



Heralding a new era of progress for Odisha with developmental projects worth more than ₹ 6400 Crore

Laying of Foundation Stones for

3 New Railway Lines

Bangriposi – Gorumahisani

Buramara – Chakulia

Badampahar – Kendujhargarh

and



Tribal Research and Development Centre, Rairangpur



Dandbose Airport, Rairangpur



Sub Divisional Hospital, Rairangpur

(Through Video Conferencing)

by

Smt. Droupadi Murmu
 Hon'ble President of India

07th December, 2024 📍 Bangriposi, Odisha

Benefits

New Railway Lines

- Creating more job opportunities with development of the area
- To enhance connectivity in Mayurbhanj and Kendujhargarh districts of Odisha
- To facilitate transportation of raw material from the mineral rich areas

Dandbose Airport

- Promoting regional air-connectivity program of the Government of India 'Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik' (UDAN) Scheme
- Boost the economy and tourism sector

Tribal Research & Development Centre

- To stimulate research studies, brainstorming and discussions into all aspects of 'tribal lifestyle, behaviour, lives and livelihoods, heritage and culture' etc.
- To act as a Skill Training and Entrepreneurship Development Hub oriented towards technology and economic activity

Sub Divisional Hospital

- To provide expanded range of healthcare services
- To improve availability of modern and advanced healthcare facilities

In the august presence of

Raghubar Das
 Governor, Odisha

Mohan Charan Majhi
 Chief Minister, Odisha

Ashwini Vaishnaw
 Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting & Electronics and Information Technology

Jai Prakash Murmu
 Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Dr. Krishna Chandra Mahapatra
 Minister of Housing & Urban Development, Public Enterprises, Government of Odisha

Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia
 Minister of State (Ind. Charge) of Forest, Environment & Climate Change and Labour & Employee's State Insurance, Government of Odisha

Mamata Mohanta
 Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Naba Charan Majhi
 Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

Sanjali Murmu
 MLA, Bangriposi



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IIT Indore Designs Technology To Protect Farmers' Fruits And Vegetables, Extend Their Shelf Life

Press Trust of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore have developed a special LED light-based storage technology that protects farmers' fruits and vegetables from getting spoiled and helps extend their shelf life, an official said on Wednesday. The technology employs photodynamic inactivation (PDI) of microbes using a specially designed kit, which utilizes a safe, derivatized vitamin B2 spray as a photosensitizer and a flash visible light source at effective wavelengths of 455

and 476 nm (nanometres), he said. This combination destroys microbes on open and packed food items, ensuring complete sterilization and preventing microbial reproduction, the official explained. He said this innovative technology can prove to be very beneficial, especially for cultivators with small farms who want to keep their produce safe in their home until they get better prices. "With the help of our technology, fruits and vegetables can be preserved for 30 to 40 days without cold storage in a 10x10 square feet room at a cost of only

Rs 1,000 per month," IIT Indore professor Debyan Sarkar told PTI. He said under this technology, blue and green LED light of special wavelength is cast on fruits and vegetables and a special spray of vitamin B2 is done on them as a photosensitizer, thus protecting them from getting spoiled, extending their shelf life and keeping them fresh longer. The system has been linked to a mobile application that allows farmers to monitor fruits and vegetables even while staying away from their storage rooms, Sarkar maintained.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my daughter has been wrongly written in her adhaar card bearing adhaar no: 7905-2245-8938 as Azmat Parveen while her correct name is Azmat Aashiq which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the concerned adhaar office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Parveena Bano
 Mother Of Azmat Aashiq
 R/o Laolipora Tehsil Pattan fko

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th) under Roll No. 113005057 Session: Ann-Reg. 2024 Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, Board against my mother's name as Rubena Begum instead of Mubeena Begum. Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Owais Ahmad Dar
 F/N: Mohammad Shafi Dar
 M/N Mubeena Begum
 DOB 15-10-2007
 Residence: Hajin Sonawari
 Mobile: 7051920295 FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing Licence no JK0520090021814 as GH Hassan wani S/O AB Samad wani R/O Palhallan pattan while my correct name is Gulam Hassan wani S/O AB samad wani R/O Palhallan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gulam Hassan wani
 S/O AB samad wani R/O Palhallan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Electricity Connection bearing C.ID no: 0217010000734 which was earlier registered in the name of Ab Rashid Rather S/O Ab Sattar Raheer R/o Gahind Shopian is to be transferred into new name as Mohd Altaf Rather S/O Ab Rashid Rather R/o Gahind Shopian if anybody has any objection he/she may contact PDD Office Sub Division Shopian within 7 days . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ab Rashid Rather
 S/o Ab Sattar Raheer
 R/o Gahind Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that, I, Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/O Late Abdul Rehman Bhat R/O Alim Bhat Mohalla, Habak Shana Pura, Hazratbal, Srinagar, want to change the name of registered consumer of electric connection from my father's name viz Late Abdul Rehman Bhat S/O Late Shaban Bhat, to my name. If anybody have any objection in this regard, he/she may contact Executive Engineer, PDD, Division-IV (Khanayar), Sub-Division Zakura, Srinagar within seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/O Late Abdul Rehman Bhat
 R/O Alim Bhat Mohalla, Habak Shana Pura, Hazratbal, Srinagar.
 Consumer No. 0204050001622 Consumer Category: Domestic
 Mobile No. 9622637563 inf

ازنیات پھیلان

عنوان:- درخواست تھانہ فیاض احمد ملک ولد محمد اکبر ملک ساکن پھیلان نسبت اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق پر خود ملک عدنان فیاض

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سائل سے ایک درخواست پوزیشن حصول EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پوزیشن حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی پھیلان کاسکونت دار ہے اور والد سائل کامکان رہائشی sq 816 موجود ہے اور مکان رہائشی رقبہ 680 مربع فٹ ہے اس طرح سے کل رقبہ 1/2 مرلہ مکان وچھ ہے۔ کنڈی ہوارڈ آمدنی 8000 تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا عترض ہو تو وہ ہر وقت ہر وقت اختیار سات دان کے اندر نامہ آجپے عذر یا عترض وادالت حد آؤفٹیز ای دقت کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد رگر سے یہ جانکوی بنی مقرر یا مقرر تاش قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mushan Zehra (dob: 01-03-2022) & Gazez Hussain (DOB: 03-07-2019 wards of Aabid Hussain Hajam R/o Gund Ibrahim Tehsil Singhpora District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as Mushan Zehra (dob: 01-03-2022) & Gazez Hussain (DOB: 03-07-2019 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Abdul Zeyaan S/o Imran Gani Mangral R/o Delina Baramulla Tehsil Baramulla District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 28-06-2021 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Salman Bhat S/o Aijaz Ahmad Bhat R/o Wanigam Payeen Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 14-11-2024 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Ziyaan Rather S/o Mohammad Shafi Rather R/o Archanderhama Tehsil Singhpora District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 04-05-2002 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original /revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-46/2024-25	Electrical Work in c/w Concrete pathways with proper illumination for approach to ART/ARMVs at Ludhiana Amritsar and Jammu and two rooms with toilet and one HRE (Hydraulic rerailling equipment) at Pathankot.	13,01,980.07p	26000.00p	6 Months	27.12.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 251-Elect/T, Notice No. 40-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 05.12.2024 3756/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SGR
PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Passed/ appeared in SSE/HSE-II (Class 10th under Roll No 5127453 Session 2016 & 12th under Roll No. 5118205 Session 2018 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education the error committed by the Computer Error against my name as Omer Rashid Instead of Omer Rashid Khan Now, I have applied for the correction rectification of the error in the the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New Campus Bemina, Srinagar if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of General public.

NAME: OMER RASHID KHAN S/O LATE ABDUL RASHID KHAN MOTHER NAME POSHA BEGUM DOB 07.01.2001 R/O KARIHAMA KUPWARA
MOBILE NO: 9596843368

inf

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

No.-244-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR & 245-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR & 246-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR & 247-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR & 248-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR. Date: 02.12.2024

DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India Invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-23/12/2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
29/11/2024	09/12/2024	23/12/2024 15:00 Hrs

S.No. : 1 244-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR

Details of Tender : Misc. P-Way Works in the section of SSE/P-Way/MKS under ADEN- 1/FZR.

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
44,99,939.18/-	90,000.00/-	60 Days	07 Months

Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.No. : 2 245-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR

Details of Tender : Misc. P-Way Works in the section of SSE/P-Way/Moga under ADEN- 1/FZR.

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
54,99,952.92/-	1,10,000.00/-	60 Days	07 Months

Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of Track, screening, destesting of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28".

S.No. : 3 246-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR

Details of Tender : Misc. P-Way Works in the section of SSE/P-Way/KKP under ADEN- 1/FZR.

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
44,99,973.47/-	90,000.00/-	60 Days	07 Months

Similar nature of work:- "NIL"

S.No. : 4 247-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR

Details of Tender : Misc. P-Way Works in the section of SSE/P-Way/LNK under ADEN- 2/FZR.

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
49,99,900.80/-	1,00,000.00/-	60 Days	07 Months

Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

S.No. : 5 248-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR

Details of Tender : Misc.P-Way Works in the section of SSE/P-Way/FZR under ADEN- 2/FZR.

