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This cutting-edge technology effectively reduces dark spots, melasma, and sun damage, revealing a radiant complexion with minimal downtime



Rural Girl Literacy In J&K Below National Average



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In Jammu and Kashmir, the literacy rate among the girl students in rural areas is below the national average.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State (MoS) for education said, "To reduce the dropout of Girls at all levels of school education, under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in the **Educationally Backward Blocks** where rural female literacy rate is below the national average." KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL).

Besides, the MoS informed the house that there has been over ten percent of drop rate among the girl students of both elementary and secondary levels till 2021-22.

It said that in the academic year 2018-19 there has been a dropout rate of 6.9 percent at elementary level and 17.7 percent at secondary level followed by 5.8 percent and 18.6 percent in 2019-20. | More on P6

THERE HAS BEEN OVER TEN **PERCENT** of drop rate among the girl students of both elementary and secondary levels till 2021-22."

J&K On Path To Prosperity; Terror Will Be Wiped Out: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: The nation will forever remain indebted to brave soldiers, who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of unity, integrity, peace and progress, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday.

"We have worked with sin-cerity and honesty to build a progressive and modern J&K of their dreams," Sinha said... The LG attended 'Ati



Vishnu Mahayagya' at Pouni, Reasi and paid homage to

gratitude to Pujya Sant Shri Bal Yogeshwar Ji Maharaj, for organising 'Ati Vishnu Mahayagya' for the last many years to recall with pride the great sacrifice of Jawans. He vowed to wipe out the

terror ecosystem and called upon every section of the society to discharge their responsibilities and join the fight against terrorism to secure our future. "Terror eco-

the martyr soldiers and police personnel. He expressed

system will be completely neutralized and | More on P6

Fires 2 Govt Employees For Terror Links

ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday terminated two government employees from service for their alleged terror links, officials said. The fired employees have been identified as Abdul Rehman Naika who worked as a pharmacist in the health department, and Zahir

Abbas, a teacher in the school education department, they added. Sinha invoked Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution to terminate the two employees after a probe by the law enforcement and intelligence agencies "clearly established their terror links", officials said. | More on P6

J&K Police Constable Recruitment

HC Grants Interim Relief On Age Relaxation

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a signifidevelopment, cant the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir Ladakh Jammu has granted interim relief to petitioners in the case concerning age relax-ation for the recruitment of constables. The petition, filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, challenges Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2024 issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Selection Service

Board (JKSSB) for 4,002 constable posts. The petitioners, represented | More on P6

Candidates To Appear For Exams hief Secretary, Atal

Over 5.5 Lakh

Dulloo Friday chaired ✓ a meeting of Civil administration and Police Department to take stock of the preparations made by Deputy | More on P6

J&K RESERVATION QUOTA ROW

HC Likely To Hear Plea Challenging Amendment

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh is likely to hear next week a petition, challenging validity of various amendments in Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Rules and to maintain | More on P6

Rajya Sabha **Race Heats Up In J&K**

Dr Faroog Leads NC Race, BJP Bets On **Ex-Deputy CMs**

Observer News Service

While Election Srinagar: Commission of India (ECI) is yet to announce the schedule for Rajya Sabha polls in J&K, hectic lobbying has begun among political parties here for berths in the Upper House of the Parliament.

Based on party strength in the Legislative Assembly, NC-led alliance, which has the support of 54 members, is likely to win three seats, while BJP, with 28 MLAs, would win one seat.

Sources said that while NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah's candidature is almost certain, several senior leaders in the party are vying for the Rajya Sabha membership.

It has been learnt that Sajad Kichloo, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, and Aga Mehmood are among the frontrunners.

Sajad Kichloo was defeated by Sunil Sharma and Shagun Parihar in the 2014 and 2024 polls respectively. Sadhotra faced defeat at the hands of BJP candidates in the 2014 and 2024 polls from Jammu North and Marh segments. Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan was defeated by Sajad Gani Lone in both 2014 and 2024 elections.

He also failed to secure a lead for NC candidates in the Handwara segment in 2014, 2019, and 2024 | More on P6

Army Doesn't Impede Civilian Movement Along NH In J&K: Centre

Ruhullah Calls It 'Blatant Lies,' Shares Proof

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar:The Centre on Friday informed Parliament that the Indian Army does not impede civilian movement on the National Highway, saying that the traffic regulation has been the responsibility of state authorities while the ambulances are being given priority by the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

Member of Parliament from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi in a question had sought details about the frequent traffic stoppages on the Srinagar-Jammu National

PLEA' ROW Court Notice

AJMER DARGAH 'SURVEY

Triggers Political,

Religious Outrage

Srinagar: A Hindu outfit's claim of the existence of a Shiva temple inside the revered Dargah of sufi

saint Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer has sparked a political controversy, with the opposition saying

that it is just a tactic of the government to divert people's atten-

in Ajmer, known the world over as home of the dargah visited by

thousands of devotees cutting

across religious divides every day,

issued notices to the dargah com-

mittee, the Ministry of Minority

Affairs and the Archaeological

Survey of India on the plea seek-

ing to declare the | More on P6

tion from issues that matter. On Wednesday, a local court

Observer News Service



Highway for Army and paramilitary movements and also whether ambulances are also halted.

He had also sought details on actions taken to address this issue and prevent human rights violations. In a written reply, the Union Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay

Seth said that as part of drill, regular movement of convoys takes place between Jammu and Srinagar for various operational as well as ad-

ministrative reasons. "The Indian Army follows detailed procedures for the movement of convoys with | More on P6

India's GDP Growth Slows To 5.4% In Q2 2024-25

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India's economic growth slowed to near two-year low of 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors as well as weak consumption, but the country continued to remain the fastest-growing large economy, data showed on Friday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 8.1 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2023-24 fiscal and 6.7 per cent in first quarter of current fiscal (April-June 2024).

The previous low level of GDP growth at 4.3 per cent was recorded in the third quarter (October-December 2022) of financial year 2022-23.

The data also showed that the growth of private final consumption expenditure (PFCE), which indicates consumer spending, | More on P6

FUNDRAISER - FOR CANCER

WE NEED YOUR HELP



Help Save A Life

Mother Helpage JK Seeks Your Compassionate Support For: Patient Name: Manzoor Ahmad Baba S/o: Late Abdul Ahad Baba R/o: Illahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar Diagnosis: Sigmoid Colon Cancer 3rd B Stage of Adenocarcinoma Cost: 6,00,000. our team visited the patient & find the need genuine please come forward to help this patient

Patient's Family Message

We have used up all our savings to pay for expenses that amounted to a lot. We can't bear any more expenses and need your help immediately. We need a huge amount to complete the medical procedure. My father is closest to my heart, and I can't see him in this condition.

Please help in this hour of need by kindly contributing towards the treatment. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

Cyber Police Cracks Rs 21 Lakh Digital Fraud Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Cyber Police Kashmir today cracked the Rs 21 lakh digital fraud case, arresting three individuals and recovering Rs 4.13 lakh from the accused.

Addressing a press conference here,

SSP Srinagar, the scam came to light after a senior citizen from Srinagar filed a complaint, reporting that he was defrauded by scammers impersonating officials from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). | More on P6

-ile Photo: Abid Bhat



A/C No. 0472010100001092 Bank Name. Jammu Kashmir Bank IFSC Code. JAKA0SAADIQ



Mother Helpage Jammu and Kashmir

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Management Body of Muslim Cubs School, announces that the school will now be known as Royal Cubs School.

If any individual has any objections regarding this name change, they are required to submit their objections in writing to the concerned office and the office of Muslim Cubs School within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Office of the Royal Cubs School Old name: Muslim Cubs School

Address: Nagam

Principal **Royal Cubs School** Email: royalcubsschool@gmail.com Date:21 November, 2024

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Death

Public Notice

The registar deaths BDO Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to death of Mohammad Ramzan Lone S/o Abdul Raza Lone R/o Nangam. In this matter a report was sought from concerned lumbardar and chokidar which reveals that the deceased died on 14-12-2019

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** fko_ Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to construct A commercial Building At Kanispora-B over a piece of land bearing Khasra No 910 Alif. In this connection if anybody has any objection he may file the same in the office of the BDO Kanispora Baramulla within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Mukhtar Dar S/o Late Sadiq Dar R/o Check Kanispora Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing No: JK22B- 6511 While Travelling Poshama To Reshnagri . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection he may contact ARTO Shopian within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Asif Mushtaq

S/O Mushtag Ahmad Naikoo

R/O Poshama Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

want to transfer the shikara licnese bearing RegdNo:1932/10/1855/36/L15/78 from Gh Mohiuddin sheikh s/o Gh mohd sheikh R/oNehru park to my son mohammad Rafiq sheikh s/o Gh mohiuddin sheikh R/o chowdri Bagh Rainawari srinagar if any body has any objection in this regard he/she may file his /he Director Toursim within 7days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall

Mohammad Rafiq sheikh S/o Gh Mohiuddin Sheikh R/ochowdri bagh Rainawari Srinagar

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify that I have changed my name in aadhar which was initially Choudhary umar farooq jungle and then changed to Umar farooq gojar jungal and then to Umar farooq iungle which is also my present name on Aadhar now I want to change it From Umar faroog jungle to Umar Faroog jungal in my aadhar because all my other documents. If anybody has any objections in this regard he/she may kindly approach the concerned office within seven days. No objection will be entertained after the said time period.

jvd

OFFICE OF ADVOCATE MOHD MOONIS MANZOOR

In the Case of :-

Sameer Bhat S/O Bashir Bhat R/O Johar Villa, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar

2. Iqbal Lone S/O Ghulam Qadir Lone R/O 53, Shivpora, Srinagar 3. Showkat Ahmad Lone S/O Ghulam Qadir Lone R/O 53, Shivpora, Srinagar

PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Non-Caveators) In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C the caveator has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a writ, suit of any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble courts and on the ground of Distorted facts/ misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court



Here's What To Know Before Sharing Pictures Of Your Child Online

The Conversation

ustralian celebrity and "public relations maven" Roxy Jacenko has said she regrets turning her daughter, Pixie Curtis, into a child social media influencer.

The 13-year-old's Instagram account had long been used by her mother to generate income via brand sponsorships and online businesses such as Pixie's Bows and Pixie's Toys. But Jacenko is now saying the money wasn't worth the negative effects of Pixie's public persona, which included being bullied at school.

This admission, along with the government's decision to ban social media for under-16s, is a timely reminder for parents to reflect on how they share images of their own children online - even for those of us who don't intend to make our children influencers.

Parents' views on 'sharenting'

A 2019 survey of 613 Australian parents (mostly mothers) found 15% posted images of their children to Facebook at least once a week, while 13% posted at least weekly to Instagram. Only 20% said they never shared images to Facebook, and 37% never shared them to Instagram.

Research has found parents who

choose to not share images of their children are often driven by concerns over privacy and future consequences

Parent "influencers", however, remain much more likely to do this - and are often unaware of the potential risks. Nonetheless, a number of them are now pushing back against the practice and offering alternatives to posting images of one's children online.

According to research by one of us (Katrin), many Australian parents understand their children's images and details (such as name, address and school) can be considered sensitive information.

They associate this identifiable information with risks posed by bad actors (such as paedophiles) who could identify and follow their children both online and offline. These concerns are further fuelled by media reports of such incidents. Many parents will use strategies to minimise risk, such as by blurring children's faces in online posts, or covering them with emojis. They may also crop the image, or have the child turn away from the camera to protect their identity.

That said, some people may still be able to identity the child in question, such as by feeding the image through an online image search and certain AI tools. An image's metadata may also include details such as where and when a photo



was taken, making it easier to trace.

Balancing risks with benefits Although the concerns are clear,

sharing images of one's children in online spaces can also have many benefits for families.

By reducing the information they share about their kids, parents may also miss out on opportunities to gain social support from peers and celebrate major milestones in their kids' lives. After all, many families use social media platforms as digital family albums and tools to archive key memories. Katrin's research also found that families - particularly those from diverse cultural backgrounds may also use these platforms to maintain important connections with loved ones living overseas.

Similarly, parents from non-traditional family structures, such as same-sex parents, often depend on social media as important spaces to proudly share, advocate for and normalise their experience of family life.

