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444 Corruption Cases Filed in Last 5 Years

Agencies

Srinagar: In a bid to eliminate corruption from Jammu and Kashmir, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered over 440 cases across the Union Territory in the last five years, indicating a strict response by the government against such practices.

Over the past five years, the ACB has registered a staggering 444 FIRs in different alleged corruption cases, exposing the persistent grip of corruption across Jammu and Kashmir.

From Kashmir's bustling Srinagar to the administrative heart of Jammu, the data tells a story of vigilance, challenges, and the relentless pursuit of accountability.

According to the official breakdown of First Information Reports (FIRs) data, Kashmir province has recorded 275 cases, significantly outpacing Jammu

province's 169 FIRs during this period.

The year 2022 witnessed the highest number of FIRs, with 128 cases, including 88 cases from Kashmir province—the highest single-year tally for the region in the last five years.

In 2022, the Srinagar ACB Police Station registered 40 FIRs, the highest for any single station. Jammu's Central Police Station followed with 20 FIRs in 2024.

As per the official breakdown data, a total of 71 FIRs were registered in the region in 2020 with Kashmir province recording 38 while Jammu province closely chasing at 33 FIRs.

Similarly, 2021 witnessed a surge from previous year as J&K recorded 94 FIRs in different alleged corruption cases, with Kashmir province recording as many as 61 FIRs. 2022 again witnessed a spurt in alleged corruption cases, with the region registering 128 FIRs in different cases. However, 2023 witnessed a decline in such cases, | [More on P6](#)



| Year | Total FIRs | Kashmir | Jammu |
|------|------------|---------|-------|
| 2020 | 71 | 38 | 33 |
| 2021 | 94 | 61 | 33 |
| 2022 | 128 | 88 | 40 |
| 2023 | 66 | 45 | 21 |
| 2024 | 85 | 43 | 42 |

Can Kashmir's Power Grid Withstand The Winter Surge?

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the growing demand of electricity after the onset of winters, the Power Development Department (PDD) has requested for more power to reduce the issues of distress and unscheduled power cuts across the Valley.

A top official said that the demand for power has increased significantly from the past two weeks and requires extra electricity to overcome it.

"We are expecting some power from the authorities because we have demanded more power. Let's see what we get," the official said.

It also said, "The unrestricted demand of electricity including the ongoing power curtailment schedule has reached 2600-2700 Megawatts. However, as of now, we have only 1450 MWs of power."

"There is a huge gap of nearly 200 MWs to overcome the unscheduled power and distress cuts in Kashmir as at present less than 1500 MWs are available against a total requirement of 1700 MWs," a top official

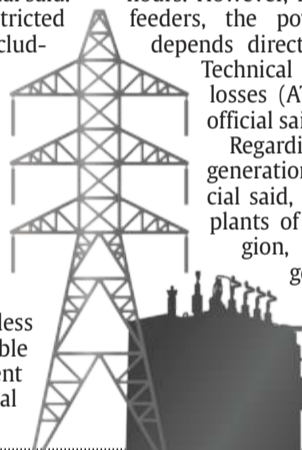
said earlier last week.

"KPDCL is capable of supplying and providing 2200 MWs of power. There is no issue of carrying capacity. The issue is all about the availability of power," he said.

About the new curtailment schedule, the official further added that the department has to provide 24 hours power supply to the essential 250 feeders on which hospitals and other important departments rely on.

"In Kashmir division, more than 50% of feeders are supplying power to flat-rated areas wherein the power curtailment is almost eight hours. However, in the rest of the feeders, the power curtailment depends directly on Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses (AT&C) losses," the official said.

Regarding the power generation issues, the official said, "From the power plants of the Kashmir region, the local power generation has further decreased from 60 MWs to 40 MWs." Earlier in

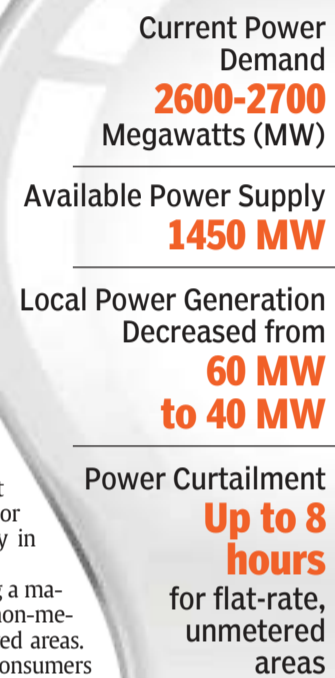


December, it was reported that the local DISCOM in Kashmir was struggling to secure enough power to prevent distress and unscheduled power cuts.