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
49,99,900.31/-	1,00,000.00/-	60 Days	07 Months

Similar nature of work:- "NIL".

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender 3738/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
J&K Bank
 Serving To Empower
Branch: Rangreth, Budgam (JK) -191132
T +91 (0)194 2300279 E rangre@jkbmail.com

Possession Notice

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

Whereas Sajad Ahmad Wani of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Issued Demand Notice dated 16.02.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower M/s M.A Constructions - Proprietor Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Wani to repay an amount of Rs.94,86,494.03 (Rupees Ninety Four Lac Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred ninety four and Three Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.01.2023 in the accounts of the borrow ,within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 2nd day of month December of the year 2024.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs 1,20,55,807.03 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lac Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seven and Three Paise only) together with future interest thereon from 01.12.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.


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

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/ latest particulars including any accreditations)

A piece of land measuring one (01) Kanal , falling under Khasra No 1232 min of Khata No. 621 of Khewat No 104 situated in Mouza Rawalpura Tehsil Srinagar South District Srinagar.

(Ishfaq Sarwar Malik)
Authorized Officer

Dated: 02.12.2024
 Place: Rangreth




www.elitepluscentre.com

ElitePlus

DENTAL & DERMA CENTRE

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



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Vintage Mall, 2nd floor Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

Power Struggle Brews In J&K

Omar Govt At Odds With Raj Bhavan?



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Less than two months into its tenure, the newly elected Omar Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir is reportedly facing differences with the Raj Bhavan over several administrative issues, according to sources in the know.

Following the imposition of central rule in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, the governor and subsequently, the current lieutenant governor, Manoj Sinha, maintained full administrative powers. However, the dynamics shifted after the elected government assumed office on October 16.

Under laws enacted by Parliament, the lieutenant governor retains authority over All India Service officers and law enforcement, among other responsibilities.

other responsibilities.

However, recent actions taken by the LG administration have sparked tensions, particularly concerning several transfers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service officers that were ordered while Chief Minister Abdullah was away in Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage.

While some transfers of IAS officers fall within the LG's jurisdiction, the elected government has voiced strong objections against the transfer of certain Jammu and Kashmir administrative officers ordered by the LG, the sources said.

Another point of contention involves the position of Advocate General D C Raina, who had submitted his resignation prior to the Omar Abdullah government's formation.

Raina, initially appointed by former J&K CM

6 UNDER LAWS ENACTED BY PARLIAMENT, the lieutenant governor retains authority over All India Service officers and law enforcement, among other responsibilities."

Govt Pushes For Rs 3K Pension For Specially-Abled, Widows

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo on Friday said that she will write to the Centre to release funds for pension of specially-abled, widows and other persons.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Sakina Itoo said that these persons have been getting pension on time but there

are some who get it under ISSS scheme and they have been facing problems due to shortage of funds.

"We will write to the Government of India in this regard as a major share for the scheme that comes from the centre has been released," she said.

She said that they are hopeful that they will get funds soon so that people | More on P10

La Niña Not Responsible For Kashmir's Cold Snap: Dir MeT

Says Temperatures Not Falling Below Zero Degrees For The First Time

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Director of the Meteorological Department, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, has clarified that the La Niña effect does not have a direct connection to heavy snowfall or record-low temperatures in the Kashmir valley. Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Dr. Ahmad emphasized that while La Niña can influence global weather patterns, it does not specifically trigger snowfall or extreme cold in Kashmir.

Explaining Dr Ahmad said that La Nina refers to a climate phenomenon where the central and eastern Pacific Ocean experiences cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures.

"It causes changes in global weather patterns, typically resulting in altered rainfall distribution



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

and temperature variations across different regions."

"These natural phenomena have been occurring for centuries and will continue to do so," he stated, adding that La Niña is not a new occurrence and is not the first time temperatures have dropped significantly in Kashmir.

Dr. Ahmad explained that Kashmir might experience fewer Western Disturbances this season, and those that do arrive are unlikely to cause substantial impact.

"Whenever water temperatures drop in the Pacific Ocean, it has been observed that temperatures in Kashmir | More on P10

Kashmir Faces Water Crisis Amid Dry Spell

The Kashmir valley is facing a concerning decline in water levels across its rivers, springs, and other water bodies due to the ongoing dry spell and insufficient precipitation. Experts and officials are raising alarms

about the potential long-term impacts on drinking water, irrigation, and the valley's overall ecosystem.

While the officials report a stable drinking water supply in the region, primarily attributing to reduced seasonal demand.

However, the lack of significant precipitation continues to pose a long-term challenge, with authorities stressing the need for immediate rainfall and snowfall to recharge water bodies.

Chief Engineer | More on P10

Working Towards Fulfilling Promises Made To People: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said his government is working towards fulfilling the promises made to the people with a steadfast commitment to preserving the distinct identity of the region.

Abdullah, who is the vice president of the National Conference, made these comments while chairing a working committee meeting with the party's provincial functionaries at the NC headquarters Nawa-e-Subha here.



"The civilian government is diligently working towards fulfilling the promises outlined in the (party's election) manifesto, with a steadfast commitment to preserving the distinct identity of the region," he said. The meeting discussed

critical party issues and urgent public concerns, an NC spokesperson said.

Abdullah emphasised the government's "steadfast" dedication to tackling the developmental challenges of the past decade, "with a | More on P10

'Satellite Townships Exclusively Meant For Locals'

Amid ongoing criticism over the proposed satellite townships in Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani, senior National Conference leader and Advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday reassured the public that the townships would serve the local population. Wani, while dismissing the allegations of demographic change by PDP, said that these townships will serve | More on P10

Winter Break Announced For Kashmir Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government on Friday announced winter vacation for all government and recognised private educational institutions in the Kashmir division as well as in the winter zones of Jammu division in two phases starting from December 10.

According to an order issued by School Education Department (SED), winter vacations for classes upto 5th primary will begin from December 10 this year to February 28, 2025. Similarly from 6th standard to 12th standard, the vacations shall commence from December 16 to February 28, 2025, according to an order issued by the Principal Secretary to the government School Education Department.

Further, the teaching staff of Government High and Higher Secondary Schools shall remain available at respective Headquarters from 10th of February, 2025 | More on P10

10th-12th Exams Likely From 3rd Week of Feb

The annual regular exams of 10th to 12th standard are likely to commence from 3rd week of February-2025. A top official of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School | More on P10

J&K Has 46.99 Lakh Diabetes Cases: Centre

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a total of 46,99,015 diabetes patients as of November 30, 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Friday.

The data indicates that 43,18,708 patients have been screened for diabetes, 3,41,071 have been diagnosed with the condition, and 3,40,236 are currently under treatment.

The government said that the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, provides technical and financial support to states and Union Territories under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NPNCD), as part of the National Health Mission (NHM).

"This program focuses on strengthening infrastructure,



human resource development, early diagnosis, referrals for treatment, and health promotion to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including diabetes," it said.

"A population-based initiative for the screening, management, and prevention of common NCDs, including diabetes, has been launched as part of the Comprehensive Primary Health Care under NHM," the government added. (KNO)

JKSA to Hold Sit-in Protest In Delhi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) has announced a peaceful sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on December 14, 2024, demanding a comprehensive review of the reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The association, representing the interests of students and youth from the J&K, seeks to address the concerns over what they perceive as an unjust reservation system that has impacted the opportunities available to deserving candidates in the region.

The protest comes after the recent statement by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who acknowledged the ongoing concerns surrounding the reservation policy. In a | More on P10

KPDCL To Close Power Amnesty Scheme By March 2025

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) today raised a final call to its domestic consumers urging them to come forward and claim waiver on late payment surcharge under the Government's Power Amnesty Scheme, which shall cease to exist on April 01, 2025.

In a statement, Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL, Er. Aaqib Waheed Deva, said that the Power Amnesty Scheme will be available for domestic consumers only till March 31, 2025 and beyond that there will be no further



extension. "Consumers can either pay their principal amount due to Kashmir Discom in full or in equal instalments in the remaining 04 months to claim the waiver on late payment surcharge to settle their claims," she added. As many as 1,09,648

domestic consumers have so far availed the scheme for waiver on late payment surcharge with KPDCCL, which has collected a revenue of Rs.164.00 crore so far. The scheme has targeted a total of 1,50,907 consumers who had a substantial opening balance due to KPDCCL.

The Government has also waived off an amount of Rs.58 crore on account of late payment surcharge, thus providing huge relief to the domestic consumers by clearing their opening balances.

Chief Engineer KPDCCL advised the remaining consumers to approach their concerned | More on P10

KEEMA Raises Alarm Over Closure of 701 MSMEs In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The closure of 701 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Jammu and Kashmir over the past four years has sparked grave concerns within the industry, with the Kashmir Electrical Equipment Manufacturers Association (KEEMA) warning that the actual figures may be much higher.

"The actual number of closures is far higher, with many units shutting down silently due to unsustainable conditions," said KEEMA Secretary General Waseem Ahmed Khateeb, emphasizing that the reported data only scratches the surface of a much deeper

crisis.

KEEMA President Raja Nayeem Ahmed Khan highlighted how flawed policies are driving local industries to the brink of collapse. "Despite policies designed to uplift MSMEs, including the MSME Act of 2006, their implementation has been grossly inadequate," Khan said, pointing to violations in public procurement processes.