What to ask yourself before you post

Despite the move to ban social media for children under 16, it doesn't look like Australia will follow France's lead in curtailing sharenting through legislation such as a children's image rights law.

In France, this law aims to tackle the risks of sharenting by enshrining children's right to privacy. It means protecting children's privacy is among a parents' legal duty - and that children legally need to be consulted.

Nonetheless, there are several things parents can consider before they share their child's data, including images and video. For instance, they can:

1. get consent from a child (if they are old enough) before before posting about them

2. share carefully. Try sharing less through public avenues, or be more mindful of your audience. Ensure identifiable information such as school logos are not featured in images. You can even remove a photo's metadata

3. review the policies and practices of institutions your child may be part of. Check if they ask for children's consent before taking video or photographic images - as well as options for opting out

4. have a conversation with your child, partner and other family members (such as grandparents) about an approach that feels comfortable when it comes to sharing your child's images. You may ask friends and family members to reduce unnecessary sharing

5. consciously select passwordprotected apps or online platforms to share photos with family and friends, rather than social media

6. regularly review each platform's provided privacy settings, and purposefully use these features. For example, you may set your Facebook account to "private", or only participate in private Facebook groups.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name Saahil to (new name) Saahil Mangroo . In future I will be known as (New Name) Saahil Mangroo. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Saahil Mangroo

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Kounsar Bano to (new name) Kausar Bano . In future I will be known as (New Name) Kausar Bano . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Kausar Bano

ASF ENTERPRISES

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THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 24376 Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: o



ar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu) gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: 1. Conduct of Stray Round-II of Counseling (physical) for admission to BAMS/BUMS/ BPT Courses- 2024 in Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K.

2. Conduct of 2nd /Mop-Up round of Counseling (physical) for admission to Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery Course (BHMS)- 2024 in Government Medical College and Hospital Kathua.

ii) Notification No. 155-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 05-11-2024. iii) Notification No. 157-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 07-11-2024. iv) Notification No. 160-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 08-11-2024. v) Notification No. 162-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 08-11-2024. vi) Notification No. 168-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 20-11-2024.

> Notification No. 176-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 28-11-2024

It is hereby notified for the information of all the concerned candidates that Board shall conduct the Stray Round-II for admission to BAMS/BUMS/ BPT in Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K and 2nd / Mop-Up round of physical counseling for admission to BHMS Course- 2024 in Government Medical College and Hospital Kathua after lowering the qualifying percentile for admission in UG Courses of ASU by Fifteen percentile across all categories for the academic year 2024-25 as per the following schedule:

| S.No. | Date/Day of Counselling | Courses S |
|-------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | 03-12-2024 (Tuesday) | BHMS (All NEET UG 2024 candidates who are registered with JKBOPEE and are qualified as per NEET cut off) i) All reserve category candidates ii) All OM candidates including reserve category candidates |
| 2 | 03-12-2024 (Tuesday) | BAMS/BUMS (All NEET UG 2024 candidates who are registered with JKBOPEE and are qualified as per NEET cut off) |
| 3 | 03-12-2024 (Tuesday) | BPT (NEET UG 2024 Appeared candidates who are registered with JKBOPEE) |

It is further notified that the candidates may go through the Notification carefully as only the following candidates shall be eligible to participate in this round of counseling and in case of nonfulfillment of the conditions mentioned herein below such candidate(s) are not eligible to participate in

(A) PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED FOR BAMS/BUMS/BPT

- 1. The eligible and willing candidates shall have to report at the BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar for Registration/Attendance and fulfillment of other formalities, from 08:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the day/date of counseling.
- 2. The candidates who have not been allotted any seat during all the previous Rounds of counselling including the candidates who have applied afresh vide Notification No. 168 - BOPEE of 2024 dated 20-11-2024 shall be eligible to participate in this Stray Round-II.
- 3. The candidates who have been upgraded during any round of counselling shall under no circumstances be eligible to participate in this round of counseling.
- 4. The candidate(s) who has been allotted seat during any round of counselling but has not joined against the said allotted Seat/College shall also be eligible for Special Stray-II Round of

5. The candidates who have been allotted seat(s) in AIQ Mop-up round(s) of counseling and have

- joined the respective allotted College/Institution shall not be eligible to participate in this stray 6. The candidates participating 1st time shall have to pay the counseling fee of Rs 1500/- through
- $POS\ machine\ available\ at\ BOPEE\ office\ Jammu/Srinagar\ using\ their\ Debit/Credit\ Card.$

- (B) PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED FOR BACHELOR OF HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE AND
- SURGERY(BHMS) 1. The eligible and willing candidates shall have to report at the BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar for Registration/Attendance and fulfillment of other formalities, from 08:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the day/date of counseling.
- 2. The candidates participating 1st time shall have to pay the counseling fee of Rs 1500/through POS machine available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar using their Debit/Credit Card. 3. The seats shall be allotted to the candidates as per S.O. 176 dated 15-03-2024 read with S.O.
- 305 dated 31-05-2024 issued by Social Welfare Department, UT of J&K. 4. All the eligible candidates who have applied afresh vide Notification No. 168 -BOPEE of
- 2024 dated 20-11-2024 shall be eligible to participate in this Stray Round-II.
- 5. If any candidate is not able to participate personally in the counselling on the day / date of counselling due to unavoidable circumstances, he/she can authorize his/her close family member who falls in his/her blood relation on the devised format of the Board to participate in the counselling on behalf of the concerned candidate. The said authorized person had to submit the authorization letter along with his identity Card and Aadhar Card during the process of counselling, otherwise he/she shall not be allowed to participate in the counselling on their own risk and responsibility.
- 6. The candidate(s) who have been allotted seat/college during 1st Round of counselling but have failed to join against the said seat/college, he/she shall be eligible to participate in the 2nd / Mop Up Round of counselling.
- 7. Those candidates who have remained absent or got CNA/SNA during 1st round of Counselling are eligible to participate in this round of Counseling.
- 8. Those candidate(s) who have been allotted seat(s) during the 1st Round of Counseling and have joined against the said seat/College, if interested for upgradation is also eligible to participate in the 2nd /Mop Up Round of Physical Counseling with the condition that they shall have to produce their fee deposition receipt of the concerned allotted College at the
- 9. The Board shall firstly conduct the counselling of Horizontal and Reserved Category candidates on 03.12.2024 and if any reserved category seat(s) remains unfilled due to nonavailability of eligible candidates including AIQ candidates if any, then those seats shall be converted into O.M in terms of Section 9(2) of J&K Reservation Act, 2004 and shall be filled up accordingly as per merit.
- 10. The Board reserves the right to notify such changes as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reasons beyond its control
- 11. The counseling shall automatically be stopped as and when the seats get exhausted and no claim(s) from the waiting candidate(s), if any, shall be entertained by the Board.
- 12. The Tentative Seat Matrix shall be made available on the website of the BOPEE www.jkbopee.gov.in before start of the counseling which shall, however, be subject to changes, if any, as deemed necessary by the Board.

This notification is issued without any prejudice and subject to final outcome of the writ petition if any, pending before any competent court of law.

The other Terms and Conditions shall, however, remain the same as contained in the e-Information Brochure, Notifications and Notices issued by the Board from time to time in this regard.

E &O E

Sd/-(Prof. Gurvinder Raj Verma) **Controller of Examinations** J&K BOPEE

Dated 28-11-2024

No. BOPEE/Exam/ 22/2024(7489127) DIPK-NB-2591/24 DATED: 29-11-2024

Make ITMS Cameras Functional On Priority: Div Com To SSCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Make all ITMS cameras installed at different junctions across the city functional on priority basis for traffic management and to curb violation of traffic rules and regulations, directed Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri to the officers of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) on Friday.

The Div Com issued these directions in a meeting convened here regarding Traffic Management in the City.

Among others, the meeting was attended by IGP Traffic J&K, CEO SSCL/ Commissioner SMC, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, VC SDA, Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Dept Central Kashmir, Chief Engineer, Project BEACON (through VC), SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, SSP Traffic City Srinagar, SE, R&B. North/South Circle Srinagar, RTO Kashmir, PD NHAI Srinagar, GM Planning SSCL and GM SRTC.

The meeting deliberated on the status of functioning of ITMS in Srinagar City, Safety

SSCL to submit a timeline for making ITMS cameras functional at every junction besides asking CEO, SSCL and SSP Traffic Srinagar for operation of Control Rooms of ICCC and Traffic Police for online monitoring.

Underlining the utmost importance of functional cameras across the City to avoid violation of traffic rules and for security purposes, Div Com pressed officers to address all impediments urgently.

Further, Div Com directed CEO SSCL to assign duty to a team of officers to monitor operation of cameras regularly.

He asked concerned people to cover all the accident prone spots under ITMS to avoid accidents by monitoring speed of vehicles and to take action under law for violations.

In order to streamline the traffic movement from Parimpora to Narbal, Div Com directed BRO to barricade unnecessary cuts of the median of the highway.

He also directed to take action against heavy vehicle transporters who park their vehicles alongside the Bypass



Audit of Roads, Identification of Black spots, Parking Facilities, Felling down of Semi Dry Chinar trees at BB Cantt Road Srinagar and BK Pora besides

Addressing the meeting, Div Com enjoined officers of Road creating hurdles in traffic movement.

Regarding felling of Chinar trees at BB Cantt Road, Div Com asked DC Srinagar to expedite the process of permission for cutting two semi-dry chinars at the location

GMC Organizes CME

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Postgraduate Department of Minimal Access Surgery at Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, successfully organized a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program titled "Upper GI Discourse".

As per a statement isled the event brought together eminent luminaries from the fields of surgery and gastroenterology, creating an enriching academic environment.

wit-The program nessed the esteemed presence of renowned professionals, including Prof. M.S. Khuroo, Prof. Aijaz (Head of the Department of Surgery, SKIMS), and Prof. Aijaz (Head of the Department of Surgery, SKIMS Medical College, Srinagar). Faculty members from peripheral medical colleges across the region, spanning from North to South Kashmir, also actively participated in the event, further enhancing its academic value.

Head of the Department of

Tender Notice No:433-Sig-T-32-24-25

Closing Date/Time: 20.12.2024 15:00

receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Division for 2 years.

ADSTE/LDH for one year.

(i) 20.12.2024 15:00

(ii) 23.12.2024 15:00

(iii) 23.12.2024 15:00

(i) 27904640.00

(ii) 15606506.16 (iii) 13961726.25

(i) 289500.00

Contract Type Works

NIT HEADER

Tender Closing

Advertised

Value Rs.)

Earnest

Money (Rs.)

Minimal Access Surgery, GMC Srinagar, and President of JAKASI (Jammu and Kashmir Association of Surgeons of India), highlighted the department's significant contributions to surgical education and training. He emphasized the role of such programs in advancing the standards of care and fostering professional development among

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Abdur Rasheed, who extended his gratitude to the distinguished guests and participants. He also provided a comprehensive overview of the program's objectives and agenda, underscoring its importance in advancing knowledge in

healthcare practitioners.

The CME featured insightful sessions and interactive discussions, allowing participants to delve into the latest advancements and challenges in the field of Upper GI surgery and gastroenterology. The colatmosphere laborative fostered a meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences among the attendees.

Date: - 28.11.2024

Upper GI surgery.

Prof. Iqbal Saleem,

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders of https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-32-24-25 Closing

Date/Time 20/12/2024 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revis

bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender

and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make

payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card

credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit

(i) Annual maintenance contract of OFC laid in Various sections of Firozpu

(ii) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of MEDHA Make

Electronic Interlocking systems installed at 7 stations of Firozpur division

(iii) Sectional Signal maintenance Contract (SSMC) for the sections of

Date Time of

Bidding Start Date

as per IREPS



roadside of Foreshore Road. KO PIC Syed Mohammad Burhan

20 Plus Surgeries In 12 Years

'Hope Best Weapon To Overcome Trauma' Says, Acid Attack Victim

Agencies

Srinagar: Years ago, in January 2013, Rukaya's life took a horrific turn. On her way to teach students at a Srinagar school, she became the victim of an acid attack, an act of violence that left her not only with the physical scars but also emotional wounds.

Speaking to the media men during a presser organised by the Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals in Srinagar, Rukiya said the road to recovery was gruelling. "Initially, the prognosis seemed bleak, with many doubting my chances of ever regaining a semblance of normalcy. People used to stay, I won't. My mother's support gave me hope and the same hope turned into my strength."

