgam working as HC (Telecom) in J&K Police Telecommunication under Regimental No. 2198/PW, TEL-992764 has represented for correction in his parentage recorded as Mohd Yousf Dar instead of Mohd Yousuf Dar in the service records of this office.

As such, objections if any, in this regard are invited from General Public, which should reach the office of the undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this Notice.

No: - ESTT/PF-2198/KZ-2024/21864  
DIPK-7860/24  
Dated: - 12-11-2024

Superintendent Of Police  
Telecommunication Kashmir

Govt of Jammu and Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER LANGATE

Block Programme Management Unit (NHM)

NO/BMOL/NMH/535 Dated: - 12-11-2024

Subject:-Extension of Date in Tender Notice NQ/BMOL/NHM/440 Dated:29-10-2024.

Whereas the office of undersigned published a tender Notice vide NO/BMOL/NHM/440 Dated:-29-10-2024 for the supply of commercial 19 kg filled Gas Cylinders the tender notice was published in daily newspapers Muslim Kashmir, Zamindar and Bazmi Kashmir on 03-10-2024.

This office has received very less response for the tender notice. In this context the date of this tender notice is extended for further three days from the date of publication of this tender notice. All other terms and conditions issued by this office regarding the same shall remain unchanged.

Yours faith fully

DIPK-7829/24 dated: 12-11-2024 BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER LANGATE

## آه! الحاج محمد حسین چالاک نہ رہے

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ الحاج محمد حسین چالاک ساکنہ نواب باغ بانوان پورہ لعل بازار 11 نومبر 2024ء شب منگل وار اس دار فانی سے کوچ کر گئے۔ اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَاِنَّا اِلَیْہِ رَاجِعُوْنَ۔

مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 15 نومبر 2024ء بروز جمعہ صبح کے 8:00 بجے آبائی مقبرہ نزدیک حسین سبیل گاہ ملک باغ بانوان پورہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد از اس تعزیتی مجلس بارگاہ امام مہدی نواب باغ میں دن بھر جاری رہے گی۔

### سوگواران

حاجی حسن علی چالاک، عرفان علی چالاک وغیر ذوقا تارباب

9906755103, 9797701222

fko

- 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

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SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

#### RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 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

10 Jumada al-Awwal  
1446

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 37
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 51
Magrib	5:30
ISHA	6: 52

### This Day In History

- 1642 - Battle at Turnham Green outside London: King Charles I vs English parliament
- 1673 - Prince Willem III/Raimundo earl Montecuculli conquer Bonn
- 1715 - Battle of Sheriffmuir during Jacobite rebellion. Battle inconclusive but Government forces halt advance of Jacobite army lead by Scottish Earl of Mar
- 1775 - American Revolutionary forces capture Montreal
- 1781 - British troops occupy Negapatam, Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
- 1851 - Telegraph connection between London-Paris linked
- 1865 - US issues 1st gold certificates
- 1898 - Russia cancels Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 1921 - US, France, Japan and British Empire sign a Pacific Treaty.
- 1935 - Anti-British riots in Egypt
- 1954 - 1st Rugby League World Cup: Great Britain beats France 16-12
- 1979 - Ronald Reagan in New York announces his candidacy for US President
- 1986 - NASA launches space vehicle S-199
- 1986 - US President Reagan confesses weapon sales to Iran
- 1990 - Saudis ask US for rights to bid on SPR (Strategic Petroleum Reserve) crude
- 1993 - Pakistani minister of Foreign affairs Faruk Leghari elected president
- 1994 - Sweden agrees to join European Union
- 1997 - UN pulls out arms inspection teams from Iraq
- 2001 - War on Terrorism: In the first such act since World War II, US President George W. Bush signs an executive order allowing military tribunals against foreigners suspected of connections to terrorist acts or planned acts on the United States.
- 2002 - Iraq disarmament crisis: Iraq agrees to the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441
- 2008 - Equity research by Deutsche Bank states that Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines should not experience a recession, despite potential harm to economic growth from falling commodity prices and possible weaker exports

### From KO Archives

## '50 Percent Indians Are Corrupt'

AGENCIES

**N**EW DELHI: Almost 60 per cent of Indians using government services end up paying bribes, according to a recent survey commissioned by India's Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). But only 20 per cent actually filed complaints against such corrupt practices.

The study was carried out by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), which interviewed 2,576 visitors to government offices in five cities across the country from October 31 to November 4.

More than 60 percent of respondents said the problem of corruption was not being tackled seriously and that the judiciary was largely ineffective. Most of the respondents agreed the offices for securing driving licenses and civil supplies were the most corrupt in all five cities — New Delhi, Lucknow, Madras, Hyderabad and Pune.

One-third of respondents admitted to using "influence or favour" to get the service they needed. The survey noted that members of the business community and the self-employed topped the list of bribe givers. According to the survey, the government departments in Lucknow and Hyderabad were the most corrupt. About 42 per cent of people said the departments operated "Middle men" who acted as a paid conduit between the public and officials. The public departments covered by the survey included electricity and telephone boards, civil supplies, driving license and local and urban development offices.

(Kashmir Observer, November 13, 2000)

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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### KO VIEW

## Decline In Migratory Bird Arrivals

**T**he extended dry spell that ended on Monday has cut the migratory bird arrivals to Hokersar wetland to by 40 percent. The Kashmir Valley has experienced a record rainfall deficit of 90 percent in October and November, exacerbating the already existing dry conditions.

Being the primary entry point for migratory birds, Hokersar is also known as the "International Bird Airport" of Kashmir. However, as our story mentions, the drop in bird arrival isn't due just to dry weather, the local factors are also responsible for it. The encroachments, illegal dumping of sewage and mining have led to degradation of the wetland. This has resulted in the shrinking of the size of wetlands, reducing the attraction of wetlands for the birds.

A central government report has revealed a loss of over 2372 kanals of precious wetlands between 2006 and 2018. Consequently, the wetland ecosystems in Kashmir, including Dal Lake, Anchar, Wular, Haigam, Shalabugh, Narkara, and Hokersar, have suffered a drastic reduction in size over the years. These water bodies, once revered as "nature's kidneys," are now at the brink of extinction.

The birds, coming from places like Siberia, China, the Philippines, Eastern Europe, and Japan, start arriving in October, seeking respite from extreme cold conditions. The wetlands of Kashmir, including Hokersar, Wular Lake, Haigam, Shalabugh, among others, become the go-to habitats for these visitors until March when they return to their homelands.

However, while we certainly can and should address the local factors that are impacting the bird arrivals, there is little that we can do about the larger climate change. And in recent years, Kashmir has been directly impacted by the shift in weather patterns. The Valley has, in fact, become the microcosm of what is happening at a global level. It is mirrored in the fragile ecosystem of the region. From erratic weather changes to heatwaves, Kashmir has been experiencing the same changes as across the world. The changes are not mere aberrations but harbingers of a dire future if immediate actions are not taken.

On a bigger scale and which has consequences beyond the boundaries of Kashmir, the rising temperatures have led to a rapid retreat of glaciers. Over the past six decades, Kashmir has seen a staggering 25 percent reduction in glacier size, a trend exacerbated by the looming threat of climate change. If left unchecked, 48 percent of these vital sources of water could vanish by the end of the century. And this state of affairs is also affecting the wetlands. Diminishing water levels are reducing their attraction for the migratory birds. This is why climate change needs global action. But it should be an action that follows a timeline.



### Did you know?

## Understanding Wealth Creation vs. Returns: A Simple Guide

Irshad Mushtaq

**W**hen people talk about doubling their money by buying and selling stocks, they're talking about returns. However, there's a big difference between earning returns and creating lasting wealth. Let's break it down. "Returns vs. Wealth Creation" - Returns: This is what you get when you sell something for more than you paid. For example, buying a stock for 10 rupees and selling it for 50 rupees is a return on your investment. Many people experience good returns but don't become wealthy. - Wealth Creation: This involves saving and investing money wisely over time to grow it significantly. It's about multiplying your money to reach higher levels, like turning thousands into lakhs and then into crores. Wealth creation requires a long-term mindset.

### How to Create Wealth

1. Invest Regularly: Continually saving and investing can be more powerful than seeking quick returns.
2. Diversify: Use mutual funds to invest in a variety of assets - be it in fixed deposits, gold, real estate, or directly in shares.
3. Adopt the Right Mindset: Consider yourself a business owner by investing in quality shares, ETFs and mutual funds. When you buy shares in a mutual fund, you become a co-owner of the companies in that fund. This ownership gives you a stake in their success without having to manage the business yourself.