Under the MSME Act, 358 items are reserved for exclusive procurement from MSEs, and 25% of public procurement is mandated to come from these enterprises. However, KEEMA criticized the Rs 5,800-crore Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), aimed at modernizing | More on P10

J&K Achieves 100% Ration Card Digitization

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has successfully completed 100% digitization of ration cards under the technology-driven Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

This achievement is part of a nationwide initiative to enhance transparency and reduce inefficiencies in the distribution of essential supplies.

According to the data shared by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, 99.8% of ration cards in Jammu and Kashmir have been linked with Aadhaar. This linkage plays a key role in eliminating | More on P10

Div Com Reviews Plan For Operation Of Water Transport



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to promote tourism and simultaneously ease the stress of traffic on roads through operation of Inland water transport in River Jhelum, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of River Navigation Developmental Project.

Besides, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, the meeting was attended AHS & Project Coordinator (NW-5 & 64) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), GOI, officers of SMC, SSCL, Tourism Department, I&FC Department, Kashmir and representative of Administrative Secretary to Govt. Transport Department, J&K.

At the outset, Project Coordinator, IWAI, gave a detailed presentation regarding the proposal of Development of River Jhelum, Inland Waterway.

He informed that Detailed Project Report (DPR) study of River Jhelum (NW-49) was completed in February 2020 which recommended development of river cruise tourism in three phases.

He also informed that the IWAI team inspected Phase-1 stretch (Chhatabal

to Pantha Chowk) in August 2024 to explore possibilities of passenger/tourism activities. He stated that the project shall be completed with the assistance of central funding.

Addressing, the meeting Div Com enjoined IWAI for the development of necessary infrastructure including seventeen points for embarking and de-boarding of passengers, carrying out dredging of river, installation of Water Level monitoring sensors and modern weirs.

He also directed concerned representatives for development of major hubs of Inland water transport.

On the occasion, Div Com underscored the need for a constitution of institutional framework for the operation and regulation of water transport.

He directed SSCL and IWAI to frame the comprehensive proposal for funding besides asking IWAI to share the draft of the plan with the SSCL.

Meanwhile, the meeting also discussed various developmental plans of SSCL including provision of Water Side Infrastructure, Terminal Facilities, Night Navigation Aids, Maintenance of Navigational Channel, Onshore facilities and operation of vessels.

Mosque Among Four Structures Damaged In Khanyar Blaze



Agencies

SRINAGAR: A fire incident has damaged a local masjid, along with three nearby structures including a wood processing unit in Khanyar area of Srinagar, officials said on Friday.

Sharing details about the fire incident, a senior official from the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Srinagar said that the fire call was received at 3:29 PM today, and soon the Fire and Emergency Department personnel, along with machinery, rushed to the spot.

He said that about four structures in total were engulfed by the flames, including the mosque, wood process-

ing unit and fire tenders from over 10 stations were pressed into service to bring the situation under control.

He added that the firefighters managed to control the blaze within one hour, preventing further escalation. Meanwhile, though the destruction has left many residents in shock, locals from the area said the fire first erupted at the masjid, which quickly spread to nearby residential houses.

Locals described the terrifying moments saying, as they came out of the masjid after prayers, they saw smoke coming from the masjid and immediately informed the fire and emergency services, along with others.

A local from the area said, "Our house, our memories, everything is gone. We had no time to save anything. The flames took everything from us. We are left with nothing but ash and a damaged house," the fire affected family member said.

Similarly, an elderly local from the area said, "The masjid, our homes, all destroyed in minutes. This is a day we will never forget. We are grateful that no lives were lost, but our dreams and homes have been lost in just minutes."

Meanwhile, Fire and Emergency Department officials said the exact cause of the fire is under investigation—(KNO)

Police Conducts Raids In Connection With Misinformation Campaign On SM

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In its ongoing efforts to dismantle a network responsible for spreading fabricated and malicious narratives aimed at inciting violence and disturbing public order, Srinagar Police conducted a raid Friday in Natipora, Srinagar in connection with the misinformation campaign on social media.

The raids were conducted as part of the investigation into FIR No. 65/2024 under the 13 UA (P) Act.

Police said the investigation is focused on individuals involved in the manufacturing and dissemination of false information, which has been used to provoke unlawful activities. Authorities have traced the network's actions to a criminal conspiracy aimed at stoking unrest and promoting violence.

With search warrants obtained from the NIA Court, Srinagar Police executed the raid at the residence of Abdul Hamid Parry, son of Gulam Mohammad Parry, a resident of Budshah Nagar, Natipora. During the operation, incriminating materials and electronic devices were seized.



Further raids are planned targeting additional suspects linked to this disinformation campaign.

Earlier, Srinagar Police had conducted raids in the Batamalo and HMT areas, arresting Obais Riaz Dar (son of Riyaz Ahmad Dar, Bonpora Batamalo) and Sahil Ah Bhat (son of Noor Mohammad, HMT Zainakote), identified as key figures in orchestrating this unlawful narrative.

The J&K Police has urged the public, especially the youth, to exercise caution while using social media. Citizens have been reminded not to

share or upload content that could potentially incite violence or contribute to acts of terrorism.

Additional suspects linked to this investigation have been identified, and further raids are expected. The police continue to emphasize the importance of vigilance and responsible social media use in preventing the spread of harmful narratives.

The public is urged to cooperate with law enforcement in maintaining peace and order, ensuring that divisive propaganda does not harm the region's safety and security. (KINS)

Police Launches Helpline For Verification Services

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to simplify public grievance redressal and improve access to verification services, the district police Srinagar have introduced a dedicated helpline for the citizens on Friday.

The helpline is designed to assist with services such as passport verification, police clearance certificates (PCC), employee verification

(for both government and private sectors), and tenant verification.

Srinagar Police has introduced a dedicated helpline for citizens and the helpline will operate on all working days from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The residents can seek assistance by calling or sending a WhatsApp message to the following numbers: 9541922441 and 9541922442.

Soldier Dies Of Cardiac Arrest During Search Operation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A soldier died of cardiac arrest during a search operation in the upper areas of Dachigam in Srinagar on Friday.

The deceased soldier has been identified as Jasvinder Singh of the Army's 34 Assam Rifles.

Official sources said that

a search operation was going on in Faqir Gujri area when the soldier collapsed and died on the spot. They said the soldier died of cardiac arrest.

Since the killing of LeT militant Junaid Bhat in Dachigam on December 3, forces have continued to search the upper belts of Dachigam to track down the militants. [KNT]

SAD DEMISE



With deep sorrow, we announce the sudden demise of Mohammad Shafi Khan, son of Ghulam Mohammad Khan, on December 6th. The congregational Fateha Khwani shall be held on Monday, Dec 9th, 2024, at 10:30 AM, at his ancestral graveyard in Amda Kadal Gota Pora (Mazaree -e -Bakshdam,) near Darul Uloom BilalLiya (Amdakadal).
May his soul rest in peace.

Bereaved



OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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

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

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

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Daresht Kadal Chowk, Srinagar
9070806160

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200


AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

4 Jumada al-Sani
1446

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:53
ZUHR	12:21
ASR	3:45
Magrib	5:25
ISHA	6:50

This Day In History

- 43 BC - Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and politician is assassinated in Formiae by soldiers under the command of Marc Antony
- 185- Emperor Lo-Yang, China sees supernova (MSHI5-52)
- 1354- Margaret II Countess of Hainaut and her son William, Duke of Bavaria, sign a peace treaty ending the Cod and Hook wars between them
- 1703 -Great storm of 1703 hits Southern England - thousands killed, Royal Navy losses 13 ships and around 1,500 seamen
- 1703- The first Eddystone Lighthouse is destroyed in the Great Storm of 1703
- 1727- Physician Sir Hans Sloane becomes President of the Royal Society, succeeding Sir Isaac Newton [1]
- 1741- Elisabeth Petrovna becomes Tsarina of Russia
- 1804- Naturalist Alexander von Humboldt reports his discovery of the decrease in intensity of Earth's magnetic field from the poles to the equator in a memoir to the Paris Institute
- 1808- James Madison elected 4th US President and George Clinton Vice-President
- 1836- Martin Van Buren elected the 8th President of the United States
- 1877 - Thomas Edison demonstrates his phonograph (gramophone) to the editors of "Scientific American".
- 1902 - Britain and Germany issue an ultimatum to Venezuela demanding that President Cipriano Castro pay claims for damages caused during his takeover of the government in 1899.
- 1907 Eugene Corri becomes 1st referee in a boxing ring
- 1907 - The First Egyptian Nationalist Congress meets under the leadership of Mustafa Kamil Pasha.
- 1917 - US becomes 13th country to declare war on Austria during World War I.
- 1934 - Wiley Post discovers jet stream.
- 1941 - Imperial Japanese Navy with 353 planes attack US fleet at Pearl Harbour Naval Base, Hawaii, killing 2,403 people.
- 1953 - Israel's PM Ben-Gurion retires.
- 1954 - Japanese government of Yoshida resigns.
- 1960 - Ivory Coast claims independence from France.
- 1963 - Instant replay is used for the first time in a Army-Navy game.
- 1968 - Orbiting Astronomical Observatory 2 launched into Earth orbit.
- 1972 - Apollo 17 (US), final manned lunar landing mission, launched.
- 1975 - Indonesian army occupies East Timor.
- 1976 - UN Security Council endorses Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General for second 5 year term.
- 1981 - Spain becomes a member of the NATO.
- 1987 - Palestinian uprising against Israel in West Bank.
- 1988 - 6.9 earthquake in Spitak, Armenia kills 25,000 and leaves 5,000,000 homeless.
- 1988 - Gorbachev announces 10% unilateral Soviet troop reductions at UN
- 1990 - Iraqi parliament endorses Saddam Hussein's decision to free hostages.
- 1992 - Galileo spacecraft passes North Pole of Moon (Peary Crater).
- 1995 - US space probe Galileo begins orbiting Jupiter.
- 1996 - Space Shuttle STS 80 (Columbia 21), lands.
- 2014 - Human Rights Watch Asia Division call for investigation into Indonesian security forces shooting of peaceful protesters.
- 2015 - Beijing issues its 1st ever red alert for pollution
- 2015 - US Presidential candidate Donald Trump proposes banning all Muslims from entering the US
- 2016 - Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi resigns 3 days after losing a referendum to reform the constitution
- 2016 - Pakistan International Airways plane crashes north of Islamabad, killing all 48 on board, including singer turned preacher Junaid Jamsheed
- 2017 - Unrest in West Bank and Gaza, schools closed and a general strike in response to America's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital
- an President Nana Akufo-Addo wins a second term in the country's general elections
- 2021- 3,500 year-old Gilgamesh Dream Tablet goes on display in Iraq for the first time in 30 years after looted during Gulf War. Part of the Epic Gilgamesh, one of oldest known pieces of literature.