She said that her turning point came when her case gained media attention, propelling her to Delhi, where a new chapter in her journey began.

"In Delhi I met Dr. Shahin Nooreyezdan at Apollo hospital, a compassionate and skilled physician and plastic surgeon expert, who not only treated me but sparked hope in me,"

Praising the doctors for infusing a new life in her, she said that he and his team fought for her recovery as if it were their own battle

According to the Dr. Shahin Nooreyezdan treating Rukiya, over the years, he said she underwent more than 20 laser surgeries, with each procedure a new step toward rebuilding her face and her confidence.

She said that the emotional toll on her and her family was immense. "My mother even told me they would sell our home to fund my treatment," she shared, her voice heavy with emotion. Dr. Shahin Noorevezdan, speaking

about the challenges of treating acid attack survivors, stated the emotional connection was required between doctors, patients, and their families.

This is not normal burn treatment," he said. "It is a stressful and deeply emotional process that involves a huge team effort. Our first priority was to save her life and then focus on her recovery.'

Rukaya's resilience is now an inspiration to others. Today, she works in a government job, where her presence has become indispensable

Initially hesitant to join, she eventually integrated herself so well that her colleagues cannot imagine her absence. "I have gained strength from the last 12 years," she said. "Now, I advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

She said she suffered huge financial burdens, stating that her treatment drained the family's resources, but the unwavering support from her mother and the dedication of doctors like Dr. Shahin Nooreyezdan and Dr. Sameer Koul, the prominent Oncologist at Apollo Hospital, made her recovery possible.

Speaking to the reporters, Dr. Sameer praised Rukaya's courage and the resilience of her family. "She has shown exemplary strength," he said. "I salute her and her family for standing strong in the face of such adversity.'

Speaking about the rising domestic violence cases, Rukaya said she wants to become a voice for the voiceless and that those victims of domestic violence should come forward to speak and raise their voices against injustice or domestic violence endured upon them—(KNO)

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

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

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)

Mughal Road - (Open)

Srinagar-Leh- (Open)

HIGHWAY STATUS



HIJRI **CALENDAR** 27 Jumada al-Awwal 1446

PRAYERS FAJR 5:46 **ZUHR** 12:17 **ASR** 3:46 Magrib 5:27 ISHA 6:50

This Day In History

- 1786 Grand Duke of Tuscany Leopold II promulgates a penal reform, making his the 1st state to abolish the death penalty. November 30 commemorated as Cities for Life Day.
- 1803 Spain cedes her claims to Louisiana Territory to France
- 1864 Battle of Franklin, Tennessee: Confederate attack fails, 7,700 casualties
- 1864 Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina (Broad River) 96 dead, 665 wounded
- 1876 Archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann finds the gold Mask of Agamemnon at Mycenae (modern Greece) "the Mona Lisa of prehistory"
- 1908 The US Secretary of State and Japan's ambassador to the US exchange notes in what becomes known as the Root-Takahira Agreement: they affirm support for an independent China with an 'open door' policy and for the status quo in the Pacific
- 1909 British House of Lords rejects David Lloyd George's 'People's Budget', which tried to shift tax burden to the wealthy. Leads to the Parliament Act: intent to stop unelected house overruling will of the elected house.
- 1916 Costa Rica becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1922 1st speed test of 1st genuine Japanese aircraft carrier Hosho.
- 1922 Hitler speaks to 50,000 national-socialists 1944 - Riggest & last British hattleshin HMS
- Vanguard launched. 1950 - US President Harry Truman threatens China with atom bomb.
- 1961 USSR vetoes Kuwaits application for UN membership.
- 1962 U Thant of Burma becomes the 3rd Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- 1964 USSR launches Zond 2 towards Mars; no data returned.
- 1967 People's Democratic Republic of Yemen declares independence from the UK.
- 1967 The Pakistan Peoples Party is founded by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who becomes its first Chairman later as the Head of state and Head of government
- after the 1971 Civil War. 1969- USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern
- Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR 1971- The government of the Republic of Ireland states that it will take the allegations of brutality against the security forces in Northern Ireland to the European Court of Human Rights
- 1978- France performs nuclear test
- 1980- Uruguay's new constitution rejected by referendum 1981- Cold War: In Geneva, representatives from the United States and the Soviet Union begin to negotiate intermediate-range nuclear weapon

reductions in Europe (the meetings ended

- inconclusively on December 17) 1982- STS-6 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1982- US submarine Thomas Edison collides with US Navy destroyer in South China Sea
- 1983- Radio Shack announces Tandy Model 2000
- computer (80186 chip) 1987- Afghanistan's Constitution adopted
- 1988- Cyclone lashes Bangladesh, Eastern India; 317 killed
- 1988- UN General Assembly (151-2) censures US for refusing PLO's Arafat visa 1990- US President George H. W. Bush offers to
- send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad to meet with Saddam Hussein 1994- Man Mohan Adhikary sworn in as 1st
- communist premier of Nepal 1998- Deutsche Bank announces a US\$10 billion deal to buy Bankers Trust, thus creating the largest financial institution in the world
- 1999- British Aerospace and Marconi Electronic Systems merge to form BAE Systems, Europe's largest defence contractor and fourth largest aerospace firm in the world
- 2004- Lion Air Flight 538 crash lands in Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia, killing 26

KPDCL Files Complaint After Consumer Manhandles Staff

Agencies

Srinagar: Several employees from Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited were manhandled during night inspections in Srinagar's Hazuribagh area,

prompting a police complaint against the consumer.

A KPDC official said that consumer manhandled and abused a KPDCL staff of Electric Subdivision Hazuribagh, during a night inspection.

He said the consumer lost his cool after a permanent hooking arrangement was detected at his home. "A police complaint has been filed against the consumer so that action under rules is initiated against him," he added. [KNT]

Executive Engineer

Srinagar Development Authority

Srinagar Development Authority

Bemina, Bye Pass Near SKI MS Medical College, Srinagar, Kashmir-190018 TEL: 0194-2493191, FAX: 0194-2493180, EMAIL:srinagardevelopmontauthority@gmail.com

LETTER FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No: 01/E0I/EE of 224-25

Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Union Territory, Jammu& Kashmir (hereinafter called "SDA or Authority") wants to Develop Commercial Complexes at two Multi-level Car Parking in Srinagar City on Public Private Partnership (PPP).

| | | Particulars | Details |
|---|----|--|---|
| | 1 | Title for Expression of Interest | Development of Commercial Complexes at two Multi-level Car Parking in Srinagar City on Public Private Partnership (PPP) |
| | 2 | Download of Eol Document | Complete EOI documents can be downloaded from the Website: httD://iktenders.aov.in (From 28th of Nov. 2024 to 18th Dec 2024) |
| | 3 | Last Date for Submission of Eol | 18th Dec 2024 upto (4.00 OM). |
| | 4 | Address for Communication | Office of the Executive Engineer Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) Housing & Urban Dev. Department Government of UT of J&K |
| | 5 | Eol Application Downloading Start Date | 28th of Nov. 2024 |
| | 6 | Last date for sending Pre-Eol Queries | 5,h of Dec 2024 upto 4.00 PM |
| | 7 | Pre-Bid meeting date | 6th of Dec. 2024 at 12.00Noon |
| | 8 | Last date for Submission of Eol Online | 18th of Dec 2024 upto 4.00PM |
| | 9 | Opening of EOI. | 19th of Dec 2024 (12.00Noon) |
| | 10 | Meeting, if decided by Authority from eligible Applicant/s | To be intimated to eligible applicant/s |
| ı | | | |

No:-SDA/EE/694-704 DIPK-NB-2594/24 Dated: 29/11/2024

(ii) 228000.00 (iii) 219800.00 (iii) 12 Months 3682/24 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Period of

ii) 36 Months

(i) 06.12.2024

(ii) 09.12.2024

iii) 09.12.2024

i) 24 Months

Status, Speed, And Social Media

Silent Crisis Claiming Kashmir's Youth

Mohd Asif and Arbeena

he recent tragic accident on Srinagar's highway that claimed two young lives and left another teenager fighting for survival has shaken our community to its core. While initial reactions and responses rightly pointed to speeding, underage driving and parental responsibility, this heartbreaking incident compels us to look deeper into the cultural and social forces that are reshaping our youth's behaviour and values.

In today's Kashmir, vehicles have evolved far beyond their basic purpose of transportation into potent symbols of social status and personal identity. Baudrillard (1981) and Hall (1997) long back highlighted that objects in consumer society become powerful symbols of identity and status and transcend their practical use. This transformation is greatly visible in Kashmir, where certain car models, particularly SUVs like Thar, Scorpio, Fortuner, etc., have become symbolic representations of social standing, aspiration, and masculine identity. Young men increasingly view these vehicles not as means of transport but as essential markers of manhood and social standing. This shift reflects Veblen's (2017) concept of 'conspicuous consumption,' where material possessions become central to social status. Belk (2001) also stated that possessions become fundamental to our sense of identity and self-worth in consumer societies – a pattern we see clearly emerging in our community. This shift has created mounting pressure on Kashmiri parents, who find themselves caught between traditional values and their children's demands for luxury vehicles – not for practical needs but as lifestyle statements.

This materialistic culture has been further entrenched by Kashmir's elite classes, whose apparent displays of wealth in various forms have set unrealistic standards for social acceptance. Antonio Gramsci explained that dominant classes maintain their power not just through economic means but by establishing their worldview as the accepted cultural norm. We see this dynamic clearly in Kashmir, where elite families' lifestyle displays, offline and online, create and perpetuate unsustainable standards of material success. When children from affluent families showcase luxury vehicles and high-end lifestyles, it creates what Bourdieu (2018) termed "symbolic violence" - a soft form of domination that makes others feel their own lives are inadequate. This has particularly severe consequences in our society, where middle-class families and youth feel compelled to mimic these consumption patterns, often through harmful or financially



unsustainable means. The elite's displays don't just showcase wealth; they establish a cultural narrative where material possessions, like luxury vehicles, become prerequisites for social dignity and acceptance. This cultural pressure, combined with easy access to social media, creates a perfect storm where youth from modest backgrounds feel driven to dangerous extremes to maintain social status.

The influence of social media has added another new dimension to this problem. Boyd (2014) thoroughly documented that social media platforms intensify peer pressure and risk-taking behaviours among teenagers. In Kashmir, this phenomenon has taken a particularly concerning form. Local influencers with massive followings are shaping youth culture in unprecedented ways. A noteworthy example is the popular influencer 'Macstar', who has amassed over 567K Instagram followers while frequently producing content that glorifies harmful actions, promotes toxic masculinity, and perpetuates misogynistic attitudes. Despite the clear social implications of such content, this influencer and many others continue to operate unchecked, their influence growing day by day. Jenkins (2006) mentioned that localized content, being more relatable, exerts stronger influence over youth behaviour than traditional media. This explains the profound impact of local content creators who glorify material wealth, and package toxic masculinity and dangerous actions as cultural norms. Goldman (2005) has also explained how products become essential markers of social acceptance - a phenomenon amplified by our social media landscape.

Further, the role of masculine identity in this crisis cannot be over-

Adolescents perceive themselves as unique and special, leading them to believe that normal rules and Parents often give in to

risks do not apply to them. their children's demands for luxury vehicles, hoping to secure their social standing or protect them from peer pressure. However, this well-intentioned response might be inadvertently contributing to a cycle that puts young lives at risk

looked. Bordo (2000) highlighted how traditional media historically portraved vehicles as extensions of male power and control, symbolizing dominance, freedom, and status. With the advent of social media, these portrayals have been magnified, presenting vehicles not only as tools of utility but as symbols of virility and strength. Social platforms such as Instagram and YouTube are rife with content showcasing high-speed stunts, luxury cars, and aggressive driving, that reinforce hypermasculine ideals. Kimmel (2019) highlighted that such representations perpetuate dangerous patterns that encourage risky behaviour among young men who often use vehicles to assert their masculinity

and social standing. This is especially pronounced in traditional societies like Kashmir, where the concept of masculinity is rapidly evolving. Historically tied to cultural norms of wisdom, responsibility and community service, masculinity in Kashmir is increasingly influenced by globalized media. The hybridization of local and global masculine ideals places young men in a dilemma—caught between the expectations of traditional roles and the allure of modern, media-driven notions of power and prestige.