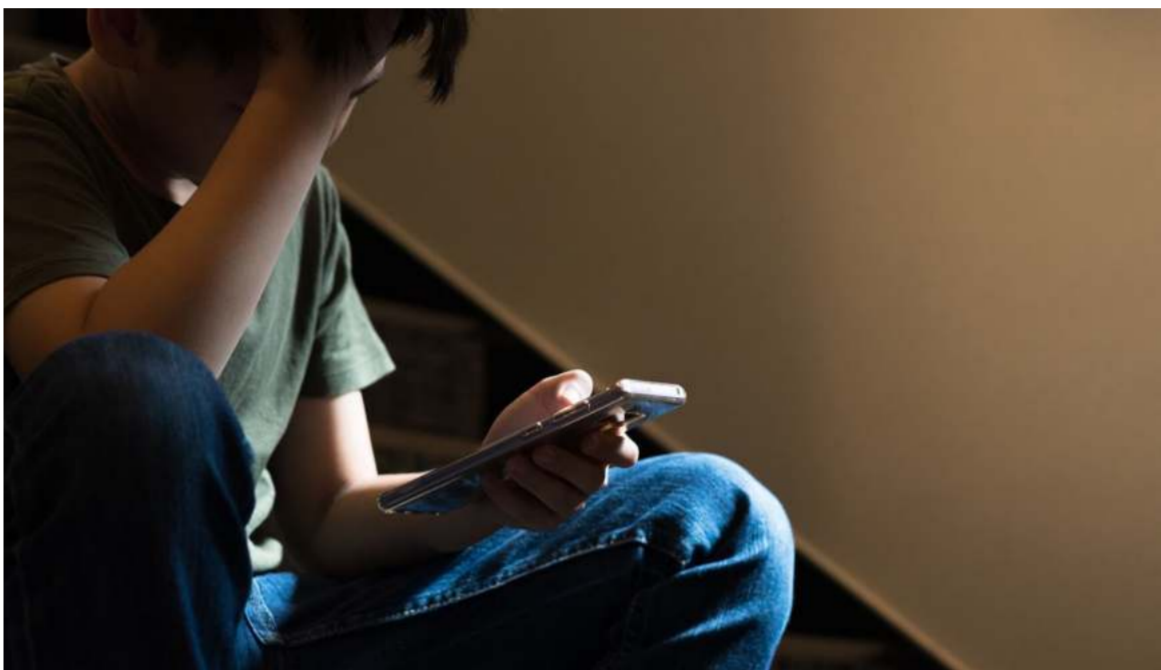
### The Role of Mutual Funds

Mutual funds are a simple tool to help you create wealth without needing to get deeply involved in managing businesses. They offer a way to invest in a diversified portfolio, minimizing risk and potentially maximizing returns. Conclusion Instead of a trader's mindset, adopt an owner's mindset. Think long-term, like a company owner, not just a trader seeking quick profits. By understanding the distinction between making returns and creating wealth, you can start on the path to financial stability and growth. Invest wisely, think long-term, and let your money work for you. Many confuse returns with wealth creation! While returns are about quick gains, true wealth creation is a long-term journey of wise saving & investing. Think like an owner, not a trader! Invest regularly, diversify, and embrace quality shares. ETFs and mutual funds for financial growth.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)

# Detrimental Impact of Social Media on Children in Kashmir

Children are the building blocks of our society but their constant engagement with social media has made them incapable of building and defining themselves



Ayiesha Gauhar

**It is evident through increased instances of bullying and sexual violence among the school-going children in Kashmir. However, there is a lack of conclusive studies in Kashmir to understand the growing risks that children are exposed to. This adds to the inability to deal effectively with the harmful effects of social media and it may lead to drastic impacts on our society as a whole**

**S**ocial Media has become an inseparable part of our lives nowadays. From waking up in the morning to going to bed at night, our mobile phones stay by our side. This trend is visible in people from all age groups, including children, teenagers, and adults across the world. Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and Facebook are widely popular among the people. The range of content consumed varies from reels, memes, news, shows, videos etc. Our screen time has also increased drastically with OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney Hotstar, etc. However, easy access to a wide range of content has greatly affected our health and society. Among the various social groups, children particularly are most vulnerable to the negative effects of social media and its constant exposure has severely impacted their cognitive and moral development.

Nowadays, we see children learn to use electronic gadgets faster than they could learn to walk or talk. They become familiar with the applications on the phone before they become aware of their surroundings. Instead of engaging in outdoor activities, YouTube videos are turning out to be their favourite time pass. Different studies have shown that this trend has seen a steep rise since the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to serious impairment in the development process of children which directly impacts their quality of life.

Childhood is one of the most crucial stages of development in our lives, involving both physical and emotional growth. The development of behaviour, cognition, communication etc., forms a pivotal part of childhood development. During the first five years of childhood, the brain forms faster connections than at any other stage of life and forms a solid foundation for growth and learning. Childhood development is a complex process and is directly

linked to children's interaction with the social world, their environment and their relationship with their parents. However, social media is turning out to be one of the major factors in shaping children's behaviour and requires immediate attention before any serious damage.

The constant use of social media among children and adolescents has created a concerning situation in Kashmir and we are beginning to feel its repercussions. Its unregulated use leads to various psychological problems such as anxiety, anger issues, attention problems, sleep problems and social exclusion, especially among adolescents. It also reduces children's physical and creative activity and alters their motor and verbal skills development. Additionally, the consumption of harmful and inappropriate content such as violent or mature-themed content influences the behaviour of children and their emotions.

We often see children trying to imitate the actions or words they come across while watching something on YouTube or television. According to a study exposure to horror-filled content may also induce phobia or depressive tendencies among the children. It could lead to a long-lasting fear among the children and make them prone to various mental health risks. This is cause of serious concern because social media is becoming a part of their socialisation process and leading to unhealthy tendencies among the children.

One of the major issues that we are coming across is the adverse impact on the social environment which is becoming susceptible to the high-risk content that children are consuming without any adult supervision. It is evident through increased instances of bullying and sexual violence among the school-going children in Kashmir. However, there is a lack of conclusive studies in Kashmir to understand the growing risks that

children are exposed to. This adds to the inability to deal effectively with the harmful effects of social media and it may lead to drastic impacts on our society as a whole.

There is an immediate need to research to see the pattern and content consumed to introduce appropriate guidelines and policy measures to prevent children from indulging in harmful activities leading to a possible moral decay of our society. The schools also need to teach the children the appropriate use of the internet and its pros and cons. At home, children learn from their parents and family members. Therefore, it is our primary responsibility to minimise our own screen time as much as possible for the betterment of our children. We need to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to ensure their moral, physical and emotional well-being which is only possible if we realise the social and moral degradation that unregulated use of social media has led to and take the necessary steps to prevent our children being a victim of violence, psychological disorders and trauma.

It is a reality that life without the internet and social media is hard to imagine and its use within a certain is beneficial to gain knowledge and engage with our world. However, we need to teach our children that we are not enslaved by the notifications on the phones or likes on Instagram but there is more to life that needs to be discovered. We must prevent them from being stuck in this virtual world and help them to navigate and discover the real world.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer and is pursuing her master's from Jamia Milia Islamia.*



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MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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## No Jobs for Electrical Engineers in J&K

**I**n the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the situation of electrical engineers has worsened, casting doubts on this once-promising career due to a severe lack of job opportunities. Despite high demand in various sectors, graduates have struggled to find jobs, especially since the Power Development Department (PDD) last hired in 2015. Since then, no new vacancies have been advertised, creating a sense of disarray among aspiring engineers who have spent years honing their skills. In 2019, a glimmer of hope appeared when the government announced 30 posts for Junior Engineers (JE) and 68 for Assistant Engineers (AE), but these were abruptly withdrawn, exacerbating the frustration of hundreds of graduates enter-

ing the job market each year.

The various engineering institutions in J&K continue to produce qualified professionals, the absence of opportunities has pushed many to seek jobs outside the Union Territory or in unrelated fields. This crisis is further compounded by the continuous retirement of experienced engineers without adequate replacements, leaving the power sector vulnerable and worsening job prospects for newcomers. The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) has actively raised concerns, holding emergency meetings and petitioning government officials to expedite recruitment processes and fill vacant posts, yet their appeals have seen little response.

Statistically, the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) alone faces a critical shortage, with 436 Junior Engineer (JE) and 161 Assistant Engineer (AE) electrical positions unfilled since 2016. The delay in finalising recruitment rules under SO 381 and the failure to forward these guidelines to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and Public Service Commission (JKPSC) have left more than 40,000 qualified electrical and electronics engineers stranded, their careers put on hold for almost a decade. This prolonged stagnation has led to financial hardships and a growing sense of hopelessness among young professionals, who now see their hard-earned degrees losing value.

We, the aspirants, earnestly re-

quest the higher-ups in PDD, the J&K government, JKSSB, and JKPSC to pay immediate attention to this pressing issue and provide necessary recruitment opportunities for engineers. The government and private sector must urgently address this issue by implementing recruitment rules, expediting hiring processes, and encouraging industrial investments to create new job opportunities. Without swift action, the operational efficiency of the power sector will continue to decline, and the aspirations of thousands of skilled engineers will remain unfulfilled, casting a long shadow over the future of electrical engineering in J&K.

Aausyf Ibn Farooq

# The Dangers of Prioritizing Influencers Over Experts in Education

Showkat Ali

In recent years, a troubling trend has emerged in many educational institutions: the increasing popularity of inviting YouTubers, TikTokers, and other social media influencers to speak at academic events, sometimes in place of scholars, professors, and subject-matter experts. While influencers have a magnetic appeal, especially among younger audiences, their presence in educational spaces raises serious concerns. The core purpose of education should be to deepen students' knowledge, cultivate critical thinking, and provide them with the tools to excel in their future careers—yet these values risk being overshadowed by the allure of viral fame and entertainment.