Moreover, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Chief Engineer (Distribution) Aaqib S Waheed Deva said that the department was witnessing the major damage to DTIs majorly in the non-metered areas.

"KPDCL is witnessing a major damage to DTIs in non-metered areas and flat rated areas. In these areas, the consumers exceed the sanctioned load that results in damage to DTIs," she said.

Deva further said, "In some areas where meters are installed but are on functioning on bare conductors currently, the consumers are using | [More on P6](#)



Reshuffle in Admin 22 JKAS Officers Transferred

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a first major rejig in the civil administration after taking over the Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered transfer of 19 senior officers.

As per the government Order, Mehmood Ahmad Shah, Director of Handloom and Handicrafts, Kashmir, has been appointed as the Managing Director of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited. Nisar Ahmad Wani, who was awaiting adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as a Member of the J&K Special Tribunal (Srinagar Bench).

Furthermore, Syed Shahnawaz, Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, has been appointed as Joint Director of Information, Kashmir.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission, has been appointed as Director of School Education, Kashmir. Gulzar Ahmad Dar, Special Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department, has been posted as Special Secretary in the School Education Department. Mussarat-ul-Islam, Managing Director of | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar Flags Lease Issues For Schools, Hotels Reaffirms Support For Local Industries

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday reaffirmed his government's commitment to supporting local industries in overcoming the challenges they are currently facing.

The Chief Minister highlighted the challenges related to lease agreements for institutions and businesses.

"Today, schools on leased land are being asked to produce 10-year leases, failing which their registration will not be renewed. Similarly, hotels on leased land cannot even make minor repairs due to the absence of valid leases. These issues need immediate attention," he said.

Speaking at an event organized by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI) at its office, Omar was felicitated for assuming office as



the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister of Forest, Ecology and Environment Javed Ahmad Rana, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, JCCI President Arun Gupta, Vice President and General Secretary of JCCI, former presidents, and other members. Senior officials, including the

Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Principal Secretary Finance, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, and Director Industries & Commerce Jammu, were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah acknowledged the persistent challenges faced by the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir. "There is no shortage of issues. If I were to claim that these problems have | [More on P6](#)

J&K Ministers Allocated Districts For 'Better Coordination'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The five cabinet ministers of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday were allocated 20 districts of the Union Territory for better coordination, effective implementation of developmental programs, closer monitoring of public services, and other related matters of the district(s).

Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister, has been allocated the districts of Jammu, Poonch, Anantnag, and Shopian while Sakeena Masood (Itoo), Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare, has | [More on P6](#)



BJP Seeks CBI Probe Into Rohingya Settlement In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The BJP on Monday termed the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in the Jammu city a major "political conspiracy" and demanded a CBI probe to identify those involved in facilitating it.

Hitting out at the National Conference (NC) government over remarks on granting water

and power connections to them in Jammu, the BJP alleged it was done to protect them as they belong to a particular community.

"The BJP will urge the lieutenant governor to initiate a CBI probe and lodge an FIR to comprehensively investigate this conspiracy. It must be determined who brought and settled the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in | [More on P6](#)

Will Not Let Rohingyas Starve Or Die Of Cold: CM

The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday clarified that the issue of Rohingya refugees is a humanitarian one and they must not be treated like animals; they are human beings | [More on P6](#)

6 THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF ISSUES. If I were to claim that these problems have only emerged in the past decade, it would be misleading."