Moreover, digital platforms amplify this transition by offering a stage for performative masculinity. For instance, the phenomenon of showcasing vehicles in music videos, films, and social media reels underscores how media serve as tools for constructing and perpetuating youth masculinity in Kashmir. These portrayals resonate deeply with local youth who are grappling with societal transformations, thereby normalizing certain behaviors, including reckless driving, as symbols of strength and individuality.

Elkind's (1967) research on teenage belief in personal invulnerability helps explain why young people engage in increasingly dangerous behaviors on our roads. He called it "personal fable," where adolescents perceive themselves as unique and special, leading them to believe that normal rules and risks do not apply to them. Parents often give in to their children's demands for luxury vehicles, hoping to secure their social standing or protect them from peer pressure. However, this wellintentioned response might be inadvertently contributing to a cycle that puts young lives at risk.

This crisis also highlights a

significant gap in our academic response. While global researchers have extensively documented similar phenomena in other societies, Kashmir's academic community has yet to produce substantial research on these pressing issues. The absence of local studies documenting the influence of social media influencers, changing patterns of youth behaviour, and the transformation of traditional values leaves policymakers and stakeholders without the data needed for evidencebased interventions.

As Appadurai (1996) reminds us, embracing modernity doesn't require abandoning traditional values for pure materialism. This insight is particularly relevant for Kashmir as we navigate the challenges of modernization while trying to preserve our cultural integrity. The intersection of social media, materialism, and toxic masculinity has created dangerous behavioral patterns in our youth that demand a proactive response from our community.

First, our educational institutions must incorporate media literacy programs, teaching young people to critically evaluate online content. Second, we need regular community workshops bringing together parents, educators, and youth to discuss social media pressures openly. Third, local research institutions must initiate systematic studies of social media's impact on youth behaviour, providing data for evidence-based policies. We must create mentorship programs pairing successful community members with youth, offering alternative role models who represent achievement through responsibility. Our religious and community leaders need to help reshape narratives around masculinity and success, and advocate values of community service. In addition, creating youth councils or spaces would give young people constructive channels to prove their worth through community service rather than dangerous displays.

The lives lost in this tragic accident cannot be brought back, but we can honour their memory by addressing these deeper societal issues. Our children's lives are too precious to be sacrificed at the altar of status symbols and social media validation. It's time for our community to collectively reflect on the values we are promoting and take concrete steps to protect our future generations from the dangerous confluence of toxic masculinity, materialism, and irresponsible

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The authors are the doctoral scholars in Mass Communication &

Journalism, University of Kashmir

Nutrition Matters For A Developed India

Amarjeet Sinha

tion becomes critical for a developed India. China, Vietnam, and Thailand are our Asian peers who managed to tackle under-nutrition effectively in a short span through country-specific approaches. They also have sustainable rates of economic progress, improved learning outcomes, higher per capita incomes, and greater human well-being. Over 50% of India's children were stunted and underweight in 1998-99; and one-third in 2019-21. Our demographic dividend, disease burden, human development potential, and sustainable economic progress with better skills and productivity

he Economist, in its July 13 issue, record-

ed gain in intelligence quotient (IQ) by 2.2

points between 1948 and 2020. However,

it pointed out how stunting could cause a

15-point loss in IQ and 25% loss in incomes. With

over one-third Indian infants still being stunted

and suffering micronutrient deficiencies, nutri-

tells us that it is possible. National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 data confirms a higher incidence of stunting and underweight among lower quintiles. While poor states like Odisha improved their performance in nutrition with the decentralised management of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the levels have plateaued in recent years. Incomes matter for food diversity and access to health care. Wages of dignity matters for nutrition as well.

are irreversibly compromised if we fail to make a

difference to nutrition. Evidence from a few states

Free food grains alone do not address undernutrition. Infants, adolescent girls, and pregnant women need a range of vitamins, minerals, and proteins that aren't available in food grains. Fruits and green vegetables, milk, eggs, pulses, oil, etc. are all integral to food diversity. Early and exclusive breastfeeding, of course, is the way to begin. Let the baby food industry not compromise an infant's best option.

India's nutrition standards are aspirational, having been set after a 1997-2003 study, observing the growth milestones of infants born in a few welloff households of South Delhi! These are achievable. The small, hilly state of Sikkim reduced stunt-

ing by eight points between NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-2021). Besides strengthening the ICDS system and developing locally-produced protein-rich food, Sikkim cleaned spring sheds, delivered piped clean water to every household, and promoted the use of bio-fertilisers from farmer dairy sheds. Incomes rose through cardamom plantations. Convergent community-led action for a functional ICDS, health sub-centre and school, and active women's collectives and gram panchaypre-school education. The 0-3 age group, which faces the real challenge, has not received the attention it deserves. A 2006 study pointed out the importance of basic medicines in villages, considering over 50% of the children had some minor ailments - fever, skin rashes, eye infection, diarrhoea — that needed neither a hospital nor a doctor. Anganwadis and ANMs with basic medicines can prevent unattended illnesses that often lead to wasting and stunting.

Wider determinants of health like clean water, sanitation, hygiene, housing, behavioural change, safe cooking, and food diversity play a key role in poor households. Nutrition gains from convergence. It is the surest way to address the unacceptably high nutritional anemia

ats for decentralisation made the difference.

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh also recorded a 5-point and 6.6-point decline in stunting between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5. The Jeevika movement in Bihar promoted dietary diversity. Uttar Pradesh involved women's collectives in ensuring supply of scientifically prepared high-protein local food. It ensured convergence of accredited social health activists and auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs) and the ICDS, and made governance improvements.

An analysis of the ICDS since 1975 brings out its "project focus". The thrust has remained on food for children aged 3-6 years and rudimentary

The life cycle approach needs flexible financing to set up day-care centres for infants, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women. Andhra Pradesh's pilot community-managed Nutrition-Cum-Day Care Centres (2007-11) led to lower infant and maternal mortality and near negligible underweight babies. The cost was unsustainable under ICDS funding norms. This is unacceptable if India has to transform.

The southern states boast better indicators on nutrition, highlighting the role of women's collectives, adolescent girls' education, and the functional health care system. Other factors include

better governance of ICDS, and higher disposable income. Decentralisation through panchayats and urban local bodies with professionals, funds, functions, and functionaries becomes imperative.

Wider determinants of health like clean water, sanitation, hygiene, housing, behavioural change, safe cooking, and food diversity play a key role in poor households. Nutrition gains from convergence. It is the surest way to address the unacceptably high nutritional anaemia.

We need to develop institutions of accountability, community-led planning, and implementation. Panchayats and women's collectives can play a critical role in monitoring every infant to ensure growth does not falter. The Poshan tracker should only accept community validated data for effectiveness

Backyard gardens, and fruits and vegetables grown on school premises and other public land will create a societal impact on under-nutrition. Under-nutrition also leads us to appreciate mature age of marriage and childbirth, as underage mothers give birth to underweight infants. While the age of marriage has been increasing, we need greater care during adolescence and pregnancy. With more women in panchayats and women's collectives under the livelihood mission, there is an opportunity for gender justice and equity.

Flexible and well-funded interventions have to be tailored to need. Efforts to make use of monitoring data at the local level for immediate rectification helps. As is the support for immunisation and health services. The greater the interaction of the front-line worker with households, the greater the likelihood of timely interventions. Let us address the curse of under-nutrition through adequately funded, flexible, decentralised, and convergent action. It will make all the difference.

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

Dealing with Gen Z

Bilal Ahmad Khanday

ur children, the blooming buds, are our real asset because they are the future who will shape our society in the coming years. And if we succeed in providing them quality education which unifies reason and religion, science and spirituality, with appropriate and balanced skills, we have to be optimistic for our bright future and contrary if we fail to do so, the coming generations will definitely see a disaster which will be irreparable

A holistic education is that which prepares a child to face all life challenges with integrity, patience, wit and wisdom by instilling in him the basic life skills. Previously education was limited to reading, speaking and writing but with the advancement in all spheres of life, its horizons expanded from the abyss to the skies. And now equal emphasis is being given on the life skills which infuse a new vigour and valour in a student besides preparing him for different competitive exams and the allied sectors. But simultaneously we have to teach him the etiquette to balance in different situations because the dividing line is very minute and delicate. If somehow he fails to strike a proper balance, the results would prove very dangerous.

The idea struck my mind when I saw two youngsters, in their early twenties, quite efficient and intelligent in their studies, working tirelessly as sweat was oozing out from their faces that too in this chilling cold weather, to extract sand from a river. I stopped and thought that both the guys are from relatively welloff families and also they are currently enrolled in an institution for their studies. How on earth they need to do this arduous job for their pocket money which they could otherwise arrange easily from their family.

In the evening I enquired from one of their acquaintance and he



4

ON THE ONE HAND, EARNING WHILE LEARNING (BEING A STUDENT) MAKES HIM RELATIVELY FINANCIALLY

INDEPENDENT but on the other hand it somehow makes him forget his long term dreams and goals. The other positive would be his earnings would ease up his familial pressures and burdens to some extent but on the other hand he gradually learns to bypass his parental decisions in family matters

informed me that these days they are busy routinely earning some bucks and now they hardly pay any heed to their formal studies. He continued that they have now almost left their studies and they feel that the money they earn makes them self-reliant and

independent. "They don't need their parental or family intervention or support for their needs and wants", he added. The information proved very distressing for me as I became restless for quite a long time.

Then I realized that parenting for Generation Z in this scientifically advanced world is not as easy as it used to be. In this backdrop, the duty of parents and teachers has increased manifold as they have to instill the 'skills of balancing' as well besides other routine skills into the children. We have to train them how they can balance in different situations and which skills they need to utilize in a proper situation. If they somehow misuse or mis-

place these skills, their future is definitely at stake.

The religious preachers, community leaders, social media influencers and motivational speakers have a key role to play in keeping the budding youth on track by trying their best to motivate them with their wit and wisdom, integrity and intelligence, eloquence and expression, content and context with quality in order to have a balanced generation that will lead us to peace and prosperity. If we somehow fail to strike a proper balance, the consequences would prove very fatal.

So if a student earns some bucks while in studies during his formative years, he has to be properly trained and well versed in dealing and handling the money because quite often 'self sufficiency' and financial independence generally ruins a child if he is not properly monitored and guided.

On the one hand, earning while learning (being a student) makes him relatively financially independent but on the other hand it somehow makes him forget his long term dreams and goals. The other positive would be his earnings would ease up his familial pressures and burdens to some extent but on the other hand he gradually learns to bypass his parental decisions in family matters. With the result, he becomes a family head with the passage of time and many times he sinks the family boat with his least and inadequate experience.

So the point is that the freedom which children look for should be given in a phased manner and we have to be genuinely well aware which freedom we have to give them at a proper time. Additionally the freedoms should be properly checked and balanced.

The author can be reached for feedback at khandaybila12@ amaill.com

The choices can become habits that, in

Your attitude toward problems

you will undoubtedly encounter

Who you will spend your time

with, while being more aware of

Consider how you will choose:

and action are needed.

in vour day.

Finding Meaning in Later Life Is Your Choice

Elaine Dundon

There is a longstanding debate as to whether people have free will, defined as the capacity to make decisions independent of the external world. The existential philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre suggested that individuals were "condemned to be free," doomed to agonize over all the choices they face in life. Other advisors have taken the opposite approach; believing in fate where events, and thereby even our choices, are all predetermined. Still others fall somewhere in the middle, believing that life is a combination of both free will and fate.

Do you feel you have free will and the freedom to choose how your life evolves? If so, are you actively choosing the direction your life takes? Or do you believe that your life has already been predetermined and therefore you are content to let circumstances or other people determine your future? These are important questions to ask yourself as you age, especially if you are feeling that life is too short or that you are running out of time to live the life you truly want.

To see how the choices you have made in the past have manifested, take a look at yourself and the life you are living now. Then ask yourself if you are happy to continue this life or if is it time to make some new choices based on the "who/what" question: "Who am I now and what do I want for the rest of my life?"

As we transition to our older years, we may realize that we have lived a somewhat programmed life, dictated by others who, although they may have been well-intentioned, may have steered us away from who we really are at our core and our authentic interests. Now that you are older, it is time to face the fork in the road; to choose to continue with this programming or to choose to override it and make decisions for yourself.