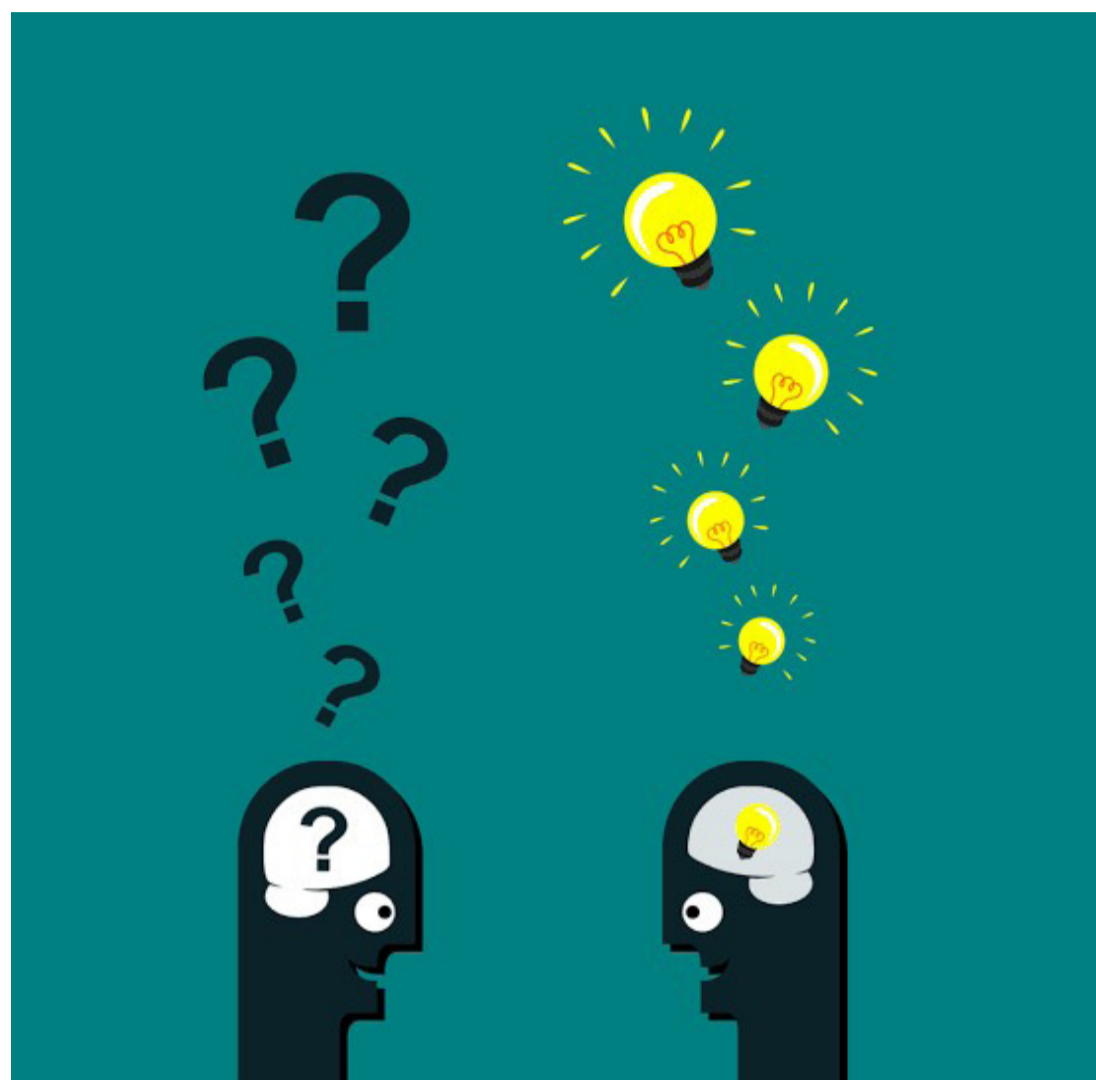
## The Allure of Social Media Stardom

There is no denying the influence that social media stars wield in today's world. Their massive followings and constant visibility make them powerful figures in youth culture. When these influencers are invited to speak at universities and schools, it often leads to packed auditoriums, enthusiastic applause, and, in some cases, a kind of instant connection with students who view these figures as role models. They often seem accessible, fun, and relatable, qualities that are difficult for traditional educators to replicate in the same way.

However, while influencers may be successful in engaging young audiences, their influence in an academic setting is more problematic. Many influencers thrive by sharing curated glimpses of their personal lives, often emphasizing luxury, leisure, and rapid success. Their fame, however, is not based on deep expertise or hard-won knowledge but on the ability to capture attention and generate engagement. Educational institutions should be focused on fostering intellectual curiosity, encouraging academic growth, and preparing students for meaningful careers—values that influencers may not embody or promote.

## The Problem of Shallow Inspiration

Inviting influencers to speak at educational events may seem like a modern, trendy move, but it risks reducing academic institutions to platforms of entertainment rather than places of serious learning. While there is value in motivational talks and discussions about digital entrepreneurship, these should not overshadow the



rich, deep knowledge that scholars, researchers, and professionals bring to the table. Professors and experts have spent years or even decades working to develop expertise in their fields. Their experiences and insights are the result of years of study, practice, and real-world application—experiences that are far more relevant to students' long-term development than the transient appeal of a viral internet personality.

Influencers, by nature, often promote values centered on fame, wealth, and recognition, which can lead to unrealistic expectations about success. Many influencers' stories are framed as "rags-to-riches" journeys, but they rarely present the challenges, setbacks, or long hours of hard work that most traditional careers require. These narratives can create a false sense of how success is achieved, pushing young people to focus on shortcuts, gimmicks, or the pursuit of viral moments rather than on the meaningful, slower process of academic and career development.

## The Impact on Self-Worth and Career Aspirations



**IF INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO GIVE INFLUENCERS A PLATFORM IN ACADEMIC SPACES, it may signal a devaluation of deep knowledge and the intellectual rigor that underpins serious academic disciplines. This could have broader societal consequences, particularly as the demand for skilled professionals in fields like healthcare, engineering, and education continues to grow**

Perhaps the most troubling consequence of prioritizing influencers in educational settings is the negative impact it can have on students' self-esteem and career aspirations. Young people are already navigating the complexities of self-image, identity, and success. Social media compounds these struggles by offering an idealized version of reality, where success is measured by followers, likes, and online attention. When influencers are presented as the epitome of success, students may start to undervalue more traditional forms of achievement, such as academic accomplishment, skill develop-

ment, and dedication to a craft. Additionally, idolizing influencers can lead to unhealthy comparisons. Students may feel discouraged when they don't achieve the same level of instant recognition or viral success that their social media role models do. This can create an environment where superficial markers of success—such as popularity, wealth, and appearance—are prioritized over genuine personal growth and intellectual development.

## The Case for Expertise in Education

Education should be a space where students are challenged

to think critically, engage with complex ideas, and prepare themselves for careers that require discipline, expertise, and a commitment to lifelong learning. In a world where knowledge is evolving rapidly, students need access to experts who can offer them deep insights, guide them in their studies, and provide mentorship that is grounded in real-world experience.

By prioritizing influencers over scholars, we risk creating a generation of students who value entertainment more than education. It is essential that educational institutions resist the temptation to focus on entertainment value and instead center their efforts on providing opportunities for students to learn from those who have spent years mastering their fields. Professors, researchers, doctors, and professionals with established careers have a wealth of knowledge to offer. They teach students not just facts, but how to think critically, solve problems, and develop the resilience necessary for long-term success.

## Long-Term Consequences for Education and Society

The long-term effects of this trend can be far-reaching. As social media continues to dominate the cultural landscape, the lines between entertainment, education, and personal development are increasingly blurred. If edu-

a devaluation of deep knowledge and the intellectual rigor that underpins serious academic disciplines. This could have broader societal consequences, particularly as the demand for skilled professionals in fields like healthcare, engineering, and education continues to grow.

## Encouraging a Shift Toward Meaningful Role Models

There is a pressing need for educational institutions to recalibrate the types of role models they promote. Instead of offering students an endless parade of influencers who speak to the pursuit of fame and superficial success, schools should be inviting individuals who exemplify what it means to dedicate oneself to meaningful work, to pursue knowledge, and to contribute to society in ways that have a lasting impact.

By offering diverse role models from various fields—whether it be in science, literature, politics, or social justice—students can begin to understand that success comes in many forms. Real success is not about viral moments, but about perseverance, expertise, and a commitment to making a difference. Educators, researchers, and professionals can inspire students to pursue careers that will shape the future of society in thoughtful, meaningful ways.

## Conclusion: Prioritize Substance Over Sensation

The growing trend of inviting influencers to speak in educational settings is a reflection of a broader cultural shift towards entertainment-driven success. While influencers have a place in the media and entertainment industries, it's critical that academic institutions do not allow their appeal to overshadow the value of expertise, hard work, and intellectual depth.

Educational institutions should remember that their primary role is to equip students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed for success in the real world. By prioritizing experts—those who have spent years developing real-world expertise—students can be inspired not just by viral moments but by the deeper, more meaningful journey of intellectual and professional growth. As we move forward, it's crucial that we return to the roots of education and reaffirm the importance of substance over spectacle. The next generation deserves role models who inspire them to dream big, think critically, and build careers based on knowledge, not just the pursuit of fame.

# The Gentle Principle of Getting Stuff Done

Steven C. Hayes

On some days, you are just not feeling it. You don't want to do the thing that is on your to-do list, even though you know you can likely do it if you really try, and even though you know you will likely feel better afterward.