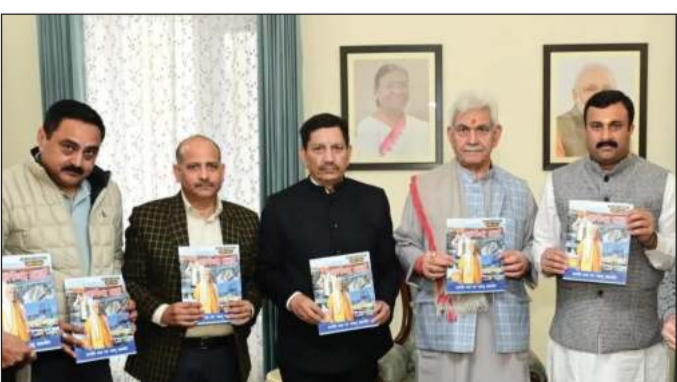
Destiny Of J&K Will Be Decided By Its Youth: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha released the 3rd edition of "Kartavya Marg", annual in-house magazine published by Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, at Raj Bhawan Monday.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the editor and everyone associated with the publication. He appreciated the efforts of all the members of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust for promotion of Sanskrit and setting high standards for research on ancient knowledge systems in Jammu Kashmir.

"Destiny of Jammu Kashmir will be decided by its youth and all arms of the government are committed to empower them, to provide support and guidance



to realize their dreams. We need to enhance intellectual capacity and enrich the personality of our youth through knowledge and values of courage, compassion, sacrifice and selfless service," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The publication, edited by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic

Sansthan Trust, features a number of research-oriented articles by renowned Sanskrit scholars and young researchers.

Trustees and members of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust including R K Chhibber, Prof Sharat Sharma, Nigam Gupta, Sunil Sharma, Vinay Agarwal | [More on P6](#)

Candidate Wins 13-Yr-old Legal Battle Against JKSSB

CAT Imposes Rs 10K Costs On Board

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A meritorious woman candidate on Monday won a 13-year-old legal battle as Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) ordered her appointment against the post of Library Assistant in Budgam.

A two-member Bench of M.S.Latif, (Judicial) and Prasant Kumar (Admin) also imposed Rs 10,000 costs on J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB) as it allowed a petition by the candidate from Bemina who had challenged recruiting

agency's selection of two candidates by converting one post of OM category into RBA Category in 2011.

The CAT also directed JKSSB to be more cautious in future and immediately do away with the practice of changing the criteria of appointments midway.

The CAT was hearing a plea by A. Amin which she had initially filed before the High Court in 2011 and was later transferred to the CAT, Jammu Bench in 2020 and subsequently to CAT Srinagar Bench on 30 November 2021. In her plea | [More on P6](#)



One Nation, One Election Bill Likely In This Session

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The government is ready to launch its One Country One Election project and can introduce a bill in parliament in this session, sources said. The Cabinet has already approved the report of the Ram Nath Kovind Committee on One Country One Election. The government now wants to form consensus on the bill and can send it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee or JPC for detailed discussions, sources said.

The JPC will hold discussions with representatives of all political parties. The other stakeholders will be involved in the process too, NDTV reported. Speakers of all state assemblies can also be called along with intellectuals from across the

country. The opinion of common people will also be taken.

Initially, the government wants to involve the people and the ways and means to achieve this can be discussed later, sources said.

Changing the current system will be extremely challenging in the absence of a consensus. Implementing the "One nation one election" plan would involve at least six bills to amend the Constitution and the government would require a two-thirds majority in parliament.

While the NDA has a simple majority in both houses of parliament, getting two-thirds majority in either house could be an uphill task.

Of the 245 seats in Rajya Sabha, the NDA | [More on P6](#)

When Devices Can Read Human Emotions Without A Camera: Study

ANI

Tokyo Metropolitan University researchers employed long-term skin conductance measurements to distinguish between emotions. Volunteers were given videos representing frightening scenarios, family bonding, and humor, while their skin conductance was measured.

The team's investigation revealed that traces might be used to create accurate estimations about which emotions were being experienced. Advances like this assist in reducing an over-reliance on facial data, bringing emotionally sensitive technologies closer to home.