Our choices are shaped by our inner perception of ourselves. However, nothing changes until we change this perception. Reflect upon whether

Believe you are too old to change versus believing one's mindset can



- overrule age. Feel worn out and rundown versus
- strong and vibrant.

 Believe you won't be able to cope with future challenges (health, financial, death) versus being able
- Dread the future versus seeing a bright future, full of hope and poscibility.
- Believe you lack the resources (time, money, help from others) versus believing you will live with
- abundant resources in the future.
 Lack goals versus having stimulating goals that will pull you into your future.
- Feel alone versus are willing to seek out better social connections Are too afraid to change versus have confidence in yourself that
- you can change.

 Believe change is too hard versus believing change can happen with a commitment and a plan.
- Feel you are stuck by your own

Your choices create your own unique tapestry of life.
Although outside forces may control the external world, your choices can control your internal world.

- who is influencing you.
- How to broaden your interests.To seek out purpose in every day.
- To seek out purpose if
 To stop complaining.

choices or because someone else

won't let you change versus be-

lieving you are strong enough to

In essence, change comes down to

Your choices create your own unique

your self-perception including the be-

tapestry of life. Although outside forces

may control the external world, your

choices can control your internal world.

shape and improve your life as you age.

Make a list of new choices that will

make changes yourself.

lief that "I can do this."

- How much movement/exercise you get in a day.
- Healthier food options for more energy.

 Things happen in the world that are

Things happen in the world that are beyond our sphere of control. We cannot dictate world politics, the price of food, or the behavior of others. But we can control our inner world, starting with our own choices.

Many have advised that the end result of our lives will be the total of all the choices we have made along the way. Is it time to make new choices to find deeper meaning in your life—before it's too late?

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

BIS JKBO Hosts 6th Training Program On Learning Science Via Standards

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), successfully organized a twoday Training Program on Learning Science via Standards (LSVS) at Lemon Tree Hotel, Rail Head Complex, Jammu, from 28th to 29th November 2024.

The program was inaugurated by Islam Khan, Assistant Commissioner, Kendriya Regional Office, Vidyalaya Jammu, who graced the event as the Chief Guest. He commended BIS for its initiative and appreciated the LSVS Training Program, highlighting its importance in equipping teachers and mentors with the tools to inspire students in quality education and standardization.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 80 attendees, including science teachers and mentors from standard clubs across the districts of Jammu, Reasi, Kathua, and Samba.

A significant highlight of the program was a visit to the BIS Referral Assaying Laboratory, Jammu, on the second day. Participants observed advanced gold testing methods such as cupellation, partition, and XRF, gaining a deeper understanding of how BIS standards are applied to ensure the quality and authenticity of gold products.

The program was seamlessly



executed under the guidance of Tilak Raj, Director and Head of BIS JKBO. The inaugural ceremony featured the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Chief Guest Islam Khan, symbolizing the beginning of a meaningful knowledge-sharing event.

Facilitated by Hitesh Yadav, Deputy Director, JKBO, and Ashish Kumar Dwivedi, Standard Promotion Officer, the program featured insightful sessions by resource persons Monika Sharma and Ms. Mehak Rasool. Their sessions focused on:

• The importance of BIScertified products in promoting • Equipping science teachers

with methods to apply scientific knowledge in understanding quality and standards.

• Developing lesson plans that connect theoretical concepts to real-world applications.

Participants were encouraged to explore the intersection of science, quality, and standardization, fostering a practical approach to teaching. The program also emphasized the crucial role of teachers in nurturing a culture of quality and standards in education.

The event featured interactive discussions and hands-on activities, enriching the understanding of Learning Science via Standards. Outstanding mentors

who excelled in implementing BIS standard club activities in their schools were recognized and presented with mementos. Additionally, sixteen school mentors were facilitated for their dedicated contributions to conducting standard club activities with students.

Participants hailed the program as an invaluable platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing, applauding its innovative approach to integrating standards into science education.

This 6th edition of the LSVS Training Program reaffirms BIS JKBO's steadfast commitment to promoting quality, innovation, and excellence through education.

"Yet another shocker.. supposedly hidden somewhere in the Ajmer Dargah Sharif," added

"Worrisome. The latest claim: Shiv Temple at

"These things are very painful. Some people

People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on

Ajmer Dargah. Where are we taking this country?

And why? For political dividends!" Rajya Sabha

have their cool after 2024 (Lok Sabha) election results as they didn't get the majority. These

people want to target a particular community to please the majority," added Samajwadi Party MP

Mirwaiz Umar Faroog expressed concern on

Friday over the recent court-ordered surveys of

religious sites and called for the protection of

Addressing the Friday congregation at Jamia

Masjid here, Mirwaiz of Kashmir, condemned the

killing of four youths in clashes during protests

against the survey of the Mughal-era Shahi Jama

police action is very distressing and condem-

"The killing of these youths in discriminatory

The Mirwaiz claimed that a court in Rajasthan's

"Before that, the Gyanvapi Mosque was sur-

Ajmer "ordered the survey of the state's iconic

veyed on court orders. There seems to be a delib-

erate pattern, first doubts are raised, then a court

orders surveys and then the majority claims have

He said, "The Babri Masjid issue... is fresh in the

This is an "extremely disturbing and serious is-

sue for the Muslims of not only India and Kashmir

but also the subcontinent and the world over," the

wali, Hazrat Moinuddin, is revered by Muslims

the world over and thousands visit it daily. It is

linked to the history of the spread of Islam in the

Indian subcontinent and holds a special signifi-

cance for the people of Kashmir who make pil-

About the surveys of mosques, the Mirwaiz

said such actions "backed by the judiciary and

"The 800-year-old shrine of the great Sufi and

the developments in Ajmer.

Mohibbullah Nadvi.

nable," he said.

Ajmer Sharif Dargah".

minds of Muslims."

MP Kapil Sibal said in a post on X.

Extremely Disturbing: Mirwaiz

Muslim heritage and their rights.

Masjid in Uttar Pradesh's Sambha.

to be satisfied," the Mirwaiz said.

Hurriyat Conference chairman said.

grimage to the dargah," he said.

CONTD. FROM **3RD PAGE**

Rural Girl Literacy

It also said that there has been a dropout rate of 4.2 percent at elementary level and 4.6 percent at secondary level in the year 2020-21 followed by 3.8 percent and 6.3 percent in the year 2021-22.

"Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing the scheme of Samagra Shiksha for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs including Iammu & Kashmir." reads the written reply

The MoS said that in order to bridge the gender and social gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the Samagra Shiksha. "Under Samagra Shiksha, various facilities are being provided for promoting girls education."

"It includes opening of schools in the neighborhood as defined by the State, free uniform and text-books to girls up to Class VIII, provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools, provision of self-defence training to girls from classes VI to XII, stipend to CWSN girls from class I to Class XII, among others, special State specific projects for equity such as life skills, awareness programmes, incinerators, sanitary pad vending machines etc., and vocationalization of secondary education," it reads. (KNO)

J&K On Path

terrorists will be wiped out from Jammu Kashmir," he said.

He also spoke on J&K's exceptional journey towards growth and prosperity, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the last 50 months.

"We had envisioned a prosperous J&K UT and in the last 4 years, we have taken many steps to speed up infrastructure development, build an environment more conducive to industries and increase investment in various other sectors of the economy," the LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the people-centric policies, progressive reforms across the sectors and dedicated focus of the government on the empowerment of youth, women, farmers and marginalised sections have paved the way for rapid and inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir.

He also urged the farmers and other stakeholders associated with agriculture & allied sectors to avail the benefits under the Holistic Agriculture

On the occasion, Sinha along with Sant Shri Bal Yogeshwar Das Ji Maharaj also unveiled the idol of Bhagwan Narayan.

Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Member of Legislative Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi: senior officials of civil & police administration, army veterans; families of the martyrs and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

Rajya Sabha Race

Lok Sabha polls. Aga Mehmood, an influential Shia leader, played a key role in NC's victories in segments with a sizeable Shia population.

Sources said that Congress, which has six MLAs, is also eyeing one Rajya Sabha seat from the ruling coalition's quota. "Congress high command is likely to seek one seat from NC given its pre-poll arrangement with the party," they said.

According to sources, BJP, with 28 MLAs, is likely to win one seat. Former deputy chief ministers Kavinder Gupta and Nirmal Singh, and former president Ravinder Raina are among the frontrunners. While Kavinder and Nirmal didn't contest the 2024 assembly polls, Raina faced defeat at the hands of NC's Surinder Choudhary. (KNO)

HC Grants Interim

by Advocate Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, argued that they were unfairly excluded from applying for the recruitment process due to being overage. They attributed this to an eight-year delay in the recruitment process caused by administrative inaction, COVID-19 disruptions, and other super-

vening factors. The petitioners, who range from matriculates to post-graduates, cited previous instances of age relaxation, including the relaxation of the maximum age for sub-inspectors from 30 to 32 years via S.O. No. 420 dated December 10, 2021, and for constables in Ladakh from 28 to 30 years under

S.O. No. 62 dated November 24, 2022. The petitioners requested a three-year relaxation in the maximum age limit and sought interim relief to participate in the recruitment test scheduled for December 1, 2024.

Hon'ble Justice M.A. Chowdhary, presiding over the matter, directed the respondents to provisionally allow the petitioners to appear for the recruitment test, irrespective of their age. The court clarified that participation in the test would not automatically entitle the petitioners to appointment, which would remain subject to the final outcome of the case.

The court further noted that the petitioners raised valid concerns about the discriminatory nature of the recruitment policy and its potential violation of their fundamental rights.

Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, representing the government, and

Government Advocate Bhanu Jasrotia, defending JKSSB, filed objections to the petition, refuting the allegations. However, the court's interim relief provided a temporary reprieve to the petitioners.

This interim order offers hope to candidates who were disqualified due to age criteria, especially given the significant gap since the last recruitment. It also underscores the judiciary's role in addressing grievances related to public employment policies and ensuring fairness in recruitment processes.

HC Likely To Hear

50% ceiling for open merit and general category for various government posts and seats in educa-

The petitioners— Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, Ishrat Nabi, Ishfaq Ahmad Dar, Shahid Bashir Wani and Amir Hamid Lone—have submitted that due to the amendments in the Reservation Rules of 2005 by authorities, there is decrease in the percentage in Jammu & Kashmir Government Recruitment posts and seats in educational institutions for open merit from 57% to 33%, Resident of Backward Area (RBA) from 20% to 10% while there is increase in reservation in scheduled tribe (ST) from 10% to 20%, Social Caste from 02% to 08% and ALC from 03% to 04%, PHC from 03% to 04%. Besides, they said the amendment in the rules have added new categories like Children of Defence personnel and kept 03% reservation for them, Children of police personnel by keeping 1% and 2% for candidates possessing performance in sports.

The petitioners have challenged amendment in Jammu & Kashmir reservation rules of 2005 by authorities by way of issuance of S.O No. 176 dated 15.03.2024 and S.O No. 127 dated 20.04.2020, S.O 305 DT: 21-05-2024, Advertisement Notification No. 04-PSC (DR-P) of 2024 dated 26.07.2024, Advertisement 02 of 2024 dated 22.11.2024, Corrigendum dated 29.07.2024 in Advertisement of 2024/RR/RC dated 09.05.2024, Advertisement No. 04 of 2024/RR/RC of 2024 dated 29.07.2024 and Advertisement No. 06 of 2024/ Psy dated 28.08.2024, in terms whereof the authorities have decreased the percentage in favour of open merit and RBA candidates and increased the reservation for ST, SC, ALC and PHC candidates we as well adding new categories in favour of Children of Defence personnel (3%), Children of police personnel (1%), sports category (2%) and said that same were ultravires to the constitution. The petitioners said that they are highly prejuby the acts of omission and commi the part of the authorities and as such moved the court for redressing their grievances.

Among others, they have sought the court's direction in declaring Rule 4, Rule 5, Rule 13, Rule 15, Rule 18, Rule 21 and Rule 23 of the J&K Reservation Rules, 2005 as amended through various SOs as ultra vires to the Constitution.