Rising Trend of Contractual and Outsourced Employment in J&K

Zaheer Jan

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While contractual and outsourced employment may provide a short-term solution to unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, the region's long-term prosperity will depend on finding ways to create sustainable, stable, and rewarding employment opportunities for its youth

In recent years, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has witnessed a growing shift toward contractual and outsourced employment across various government departments. This shift has significant implications for the youth of the region, particularly in terms of job security, career growth, and overall employment opportunities. The transition from traditional permanent employment to temporary, contract-based, and outsourced positions reflects broader economic and political changes in the region. In J&K, where youth are already struggling with high unemployment and limited job opportunities in the private sector, this shift brings both opportunities as well as challenges for youth job seekers.

The Government's increasing reliance on outsourcing and contractual employment for administrative and development tasks has been a key factor driving this shift. Contractual and outsourced jobs, which are typically short-term or project-based, are becoming increasingly common in sectors such as education, healthcare, social welfare, universities, tourism and even administrative roles. Contractual and outsourced jobs are temporary positions, typically lasting from a few months to a few years, without any guarantee of permanence. Outsourced jobs in the government often involve third-party agencies either government or private firms for hiring employees for various roles. In recent years, the prevalence of these job types has surged in Jammu and Kashmir.

There are several reasons contributing to this shift. The Jammu and Kashmir government has been turning to contractual and outsourced jobs in various departments as a cost-cutting measure because these positions do not require the same long-term financial commitments as permanent staff, particularly when it comes to salaries, pensions, healthcare, and other benefits. In addition to these savings, the government has been increasingly opting for fixed salary contracts for these positions, which provide a predictable and controlled expenditure for the



state's budget.

By hiring employees on contractual or outsourced terms, the government is able to fill positions on a fast-track basis without going through the lengthy process associated with permanent employment. This allows the administration to quickly respond to urgent staffing needs in various departments, particularly in cases where immediate manpower is required or where positions are seasonal especially in colleges and schools. Contractual hiring also allows for the flexibility to adjust staffing levels more rapidly, depending on the changing requirements of a given department, without being locked into long-term obligations.

Moreover, filling positions through contracts or outsourcing reduces the administrative burden associated with permanent hires, as these workers are often managed by third-party agencies or specific contract terms, rather than by the government itself. This process makes it easier for the state to manage its workforce in line with available funding and shifting priorities, all while keeping costs predictable and manageable.

The rising trend of contractual and outsourced employment in Jammu and Kashmir is having significant consequences for the region's youth. While such jobs can provide immediate work opportunities, they come with notable drawbacks. The most pressing issue is job insecurity contractual and outsource roles are temporary and often lack long-term prospects, leaving young workers in a constant state of uncertainty. Additionally, the absence of career development opportunities in contract-based work means that many young people struggle to build a sustainable career path. The consequences are not only economic but also social, as this precarious employment situation can lead to increased stress, frustration, and feelings of alienation among young workers, potentially undermining their overall well-being and social stability. The fear of job loss creates immense psychological pressure, and many young people in Jammu and Kashmir face this uncertainty daily. This lack of stability and the challenges associated with it are contributing factors to the rising mental health issues and drug addiction in the region,

as individuals seek ways to cope with the stress and hopelessness brought on by their employment situations.

To mitigate the negative impacts of contractual and outsourced employment, several policy measures are needed. First, the government of Jammu and Kashmir should focus on creating more permanent, stable jobs in critical sectors like healthcare, education, social welfare, and universities. This could be achieved through the implementation of well-defined employment policies aimed at hiring permanent staff in these sectors. Additionally, labor law protections for contract workers should be strengthened to ensure fair wages, job security, and access to benefits such as health insurance and paid leave. By providing these protections, the government can help reduce the insecurity faced by contractual and outsource workers and improve their overall working conditions. By adopting these recommendations, the government of Jammu and Kashmir can create a more equitable and sustainable environment for contractual and outsource employees. These measures will not only improve the livelihoods of workers but also contribute to the broader economic development of the region, fostering a more stable and productive workforce.

In the end, while contractual and outsourced employment may provide a short-term solution to unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, the region's long-term prosperity will depend on finding ways to create sustainable, stable, and rewarding employment opportunities for its youth. Failure to address the issue could lead to increased disappointment, a deeper brain drain, and exacerbate various social and economic challenges in Jammu and Kashmir.

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

The author is a Sr. Pediatric Rehab Therapist & Social Worker (MSW)

The Human Capital Imperative

Unless India's baseline of human development improves, it will not be able to raise the share of manufacturing and grow into a developed nation.

N Chandra Mohan

Boosting the share of manufacturing to 25% of gross domestic product (GDP) is an important aspirational objective of India's policy establishment. So, too, is becoming an advanced economy by 2047 like the East Asian miracle economies. During the last 10 years, the ruling dispensation has adopted several measures in this regard like the Make in India programme, production-linked incentives, and generous tax reliefs. As preparations for the Union Budget for FY26 are underway, there are deliberations on revitalising manufacturing with assistance linked to employment generation and fresh investments. However, despite these efforts to raise the share of manufacturing, it has stubbornly hovered around 16% of GDP since FY15.

Instead of sops to bolster manufacturing, it might perhaps be more appropriate to learn from the experience of East Asian miracle economies, including China. They became global export-oriented manufacturing hubs and progressed to higher levels of development by addressing pre-conditions at the level of human development. India, too, must do so to realise its aspirational objectives. Economies like South Korea, for instance, made huge investments in education that improved literacy and schooling of its population. This enabled it to grow rapidly for long periods of time and make a successful transition from a developing to a developed economy. All these East Asian economies had a high baseline of human development.

India's challenge is indeed daunting as only 5% of its workforce has received formal skill training as against 80% and 96% in countries like Japan and South Korea. Although India has the advantage of a predominantly youthful labour force, this demographic dividend can turn into a curse if they lack the skills to be gainfully absorbed in manufacturing. More so, as the policy establishment has unveiled ambitions to become a leading player in sunrise industries like semiconductors, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, robotic hardware, besides labour-



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India's challenge is indeed daunting as only 5% of its workforce has received formal skill training as against 80% and 96% in countries like Japan and South Korea

intensive manufacturing. Clearly, the overriding policy focus must be on upgrading human capital so that it is more in alignment with the country's ambitions for manufacturing.

The contrast with China is striking as its better educated workforce facilitated its rise as a global export-oriented manufacturing power. Unlike India's top-down approach, China adopted a bottom-up policy of focusing on primary mass education from the early 1990s, prior to communism. This shifted to secondary education during the 1960s-80s under communism, and later to tertiary education during the post-communist era. Nearly 25% of China's students at the secondary level and above are enrolled in vocational education as against 2% in India. China produces a higher share of engineering, medicine, and teacher training

graduates while humanities dominate among our graduates, reflecting a colonial bias to produce administrators.

These facts are from Nitin Kumar Bharti and Li Yang's paper, "The Making of China and India in 21st Century: Long-run Human Capital Accumulation from 1900 to 2020". India's relative neglect of primary education (till the 1990s) left much of its population without the education needed to shift from low-productivity agriculture towards manufacturing and services in the cities — a process associated with modern economic development. In 1987-88, China and India had 62% of their workforce in agriculture. Over the next 30 years, China reduced this to 15%, while India only reduced it to 40%. Of late, there has been a noteworthy reversal in terms of a migration from factories back to the farms of rural India, which

complicates efforts to boost manufacturing.