A new frontier is being pioneered in consumer electronics: one day, digital devices might be able to offer services depending on your emotional state. While this sounds amazing, this depends on whether devices can correctly tell what people are feeling. The most common methods depend on facial expressions: while these have had some success, such data may not always be avail-



able. This has led to researchers looking for different biological signals which could be interpreted to access emotional states, like brain wave measurements or cardiograms. A team of scientists led by Professor Shogo Okamoto from Tokyo Metropolitan University have been using skin conductance as a doorway to human emotions. When people feel different things, the electrical properties of their skin change drastically due to perspiration, with signals showing up within one to three seconds of the original stimulus. Previous research has already shown that measurements of peak conductance, for example, can be correlated with certain

emotions. In their most recent work, the team focused on the dynamics of the response i.e. how quickly the conductance trace following some stimulus reaches a peak, and how it decays back to normal. In their experiment, volunteers were asked to wear probes on the skin and watch videos which were either scary scenes from horror movies, emotional scenes of family bonding, or funny acts performed by comedians. Importantly, each of the scenes had well-defined points at which a certain emotional stimulus was sought. Analyzing the traces, the team found many interesting and significant trends. For example, they

found that the response to fear lasted the longest. This may be a biologically evolved trait, since there are benefits to perceptions of danger lasting longer. Comparing responses to humor and emotional scenes of family bonding, they found responses to family bonding seemed to increase more slowly. The emotions that were evoked were most likely a mixture of sadness and happiness, so it may be that they interfere with each other, leading to a slower change. Importantly, the team's statistical analysis revealed that the different numbers extracted from the dynamics of the trace could be used to discriminate the emotional state of an individual. Though they can't yet tell the emotions apart perfectly, the data could, for example, be used to make statistically significant predictions of whether a subject was experiencing fear or feeling the warmth of a family bond. Combined with other signals, the team believe we are one step closer to devices knowing how we are feeling, with scope for a better understanding of human emotions.

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application Of Mohammad Abdullah Zargar S/o Ghulam Hassan Zargar R/o Kreeri Tehsil Kreeri for the Issuance Of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in favor of his Son Javald Ahmad Zarger and Daughters namely Nighat Akhter and Qawsar Parveen.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the Issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant and his children are currently residing in village Kreeri and belongs to the Zargar Community having annual income of 2,12,000/- (Two Lakhs and Twelve Thousand Only) the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

| S.No | Name Of the Family Member | Relationship with the Applicant | Age | Occupation | Annual Income |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|------------|---------------|
| 01 | Mohammad Abdullah Zargar | Self | 66 | Shopkeeper | 212000/- |
| 02 | Mehmooda Begum | Wife | 65 | Housewife | |
| 03 | Qawsar Parveen Zarger | Daughter | 36 | Housewife | |
| 04 | Javald Ahmad Zarger | Son | 35 | | |
| 05 | Nighat Mohiuddin Law | Daughter In Law | 35 | Housewife | |
| 06 | Nighat Akhter | Daughter | 33 | Housewife | |
| 07 | Aameen Javald | Grand Son | 05 | Student | |
| 08 | Aqsa Javald | Grand Daughter | 01 | Infant | |

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Haleema Begum W/o Late Syed Mohammad Sharif Bukhari R/o Kreeri for issuance of the Legal Heir certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context it is to submit that as per the death certificate and report of Patwari Halqa concerned Syed Mohammad Sharif S/o Syed Gh Hassan R/o Kreeri has passed away on 27/10/2024. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following Legal Heirs:

| S. NO | NAME OF LEGAL HEIR | RELATION WITH DECEASED | AGE | OCCUPATION |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Syeda Haleema Begum | Wife | 70 | Old aged |
| 2 | Syed sareer Ahmad | Son | 50 | Waqf Bord Employee |
| 3 | Syed Noorul Amin Bukhari | Son | 45 | Govt. Employee |
| 4 | Syed Aklasa Akhtar | Daughter | 40 | H/W (Married out side parental home) |

The applicant has applied for issuance of Legal Heir certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if anyone is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.

fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/TR/JAT 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 |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 251J-Elect/T-13-2024-25 | Electrical Work in c/w Provision of covered shed over washing line and other allied works at BDGM on BAHL-BRML section. | Rs. 1,43,13,470.11 | 2,21,600.00 | 6 Months | 02.01.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. | www.ireps.gov.in |