Still, everything inside you is shouting NO, and you only notice this strange, inner resistance. And so you don't do the thing. You don't make that doctor's appointment. You don't go to the gym. You don't mail in that ballot.

Moments like these are quite common, and everyone experiences them; sometimes less, sometimes more. And there's nothing wrong with occasionally procrastinating on tasks and putting off chores for later because the consequences are often quite benign. However, when this becomes a pattern, and you frequently avoid taking action in important areas—whether it's in your relationships, at work, with your health, or your role as a citizen—then you might inadvertently cause more harm than you intend.

Undone chores tend to get worse, and some opportunities may never come again, creating fertile ground for future regrets. And this can quickly turn into a cycle,

where a lack of action leads to feelings of shame and regret, which—ironically—often act as a barrier to action, making you procrastinate even more, fueling future shame and regret, and so on.

Even if you know all these things, you still might struggle to put in the work. But why is that? Why do we often act in ways that we know are unhelpful?

## Why You Don't Do What's Good For You

There's not one reason why you do the things you do, and this includes not doing anything at all. You might feel overwhelmed. You might feel as though your voice is unimportant. You might believe "nothing matters," or you might think "this is too important to mess up." The truth is, you are a complex person, this is a complex society, and there are a multitude of influencing factors in your life and the lives of others.

You and the other humans around you are not flawed or inherently broken. Instead, you and they are human. If inaction settles in you are having a common human experience. You just don't want to do the things you "ought" to be doing.

Try to bring some self-compassion to it and see if there are lessons inside it. You are far more likely to move your-



self into needed action when you treat yourself with kindness, respect, patience, and compassion—especially when you feel least deserving of those qualities.

What are these lessons? If you want to better understand how to get yourself into action more reliably, then your best bet is to watch your experience. You might want to ask yourself:

1. When in my life was I more willing to take action?

2. What was different back then?

3. How can I recreate this context?

Depending on your answers, this may be easier or harder. Some things may seem easier to see and easier to recreate contexts that support you. Others are far more complex.

If a seemingly small thing (getting proper sleep, sending in a ballot) feels as difficult as far more complex things (having fulfilling relationships, finding empowering work) see

if you can dive deeper. What is of importance? What is motivating you? How old is this resistance even in seemingly small areas?

Often you will find that the small areas are symbolic of something much larger. You may have to pay attention to the influencing factors in your life that you've previously missed, and choose them—to the degree that you can—more consciously and more wisely. This is a matter of reflection and experimentation, and it

might take some time. However, if you're looking for more immediate results, then this next principle is for you.

## How to Get Yourself Into Action

We commonly understand motivation in a linear way: you feel motivated to do something, and then you go do it. However, the reverse can be equally true: you do something, and then you feel motivated to do it. First comes the action, then comes the feeling.

Motivation itself can be quite fickle, and as much as we would like to control it—like any feeling—we really cannot. If it was that easy, instead of reading this article, you would just flip a switch.

So, instead of waiting for motivation, you focus on the other part of the equation: taking action. At any time, you can make the conscious decision to act on what matters to you.

I know, I know: If it was that easy, we wouldn't be sitting here, right? So instead of doing the hard part right away, here's the principle:

## "Do something."

Do something. Literally anything. Make it small, and make it smaller still until you reach a point where you are willing to take action. Is it too hard to go for a 30-minute run? Then

make it 10 minutes. Make it two. Make it ten seconds. Make it about opening the door. Make it about putting on the shoes. Even the smallest of action matters and can make a difference, even if it feels ridiculous. One small action may motivate you to take another. Or it may not. You will only know for sure when you take the first step.

Oftentimes, our mind gets in the way of us doing the things we care about, and we get stuck with difficult thoughts, struggle with unwanted feelings, find it hard to focus, lack direction, or perceive ourselves as incapable and unworthy. In these moments, one of the most effective ways to get unstuck is by returning to our body, and focusing on our sensual perceptions while we're taking small steps in a meaningful direction.

In other words, we do something, and we pay attention to what this feels like. And then we take another step, and focus on noticing yet again. Do something, small and gentle.

Deliberately creating a sense of agency and possibility is incremental—one step at a time. That is true personally and it is true socially.

*The article was originally published by Psychology Today*

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

**Tourism Threatens**

Sonamarg was among the few Himalayan bear habitats in the country. It was a key tourist place, serving as a stopover for the pilgrims of the Amarnath Yatra, besides connecting the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Tourism activities, such as the construction of hotels, guest houses, restaurants, markets, roads and various tunnelling projects, have led to habitat fragmentation and increased human intervention in an area that once entirely served as a habitat for various species of wild animals including the Himalayan Brown Bear," the report said.

Quoting the report, the JKPC's reply said between 7-10 metric tons (MT) per day of solid waste was generated in Sonamarg, which increased to up to 20 MT during the peak season.

Regarding waste management, the reply said, "Huge quantities of solid waste were found dumped around the solid waste management facility (established by the Sonamarg Development Authority) and piles of untreated solid waste were also found stacked inside the facility without proper disposal arrangements in place for the compost generated."

It said action would be taken against the authority for violating environmental rules.

The reply also recommended fencing the facility, installing a weigh bridge for quantifying the waste, secondary segregation of the waste in the facility and prohibiting open dumping of waste around it.

Notably, Wildlife SOS, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department, launched a pilot research project to study Himalayan brown bears and investigate factors driving human-bear conflicts.

The resulting report, titled Himalayan Brown Bear Ecological and Human-Bear Conflict Investigation in Kashmir with Special Reference to Bear Habitation around Garbage Dumps in the Central Wildlife Division, was prepared with inputs from foresters, wildlife managers, policymakers, researchers and local communities addressing human-bear conflicts in Jammu & Kashmir.

For analysis, the research team utilised 20,627 camera trap images documenting brown bear activity, with 62 per cent (9,131 images) showing foraging behaviour. Scat analysis was conducted to determine the diet of brown bears in the Himalayas.

The team carefully examined the faecal matter for shape, size, colour, consistency and odour. Alarmingly, out of 408 scat samples analysed, 86 contained indigestible items, including plastic bags, milk powder packets, chocolate wrappers, glass fragments and calorie-dense food products that could reduce the bears' lifespan.

The analysis revealed that anthropogenic food items, such as chicken feathers, claws, eggshells, sheep hair and bones, were frequently found alongside food waste like chana dal, pigeon pea beans, groundnut, rice, oats and fruit seeds. The report stated that food waste items occurred in 75.03 per cent of scat samples, compared to wild plant matter (15.48 per cent), plastic bags (8.77 per cent), crop raids (0.41 per cent) and sheep predation (0.31 per cent).

During the research, it was observed that brown bears frequented garbage sites managed by the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) at Sarbal, Army transit camps and the Amarnath camp. Between three and 11 garbage vehicles disposed of 50 to 550 kilogrammes of food waste daily at the SDA site, providing easy foraging grounds that have led bears to abandon their natural feeding habits.

The report warned that this behaviour, if continued by subsequent generations, could fundamentally alter feeding patterns, potentially worsening human-bear conflicts. Additionally, the presence of shepherds and livestock within prime bear habitats was noted as a major contributor to these conflicts.

The report identified the brown bear population in the region as vulnerable due to ongoing habitat degradation and encroachment on forest land, resulting in more frequent and dangerous human-bear interactions. Encroachment and inadequate waste management during the high tourist season (May-December) further compound these issues. (With inputs from PTI)

**Light Snowfall**

November 16, there are chances of light rain/light snow in the higher reaches at scattered places, the MeT Office said.

It said from November 17-23, the weather would remain generally dry.

**Peddlers Turn**

drug smugglers, revolutionizing their tactics. Previously reliant on traditional methods like pipes and fence-tossing, smugglers are now exploiting drone technology to transport drugs and ammunition across the India-Pakistan border, particularly in Punjab.

Security forces have already intercepted over 200 drones laden with

drugs, highlighting the growing threat posed by this sophisticated method of smuggling.

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.

**Mother Of 3 Succumbs**

Her children, too young to understand, remain unaware of their mother's passing. "Why are so many people coming to our house?" Zuhair asked his uncle, who gently tried to console them.

As villagers gather in large numbers outside Abida's home, Zuhair said, "My mummy went to the Sunday market to buy clothes for me and my little brother and sister. She promised me a blue jacket and long boots for winter."

The women of the village embrace the three children again and again, their cries and sobs filling the air. Yet, the young siblings are blissfully unaware that their mother will not be returning.

Some people led the young children away from their single-story house, shielding them from the heartbreaking sight of their mother's final farewell.

"These kids are too small to understand the meaning of death," a grieving woman cried, clutching her chest in anguish.

"There is no safety for Kashmiris. Our neighbour Abida only went to Srinagar for shopping, but death snatched her from us," a villager said.

"How long will these bullets and grenades keep snatching our loved ones?" he questioned.

"If Abida had known she would lose her life there, she would have never gone," said Kulsuma, a neighbour.

"Who will take care of her children now? What have those responsible for this achieved? Kashmir is mourning every day. Every family here is grief-stricken," she said.

Waseem Raja, the brother of Abida Kounsar expressed concerns about the safety in Kashmir, questioning why such attacks continue despite heavy security measures.

He urged the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to ensure formal rehabilitation for the children and take action to prevent further violence.