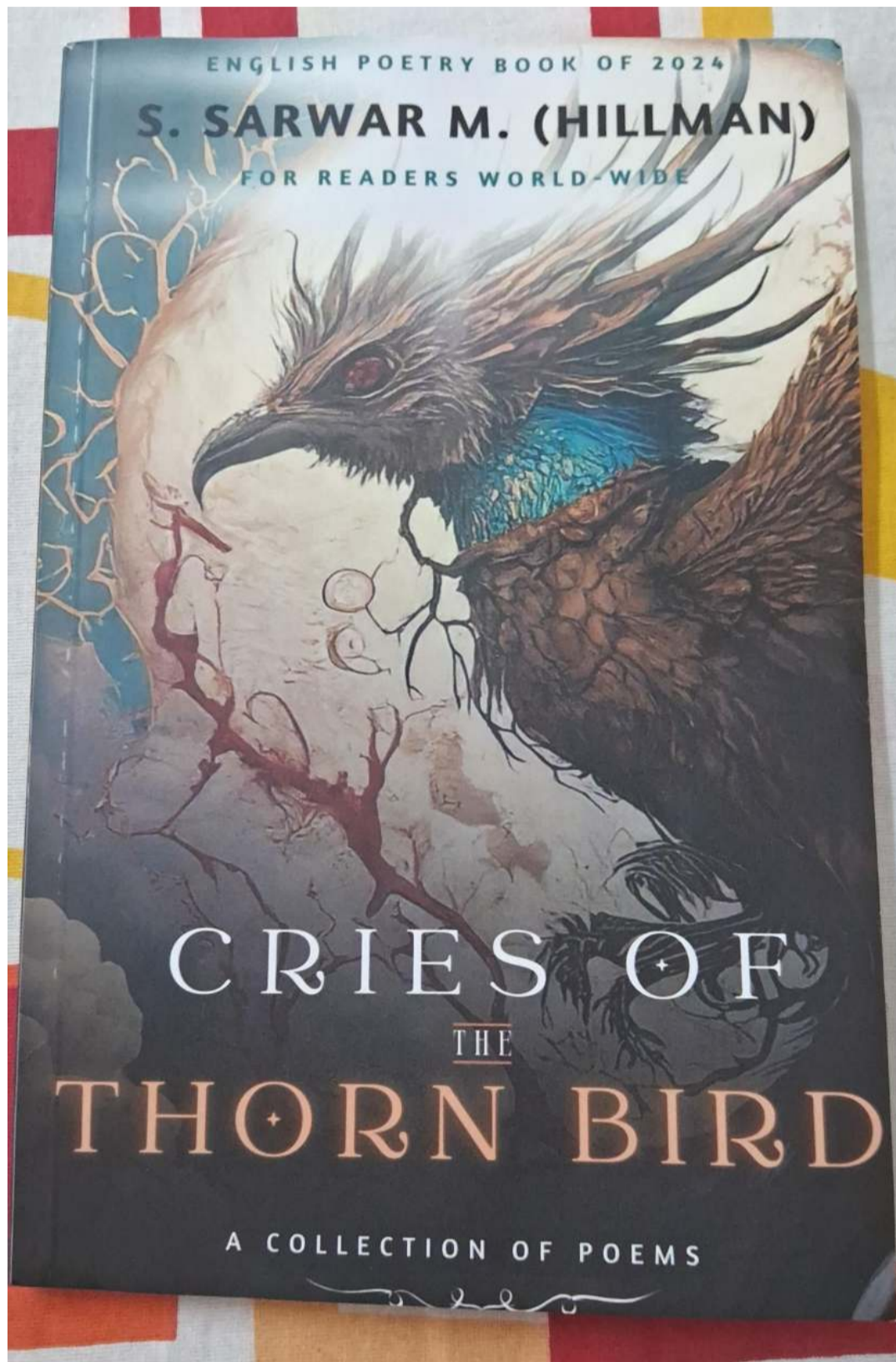
The big question is, what must be done to raise India's threshold levels of human development to match its aspirations on manufacturing? A useful means to integrate youth into the labour market is through skill development measures like apprenticeships. For starters, India could adopt best practices of countries like Germany which runs the most successful apprenticeship programme in the world that is linked with the higher educational curriculum. In India, the process could start even earlier with skilling and vocational training imparted in secondary school education. The bad news in this regard is that the launch of the ambitious PM Internship Scheme on December 2 to train people in real-life skills has been postponed despite indications of a favourable response.

More than the government, the onus of improving human capital lies with Indian industry as it is not getting enough skilled labour for its operations despite a growing reserve army of educated unemployed youth. India Inc must collaborate with educational institutions so that its requirements form an integral part of the curriculum. What can perhaps nudge industry into taking apprenticeships more seriously is if training and skilling of youth constitute part of corporate social responsibility obligations. This kind of a programme could lower the dropout rate seen in other skilling programmes and improve the employability of the workforce. India Inc must ensure that the gap between China and India with regard to the average years of education for manufacturing jobs reduces much further: this was as much as 5.2 years in 1988, which narrowed down to 2.4 years in 2018 according to Bharti and Yang. Unless India's baseline of human development improves, it will not be able to raise the share of manufacturing and grow into a developed nation.

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

BOOK REVIEW

LIFE IN A FULL CIRCLE



Naseem Shafaie

The caravan of memories moves before my eyes....

I vividly recall my dear English teacher from college, Mrs. Malik, whose radiant smile seemed to light up the classroom. She would read the poems of Keats and Wordsworth, delve into Shakespeare's plays with references to Greek tragedies Homer and Chaucer, and explore the novels of Dickens—all during the 4 best years of my youth. I shall never forget her influence.

Years later, I discovered a collection of poems by S. Sarwar M., the son of my dear teacher, as I came to know about it some years back. Little could I imagine that Sarwar was Mrs. Malik's son. Yes, the smile on his face mirrors hers in such a striking way.

The book is titled "CRIES OF THE THORN BIRD", a title that speaks volumes in itself. It compels the reader, like me, to ponder: what causes the bird to cry? Is it wounded? Is it in pain? Does it feel sorrow for everything it encounters? The poet himself is present in every line of each poem, as he reflects on his own emotions—his love, his longing, his hurt, his disappointments, and his wish for things to be as they should. The poems are filled with rich imagery and powerful expression, capturing feelings, thoughts, and profound reflections.

Sometimes the poet's words take us beyond the world of language, into his homeland of Kashmir, where words like *sadreh mouj*, *nage vigin*, *Chinar*, *Veth* and *Aharbal* evoke a deep sense of place. Through these metaphors, Sarwar forces the reader to understand the true meaning of these terms, often providing explanations along the way.

One of his poems, "O! MEN WITH THE PEN-Speak Your Mind a Little Louder!", is a tribute to the legendary poet of our time, the Gyan Peeth

awardee Rehman Rahi, and to the Kashmiri language itself. When those from your own soil, even non-Kashmiri literature students, acknowledge the greatness of such a poet, it is an honor in itself. Recognition from your own people, especially from younger generations like Sarwar, carries immense weight.

I must admit that despite being an English literature student, I struggle to express my thoughts on this book in English. I feel as though Sarwar's words elude full understanding. There is a sense that his poems leave me pondering, questioning: what can it be? What is he trying to say? And perhaps that is the true success of a writer—leaving the reader in contemplation, never fully offering easy answers.

Be it his first poem "Hesitation", "Dreamers Fling", "Eternal Beauty" or "My Journey", the poet is always present, as I mentioned earlier. Sometimes, he is in the loving embrace of his mother; other times, he is with his beloved, enjoying and rejoicing; while at other times, he expresses the worry of losing and parting from loved ones. This cycle, one can see everywhere—questions without answers, much like life itself.

His mastery of the English language is evident in every word he chooses. Yet, I wish someone would translate some of his poems to Kashmiri for readers like me.

At the end, while it is difficult to express fully the gratitude I feel, I must acknowledge the honor Sarwar has bestowed upon me by writing a poem titled "O MY TALL HEETHERIYE". I am both humbled and honored, S. Sarwar. May God bless you with the power of the pen, paper, imagination, thoughts, feelings, and expressions. I hope you write in Kashmiri as well.

Khwaab....

The author is a recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award



I FEEL AS THOUGH SARWAR'S WORDS ELUDE FULL UNDERSTANDING. THERE IS A SENSE THAT HIS POEMS LEAVE ME PONDERING, QUESTIONING: what can it be? What is he trying to say? And perhaps that is the true success of a writer—leaving the reader in contemplation, never fully offering easy answers

Does the Weather Affect Our Emotions?

Kim Meidenbauer

As we move toward winter and colder temperatures in the northern hemisphere, many people are happy to beat the heat and enjoy a cool and cozy winter wonderland. And then there's another group wistfully looking back on the sunshine and warm weather that we've now left behind.

It's not news that people differ in their seasonal preferences, mention that they "run hot" or "run cold," or have strong opinions on what their ideal temperature is. What might be more surprising is that the subjective experience of the weather is what actually affects us emotionally, with the objective conditions playing a very small role.

A recent study my colleagues and I published in BMC Psychology linked the objective, highly localized weather conditions to individuals' perceptions of their environments ("How hot or cold is it?"), how comfortable the temperature was, and how they were feeling in the moment. Study participants completed a number of these surveys on a smartphone in outdoor environments during the summertime, and they had GPS and time information, so the objective weather conditions could be linked to the time and place they completed the survey.