They have also sought direction to the authorities to issue fresh recruitment notifications in tune with Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules of 2005 (un-amended). They have sought appointing a commission headed by a Retired Judge of High Court with members of each community/ category to recommend and provide the reservation on the basis of population percentage in J&K, so that the reservation policy is framed on rational basis.

Besides, they have sought direction to command the authorities to apply rationality in the reservation to maintain 50% ceiling for open merit and general category.

Fires 2 Govt Employees

The LG has ordered termination of several government employees over the past few years under the same provision.

Naika, a resident of Devsar in Kulgam district, was appointed as a medical assistant in 1992.

"His links with Hizbul Mujahideen was unearthed after the police launched a probe into the killing of Ghulam Hassan Lone, a staunch nationalist in Devsar whose three sons are serving in security forces.

"Lone was killed by terrorists in August 2021. The probe revealed that Naika was one of the plotters of killing aimed at creating a state of fear and insecurity among the patriotic people," officials said.

The investigation revealed that Naika played a key role in nourishing, strengthening and proliferating a conducive ecosystem for secessionism and terrorism, not only in Kulgam, but also in the neighbouring Shopian and Anantnag districts, they added.

After Lone's murder, the police tracked the footprints of the overground workers (OGWs) providing logistical support to the terrorists, they said.

Naika and his associates were nabbed with hand grenades and AK 47 ammunition. During interrogation, he confessed to have received direction from his handlers in Pakistan to carry out a terrorist attack in Kulgam by lobbing grenades on security forces and political persons, officials said.

"He also admitted that as an OGW, his job was to conduct reconnaissance of targets. In the killing of Lone, Naika and his associates kept a watch on his movement and on the day of the murder, he mounted surveillance in the area to provide a safe passage to the attackers," they added.

During investigation, "his role as an Hizbul Mujahideen aide facilitating attacks on police personnel was also unearthed", officials said.

"Naika was a rabid OGW and a hardcore terror associate for various outfits, in particular the Hizbul Mujahideen, and used his privilege as a government employee to target people, police and political leaders," they said.

The second employee to face action -- Abbas - is a resident of Badhat Saroor area in Kishtwar

"A graduate from Aligarh Muslim University, Abbas was posted as a teacher at the government high school in Bugrana in 2012. He was arrested in September 2020 for harbouring three active Hizbul terrorists in Kishtwar. He is currently lodged at the Kot Bhalwal prison," officials said.

During investigations into terror activities in Kishtwar, Abbas' role as a hardcore OGW came to

"After his arrest, Abbas gave inputs of hideouts where arms and ammunition were stored, besides identifying two OGWs -- Gulzar Ahmad and Mohammad Hanief," they said.

Over 5.5 Lakh

Commissioners to conduct the exams for selection of Constables in Police through J&K Services Selection Recruitment Board (SSRB)

Besides the Chairperson, JKSSRB those who attended the meeting includes Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; ADGP, Jammu; IGP, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the officers to make adequate arrangements in terms of deployment of staff including observers, supervisors, invigilators and other personnel.

He urged the Deputy Commissioners to visit as many exam centres as possible besides creating teams under senior officers in district administration to examine all the exam centres established in their districts. He sensitized them to ensure that no untoward incident of copying or malpractice occurs anywhere and orders deployment of enough security personnel at each centre in the

Army Doesn't Impede

due emphasis on friendly move of the popu-

"Owing to security reasons and to thwart inci-Opening Parties are sent out prior to the movement of any Security Forces Convoy. Traffic is regulated, temporarily, particularly at points where laterals meet the NH 44 and at U Turns, during the movement of the Army/CAPF convoys," he said.

"Indian Army does not harass or stop any civil movement on the National Highway. The charter of civilian traffic regulation is of the State authorities/Jammu and Kashmir Police. Ambulances are always accorded priority for movement and they are not stopped anywhere by Security Forces," he

Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi criticized the government's response to his questions about repeated stoppages of civilian traffic, including ambulances, on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway during paramilitary convoy movements.

Ruhullah sought answers from the Ministry of Defence regarding the disruption of traffic and its impact on civilians. His queries included whether civilian and ambulance traffic is halted during convoy movements, details of such incidents and steps proposed to prevent these interruptions.

Rejecting the response as "blatant lies." Ruhullah took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to express his outrage.

"I asked the Government of India to stop the harassment of people and blockading of traffic, including ambulances, on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway during security forces convoy movement. This is their response. Full of blatant lies," he wrote on X.

The Defence Ministry justified the traffic regulation measures, citing security concerns and the need to prevent ambushes on convoys. It attributed civilian traffic control to the state authorities and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The MP further shared alleged video evidence in a thread to substantiate his allegations, showing instances where civilians, including ambulances, were halted for prolonged periods.

This recent controversy has again ignited debate on the longstanding debate over the balance between national security and the movement of civilians on The Srinagar Jammu highway.

India's GDP

decelerated to 6 per cent in September quarter from 7.4 per cent in April-June this year.

However, India remained the fastest-growing major economy as China's GDP growth in the July-September quarter this year was at 4.6 per cent.

"Real GDP growth print of 5.4 per cent is on the lower side and it is disappointing but there are some bright spots," Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said while addressing the

Agriculture and allied sector and construction sector are some of the bright spots, he added. Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar Chief Economist and Head - Research & Outreach. ICRA Ltd, said: "GDP growth dipped much sharper than expected to a tepid 5.4 per cent in Q2 FY25, with a number of sectors throwing up negative surprises, especially the anemic outturn of manufacturing growth and the marginal contraction in mining, as well as a slower-than-projected growth of the services sector.'

According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data, the growth of agriculture sector GVA (Gross Value Added) accelerated to 3.5 per cent in the latest July-September quarter from 1.7 per cent a year ago.

The GVA in the manufacturing sector slowed to 2.2 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal compared to an expansion of 14.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

As per the data, the output (GVA) in the 'mining and quarrying' contracted to 0.01 per cent in the second quarter against a growth of 11.1 per cent The expansion in financial, real estate and pro-

fessional services' GVA was 6.7 per cent, up from 6.2 per cent in the year-ago quarter. Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility

services grew by 3.3 per cent, slower than 10.5 per cent a year ago. The construction sector recorded a growth of 7.7 per cent in the second quarter, down from 13.6

per cent year on year. The growth in gross domestic product (GDP) during the April-June quarter of 2024-25 remained unchanged at 6.7 per cent.

Court Notice

shrine a temple.

The notice came just days after four people were killed in Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh in violence following a local court ordering survey of a Mughal-era shrine, the Shahi Jama Masjid, which petitioners said was built after destroying an old temple. And set off fears that Ajmer could become another communal tinderbox.

While dargah committee officials declined to comment, Syed Sarwar Chishti, secretary of the Anjuman Syed Zadgan, a body representing the khadims (caretakers) of the Ajmer dargah, described the petition as a deliberate attempt to fracture society along communal lines.

He said the dargah which he described as a symbol of communal harmony and secularism comes under the Minority Affairs ministry and the ASI has nothing to do with it.

"The community accepted the de Babri Masjid case and we believed nothing will happen after that but unfortunately such things are happening again and again. The example of Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh is in front of us. This must stop," he said.

He added that the Anjuman be made party to the case.

The plea seeking directions to start worship in the temple was filed in September and the next hearing is on December 20.

"Our demand was that the Ajmer dargah be declared a Sankat Mochan Mahadev Temple and if the dargah has any kind of registration, it should be cancelled. Its survey should be done through ASI and Hindus should be given the right to worship there," plaintiff Vishnu Gupta told reporters. The Hindu Sena president has referred to a

book by academic Har Bilas Sarda to support his claim that there was a Shiv temple where the dargah was raised.

He claimed he had conducted research for two years and found that there was a Shiva temple which was destroyed by Muslim invaders and a dargah built.

As debate – and concerns – escalated, Union minister Giriraj Singh wondered why.

"A court has ordered survey in Ajmer. What is the problem if court has ordered a survey? This is a truth that when Mughals came to India, they demolished our temples. The Congress government has only done appearement till now. If (Jawaharlal) Nehru would have stopped it in 1947 itself, there would have been no need to approach the court today," he said.

At the centre of much of the debate was The Places of Worship (special provisions) Act, 1991, which fixed August 15, 1947 as the cut-off date for status quo on the character of religious places. Highlighting the significance of Ajmer Sharif, Mehbooba said it is a site revered by all faiths, including Hindus, who visit in large numbers to seek blessings. She called the shrine a symbol of harmony, with a history spanning over 800 years.

She continued, saying that leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sardar Patel, and Mahatma Gandhi lived their lives to uphold the secular ideals of India, but today, the secular foundations of the country are being shaken. "The secular fabric of our nation is being shaken. Instead of addressing unemployment, improving education, or providing better healthcare, efforts are being made to pit Hindus and Muslims against each other," Mehbooba remarked.

She held the former Chief Justice responsible for playing a "negative role" in this matter, stating that his actions have contributed to the current climate of unrest. Mehbooba urged the government to prioritize

zens, rather than stoking communal tensions.

unity and focus on issues affecting common citi-

government deeply undermine the religious sentiments" of crores of Muslims here. "If India is a secular state as per its preamble, in by a constitution which includes the Places of Worship Act, then why are such issues allowed to be raked up and entertained continuously?" he This is a "dangerous trend that is being encouraged and can have very serious consequences", the Hurrivat Conference chairman added. About the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, he said

it is a worrying matter for the Muslims and as such the Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema -- an amalgam of religious organisations -- has sent a letter to Jagdambika Pal, the chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the issue. seeking a meeting with him on the matter.

Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti was a Sufi saint from Persia who made Ajmer his home. During his reign, Mughal ruler Akbar made

a pilgrimage to Ajmer every year. He, as well as Shah Jahan, built mosques inside the shrine

Cyber Police Cracks"The fraudsters accused the victim of being involved in a fabricated money laundering case amounting to Rs 6.8 crores. To intimidate him, they issued fake arrest warrants and penalties. declaring the conversations a "national secret" and instructing the victim to lock his house and avoid any communication with others," the SSP said. "Under this pressure, the victim prematurely closed his fixed deposits and transferred Rs 21 lakh to a fraudulent HDFC Bank account, falsely assured that the funds would be refunded within

An FIR was registered under number. 26/2024 and police launched a detailed investigation using advanced technical tools.

"Teams were dispatched to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Punjab, leading to the arrest of Gaurav Kumar from Shamli (UP), Gurpreet Singh from Patiala (Punjab), and Ujjawal Chauhan, also from

Patiala," the SSP said. He said during the operation, the police seized 4 mobile phones, a MacBook, 13 SIM cards. 24 debit cards, 20 cheque books, 10 passbooks, and other incriminating materials. An amount of Rs 4.13 lakh has already been released back to the complainant's account.

SSP Srinagar said that further investigations are ongoing to uncover other conspirators and dismantle the larger network behind this scam.

The police have issued a public advisory urging citizens to exercise caution while sharing sensitive financial information and warned against falling prey to such schemes. "Legitimate government agencies will never demand payments, conduct investigations over phone calls, or request sensitive data online. Citizens are advised to verify the authenticity of such claims and report suspicious activities immediately to the nearest Cyber Police station or helpline," the SSP said.

J&K Reservation Policy Amendments Face Legal Challenge

SRINAGAR: The recent amendments to Jammu and Kashmir's reservation policy, which allocate 70% of government job and education institution quotas to reserved categories, have sparked a legal challenge. A petition has been filed in the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, questioning the constitutionality of the new quota system.

Social activist and advocate Zahoor Bhat filed the petition before the division bench of the High Court on Friday, arguing that the changes introduced through various Statutory Orders (S.O.) and recruitment notifications are "unconstitutional and discriminatory" against open merit candidates. The amendments have drawn criticism for reducing the share of open merit and Resident of Backward Area (RBA) reservations, while increasing quotas for Scheduled Tribes (ST), Social Caste, and new categories such as children of defence and police personnel and sportspersons.

Bhat said that under the new policy, the open merit share has been reduced from 57% to 33%, while the RBA quota has dropped from 20% to 10%. At the same time, ST reservations have been increased from 10% to 20%. Additionally, new categories of reservation have been introduced, which further complicate the framework, he said.

The petition argues that the amendments violate Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantee equality before the law, prohibit discrimination and ensure equality of opportunity in public employment. The petitioner claims that the changes undermine merit-based selection and have been implemented without adequate consultation with stakeholders, potentially exacerbating social disparities in the region.