Meanwhile, the deceased was laid to rest in Sumbal, where her natal family resides. Hundreds of people attended her last rites, with women wailing in grief, their sobs and tears filling the air as they mourned the loss.

The grenade attack on November 3 at the Sunday market near the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) here had left 12 persons injured.

Police has arrested three terror associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, who were involved in the grenade attack.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi on Friday said the Srinagar Police solved the attack case with the arrest of three terror associates.

"The arrested persons have been identified as Usama Yasin Sheikh,

Umar Fayaz Sheikh and Afnan Mansoor Sheikh. All three belong to the Ikhrajpora area of the city," Birdi told reporters.

He said the terror associates carried out the attack at the instance of Pakistani handlers with the aim of disturbing peace and tranquillity.

"A case under UAPA [Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act] has been registered against the trio," he added. (inputs from KINS)

**Encounter Underway**

and then north, including Bandipora, Kupwara and Sopore.

An official said that the encounter broke out at Nagmarg when joint teams of security forces launched a search operation in the area.

"As the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon them, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter," he said.

The operation was in progress when the report was being filed. However, no casualty or injury was reported from either side.

"On 12 Nov, based on specific intelligence inputs regarding the presence of terrorists, a joint operation launched by Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in general area Nagmarg Bandipora. Suspicious activity was observed by vigilant troops and on being challenged terrorists opened indiscriminate fire. Own troops effectively retaliated", Chinar Corps – Indian Army, wrote on X.

Operation is in progress, it reads. This is the 7th gunfight that raged in Kashmir Valley in November, while 5th in north Kashmir alone. During the encounters, 8 terrorists were killed.

On November 02, a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander was killed, while a few security personnel were injured in an encounter at Khanyar, Srinagar.

Similarly, two terrorists were killed while M4 Rifles, AK-47 Rifles, Grenades and 3 IEDs were recovered during a gunfight in the Shangus, Anantnag.

On November 05, one terrorist was killed while two security personnel were injured in the Bandipora encounter.

On November 06, a terrorist was killed in the Lolab, Kupwara encounter while an AK series rifle was recovered from the slain.

On November 08, two terrorists were killed in the Sagipora, Sopore encounter. The operation was termed as a 'major success' by the security forces.

On November 09, a terrorist was killed in the Rampura Rajpura area of Sopore. (KNO)

**NGT Slams JK**

comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel, noted the J&KPC and the Deputy Commissioner of Shopian have filed their reports in the matter.

While the district officer initially submitted a report about 21 children being diagnosed with jaundice, he did not disclose the details of the individuals who suffered from the disease from June to August, the bench said.

The tribunal also said the J&KPC and the district officer filed action taken reports without mentioning other key details. "It is evident from the material on record that reports have been casually prepared."

It said these reports failed to look

into several aspects, including what was the source of supplying drinking water in the area, whether any untreated sewage or other pollutant was being discharged in the source, what remedial measures were required and whether the requisite steps had been taken.

Referring to some Supreme Court verdicts, the tribunal said the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right to enjoyment of pollution-free water. It underlined that a United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution of July 2010 acknowledged that the right to safe and clean drinking water as well as sanitation were basic human rights necessary for the enjoyment of life.

It noted that an earlier J&KPC report had revealed that the drinking water in the area was contaminated, having faecal coliform levels or a colony-forming units (CFU) of 25/100 ml, which according to prescribed standards had to be "ideally zero."

"The outbreak of jaundice by itself proves contamination of drinking water and the presence of faecal coliform in drinking water supply of houses with high counts more than 25 CFU/100ml by itself conclusively establishes discharge of untreated sewage in the water body or stream from which water for drinking is being drawn," the tribunal said.

It said the outbreak of the disease and high quantity of faecal coliform in the water showed that requisite remedial measures for ensuring uncontaminated drinking water had not been taken.

The tribunal directed the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Deputy Commissioner of Shopian to "take remedial measures for ensuring proper sanitation, supply of safe and clean drinking water" within three months.

It also asked them to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage and other pollutants in water bodies, streams or rivers; and tapping untapped drains and setting up sewage treatment plants (STPs) within the period.

**JKBOSE 10th**

the officials, the pass percentage of JKBOSE 10th Bi-Annual, Private Results 2024 is 34.69. Out of the 50935 students, 17669 students have passed the exam and 33226 students failed.

**J&K's Hydel Power**

Power portfolio, said while speaking at the Conference of the power ministers of states and Union Territories here.

Abdullah highlighted the limiting clauses in the IWT that restricts Jammu and Kashmir from realising its full hydel potential by only permitting run-of-the-river projects.

"Hydel power is J&K's only viable energy source. The region is compelled to rely on power imports from other states, which adversely impacts its economy," the chief minister said.

To address this, he said J&K would require special compensation from the government of India, including viability gap funding and equity assistance, to harness its untapped hydro-energy potential.

Abdullah said the support would not only help in meeting the region's energy needs but also contribute to national clean energy goals.

The chief minister also sought the Centre's intervention in holding Central Public Sector Undertakings

like PESSL and National Thermal Power Corporation accountable in fast-tracking loss reduction works under the premier Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in J&K.

He also requested the Power Ministry to consider gap funding for implementation of electric infra works under RDSS.

During the session on solar power potential and green energy, the chief minister dwelled upon the solar power energy being generated in Ladakh and said J&K would like to procure extra energy the UT is able to generate.

Abdullah arrived here on Monday evening to participate in the Conference of Power Minister of states & UTs at India International Convention & Expo Centre Dwarka.

He stayed for the entire day and participated in all technical sessions and put forth the viewpoint of the J&K government during the conference.

The conference was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary P H Rajesh Prasad and Managing Directors of J&K Discoms.

Union Minister for Power Manohar Lal chaired the conference.

Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik was also present at the Conference.

**ACB Files Case**

and date of completion as 36 months i.e 28.02.2009. Thereafter, the supplementary agreement drawn on 25.01.2010 has been entered into by the parties for Rs 126.64 crores, with date of completion as 31.03.2011," reads the statement.

It reads that the extension of time was further granted with time of completion upto 15-02-2012.

"As the work was not completed upto the prescribed time i.e 15.02.2012, the company again raised the issue for grant of extension of time for delay. The matter was referred to Arbitration for settling the disputes raised."

It added that the verification conducted further revealed that Chief Engineer Raman Puri used to interact/meet with representatives of M/s Hindustan Construction Company Ltd outside his office without following the codal procedure with an intention to extract undue benefit.

"The then Chief Engineer in connivance with M/s Hindustan Construction Company Ltd, taking undue advantage of prior escalation clause, signed a letter on the letter head of construction company, agreeing to the mutual conditions including accepting of prior escalation for the period w.e.f 15.02.2012 to 31.12.2012, which resulted in the arbitration award of Rs 21.52 crore plus Rs 11.27 crore in favour of Hindustan Construction Company and corresponding loss to the government exchequer."

The statement reads that by acting in this manner, the then Chief Engineer, Mughal Road Project PWD (R&B) Department namely Raman Puri, by abuse of his official position and in lieu of criminal conspiracy with beneficiary company, exceeded his powers/competence and accepted the terms and conditions of Contractor M/s Hindustan Construction Company Ltd which formed the basis of award by Arbitration tribunal dated 28.03.2019.

It reads that undue benefit was given to the company with extension of time for which no prior order/communication stands issued, besides preventing imposition of liquidation

of damages to the tune of Rs 54.00 crore on the company for its inability to complete the project in stipulated time etc.

"The facts constitute commission of offences punishable under section 5(1) (d) r/w Section 5 (2) of J&K PC Act Svt 2006 & section 120-B of IPC against Raman Puri, then Chief Engineer, beneficiary company M/s Hindustan Construction Company Ltd, and others. Consequently a case FIR No. 23/2024 is registered in P/S ACB Srinagar. Further investigation in the case is going on," it added. (KNO)

**NC Leader**

President, JKNC you are suspended from the basic membership of JKNC for a period of six years for your anti party activities," the letter reads.

In September, Mohammad Sayeed Akhoun, a former MLA of the party, publicly voiced his discontent with the party's leadership. He accused the NC of promoting dynastic politics, leading to growing dissatisfaction among senior leaders and party workers.

Speaking to a local media outlet, Akhoun had expressed his frustration, citing specific instances where he believes the party leadership has favored familial ties over merit.

"Mian Altaf was made a Member of Parliament, while his son was given the ticket for the Kangan constituency. In Khanyar, Ali Mohammad Sagar is contesting, and his son has been given the party ticket from the Hazratbal constituency. Similarly, Akbar Lone was a Member of Parliament, and his son, Hilal Akbar, has been given the ticket from Sonawari," Akhoun had said, pointing to what he perceives as a trend of dynastic favoritism within the party.

Akhoun had further criticized the decision-making process within the NC, alleging that senior leaders have been sidelined.

"Ali Mohammad Sagar is younger than me; how dare he read his son's name as the contesting candidate from Hazratbal without consulting me? I was not taken on board, and after that, the party has continued to ignore my input," Akhoun alleged.

He also claimed that NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah had assured him that Salman Ali Sagar would not be contesting the assembly election from Hazratbal. "Farooq Sahib had assured me that the mandate from Hazratbal would be given either to me or Peer Afaq, whom he referred to as 'Bakra.' But nothing of the sort happened," Akhoun said, expressing his disillusionment with the promises made by the party leadership.