We expected that there



may be a reasonably strong relationship between actual weather conditions and whether or not people reported it being hot or cold, comfortable or uncomfortable. And we were quite wrong!

If we looked at the relation-

ship across all of the people in the study, our results showed a pretty weak relationship between the actual weather and perceptions of temperature or comfort. Even on days where it was over 90 degrees F, some people were perfectly com-

fortable, and on days when it was 73 degrees F and sunny, some people were uncomfortable and found it too cold!

More importantly, we did see a relationship between temperature discomfort and negative emotions—if people

reported feeling uncomfortably hot, they felt more tired, distressed, and generally unhappy. However, we only see this relationship if people said that the heat made them uncomfortable—which means on a 95-degree day, plenty of

people said it was very hot but they weren't uncomfortable, and therefore, the scorching heat didn't seem to have a negative impact on them.

On some level, it's not surprising that discomfort should lead to more negative emo-

tions. Discomfort is by definition not an enjoyable experience. What is more important and more surprising to note is that these individual differences in comfort and perceived temperature are much larger and more important than the actual weather conditions themselves.

This opens up interesting questions about why people differ so much in their perceptions and comfort. There's a lot of evidence that physiology plays a role—depending on body composition, age, physical fitness, hormones, etc., you may thermoregulate better or run hotter/colder. But that is only one piece of the puzzle. It actually seems like personality traits might play a role. Preliminary results from my lab and other research have identified that trait neuroticism seems to amplify the relationship between temperature discomfort and negative emotions. Ultimately, this is one area where we still know very little, but is an exciting opportunity for additional scientific exploration.

This also means that if you disagree with your roommates or coworkers about the thermostat setting this winter, you can take solace in knowing that there's no "correct" temperature; it's all subjective anyway!

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Survey To Identify 1.37 Lakh Potential Entrepreneurs To Begin From Jan

CS Takes Stock Of Preparations With Stakeholders

Observer News Service

Jammu- Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday held a meeting of all the stakeholders to assess the measures taken for holding a baseline survey jointly by Labour & Employment & Planning Departments to identify around 1.37 lakh youth for turning them into successful entrepreneurs here.

Besides the Secretary, L&E Department and Secretary, PD & MD the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, School Education Department; Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education; DG, E&S; DG, Budget; MD, HADP; MD, JKRLM and Representatives from IIM,NABARD, JK Bank, BISAG-N besides other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary was given demonstration of the online application through which this survey would be held in the field by around 20,000 investigators designated by the Planning Department to carry out this exercise in the length and breadth of the UT.

Dulloo while speaking in the meeting about this survey maintained that this exercise aims at



identifying J&K youth who are inclined towards self employment through different entrepreneurship activities with the handholding to be extended by government under Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) here.

He urged the youth studying in different Universities/ Colleges here to take part in this survey for making it a meaningful exercise to know about your aspirations regarding self employment and the challenges you are facing to fructify them.

The Chief Secretary also advised the concerned to fetch as much data as possible from this survey to generate multiple analytics for the lucid understanding of all. He made out that this data would guide administration in the implementation of several other schemes and formulation of future policies.

He stressed on the respective Deputy Commissioners to designate a senior officer as nodal officer for continuous monitoring of this exercise there. He advised for holding

training sessions for the investigators besides running sustained informational campaigns in both social and mainstream media for the awareness of masses.

In his presentation the Secretary, L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan informed the meeting that this activity has two major components to survey the existing enterprises for looking into the challenges they are facing in addition to identify potential entrepreneurs from our population.

Week-Long 'Urban Harvest' Training Program Empowers New Wave Of Urban Entrepreneurs

Observer News Service

Srinagar- With an aim to foster a sustainable agricultural ecosystem by equipping participants with cutting-edge skills, an entrepreneurship training program titled 'Urban Harvest: Mastering Soilless Cultivation for City Dwellers' concluded at Haran in District Ganderbal and Sopore in District Baramulla.

The week-long training program witnessed participation from a diverse group of aspiring urban farmers, entrepreneurs and students.

The programme aimed to foster a sustainable agricultural ecosystem, introduced participants to modern soilless farming techniques, such as hydroponics and aquaponics, with a focus on sustainable food production in urban settings. It emphasized practical demonstrations, theoretical knowledge, and entrepreneurial guidance to help attendees establish their ventures in urban agriculture.

Experts in sustainable farming practices conducted sessions on topics like nutrient management, vertical farming setups, market linkages, and the economic potential of urban agriculture.

Dr Shahnaz Mufti, Professor, Division of Vegetable Science SKUAST-K, organizer of the programme, lauded the initiative of

Experts in sustainable farming practices conducted sessions on topics like nutrient management, vertical farming setups, market linkages, and the economic potential of urban agriculture.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Govt. of India, New Delhi as a transformative step towards empowering youth and promoting self-reliance through urban agriculture.

She emphasized that soilless farming techniques could address the challenges of limited land and rising demand for fresh produce in cities.

The Program Coordinator acknowledged the efforts and support of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganiae, Nodal officer MSME, Prof. H.R.Naik, Dean FOH, Prof. Shabir Hussain Wani and HOD Vegetable Science, Dr Asif Bashir Shikari.

RBI Keeps Interest Rates Unchanged, Cuts CRR As Economy Slows

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai- The Reserve Bank of India on Friday kept its key interest rate unchanged but cut the cash reserve ratio that banks are required to park with the central bank, as it did a balancing act between inflation management and supporting economic growth.

With India's GDP seeing a sharper-than-anticipated dip in the July-September period to 5.4 per cent -- its slowest pace in seven quarters, inflation on the uptick and rupee under pressure, the RBI had few choices to make.

Its monetary policy committee, which consists of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for a record 11th

meeting in a row.

Four of the six members of the panel voted for a status quo in rate, while retaining its policy stance at "neutral". External members - Nagesh Kumar and Ram Singh - voted for a quarter-point reduction.

Announcing the monetary policy committee meeting decisions, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Cash Reserve Ratio -- the proportion of deposits that banks must set aside with the central bank -- has been cut by 50 basis points to 4 per cent, effective in two tranches on December 14 and December 28.

The cut will infuse Rs 1.16 lakh crore into the banking system and will soften short-term interest rates and enhance capacity of banks to extend credit and invigorates economic activity across sectors.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-35-24-25 Closing Date/Time: 30.12.2024, 15:00 hrs.

Date:- 06.12.2024

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-35-24-25 Closing Date/Time 30.12.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

Contract Type	Works
Name of Work	(i) Sectional Signal Maintenance. Contract (SSMC) for the sections of DSTE/FZR for one year. (ii) Replacement of overaged. Lightening and surge protection device and strengthening of existing SPD and earthing arrangements over Firozpur division.
Tender Closing Date/Time	30.12.2024, 15:00 hrs.
Date/Time of Uploading Tender	06.12.2024, 16:11 hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 1,49,84,554.68 (ii) 1,70,40,636.69
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	16.12.2024
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 2,24,900.00 (ii) 2,35,200.00
Period of Completion	(i) 12 Months (ii) 6 Months

3764/2024

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SCHEDULE

[To be published in pursuance of Clause (7) of Regulation 23 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023]

- The petitioner above-named has filed a petition before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for **Dulhasti Power Station, Sewa-II Power Station & Uri-II Power Station**
- The beneficiaries of the generating station are:

i) PSPCL - Punjab	ii) BRPL, BYPL & TPDDL - Delhi	iii) UPCL - Uttarakhand
iv) HPPC - Haryana	v) Engg. Dept. - UT Chandigarh	vi) JVVNL, JdVNL & AVVNL - Rajasthan
vii) UPPCL - Uttar Pradesh	viii) PDD - J&K	

	Dulhasti Power Station	Sewa-II Power Station	Uri-II Power Station
3. Capacity of the generating station	390 MW	120 MW	240 MW
4. Approved capital cost of the project	₹523298.66 lakh as on 31.03.2024 allowed by CERC vide order dtd 09.05.2022 in petition no. 146/GT/2020	₹1,14,921.78 lakh as on 31.03.2019 allowed by CERC vide order dtd 17.08.2023 in petition no. 643/GT/2020	₹229990.00 lakh as on 31.03.2019 allowed by CERC vide order dtd 27.11.2023 in petition no. 18/GT/2021
Authority which has approved the capital cost	CERC	CERC	CERC
5. Scheduled date of commercial operation	Already in Commercial Operation	Already in Commercial Operation	Already in Commercial Operation
6. Actual date of commercial operation	07.04.2007	24.07.2010	01.03.2014
7. Capital cost on the date of commercial operation	₹507849.37 lakh	₹107745.87 lakh	₹217118.99 lakh