251J-Elect/T. Notice No. 13-Elect/2024-25 Dated :- 09.12.2024 3782/2024

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FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
 Impaired Assets Recovery Branch
 Corporate Headquarters
 M.A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001
 Tel: +91(0)194-2481930-35, Extn. 1070/71/72
 Email: iarb.chq@jkbmail.com

'e-AUCTION NOTICE'

[Rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules]

The undersigned in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 notify the sale of the secured assets detailed herein below for realization of the dues of the Bank on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatsoever there is" and "no complaint" basis.

| | |
|--|--|
| Description of the mortgaged property (Put on sale) | Lease hold rights of land measuring 16 Kanals leased by SIDCO and possessory rights of structures constructed thereupon (lease period 90 years w.e.f. 01.04.1985) situated at Industrial Estate, Phase-I, (Behind SIDCO Estate Office), Khonmoh, Srinagar. |
| Name of the Borrower | Providence Farms Pvt Ltd. |
| Reserve Price | Rs.375.00 Lakh (Rupees Three Hundred Seventy Five Lakh). |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | 10% of Reserve Price (minimum). |
| Bid Increase Amount | Rs.5.00 Lakh (Rupees five lakh). |
| Name of the Branch | Impaired Assets Recovery Branch, J&K Bank, Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar (J&K). |
| Last Date & Time of submission of Bid | 26.12.2024 (5PM) |
| Date and Time of e-Auction | 27.12.2024 (3PM to 4PM) |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance/s details by RTGS to Account Number | THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED Business Unit: Impaired Assets Recovery Branch, IFSC CODE: JAKA0IMPIRD; Account no.0490070700000001 in the name of 'Sundry Pointing IMPIRD'. |

The interested bidders shall submit their offer along with EMD details through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> and can obtain user ID and password by registering on the website. The detailed notice containing all the terms and conditions are available at Bank's website <https://www.jkbank.com> (under-link: Tender/Auction Sale/Counter Bids). For any query related to the said auction, the interested bidders may contact Branch, IARB on 0194-2481930-35 (Extn.1070/1071) during office hours.

(Authorized Officer)

Place: Srinagar (J&K). Date: 10-12-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost RC of my scooter bearing number JK22A-5341 while travelling in Shopin Town. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Shopin within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ishtiyaq Masood
 S/o Mohd Maqbool Mir fko
 R/o Pinjoora Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my son's name from AMAAN AJAZ to AMAAN AIJAZ which needs to be updated in his passport. Anybody having objection in this regard may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days of publication. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

inf

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old Name) **Sundus Aafaz** to (New Name) **Sundus Zargar**. In Future I will be known as (New Name) **Sundus Zargar**. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media Line Ads

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old Name) **Aayat Aafaz** to (New Name) **Aayat Zargar**. In Future I will be known as (New Name) **Aayat Zargar**. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my aadhar card my name is wrongly written as Nusrat Jaan instead of Roale Akhter wife of Irfan Farooq R/O Mirjanpora Nawakadal Eidgah Srinagar. Now I am applying for the correction of the same. If anybody having any objection he or she may contact the concerned authorities within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Contact no: 8825095932 inf

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 Lotpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Bariah Jan D/o Nazir Ahmad Lone R/o Sariwarpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 22-05-2021 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

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کیری
 مضمون: شاہد احمد ریشی ولد محمد اسماعیل ریشی ساکنہ ڈنڈمون تحصیل کیری نصیب حصول وارث جائز

اشتمال برادر گاہی ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار حد اطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ دفتر معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار حد اطلاع کیا جاتا ہے کہ دفتر حدائیں درخواست سائل نسبت اجرائی وارث جائز نصیب زیر کارروائی ہے اس نسبت بنواری طبقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ فتوحالات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل موضع ڈنڈمون میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ سائل کا والد محمد اسماعیل ریشی ولد قادر ریشی مورخہ 20-11-2023 بمطابق ڈیجیٹل تصدیق فوت ہوا ہے متوفی کی وارث جائز بنیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

شاہد احمد ریشی 27 سال ذرا بیوہ پرستوتی
 حاجرہ بیگم 62 سال عمر رسیدہ بیوہ

اسکا عادی کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے صرف تصدیق زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ پانچ نذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ عادی کرنے کے بعد کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

Anti-Corruption Day

Awareness Programme Held At Govt College For Women

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government College for Women, M. A. Road, Srinagar hosted an awareness programme to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day on Monday. The event was organized by the Anti-Corruption Bureau J&K in collaboration with the NSS and Debating Committee of the host college.