Akhoun revealed that he had tried to convey to Omar Abdullah, the party's vice-president, that Asiya Naqash from the PDP is a strong candidate and that only he could effectively contest against her. "Omar told me he would discuss it with Dr. Farooq, but after that, I was never consulted again," he added.

Reflecting on his loyalty to the National Conference, Akhoun said, "I not only saved the National Conference in Hazratbal but also upheld it as a party. I stood with the party when others were scared, but now, I am not being taken into confidence anymore."

Meanwhile, it has been learnt that former MLC, Kafel-ur-Rehman, District Secretary Baramulla Ghulam Hassan Rahi have also been expelled from the party.



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## 'Immunocompromised Individuals At Higher Risk Of Pneumonia'

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Immunocompromised individuals, including those with weakened immune systems due to underlying health conditions, medical treatments, or age, are at a higher risk of contracting pneumonia, according to Dr Naveed Nazir Shah, Pulmonologist and Head of the Department at CD Hospital, Srinagar.

Dr Naveed said that while pneumonia can affect anyone, those with compromised immune systems are particularly vulnerable due to their body's reduced ability to fight infections. "Pneumonia is an infection that causes inflammation in the air sacs of one or both lungs, which can fill with fluid or pus. This leads to symptoms such as cough, fever, chills and difficulty breathing," he said. "While anyone can develop pneumonia, it is especially dangerous for individuals whose immune systems are not functioning optimally, such as those with chronic illnesses, those undergoing treatments like chemotherapy or the elderly."

The noted pulmonologist explained that immunocompromised individuals are at an increased risk due to several factors, including a weakened immune response, increased exposure to opportunistic infections and a higher likelihood of developing complications. This group includes people with conditions like HIV, cancer and autoimmune diseases, as well as those taking immunosuppressive medications or undergoing organ transplants, he said.

When asked about the prevention and management of

pneumonia, Dr Naveed called for vaccinations, particularly for immunocompromised individuals. "Vaccination against pneumonia-causing pathogens is crucial for those at high risk. These vaccines can help prevent bacterial and viral infections," he said.

He said that antibiotics are typically indicated only for bacterial infections or for high-risk patients with viral infections that may lead to secondary bacterial pneumonia. For most viral infections, symptomatic treatment or antiviral medications are usually sufficient, he said.

According to Dr Naveed, pneumonia can be caused by a variety of pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi. "The most common causes of pneumonia are bacterial, viral, and fungal infections. Factors such as age, chronic diseases (like COPD, diabetes, heart disease), smoking, and excessive alcohol use can all increase the risk of developing pneumonia," he said.

Other risk factors include a weakened immune system, as seen in conditions like HIV, cancer or the use of immunosuppressant drugs, as well as recent respiratory infections, such as the flu or a common cold, he added.

When asked about how pneumonia can be differentiated from COVID-19 or flu, as these viruses can also lead to pneumonia, the doctor said that both COVID-19 and the flu can present symptoms similar to those of pneumonia, and in order to accurately differentiate between viral and bacterial pneumonia, tests are necessary.

Dr Naveed advised several preventive measures to reduce the risk of contracting pneumonia, especially during the winter months. These measures include getting vaccinated, maintaining good hygiene and making healthy lifestyle choices.

## Govt To Review Functioning Of Corporations

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to conduct a thorough review of the functioning of various public sector undertakings (PSUs) in the Union territory, focusing on their financial health and performance.

The move comes as many of these corporations, initially established to generate revenue and create employment, have been incurring substantial losses for years.

A key aspect of the review process is assessing the corporations' profit and loss statements. According to an official document, the government has directed all corporations to submit comprehensive financial reports.

These reports should include details of profits and losses, expenditure statements, audit periods, utilization certificates, and updates on the latest board meetings.

Additionally, the corporations are expected to provide information on their budgets, revenue realization plans, and bank balances.

PSUs such as the Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport

Corporation (SRTC), Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO), Jammu and Kashmir Forest Corporation, JK Industries Limited, J&K Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC), and J&K Minerals have been struggling with poor financial performance.

Several of these corporations have been shut down due to their inability to turn a profit. The poor performance of some PSUs is attributed to multiple factors, including overstaffing, political interference, and a lack of professionalism and accountability.

Many of these organizations have also failed to pay salaries to their employees on time, leading to protests by workers who have repeatedly demanded the release of their dues. Despite significant investments amounting to crores of rupees in these units, officials believe the lack of political will and mismanagement have led to continuous losses, totaling hundreds of crores.

Sources claim that although some PSUs own valuable as-

sets spread across Jammu and Kashmir, these assets remain underutilized, further exacerbating the financial woes of the corporations.

The administration is now considering the possibility of privatization or outsourcing some of the loss-making PSUs as part of its broader strategy to reform these units.

Officials suggest that with proper management, there is potential to enhance the productivity and quality of products produced by these PSUs, which could help create new employment opportunities.

While some PSUs continue to operate without major losses, their profit margins have significantly declined in recent years. The government acknowledges the need for professional management to revitalize these corporations, improve their operations, and reduce the burden on public finances.

This review and potential restructuring of the PSUs in Jammu and Kashmir could pave the way for more efficient, sustainable businesses that contribute positively to the state's economy and employment landscape. (KINS)

## Chief Secretary Chairs 14th UT Level Bankers Committee Meeting



**Observer News Service**

**JAMMU:** Urging banks to prioritize their efforts in achieving Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets, Chief Secretary (J&K) Atal Dulloo directed the banks to ensure the establishment of banking touchpoints in all unbanked rural areas across Jammu and Kashmir.

These directives were issued during the 14th Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) meeting, chaired by the Chief Secretary, where he reviewed the performance of banks and financial institutions in dispensation of credit and other banking services for the first half of the fiscal year 2024-25.

The meeting was attended by MD & CEO J&K Bank and Convenor J&K UTLBC, Baldev Prakash; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Produc-

tion Department, Shaileendra Kumar; Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya; Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Mandep Kaur; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Regional Director (RBI), Chandrashekhar Azad; Chief General Manager NABARD, Bhallamudi Sridhar; Deputy Secretary, DFS (GoI), Garima Kapoor, along with other senior officials from RBI, NABARD, banks, state government departments, insurance companies and Lead District Managers.

Emphasizing the need for improved outreach, Chief Secretary Dulloo expressed concern over the reduction of banking touchpoints by some Public Sector Banks and called for the use of Business Correspondents to extend essential banking services to Gram Panchayats across the UT.

## Div Com Reviews Preparations For Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday



**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Tuesday held a meeting to assess the preparations for the celebration of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday.

The meeting included participation from Deputy Commissioners, civil administration and police officials, as well as representatives from SMC, KPDCI, PHE, PWD, Traffic, Fire & Emergency services, and the President of the Gurdwara Pr-

bandhak Committee, Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner urged the officials to guarantee essential services such as a continuous supply of electricity, sanitation, and cleanliness at the Gurudwaras in Srinagar and other districts.

He instructed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that all necessary amenities are available at the Gurudwaras within their jurisdictions to assist devotees in celebrating the significant occasion of Sri Guru Nanak Ji's Birthday.

## Dr. PK Mishra Delivers Valedictory Address At The 4th CoDRR Workshop



**Press Information Bureau**

**NEW DELHI:** Dr. PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister highlighted mitigating risks associated with glacial lakes in order to ensure a safer future for our communities. Dr Mishra was speaking on the occasion of 4th Workshop of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR) on Strategies for GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) Risk Reduction here today. Complimenting the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Department of Water Resources for organizing the workshop, he focused on international perspectives and experiences, pertinently India's experiences, gaps and challenges in mitigating the risks and related aspects.

Dr Mishra said that the discussions on Sikkim glacial lake outburst flood disaster have brought to focus the enormity of the challenge. Indeed, the South Lhonak GLOF was a wake-up call for all of us. He underscored the urgent need for effective strategies to ad-

dress risks associated with glacial lakes.

Quoting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's words, "Disaster risk reduction is not just about responding to disasters but also about building resilience." Dr Mishra reiterated PM's emphasis that "the best way to deal with disasters is to prevent them," reminding us that proactive measures are essential in safeguarding our communities. Furthermore, he stated, "We must work together across borders and disciplines to create a safer world," highlighting the importance of collaboration in addressing global challenges like GLOF risks.

On the International Cooperation side, Dr Mishra emphasized that India's commitment extends beyond national borders; hence the vital aspect of engaging with GLOF experts from countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Peru, Switzerland and Tajikistan. He iterated that such collaboration is vital to enhancing our understanding of response strategies.

## RTIM Delegation Meets Chief Engineer IFC

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement -RTIM led by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat met with Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department Kashmir B J Sharma on Tuesday and apprised him about the illegal Riverbed Mining taking place in different streams and Nallahs if Kashmir valley.

The delegation in addition to Dr Raja Muzaffar consisted of senior activists of RTI Movement namely Shabir Ahmad Bhat and Raashid Ashraf. The delegation gave a written representation to the Chief Engineer for making sure Illegal Riverbed Mining in Sukhnag Nallah in Beerwah and other streams of Kashmir was curbed.

Dr Raja Muzaffar during the meeting gave a detailed presentation to Chief Engineer B J Sharma on illegal Riverbed Mining taking place in Pulwama and Budgam and how it was



impacting agriculture, wetland ecosystems, springs and groundwater.