8. Details of tariff: (₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Hydro Power Generating Station	Tariff for the previous year (2018-19)	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1.	Annual Fixed Charges	92358.79	96221.21	76150.32	75441.11	82632.81	85167.65
2.	Primary Energy Charges	Primary Energy Charges are part of Annual Fixed Charges and is 50% of Annual Fixed Charges					
Sl. No.	Hydro Power Generating Station Dulhasti Power Station	Tariff for the previous year (2023-24)	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
1.	Annual Fixed Charges	85167.65	74924.36	76563.08	78321.57	80159.96	82112.90
2.	Primary Energy Charges	Primary Energy Charges are part of Annual Fixed Charges and is 50% of Annual Fixed Charges					
Sl. No.	Hydro Power Generating Station Sewa-II Power Station	Tariff for the previous year (2018-19)	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1.	Annual Fixed Charges	24,614.21	25,241.52	25,220.75	25,388.24	26,352.37	22,000.34
2.	Primary Energy Charges	Primary Energy Charges are part of Annual Fixed Charges and is 50% of Annual Fixed Charges					
Sl. No.	Hydro Power Generating Station Sewa-II Power Station	Tariff for the previous year (2023-24)	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
1.	Annual Fixed Charges	22,000.34	20,289.26	21,003.11	21,750.67	22,336.90	22,944.19
2.	Primary Energy Charges	Primary Energy Charges are part of Annual Fixed Charges and is 50% of Annual Fixed Charges					
Sl. No.	Hydro Power Generating Station Uri-II Power Station	Tariff for the previous year (2018-19)	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1.	Annual Fixed Charges	40950.91	44658.64	44291.73	43971.97	45960.82	45346.59
2.	Primary Energy Charges	Primary Energy Charges are part of Annual Fixed Charges and is 50% of Annual Fixed Charges					
Sl. No.	Hydro Power Generating Station Uri-II Power Station	Tariff for the previous year (2023-24)	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
1.	Annual Fixed Charges	45346.59	44650.32	45629.42	45912.66	35939.72	38087.00
2.	Primary Energy Charges	Primary Energy Charges are part of Annual Fixed Charges and is 50% of Annual Fixed Charges					

9. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted under 'Commercial' on the website: <https://www.nhpcindia.com>

10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through the e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : Faridabad Date : 29.11.2024 (Ajay Shrivastava) General Manager (Comml.), Commercial Division

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Aneesa Prince D/o Prince Ahmad Pala R/o Mamoosa Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 19-12-2020 occurred at Home

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Ab Ahad Najar S/o Ab Khaliq Najar R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 08-12-1988 occurred at Home

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Asma Irshad D/o Irshad Ahmad Dar R/o Singhpora Tehsil Singhpora District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 09-05-2022 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL Hanfia Mission Secondary School Kreeri, Baramulla, KMR.

Ref. No; HMSSK/342/2024 Dated: 05-12-2024

Fee structure For the year 2024

S. No	Class	Monthly Tuition Fee	Examination Fee	Remars
1	10th	900	500	
02	9th	900	500	
03	8th	800	400	
04	7th	750	300	
05	6th	750	300	
06	5th	600	250	
07	4th	550	250	
08	3rd	550	250	
09	2nd	550	250	
10	1st	550	250	
11	UKG	500	200	
12	LKG	500	200	
13	Nur	500	200	

Note:

- Orphans Case is free category
- Third child is free category
- Poor student is concession category

fko Principal
Hanfia Mission Secondary School
Kreeri, Baramulla

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Falak Zehra D/o Muzaffar Hussain Dar R/o Reshipora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 28-09-2023 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Siman Fatima D/o Kaiser Hussain Reshi R/o Hanjiweera Payeen Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 14-06-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

Omar Govt At

governor Satya Pal Malik in 2018, was allowed to continue in his role to maintain continuity.

However, the status of his resignation remains unclear, although sources indicate that the elected government has consented to his continuation.

Both the Abdullah government and Raj Bhavan are currently awaiting a notification from the Union home ministry regarding the rules of business, which is expected to facilitate smoother governance in the region, the sources added.

La Niña Not

also decline. However, there is no one-to-one relationship between La Niña and snowfall in Kashmir," he reiterated.

While higher altitudes in Kashmir are witnessing some snowfall, he said that these events are not significant enough to influence the weather patterns across the Valley.

Pertinently, some reports have been attributing the dropping temperatures in Kashmir to the La Niña effect. Experts had earlier said that the La Niña phenomenon is set to intensify this winter, potentially leading to severe conditions in Kashmir and Ladakh. Predicted increases in snowfall and precipitation could make the regions even harsher.

Dr Ahmad added that as per instances of La Niña years in the past, the Himalayan region experienced above normal precipitation and below normal minimum temperature for 60% of the years (last 50 years) & 40% of the years having normal winter during La Niña years.

There may be some other factors also which can be attributed to above or below normal precipitation.

Notably, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed very little rain and snow the last few years due to the El Nino effect, which impacted the weather conditions across the region, including Kashmir Valley.

Kashmir Records

against previous night's minus 2.1 degree Celsius.

Furthermore, Shopian was the coldest place in Kashmir where the mercury settled at minus 6.6 degree Celsius. Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a low of minus 6.5 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a low of minus 4.3 degree Celsius.

Also, Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded minus 3.4 degree Celsius. Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.4 degree Celsius.

Furthermore, the weatherman here has predicted further dip in the night temperature, saying that there is no forecast of any major wet spell weather and the minimum temperature would likely go down as well.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that

the weather would remain generally dry till tomorrow, adding that generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain over few plains & hilly areas of Jammu division & light rain and snow (higher reaches) over few places of Kashmir division during late evening of 8th to 9th forenoon.

He said that a few places of Jammu division may experience thunder with gusty winds during the 8th evening and night.

However, he said that from December 10 to 14, the weather would remain generally dry, adding that on December 15 & 16, light rain and snow is expected over isolated places.

Notably, the department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) has issued a comprehensive advisory to combat ongoing cold wave conditions.

The Advisory has highlighted the need to pay special attention to vulnerable groups like the elderly and children during the cold wave phases.

The guidelines issued by the J&K's DMRRR department focus on safety measures for individuals, animals, and crops to mitigate the risks associated with severe cold weather.

During the cold wave phase, the advisory has asked residents in the region to limit outdoor exposure and dress in multiple layers of clothing. It has also insisted on using protective gear like hats, mufflers, and insulated shoes.

"Stay indoors as much as possible and minimize travel to prevent exposure to cold. Maintain warmth through healthy food, hot drinks, and proper hydration. Keep yourself dry. If wet then cover your head, neck, hands and toes adequately as the majority of heat loss occurs through these body parts. Change wet clothes immediately," reads the advisory.

The advisory has also flagged to take care of elderly people, newborns and children and check neighbours who live alone, especially the elderly about their wellbeing.

"Cover your head as most body heat is lost through the top of the head. Drink hot fluids regularly, as this will maintain body heat to fight cold," reads the advisory.

Before the cold wave, the advisory recommended staying updated on weather forecasts through radio, TV, and newspapers. It has also asked to stock essential items, including winter clothing, food, water, and emergency supplies.

"Ensure doors and windows are properly sealed to block cold winds," states the DMRRR advisory.

In case of exposure to cold wave conditions, and to address frostbite and hypothermia, the advisory has stated to promptly warm affected areas and seek medical attention and not to ignore shivering, stating that it is the first sign that the body is losing heat.

The advisory has asked to avoid alcohol, stating that it reduces body temperature.

With regard to the agricultural and

animal husbandry guidelines, the advisory states that farmers should irrigate plants lightly to protect crops and use mulch to preserve warmth.

The advisory reads that cultivating frost-resistant varieties and sheltering fields with windbreaks are recommended.

"Mulching nursery beds of soil near the main trunk with black or silver plastic sheets increase radiation absorption and provide a warmer thermal regime during winter. In case plastic mulch is not available, making thatches (jhuggis) of straw or Sarkanda grass or organic mulching will also protect crops from cold," reads the advisory.

For animals, the advisory states that livestock and poultry should be sheltered indoors, provided with bedding materials, and fed high-quality forage to meet increased energy demands during cold weather.

It also states that during Cold waves animals and livestock require more food for sustenance as the energy requirement goes up. It adds that extreme variations in temperature may affect the fertility rate of animals, during the optimum breeding season for buffaloes/cattle.

"Cover the animal habitat from all sides during night in order to avoid direct exposure of animals to cold winds. Apply some bedding materials such as dry straw under animals during winters. Avoid giving cold feed and cold water to the animals," states the advisory.

Kashmir Faces Water

Irrigation and Flood Control (IFC) for Kashmir and also with additional charge of CE PHE Jal Shakti, Er. Braham Jyoti Sharma said despite the ongoing dry spell with reduced water levels in the water bodies, they were managing 'adequate' water supply in the region.

"Our rivers, ponds, and springs are drying up because of the lack of rainfall and snowfall. These water sources are critical for our drinking water supply and agricultural needs. We are hoping for precipitation soon, as natural recharge remains beyond human intervention," CE IFC said.

In response to the crisis, he said that they have taken steps to stabilize the water supply, stating that the irrigation demand has significantly decreased with the end of the agricultural season in the region.

"For now, we are managing to maintain adequate drinking water supply, but the lack of precipitation poses a serious challenge for the coming months," a top officer stated.

Another senior official from Irrigation and Flood control department highlighted the critical role of snowfall in sustaining Kashmir's water resources. "Snowfall acts as a natural reservoir, feeding glaciers, streams, and rivers during the summer months. Without sufficient snow, the region could face severe water shortages during peak demand periods," official said.

The officer said snowfall was

essential for replenishing streams and rivers in the region, stating that it serves as a summer reserve, and its absence could lead to increased strain on our water resources.