The programme aimed at educating students and faculty about the scourge of corruption and the importance of ethical conduct in the society. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and teachers alike.

Suhail Rasool, Inspector

their lives," she said.

Executive Engineer from ACB Aijaz Masood delivered an insightful talk on corruption, highlighting various forms of corruption, its impact on governance and strategies to combat it.

A speech competition was also held on the theme 'Nature and Type of Corruption We See Around Us' in which students of the college participated. Sara Kaul (5th Semester) bagged the 1st position while Ms. Hibachi and Ms. Hurmut secured 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

Prof. Mudasar Nazar from the Political Science department deliberated upon various crude forms of corruption



PIC: File

SRINAGAR SMART CITY PROJECTS

Against Allocated Rs 1000 Cr, SSCL Utilizes 75 Percent Funds

Agencies

Srinagar: The much-hyped beautification projects by Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), which faced frequent criticism over planning and timing, are moving closer to its completion, with officials expressing confidence that the remaining projects were likely to be finished by early 2025.

Out of a total 142 projects, 123 have already been completed. The officials added that the completed projects have marked a significant progress in the transformation of the City's urban landscape.

As per the officials, with an estimated budget of Rs 1,000 crore, approximately 75 percent of the allocated funds have been utilized so far, with the remaining budget left for the remaining projects.

Among the completed projects, the officials highlighted revamped Polo View High Street, Clock Tower in the City Centre, and the landscaped Jhelum Riverfront Embankments.

Officials said that the refurbishment

As per the officials, with an estimated budget of Rs 1,000 crore, approximately 75 percent of the allocated funds have been utilized so far, with the remaining budget left for the remaining projects.

bished prominent landmarks have enhanced the City's aesthetics and public spaces, adding that in addition to these projects, road resurfacing work has been extensively undertaken in various parts of the City, improving travel comfort and road infrastructure.

Notably, the road-widening policy, aimed at expanding pedestrian

trian pathways by reducing road space for vehicles, has drawn criticism from residents. Many have voiced concerns about traffic congestion caused by the reduced carriageway width.

Defending the policy, the SSCL officials stated, "The designs were meticulously planned with input from subject matter experts and are aligned with legitimate practices to create sustainable, pedestrian-friendly urban spaces."

Pertinently, Srinagar Smart City projects have missed several deadlines on project completions in the past, while the officials this time said that they were sure of completion of remaining projects in the city.

A senior official said that as 2025 approaches, the focus is on completing the remaining 19 projects while addressing public concerns. He said that the initiative, which seeks to modernize Srinagar through improved infrastructure and sustainable urban planning, is expected to significantly enhance the quality of life for its residents—(KNO)



ACB Srinagar, presented the concept note about the programme followed by a formal welcome address by the Principal of the host college, Dr. Yasmeen Farooq.

In her address, Dr. Yasmeen emphasized the role of youth in eradicating corruption. "Corruption is a social evil that undermines development and trust. It is imperative for students to lead the fight against it by adhering to integrity and transparency in

which go around us anonymously. He also highlighted the efforts needed to address the problem.

The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks presented by Dr. Saduf Nisar (NSS PO). Prof. Mehbooba Bano, HOD Political Science and Dr. Abina Habib from Department of English were the jury members for the debate competition while Shabeer Ahmad Parey conducted the proceedings of the event.

Seminar On Kashmir's Sacred Sites & Marsiya Tradition Held

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A seminar was held at Masjid Sajjadiya in Hasanabad which brought together scholars, academics, and community members to delve into the rich literary and cultural heritage of Kashmir.

Organized by the Moulana Mullah Saeed Muhammad Hamdani Foundation in collaboration with the Mullah Intizamia Committee Hassanabad, the event shed light on the contributions of the Mullah family to theology, literature, and poetry.