Bhat is seeking the reinstatement of the reservation framework established in 2005, which he believes strikes a better balance between affirmative action and merit. The petition also raises crucial questions about how reservation policies should be designed in a way that aligns with constitutional principles while addressing social inequalities.

Bhat said that the J&K High Court is scheduled to hear the petition on Monday. —(KNO)

Historic Spring In Pulwama Faces Crisis As Water Levels Plummet



Agencies

PULWAMA: A historically and religiously significant spring in south Kashmir's Pulwama district is facing an unprecedented crisis as its water levels have reached alarming lows. This has sparked concerns among locals and environmentalists about its future.

The spring, located in the Sirnoo area of Pulwama, has long been a vital source of freshwater for the local community locals said.

They said the spring holds immense spiritual significance, with a mosque on one side and a temple on the other, making it a unique symbol of commu-

"For generations, this spring has served as a gathering place for religious rituals and a crucial water source for drinking, agriculture and daily activities. However, its water levels have been steadily receding in recent years, and this year, it has never been so low," said Mohammad Akram, a resident of Sirnoo.

He said the water level of this spring has never gone so low. "It is almost about to dry up completely," he lamented.

Akram said the situation has arisen due to the lack of rain-

fall in the Kashmir plains over the past five to six months, which has largely impacted the spring's water supply.

Another resident said the spring, once home to hundreds of fish, has seen many fish die due to the dwindling water levels. "The government has taken steps to maintain the water level and save the fish," he said.

Environmental experts said the spring's drying is due to a combination of climate change, deforestation and unsustainable water usage. They said erratic rainfall patterns, rising temperatures and human interference have disrupted the ish these springs.

"Springs are one of the first victims of climate change. The drying up of such springs is a stark warning for the region's water security," they warned.

The residents said that the drying of this spring is not only an environmental crisis but also a cultural loss for the region. The spring's significance extends beyond its role in local ecology; it is deeply embedded in the heritage and history of the community, they said.—(KNO)

Cyber Police Kashmir Cracks ₹21 Lakh Digital Fraud Case

SRINAGAR: The Cyber Police Kashmir today cracked the Rs 21 lakh digital fraud case, arresting three individuals and recovering Rs 4.13 lakh from the accused.

Addressing a press conference here, SSP Srinagar Imtiyaz Ahmed, the scam came to light after a senior citizen from Srinagar filed a complaint, reporting that he was defrauded by scammers impersonating officials from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"The fraudsters accused the victim of being involved in a fabricated money laundering case amounting to Rs 6.8 crores. To intimidate him, they issued fake arrest warrants and penalties, declaring the conversations a "national secret" and instructing the victim to lock his house and avoid any communication with others,"

"Under this pressure, the victim prematurely closed his fixed deposits and transferred Rs 21 lakh to a fraudulent HDFC Bank account, falsely assured that the funds would be refunded within hours."

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Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates 59th DGsP/IGsP Conference 2024 In Bhubaneswar



Observer News Service

BHUBANESWAR: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated 59th DGsP/IGsP Conference 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the proceedings on the 2nd and 3rd days of the Conference. The conference, being held in a hybrid format, is attended by DGsP/IGsP of all States/UTs and heads of the CAPFs/CPOs physically and by officers of various ranks virtually from all States. National Security Advisor, Ministers of State for Home, Union Home Secretary also participated in the deliberations.

On this occasion, Union Home Minister Amit Shah conferred Police Medals for Meritorious Service to officers of the Intelligence Bureau and released the Ministry of Home Affairs' book on 'Ranking of Police Stations 2024'. Shri Shah also awarded trophies to the three best police stations.

In his inaugural address, Amit Shah congratulated the police leadership for the smooth conduct of the General Elections - 2024 and the seamless roll out of the 3 new Criminal Laws.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation expressed satisfaction at the significant achievements leading to improvement in the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and Left-Wing Extremism affected states.

Amit Shah said that the 3 new Criminal Laws have transformed the ethos of the criminal justice system of the country from punishmentoriented to justice-oriented. He emphasised that the spirit of the new laws is rooted in Indian tradition.

The Union Home Minister underscored the role of

the security establishment in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 and becoming the third largest economy by 2027. The Home Minister said that the focus should be on emerging security challenges along the Eastern border, immigration and trends in urban policing. Shah called for taking initiative towards a zero-tolerance strategy plan and zero tolerance action to implement zero tolerance policy.

During the next two days of the Conference, top brass of police leadership of the country would chalk out a roadmap to counter existing and emerging national security challenges, including LWE, Coastal Security, Narcotics, Cyber Crime and Economic Security. The progress in implementation of the new Criminal Laws and initiatives and best practices in policing would also be reviewed during the next two days.

Cancer Cases On Rise In J&K

8,500 Cases Registered At GMC Srinagar Since 2017

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The number of cancer patients in Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a concerning increase, with approximately 8,500 patients registered at the Department of Radiation Oncology, SMHS Hospital GMC Srinagar since 2017. This year alone, 1,520 new cancer cases have been reported, marking a sharp rise in the prevalence of the dis-

According to details obtained, the radiation oncology department saw the following number of new cancer patients in recent years: 491 in 2017, 1,032 in 2018, 801 in 2019, 650 in 2020, 1,010 in 2021, 1,169 in 2022, and 1,640 in 2023. The year 2024 has already seen 1,520 new cases, with approximately 4 to 5 new patients being registered daily at the department.

An oncologist at GMC Srinagar said there is a growing trend in cancer cases in the region, saying that lung cancer remains the most common type of cancer among males, while breast cancer



is most prevalent among females. He said the rise in lung cancer cases in men is directly of tobacco products. "This indicates the magnitude of tobacco consumption in our society and the urgent need for awareness about its harmful effects." the doctor said.

Similarly, breast cancer in females is often linked to factors like lack of physical activity and obesity. The oncologist said that both lung and breast cancer could be largely prevented by making healthier lifestyle choices, including increased physical activity and reduced tobacco use.

To combat this growing health concern, the department has called for serious public awareness regarding

the signs and symptoms of cancer, preventive measures and the importance of early medical evaluations. The department at SMHS

Hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art technology for the diagnosis and treatment of various cancers, including Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), Image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT), Stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), Stereotactic surgery and Volumet ric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT), the doctor said.

He added that the department offers a variety of services such as an inpatient ward, a day-care ward for blood transfusions and chemotherapy, and a terminally ill patient ward. The hospital has essential equipment such as Telecobalt 60, linear accelerators, Brachytherapy and CT simulators, he added.

"Efforts are underway to install a PET scan facility at the hospital, which is expected to be available soon, significantly enhancing the department's diagnostic capabilities," the oncologist said—(KNO)

6 Drug Peddlers Arrested In Kashmir

Observser News service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Friday said to have arrested six drug peddlers in Budgam, Ganderbal & Sopore and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Budgam, a police party of PS Magam during Naka checking at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Magam intercepted two suspicious persons carrying Nylon bags who tried to flee from the spot but were apprehended tactfully, a police spokesman said in a statement.

During the search, 11 grams of Heroin-like substance and a digital weighing machine was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Parray son of Ali Mohd Parray resident of Hardu-Malpora Beerwah & Aamir Farooq Wani son of Faroog Ahmed Wani resident of

Arath Budgam, police said. Similarly, a Police Party led by SHO PS Chadoora accompanied by I/C PP Mochewa at a checkpoint established at

Sheikhpora Wathoora Crossing and apprehended one suspicious person carrying a nylon bag, police said.

During the search, 07 sticks of charas like substance weighing about 230 grams wrapped in Corn Maize husk and 1.1 Kgs of semi-grinded powder-like substance apparently charas was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Irfan Amin Sheikh son of Mohammad Amin Sheikh resident of Dooniwari Chadoora, police added. "In Sopore, a police party of

Police Station Panzalla headed by SHO PS Panzalla under the supervision of SDPO Rafiabad Shri. Aabid Rashid Mir-JKPS during naka checking at Chek Gujri Rohama apprehended two persons. During search, 45 grams of charas like substance and 88 tablets of Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus from their possession. They have been identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Malla son of Habib-u-llah Malla and Mohammad Rafiq Hajam son of Ghulam Mohammad Hajam,

both residents of Rohama Rafiabad," the spokesman said. In Ganderbal, Police Station

Ganderbal received information through reliable sources that one person namely Nazir Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Ahmad Khan resident of Khan Mohalla Arhama has concealed contraband at his residential home located at Arhama. Upon the receipt of the information, a special Police team was constituted who along with Executive Magistrate 1st Class raided the residential house of the accused. During search, 2.9 Kgs of Bhang was recovered and the accused was arrested on the spot, police added.

All the accused have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigations have been initiated, police said.

"General Public is requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per the law," police said.

Investors Stuck As ₹46,600 cr Industrial Package **Expansion Delayed**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Hopes of expanding a Rs 46,600 crore industrial package in Jammu and Kashmir have stalled, leaving 200 investors in limbo. With the initial Rs 28,400 crore budget of the Central Industrial Area Scheme exhausted, only 971 investors have been accommodated so far.

Meanwhile, 200 additional investors, having completed all formalities, remain unregistered due to the lack of funds.

The Rs 28,400 crore package, introduced in April 2021 after the abrogation of Article 370, was aimed at attracting significant investments to the Union Territory. However, the registration portal for new investors was closed on September 30, following the exhaustion of the budget. At that time, the Department of Industries had pending applications for 250 projects, but only 50 could be accommodated within the remaining funds.

The stalled expansion has resulted in investment worth thousands of crores being put on hold.

Investors were preparing to set up plants and machinery valued at ₹10,000 crore but have now paused their plans, citing uncertainty over future incentives. Many who had already started infrastructure work have stopped construction, fearing financial losses if the package is not extended.

An industry official revealed that the department had requested an additional Rs 46,600 crore—bringing the total package to Rs 75,000 crore—to accommo-

date new proposals and strengthen existing units. However, the Centre has yet to respond, leaving both domestic and international investors anxious.

The new industrial policy had promised attractive incentives for ten years to boost economic activity in the region. While initial investments under the scheme showed promise, business leaders argue that the changing political landscape has impacted its momentum. After the formation of the new Omar Abdullah-led government, key sectors such as industries and finance shifted from the Lieutenant Governor's administration to ministerial control. However, the final decision on expanding the package rests with the Central Government.

Business leaders and stakeholders have urged both the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government to act swiftly. They advocate for an increase in budgetary outlays and demand incentives for existing industrial units on par with new ones.

During the fifth investor meeting at the Convention Center, participants highlighted the urgent need for extending the package to sustain investor confidence and avoid derailing ongoing projects. Industry leaders stress that an expanded package is essential for driving economic growth and creating job opportunities in the region. "For now, all eyes remain on New Delhi, as investors await a decision that could shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir's industrial sector," says a senior JK Official here—(KNO)

KPDCL Issues Advisory On Forcible Entries Inside High Voltage Prohibited Zones

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Friday advised its consumers to avoid forcible entries inside the high-voltage prohibited zones of KPDCL and putting their lives at risk by interfering in running the operations for providing electricity supply.

Giving details, a KPDCL spokesperson referred to the late evening incident on Thursday at 2x6.3 MVA Receiving Station Shareefabad, Zaina-

kote, in O&M Circle II, Srinagar, wherein a mob barged into the high voltage Receive ing Station and manhandled the staff on duty. "They forcibly took over the panels and put feeders ON

during LCP, putting their lives and that of the maintenance of KPDCL staff at grave risk," he said, while thanking Srinagar Police for intervening swiftly in reaching the spot on time.

All 33/11 KV Receiving Stations of KPDCL are designated prohibited zones and entry without proper permission is strictly prohibited.

Seeking cooperation from its consumers in adhering to the load curtailment schedule, the spokesman stated that KPDCL Inspection Squads have intensified patrolling across all 19 Electric Divisions to prevent power pilferage and DT damage, which has seen a steep rise over the last few days. "Even today, 45 DTs were reported damaged from across the valley, against which 44 were repaired and restored by KPDCL within the stipulated timelines," he added.