The officer added that while the onset of winter has brought a marked reduction in demand due to the end of irrigation activities, the departure of seasonal populations has also enhanced the water supply in the region.

The officials also acknowledged that despite ongoing mitigation efforts there was growing pressure on water reserves, stating that the rainfall and snowfall remained the only sustainable solutions to the valley's deepening water crisis.

"We are doing everything in our control to manage the supply, but without nature's help, our resources will remain under threat," the official said.

Winter Break

onwards for preparatory arrangements for the ensuing Board Examinations of class 10th, 11th and 12th, the order reads.

"All teachers shall remain available as required for any online guidance to students during vacation period," it said.

The government also warned that any default on the part of Heads of Institutions or Teaching staff in observance of the schedule shall attract strict action under the Rules.

10th-12th Exams

Education (JKBOSE) said that they were working to conduct the annual regular board exams of 10th to 12th standard from the third week of February.

"Although we have not decided any date yet regarding the conduct of annual regular exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard. But the board is charting out a mechanism to commence the exams probably in between February-10 to February-15," he said.

The official added that "This time we will try to conduct the exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard a month earlier so that students will be able to carry on their studies as per the previous academic session (Nov-Dec)

On asking about the time to announce the results, the official said, "We will try to announce the results at earliest. I think it will take at least 45-50 days to assess the question papers and some more days to prepare the results respectively."

The official further said that in order to safeguard the time of candidates, "The students will be given a provisional admission so that their time is not wasted."

Earlier, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said that the government has decided to restore the academic session up to 9th standard to November-December instead of March session.

Omar had further said, "However, in case of the students of 10th to 12th classes, we cannot restore the academic session this year but in the 2025, we

will revert the schedule as per the old scheme and their exams will also be held before winter vacations." (KNO)

Govt Pushes

who are waiting for their pension for a long time can get it.

She said that many specially-abled individuals and widows, who rely on these pensions as their primary source of income, face severe hardships due to lack of timely financial support. She added that Rs 1000 per month is very less and increasing it to Rs 3000 per month is under active consideration of the government.

Working Towards

strong focus on preserving the unique identity of the region".

He made it unequivocally clear that there can be no trade-off between the progress of the Jammu and Kashmir region and the dignity of its people and that both must advance hand in hand, the spokesman said.

The chief minister reiterated his pledge to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people, vowing to remain steadfast in addressing public grievances and advancing the restoration of statehood and the region's overall development.

'Satellite Townships

the people of Kashmir. He said there is no need to create a controversy. "We are still dealing with the repercussions of the PDP's past actions. If any satellite township is established, it will be for the local people. There is no need to make an issue out of it," Wani said during a press conference at Nawa-e-Subh party headquarters.

Tanvir Sadiq, NC's Chief Spokesman, said that the government would release an official response to the PDP's objections. "Every decision we make will always be for the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Sadiq said, urging the public not to overstate the controversy.

JKSA to Hold

public address, the CM had highlighted the formation of a sub-committee to examine the matter thoroughly and ensure fairness in the system.

The committee is expected to review the existing reservation structure and suggest reforms that would better serve the aspirations of all sections of the population, especially the youth.

The JKSA, in its call for the protest, highlighted that the current reservation policy has led to widespread dissatisfaction, particularly among students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who feel that the system is not catering to their needs effectively.

The association aims to highlight these issues and urge the government to take swift action to rectify the anomalies in the reservation system.

KPDCL To Close

Electric Subdivisions to settle their

claims. "There are still a large number of domestic consumers with huge opening balances who are yet to approach their divisions to settle their dues," she added, while advising them to not waste this final opportunity offered under the scheme.

The Chief Engineer further stated that after the closure of the Scheme, KPDCL shall be left with no option but to opt for legal course of action & disconnection of those domestic consumers.

KEEMA Raises

J&K's power infrastructure, for bypassing these provisions.

"Tenders under the RDSS have been issued on a turnkey basis, excluding local manufacturers," Khan said. This has resulted in 90% of key materials—such as steel tubular poles, aluminum conductors, and electrical hardware—being sourced from outside, depriving MSEs of critical opportunities.

In a statement issued by KEEMA, they said that they have already brought these issues to the attention of the Chief Minister, who assured intervention, but no concrete measures have followed. Khan warned that if the trend continues, an additional 300 MSEs could face imminent closure, with devastating effects on employment and the regional economy.

"The survival of MSMEs is vital for the economic stability of Jammu and Kashmir. Authorities must enforce MSME procurement policies and uphold the spirit of 'Make in India' to prevent an industrial disaster," Khan urged.

KEEMA called for immediate action at both Union Territory and Central levels to ensure the enforcement of MSME policies. The association emphasized that the survival of local enterprises is essential to safeguard the region's industrial growth and employment.

As the government remains under pressure to address these grievances, the fate of Jammu and Kashmir's MSMEs hangs in the balance.

J&K Achieves

duplicate records and ensuring that benefits are directed to genuine beneficiaries.

"The nationwide digitization initiative has led to the de-duplication of over 45.16 lakh ration cards, with Jammu and Kashmir making a significant contribution to this effort."

Officials noted that the transition to a digital system not only reduces fraud but also streamlines the process for citizens to access their entitlements.

"No major challenges were reported in digitizing ration cards in rural or remote areas of the Union Territory. The government credited the success of this initiative to effective planning and collaboration with local authorities. Efforts are now focused on raising awareness about the benefits of digitization and encouraging beneficiaries to regularly update their details in the system."

27th year OF PUBLICATION



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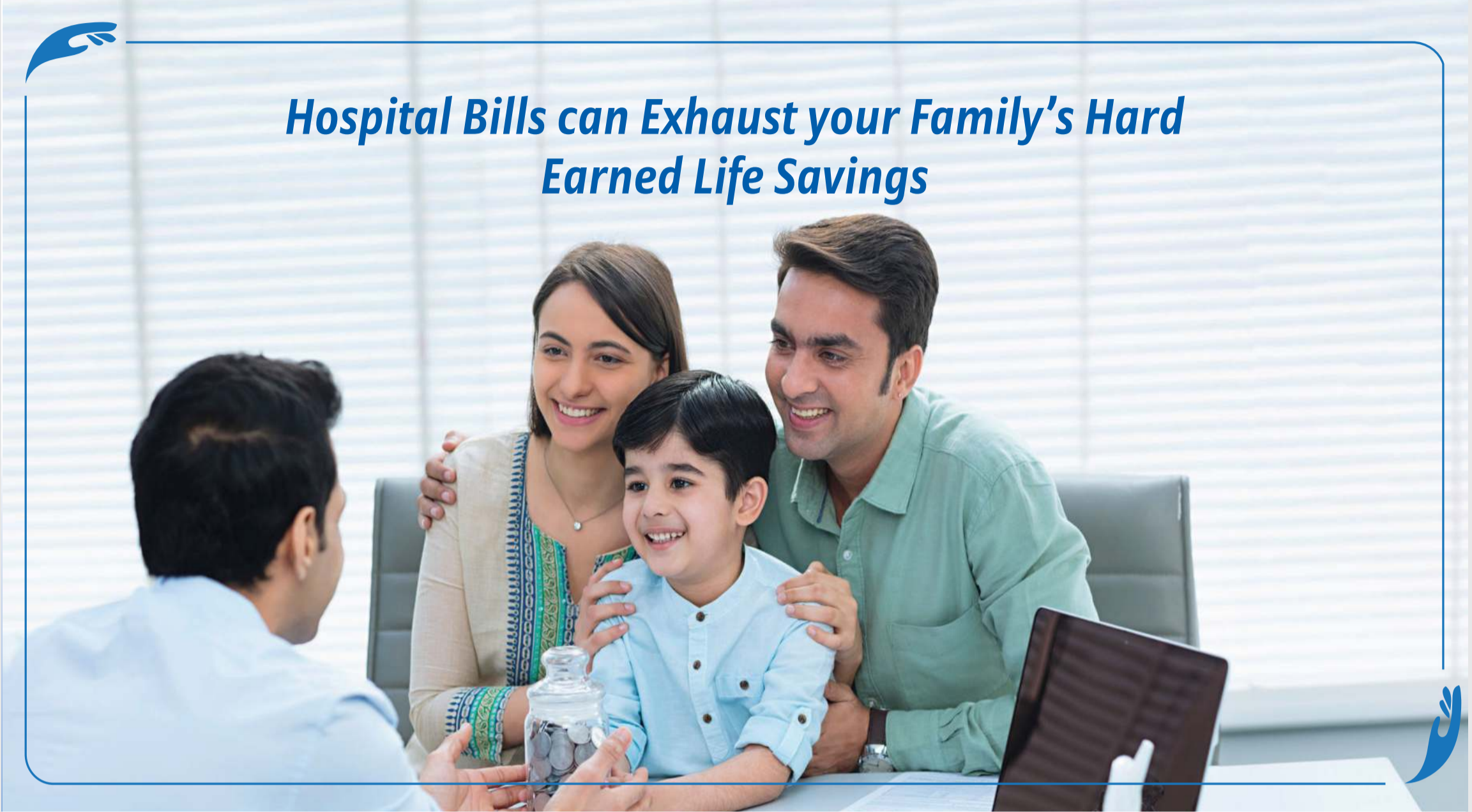
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