Dr. Sameer Siddiqui, an Islamic scholar, highlighted the universality of the Marsiya tradition in Islamic culture. "Marsiya is

a great way to promote the teachings of Islam and Islamic culture. It is a collective legacy of all Muslims," he stated, emphasizing its literary and spiritual significance.

"Kashmiri Marsiya is not just a literary treasure but a reality to the cultural and civilizational depth of Kashmir, deserving of deeper exploration and preservation." He added.

Islamic scholar Aga Syed Hadi underlined the seminar's academic aspirations, stating, "Through the Moulana Mullah Saeed Muhammad Hamdani Foundation, the rich literature in Kashmiri Marsiya will be explored and worked on at an academic level, which is the need of the hour."

CONDOLENCES

Over The Sad Demise Of Mother Of Sheikh Ghulam Hussain Matto Sahib

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

"Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed, to Him we will return." (Al-Baqarah: 156)

We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of the respected mother of Hujjat-ul-Islam wal-Muslimeen Sheikh Ghulam Hussain Sahib. In this moment of grief, we stand in solidarity with Sheikh Sahib and share his sorrow.

The deceased was a virtuous, kind-hearted, and devoted servant of Lady Fatimah Zahra (SA). She spent her entire life in piety, worship, and service to humanity. Her exemplary upbringing has gifted our community with a compassionate scholar like Sheikh Ghulam Hussain Sahib, who tirelessly dedicates himself to the spiritual guidance of the youth and the propagation of pure Islam in Kashmir Valley. The Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), has said: "Righteous children are a perpetual charity for their parents." The righteous deeds she performed and the love, sacrifice, and religious devotion she invested in raising her son have become a source of perpetual charity for her.

We pray to Almighty Allah, through the intercession of Lady Fatimah Zahra (SA), to elevate the ranks of the departed soul, grant her the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and bestow upon the bereaved family, especially Sheikh Sahib, the strength to bear this immense loss with patience and resilience. (Ameen)

In Grief: Intizamia Committee Masjid Imam Mahdi Syed Mirak Shah Colony Contact Numbers: 7006603062, 9796757558

INF

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

KASHMER 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 J&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), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar 9070806160

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- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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RAILWAYS
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BIJHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Closed)
Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

| PRAYERS | |
|---------|-------|
| FAJR | 5: 54 |
| ZUHR | 12:22 |
| ASR | 3: 45 |
| Magrib | 5:25 |
| ISHA | 6: 50 |

HIJRI CALENDAR
07 Jumada al-Sani
1446

This Day In History

- 1510 - Muslim ruler of Goa, Yusuf Adil Shah and his Ottoman allies surrender to Portuguese forces led by Afonso de Albuquerque who puts the Muslim population to the sword
- 1684 - Isaac Newton's derivation of Kepler's laws from his theory of gravity, contained in the paper De motu corporum in gyrum, is read to the Royal Society by Edmond Halley
- 1899 - Battle at Storm Berge South Africa - Boers vs British army
- 1905 - Austrian pacifist and writer Bertha von Suttner becomes the 1st woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1906 - US President Theodore Roosevelt is the 1st American awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1913 - Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore becomes the first non-European to be presented with the Nobel Prize for Literature for "Gitanjali"
- 1914 - French government returns to Paris
- 1919 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to US President Woodrow Wilson
- 1926 - 2nd part of Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf published
- 1931 - Manuel Azafia becomes Prime Minister of Spain with Niceto Zamora as President
- 1940 - British anti-offensive in Libya (Sidi Barrani)
- 1941 - Japanese troops overrun Guam
- 1943 - British 8th Army (1st Canadian Infantry Division) occupies Orsogna/Ortona Italy
- 1948 - UN General Assembly adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 1961 - USSR & Albania break diplomatic relations
- 1964 - Nobel Peace Prize presented to Dr Martin Luther King Jr. in Oslo
- 1966 - Nobel for chemistry awarded to Robert S. Mulliken
- 1967 - Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awarded to Ragnar Granit, Haldan Keffer Hartline and George Wald "for discoveries about the make-up of the eye
- 1967 - Guatemalan author Miguel Ángel Asturias is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in Stockholm
- 1968 - Japan's biggest heist, the still-unsolved "300 million yen robbery", occurs in Tokyo.
- 1972- USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1973- Bruno Sammartino beats Stan Stasiak, to become WWWF champ for 2nd time
- 1973- For the first time since 1885, tennis has 2 top-ranked male players - Americans Stan Smith and Jimmy Connors
- 1974- European Economic Community calls for a European Parliament
- 1974- Helios 1 launched by US and Germany; later makes closest flyby of the Sun
- 1974- Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Irishman Seán MacBride for his human rights work and Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sat for signing Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- 1975- Andrei Sakharov's wife Yelena Bonner accepts the Soviet dissident's Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo - Sakharov not allowed to leave the country
- 1976- Samuel C. C. Ting is the first person to deliver a Nobel Prize lecture in Mandarin, during the ceremony to award him and Burton Richter the Nobel Prize for Physics for discovering the J/psi particle
- 1977- Soyuz 26 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station
- 1978- Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat accept the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo for negotiating peace between Egypt and Israel
- 1980- Soyuz T-3 returns to Earth
- 1980- USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1981- The United Nations General Assembly approves Pakistan's proposal for establishing nuclear free-zone in South Asia.
- 1982- CDC report on a transfusion recipient who developed AIDS symptoms
- 1982- Soyuz T-5 returns to Earth, 211 days after take-off
- 1983- American cytogeneticist Barbara McClintock, aged 81, is the first woman to be solely awarded Nobel prize for Physiology or Medicine for her discovery of genetic transposition in maize [1]