Chief Engineer IFC Kashmir assured the delegation that he would personally visit the affected sites soon and also said IFC would ensure orders of National Green Tribunal and Supreme Court are enforced on the ground in letter and spirit

## Traffic Disrupted As Portion Of Kijpora Bridge In Gbl Caves In

**Agencies**

**GANDERBAL:** The traffic on Kijpora Bridge in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district was disrupted after the portion of the viaduct caved in.

While the traffic is still being allowed to ply on the bridge, it is moving slowly due to the ongoing concerns about the bridge's stability.

In response to the situation, the BRO 122 RCC of BEACON has begun urgent work to address the issue.

The temporary measures are in-

tended to ensure safe passage for vehicles while the structural concerns are addressed, officials said.

Despite the work, the traffic on the bridge is still operational but at a reduced speed to ensure safety, they said, adding that commuters have been advised to exercise caution and allow extra time for travel.

Meanwhile, the authorities have assured the public that the necessary steps are being taken to restore the bridge's full functionality and are closely monitoring the situation—(KNO)

## Sakeena Masood Inaugurates National Academia Industry Conclave At IUST

**Agencies**

**AWANTIPORA:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, School Education and Higher Education, Sakeena Masood Tuesday inaugurated the National Academia Industry Conclave 4.0-Cultivating Synergy at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) here.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Vice Chancellor IUST, Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar, Deans of various Departments, Heads of Departments, galaxy of who's who



of industry and commerce sector of J&K, budding entrepreneurs, researchers and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Masood underlined that this Conclave will serve as a platform

for fostering collaboration, innovation and exchange of ideas between the educational sector and industries, thereby contributing towards the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In order to tackle growing challenges and opportunities of the

modern world, collaboration between academia and industry is the need of the hour", Sakeena said. She asserted that industry-academia partnerships are integral towards addressing pressing global issues, fostering innovation and ensuring that students are prepared for the evolving demands of the job market.

Calling for students to look beyond government jobs, the Minister advised the students to create opportunities for themselves in emerging sectors like tourism, hospitality and other sectors and be job creators rather than job seekers.

### HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG COLLEGE CAMPUS, DIALGAM ANANTNAG J&K-192210 Email ID: admsection.gmca@gmail.com | gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com

**Subject: Provisional Merit List of Written Test Conducted for the post of Senior Residents/ Registrars/Tutors/Demonstrators (Dentistry)**

**NOTICE**

Whereas, the posts for the Senior Residents/ Registrars/ Tutors/ Demonstrators (Dentistry) of GMC Anantnag were advertised vide advertisement Notice No. 05. GMCA (R&I) of 2024, dated 27.06.2024;

Whereas, the written test in the discipline of Dentistry was conducted on 28.10.2024 at Main Campus, Dialgam, GMC Anantnag;

Now, therefore, the provisional merit list of the candidates who have appeared in the said written test is enclosed as **Annexure "A"** to this notice.

No.: GMCA/Estt/2024/5015-19

Prof. (Dr) Rukhsana Najeeb

Dated: 11-11-2024

Principal

GMC Anantnag

S.NO.	Roll No.	Name	Marks scored	Percentage	Rank
1	14	Dr. Mehavish Muzfar	40	67.8	1
2	54	Syed Sameer Hussain	39	66.1	2
3	61	Israr ul Imtiyaz	39	66.1	2
4	6	Dr. Shugufta Shafi	38	64.41	3
5	62	Dr. Nidha Farooq	38	64.41	3
6	1	Nawaz Mubashir Ahmad	37	62.71	4
7	5	Sheikh Tafazul Habib	36	61.02	5
8	12	Benefsha Shabir	36	61.02	5
9	28	Falak Mukhtar	36	61.02	5
10	37	Aamir Javaid	35	59.32	6
11	3	Anum Maqbool	34	57.63	7
12	60	Mueenual Islam	34	57.63	7
13	31	Salma Rashid	33	55.93	8
14	47	Aamir Bashir	32	54.24	9
15	4	Zahoor Bhat	32	54.24	9
16	17	Nazima Jamal	31	52.54	10
17	38	Syed Abid Hussain	31	52.54	10
18	48	Mudasir Gani	29	49.15	11
19	24	Shajaratul Yakeen Nabi	29	49.15	11
20	20	Umer ul Hassan Hakeem	29	49.15	11
21	32	Hilal Ahmad Hela	27	45.76	12
22	7	Obaid Hameed Kraipak	25	42.37	13
23	19	Dr. Bisma Aijaz Tak	25	42.37	13
24	43	Maroofa Hafiz	25	42.37	13
25	46	Mehraj Ud Din Bhat	25	42.37	13
26	42	Dr. Qaiser Nazir	24	40.68	14
27	2	Dr. Bushra	22	37.29	15
28	52	Uzma Mushtaq	22	37.29	15
29	55	Minha Manzoor	21	35.59	16
30	56	Anush Bashir	21	35.59	16
31	57	Bilal Ahmad Bhat	21	35.59	16
32	71	Shahzaib Akhter Nasti	21	35.59	16
33	74	Murtaza Hamid	21	35.59	16
34	26	Dr. Bisma Jahangeer	19	32.2	17
35	53	Faizan Ali Lone	19	32.2	17
36	44	Nadia Rasool	18	30.51	18
37	11	Sarib Gul	18	30.51	18
38	34	Aasima Ishaq	17	28.81	19
39	22	Rahila Jan	17	28.81	19
40	13	Idraq Ajaz	14	23.73	20
41	45	Wasim Manzoor Bhat	14	23.73	20
42	58	Dr. Rahil Ahmad Bhatt	14	23.73	20
43	65	Munaza Rashid	13	22.03	21

DIPK-7828-24  
DT: 12/11/2024

# Blind T20 World Cup: Indian Team Eyes Govt Clearance To Travel To Pakistan

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI/KARACHI:** The Sports Ministry on Tuesday gave NOC, with no cost to the government, to a 17-member Indian cricket team to travel to Pakistan to participate in the T20 World Cup for the Blind, and the side now awaits clearance from Home and External Affairs ministries.

The fourth edition of the Blind World Cup, in which India are the reigning champions, is scheduled to be played at Lahore and Multan from November 22 to December 3.

Upon receiving the clearance from the ministries concerned, the squad is scheduled to travel to Pakistan via the Wagah Border on November 21.

The development came in the backdrop of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) informing its Pakistan counterpart that the Men in Blue will not travel to the neighbouring nation for next year's Champions Trophy.

The BCCI sent a mail to the



International Cricket Council to that effect, leaving the future of the marquee event in limbo.

Meanwhile, Shailender Yadav, General Secretary of the Cricket Association for Blind in India (CABI) said the 17-member Indian squad for the T20

WC was picked after 26 players underwent a 12-day selection trials in Gurugram.

"The team has been training in Gurugram. The players now await an NOC from the Ministry of External Affairs and remain hopeful for a positive re-

sponse," said Yadav.

Apart from India and Pakistan, the T20 World Cup features teams from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, South Africa, Nepal and Sri Lanka. India won the three previous events, defeating Pakistan twice and Bangladesh once.

**Tournament as scheduled: PBCC**

The Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) said the tournament will go ahead on schedule irrespective of India's participation.

"Pakistan will be hosting the event on schedule and it makes no difference whether the Indian team comes or not," PBCC chairman Syed Sultan Shah said.

Shah said arrangements for hosting the World Cup had been completed by the PBCC.

"All the other teams in the event have also sent confirmation that they have no issues playing in Pakistan," he said.

Indian team for T20 Blind WC: Ajay Kumar Reddy, Deb- araj Behera, Nareshbhai Tumda, Nilesh Yadav, Sanjay Kumar Shah, Praveen Kumar Sharma, Venkateswara Rao, Pankaj Bhue, Loksha, Rambir Singh, Irfan Diwan, Durga Rao Tom-paki, Sunil Ramesh, Sukhran Majhi, Ravi Amiti, Dineshbhai Rathva, Dhingar Gopu.

## 68TH NATIONAL SCHOOL GAMES

### Sports Minister Declares Open Fencing Championship In Jammu



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Tuesday declared open the Fencing Championship at University of Jammu for Under-14 boys and girls as part of 68th National School Games.

Promising players from across the country are participating in this prestigious event, which is being organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India.

In his address, the minister emphasized the government's commitment towards promoting genuine sports talent while ensuring that no individual or group is allowed to politicize sports. He assured that only deserving athletes would be supported, and those who have misused sports bodies for personal gains would

be shown the doors.

The minister asserted that the National School Games are the country's one of the most important platforms for school athletes to showcase their talent and compete at national level.

Satish Sharma stressed that the games, held in various sporting disciplines, also encourage youth to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle while contributing to the overall development of their personalities.

The Minister extended gratitude to the parents, coaches and sports teachers for their unconditional support and encouragement of young athletes, which plays a crucial role in success of such sporting events. He said that present dispensation is keen to promote young talent and robust sports infrastructure in the state.

He said that the govern-

ment under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, will strive to provide world class facilities to the players which will help them to perform better in national and international events.

Secretary YSS, Sarmad Hafeez, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, for successful completion of the 68th National School Games in Wushu and expressed confidence that the remaining three national championships would also be successfully organised.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with a warm welcome address by the Director General YSS, Rajinder Singh Tara.

Joint Director Jammu, Deputy Director, Central YSS and Director of Sports, University of Jammu were also present.