KDPCL spokesperson issued a fervent appeal to the domestic consumers to avoid using high-power consuming gadgets during peak load hours from 7.00 am to 10.00 am in the mornings and from 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm in the evenings. "This will reduce distress cuts and

allow KPDCL to provide electricity supply as per curtailment schedule,"

He also referred to the manhandling of KPDCL staff of Electric Subdivision Huzuribagh, Srinagar, during

night inspections on Thursday where consumers hurled abuses and beat them after a permanent hooking arrangement was detected at his home. "A police complaint has been filed against the consumer so that action under rules is initiated against him," he added.

As many as 1171 inspections were conducted across Kashmir Division on Thursday to keep power pilferage under check, so as to prevent damage of DTs. Circle Ganderbal led with 244 inspections, followed by 234 in Circle Pulwama, 204 in Circle Sopore and 169 in Circle II Srinagar.

Public Toilet Remains Locked In Gbl

Agencies

W The public toilet in the main market of Ganderbal has been locked for an unspecified period, leading to significant inconvenience for locals and visitors alike.

The toilet, which was constructed by the Municipal Council of Ganderbal years ago, has remained inaccessible, causing distress to the general public, especially those in urgent need of basic sanitation facilities.

Locals have voiced their frustration over the situation, stressing the importance of this basic public amenity.

"It is extremely inconvenient for us, especially during the busy hours in the market. There are no other public toilets nearby and we are left with no choice but to look for alternatives," said a local resident. Another local, who regularly

visits the market, added, "This toilet was meant to serve the people, but its closure has been a constant source of trouble. We urge the authorities to reopen it as soon as possible."

When contacted, the Executive Officer of the Municipal Council Ganderbal, Mirza Asif Ali, explained that the toilet had been locked due to repeated thefts, including stolen

"The toilet had been vandalized multiple times, and essential fixtures were stolen. which led to us locking it for safety reasons. However, I assure the public that we are working on a solution, and the toilet will be reopened soon," Ali said.

The residents hoped that the concerned authorities will take immediate action to resolve the issue and restore access to this essential facility—(KNO)

CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025

PCB Sticks To 'No Hybrid Model' Stance

Press Trust of India

DUBAI/KARACHI: The emergency meeting of the International Cricket Council's executive board could not achieve a consensus on the much-awaited Champions Trophy schedule and will reconvene on Saturday after Pakistan once again rejected the 'Hybrid' model of hosting the event.

The meeting was brief after Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi made it clear that the 'hybrid' model won't be acceptable despite India's firm refusal to travel to his country owing to a lack of government clearance.

"The Board did meet briefly today. All parties continue to work towards a positive resolution for the Champions Trophy 2025 and it is expected that the Board will reconvene on Saturday and continue to meet over the next few days," a senior administrator of an ICC full member nation, who



is also a part of the Board,

In Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reiterated BCCI's stand that that the Indian team cannot travel to Pakistan due to security reasons.

"BCCI has issued a statement. They have said that there are security concerns there and it is therefore unlikely that the team will be going there," an MEA spokesperson said in a routine briefing when the country's Champions Trophy participation was mentioned.

PCB chairman Naqvi attended the meeting in person as he has

to push Pakistan's stance. BCCI secretary Jay Shah attended the meeting online. Shah will take charge as the new ICC head on December 1.

It is understood that the 'Hy-

It is understood that the 'Hybrid Model' is being seen as the only "plausible solution" and if the tournament is adjourned, the PCB will have to forego their hosting fee of USD six million along with gate revenue.

There could also be significant cut on their annual revenue, which is to the tune of USD 35 million.

Unless the 'Hybrid Model' is implemented, even the ICC will be in a spot of bother as official broadcaster Star would then renegotiate the multi-billion dollar deal with the body.

The only window available for the tournament is between February 19 to March 9 and all other participating nations have their bilateral engagements after that.

Real Kashmir Draw 1-1 With Gokulam Kerala In I-League



Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Former champions Gokulam Kerala FC earned a valuable point as they came back from a goal down to hold hosts Real Kashmir FC to a 1-1 draw in their I-League match here on Friday.

The hosts led by a goal at half-time, before Gokulam equalised late in the second half at the TRC football ground.

It didn't take Real Kashmir too long to score the opener. With less than two minutes on the clock, the Snow Leopards won a throw in on the right flank.

A long throw from Mohammad Aqib was met perfectly by a rising Cameroonian Bouba Aminou whose glancing back-header gave the home side the lead.

Aminou was earlier with Gokulam for three seasons and won an I-League title with the Kerala side.

The first half was littered with chances for Real Kashmir to ex-

tend the lead, as they constantly miscued shots and headers.

Senegalese striker Karim Samb missed a few chances, including an open header from a corner and a one-on-one with the Gokulam goalkeeper.

Gokulam picked up the pieces in the second half and slowly started edging their way back into the game. While Real Kashmir remained dangerous via the aerial route, Gokulam passed it around slickly only to fail in the final third.

It was ironic then that it was an aerial ball that undid a tight Real Kashmir defence and drew the Malabarians level.

A free kick from the left went through an entire melee of Real Kashmir defenders before Athul Unnikrishnan poked it home at the far post in the 76th minute.

It was the first time in four I-League away trips that Gokulam Kerala managed to score a goal in Srinagar.

GDC Soibugh Beats GHSS Soibugh 2-1 In 3 Match Series



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: A three-match series between GDC Soibugh and GHSS Soibugh ended with GDC Soibugh winning it 2-1.

In the first match, GDC Soibugh batted first and scored 68 runs in 6 overs. Openers Wajahat Abdullah and Mudasir Mir set a solid foundation, scoring 23 and 21 runs, respectively, as GDC Soibugh won the match by 9 wickets. In the second match, GHSS Soibugh which be second match, GHSS Soibugh with the second match and the second match a

bugh batted first but struggled, managing only 46 runs as they collapsed under the impressive bowling of GDC Soibugh. Shafi Mir bowled well, taking 3 wickets and took some brilliant catches on the

field. In reply, GDC Soibugh faced some pressure but held on to seal the series with another victory.

The third match saw GHSS Soibugh bounce back, with opener Arshid Ahmad performing remarkably well, hitting several sixes. Alongside Ilyas, they played sensibly and secured a win in the three-match series.

Ladakh Athlete Bags Bronze At World Para Taekwondo Championship

Agencies

LADAKH: Rinchen Youdol, a para-athlete from Bodhkharboo, Kargil, UT Ladakh, has etched her name in the history by winning the Bronze Medal at the 1st World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships in Bahrain.

Competing in the Senior Female (No Age Bar) category against 140 athletes from 23 countries, Rinchen has become the first athlete from Ladakh to achieve such an international milestone in Taekwondo.

The championship, hosted under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Duaij Al Khalifa, showcased world-class para-athletes from across five continents.



Rinchen's exceptional performance, competing against seasoned athletes like Janine Watson from Australia and Eleni Nestora from Greece, highlights her dedication, skill, and perseverance.
This historic achievement
has garnered widespread praise
from the region and across the
nation. (KNO)

Short TAKES

India Look To Make Most Of Pink Ball Warm-Up

India would aim to figure out their batting combination for next week's day-night Test in Adelaide when they face Australia Prime Minister's XI in a two-day tour game at the Manuka Oval here from Saturday.

India have played four day-night Tests thus far with their only loss coming at Adelaide four years ago when they were bowled out for 36 before making a winning comeback in the four-match Test series.

The pink ball does a lot more compare to the red cherry, especially in the twilight period. Considering it is not a first-class game, majority of the Indian batters would like to get a feel of the ball in the middle.

Coming from their most dominant win in Australia in the opening Test in Perth, the Indian dressing room is in high spirits.

However, the arrival of Rohit Sharma, who missed the first Test due to the birth of his second child and expected return of a fit again Shubman Gill will force the think tank to rejig the batting order for the match beginning December 6.

AB de Villiers Thinks Virat Kohli Will Lead RCB

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru have assembled a formidable 22-member squad for IPL 2025, but the captaincy question remains unanswered.

While no official announcement has been made, former RCB captain Virat Kohli is widely speculated to reclaim the role.

A B de Villiers, a legendary figure in RCB's history, hinted at Kohli's potential return to the captaincy, citing the squad's composition as a strong indicator.

"Looking at the squad, I think he will be the captain," AB stated on his YouTube channel.

AB expressed satisfaction with RCB's pace bowling department, particularly the acquisition of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Lungi Ngidi. However, he highlighted the team's potential weakness in spin bowling, especially for home matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"We missed out on Ravichandran Ashwin, but we have a strong pace attack. However, we could use a spinner who can turn the ball both ways," AB said.

To address this concern, AB suggested that the IPL might consider introducing a mid-season transfer window. This would allow teams to bolster their squads with players from the unsold list, potentially filling any gaps in their line-up.

Lamine Yamal Ready To Return For Barcelona After Ankle Injury



Lamine Yamal is ready to return to Barcelona after recovering from an injury to his right ankle, coach Hansi Flick said Friday.

Flick said that his young star will play when Barcelona hosts Las Palmas on Saturday, either as a starter or a substitute.

"Hele basic and having ready to play" Flick said "West"

"He's back and he is ready to play," Flick said. "We have not decided yet if he will start. We will see. But, I think he can and he will play."

Yamal picked up his injury in a 5-2 win at Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League three weeks ago. The 17-year-old forward missed three games for Barcelona and two Nations League games for Spain while

Barcelona struggled without Yamal. It lost 1-0 at Real Sociedad and drew 2-2 at Celta Vigo in the Spanish league before beating Brest 3-0 in the Champions League. Yamal, who helped Spain win the 2024 European

Championship, leads the Spanish league with seven assists for Barcelona. He has also scored five times in the domestic competition.

The Catalan club leads La Liga. Real Madrid is four points behind but has an extra game to play.

His Awkward Action, Skill Set Make Bumrah A Complete Package: Steve Smith

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah's unorthodox bowling action and exceptional skill-set makes him a "complete package," according to Australia's premier batter Steve Smith.

Leading India in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, Bumrah was adjudged 'Player of the Match' after claiming eight wickets, including a five-wicket haul in the first innings, to power the visitors to a 295-run victory in the opening Test.

"From the start of his run-up, it's just all awkward," Smith told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"The way he runs in is different to pretty much anyone else, then the last bit of his action is different. I've faced him a reasonable amount now, and each time you face him it takes a few balls just to get the rhythm of it in a way."

Smith was among Bumrah's victims during a devastating opening spell in the first innings, where the pacer tore

through the Australian top-order.
Former Pakistan skipper Wasim
Akram explained how Bumrah's release point is at least a foot closer

to the batters than any other bowler making it that much difficult to pick the length.

"He releases the ball closer to you than

"He releases the ball closer to you than any other bowler, just the way he does it. So maybe it rushes you a bit more than you think, and it's just an awkward action," said the 35-year-old Smith, who was trapped by Bumrah for a duck.

"Put that together with his skill set—he swings it both ways, he can nip it off the seam, he can reverse it, got a good slower ball, a good bouncer—he's pretty much the complete package as a bowler."

BUMRAH IS AN INSTINCT-DRIVEN BOWLER, A TERMINATOR: FLEMING

Former Australian seamer Damien Fleming also heaped praise on India's vice-captain, likening him to a "Terminator" and calling him a "very instinct-driven bowler."

"He's just the Terminator, isn't he?" Fleming said. "He knows his strengths and he's always sniffing to find that weakness. I think he does that instinctively, and it's not a long run-up, but I can see he's reviewed that ball, and then he's planning the



next one."

Fleming cited Bumrah's iconic slower ball to Shaun Marsh during the 2018-19 Border-Gavaskar Trophy as a prime example of his tactical brilliance.

"There's that famous dismissal of Shaun Marsh [at the MCG in 2018] in the over before lunch. I was commentating at the time, and I could almost pick what was going to happen, just driving him back, so his weight's on the back foot, and then he bowls that superb slower ball and knocks him over.

"It was either going to be that slower ball or a fast yorker. So I think he is so astute, but he also now has all the skills—outswingers, inswingers, off-cutters, slower balls, excellent yorker, bouncer.

"So when you've got more skills, you've got more options. Like the Terminator, he's always stalking the batsmen. And the batsmen know that, but they're still unsure what's coming. Not only does he have a wide skill set, but he executes it better than anyone in world cricket."

India will next face Australia in the Pink-ball Test in Adelaide starting December 6.