## After ODI Success Rizwan Eyes T20I Series Win In Australia

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan is confident of winning the upcoming T20 international series in Australia and is also eyeing a whitewash of the home team.

The Pakistan team led by Rizwan surprised everyone by winning a one-day series in Australia for the first time since 2002, after the Australian team management decided to rest five of their senior players for the decider in Perth.

The Australian team has come under criticism from its former players for resting the players in a crucial match while Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley has also expressed disappointment at the results.

Pakistan's white-ball coach Jason Gillespie has said that it was disappointing to note that CA had not promoted the Pakistan-Australia series enough.

Rizwan said if the Pakistan team played like a unit it had every chance of whitewashing Australia in the T20 series.

"It is fine we have celebrated the ODI series win because no one expected us to win in Australia. But at the same time all the players must remember they are ambassadors of Pakistan and behave appropriately at all times on tour," Rizwan told the players in a dressing room pep talk released by the Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday.

"I think we must all strive to win big titles like the World Cups and Champions Trophy to show everyone what Pakistan cricket is capable of," he added.

Rizwan said that it was time for the team to create new records in which-ever country they toured in future.



"Records of not winning somewhere which have stood for years must be ended," he added.

He said as a captain he consulted with every player and officials in the team to get clarity before making any decision.

**PCB asks ICC to explain India Champions Trophy refusal**

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Tuesday it has asked the sport's governing body to explain India's refusal to send a team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy next year.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) informed the PCB last week that India would not tour Pakistan for the eight-team tournament, leaving the fate of the event hanging in the balance.

Pakistan had previously rejected the option of a hybrid arrangement that would allow India to play their matches at neutral venues, for example in the United Arab Emirates.

## Short TAKES

### 3rd T20I: India Eye Batting Revival Against SA At Centurion

Indian batting line-up needs to get its mojo back against a resurgent South Africa to regain the lost ground on rather unfamiliar SuperSport Park conditions when the two teams clash the third T20I here Wednesday.

Since 2009, India have played only one T20I at this venue, which they lost by six wickets in 2018 and have only one survivor from that squad in this side -- Hardik Pandya.

Along with that unfamiliarity factor, India will also grapple with the ordinary form of their batters, particularly when the pitch here is touted to be similar to the one at Gqeberha -- quick and bouncy.

In the second T20I, India batters struggled against South African pacers upfront, getting restricted to 124 for six, and Centurion has similar characteristics.

The problem starts from the top -- more precisely with Abhishek Sharma, whose extended lean run with the bat has now snowballed into a serious concern. He is in desperate need of a good outing here before the management thinks of juggling the combination.

Even now, they can think of giving the job of partnering Sanju Samson at the top to Tilak Varma and bring in Ramandeep Singh in the middle to add more muscle to the unit.

### Shami To Play For Bengal Against MP In Ranji Trophy

Premier India pacer Mohammed Shami will make his much-anticipated return to competitive cricket after a hiatus of nearly a year through Bengal's Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh in Indore from Wednesday, announced Cricket Association of Bengal.

Shami, who has been out of action since the 2023 World Cup final on November 19 due to an ankle injury and the subsequent surgery, will aim to prove his fitness in a real match situation after undergoing intense rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

"In a major boost to Indian cricket and the Bengal Ranji Trophy team, star pacer Mohammad Shami will make a comeback into competitive cricket for Bengal against Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match in Indore starting on Wednesday," CAB secretary Naresh Ojha said in a statement.

Ojha said Shami will spearhead the Bengal pace bowling unit and the Indian thinktank in Australia too will closely follow Shami's outing.

India have opted for a largely untested pace attack for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with rookies such as Akash Deep, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Prasad Krishna backing senior pros Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.

### Mohammad Nabi To Retire From ODIs After 2025 Champions Trophy

Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi has announced that he will retire from One-Day Internationals after next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

After Afghanistan's 2-1 series win over Bangladesh in Sharjah on Monday (November 11, 2024), the 39-year-old said he had been pondering about quitting the format since last year's ODI World Cup.

"In my mind, from the last World Cup, I was retired. But then, we qualified for the Champions Trophy, and I felt if I could play that, it would be great," he told the official broadcaster after being adjudged the Player-of-the-Series.

Nabi has featured in 167 ODIs since 2009, scoring 3,600 runs in 147 innings at an average of 27.48 and a strike rate of 86.99, including two centuries and 17 fifties, with a top score of 136.

With the ball in hand, he has bagged 172 wickets in 161 innings at an average of 32.47 and an economy of 4.27, including four four-wicket hauls and a fiver (5/17).

Afghanistan qualified for the Champions Trophy, thanks to their sixth-place finish during last year's World Cup.

It would also be Afghanistan's first-ever appearance in the eight-team competition scheduled to be held in Pakistan in February next year.

## English FA Starts Investigation Into Referee Coote



Agencies

**LONDON:** The English Football Association has launched its own investigation after a video, widely shared on social media, appeared to show a Premier League referee making offensive comments about former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

David Coote has been suspended by the governing body of English referees, Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL), which is also investigating.

"We are aware of the matter, and we are investigating it," an English FA spokesperson told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

In the video, a person who appears to be Coote repeatedly uses an expletive when describing Klopp, adding that he did not want to speak to someone who was "arrogant."

It has not been confirmed if the footage was manipulated, but the PGMOL is treating it as if it was genuine, a person with knowledge of its investigation told The AP.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment.

Professor Hany Farid from the University of California, Berkeley, specializes in digital forensics and said there was no evidence the video was a deepfake.

He analyzed the video using models trained to distinguish real from AI-generated voices and faces.

"This model finds no evidence of AI generation," he said, adding there were "no obvious visual artifacts in the video to suggest that it is AI-generated." Klopp left Liverpool after the end of last season and was replaced by Dutch manager Arne Slot.

## Go Ahead And Doubt Us, Dias Tells Man City's Critics

Agencies

Questions are being asked of Manchester City's title defence after they slipped five points behind leaders Liverpool at the weekend but centre back Ruben Dias has told the critics to write off City's chances at their peril.

City slumped to a fourth consecutive loss in all competitions with a 2-1 defeat at Brighton & Hove Albion in the Premier League on Saturday, marking the first time Pep Guardiola lost four games in a row in his managerial career.

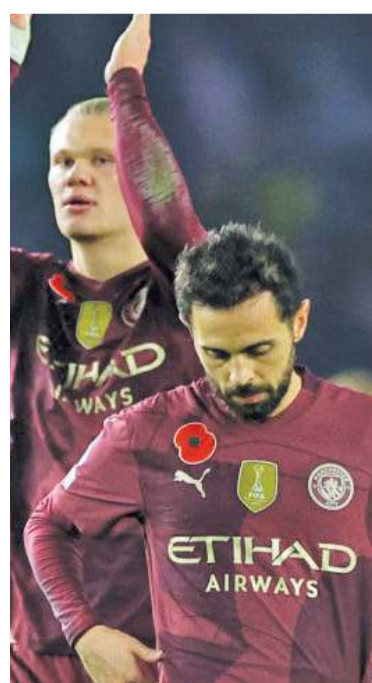
City, who are chasing an unprecedented fifth straight Premier League title, were also dumped out of the League Cup by Tottenham Hotspur.

"I would say, please doubt us, doubt us, feel welcome to do so," Dias told British media on Monday.

"When we did the treble, we even called it the dark January. We had a tough period. But it is what it is.

"What matters is how you bounce back from these moments. That's why our team has won so much because in moments of difficulty, the characters come up and we stay together.

"We don't find people to kill, we find people to bring into the cause and fight together. That's what we need to do once again. Until it's done, it's not done."



City's campaign has been hindered by a rash of injuries with Ballon d'Or winner Rodri, John Stones, Jack Grealish and Oscar Bobb among those facing spells on the sidelines.

They host Spurs in the league on Nov. 23 in their first game back after the international break.

## Besiktas To Face Maccabi Tel-Aviv Behind Closed Doors In Hungary



Agencies

The Europa League match between Turkish club Besiktas and Maccabi Tel-Aviv from Israel on Nov. 28 will be contested in a neutral territory in Hungary, UEFA said on Monday.

The match was originally a home game for Istanbul-based Besiktas, but the Turkish government had earlier decided not to host it in Turkey. It will now be played at Nagyerdei Stadium in Debrecen.

The match will be held behind closed doors due to a decision by the local Hungarian authorities. Besiktas stated that Hungary was the only country that agreed to host the match.

**Dutch police detain 6 people defying Amsterdam protest ban**

Dutch police detained several people in Amsterdam on Tuesday who were holding up white banners in front of city hall, defying a ban on protests imposed after violence be-

tween locals and Israeli soccer fans last week, a Reuters witness said.

A police spokesperson confirmed media reports that six people had been detained.

Tensions remain high in Amsterdam since violent clashes before and after a soccer match between Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv and local team Ajax on Thursday.

Police have said visiting Israeli fans were targeted in hit-and-run attacks on Thursday night, adding that the fans, for their part, had burned a Palestinian flag and used sticks, pipes and rocks in clashes, as video footage verified by Reuters showed. Verified footage also showed the fans chanting anti-Arab slogans.

At least five people were injured in assaults that Dutch authorities and foreign leaders including Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced as antisemitic.

Following the violence, local authorities imposed a protest ban until Thursday morning.