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor: Sajjad Haider
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

Toppers Becoming Droppers in Reservation Game



KO VIEW

Syria's Power Shift

The abrupt collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria is a monumental shift in Middle Eastern geopolitics. Assad had for nearly 14 years fended off a rebellion that broke out in the wake of the Arab Spring that toppled several governments in the region. But among all these countries, Syria holds the most geostrategic value. Assad was a close ally of Iran and Russia, and a supporter of Palestinian cause. It was through Syria that Iran armed Hamas and Hezbollah, enabling them to resist Israel. Iran's "Axis of Resistance," comprising Hezbollah, Hamas, and aligned factions in Iraq and Yemen, thus faces a stark reckoning. Assad's ousting marks a severe blow to Tehran's strategic foothold in Syria, a crucial corridor for supply of arms to its allied groups fighting Israel. So, the west and Israel always wanted a friendly government in the country.

The current turn of events has been brought about after the weakening of Hezbollah and Hamas which, in turn, has dealt some blow to Iran's influence in the region. It was essentially Iran, Russia and Hezbollah which were propping up Assad's regime. The recent successive assassinations of Hezbollah's leadership by Israeli strikes, the weakening of Hamas and Russia's preoccupation with the war in Ukraine left the field open in Syria for the west-led forces to take over. And they have done so in a lightning offensive lasting just a few weeks.

For decades, Palestinians have relied on the Iran-backed axis for material and political support. The new geopolitical shift suggests a grim outlook for Palestinian aspirations. The new rulers in Damascus are likely to distance themselves from Hezbollah's legacy, signaling a recalibration of Syria's foreign policy. This shift could isolate Tehran further, diminishing its ability to project power and sustain its allies.

In contrast, Israel has emerged stronger. It has reduced security threats from Hezbollah and Hamas and pushed back Iran. It also looks set to get a friendly government in Syria. Netanyahu has already boasted about his role in toppling the Assad regime, saying the "central link" in Iran's axis had been broken. On Sunday, Netanyahu ordered the Israeli military to "seize" a demilitarised buffer zone on the border with Syria, thus effectively exercising control over a part of Syrian territory.

No one should have issue with a genuine mass-based movement taking power in any country. But should we have a "proxy" government that is pro-Israel, pro-west and may potentially work against Palestinian cause - or at best maintain a distance from it? So, while some may celebrate the fall of Assad as some sort of a victory for the people of Syria, we need a more clear-eyed understanding of the unfolding developments. It may only end up further setting back the Palestinian cause and further undermining the agency of gulf states.

Farhat Riyaz

“Before we proceed further, it is important to realise that anger against reservation per se isn't a grouse against the reservation requirement itself, because nobody takes issue with the fact that the oppressed classes should be given some time to catch up with centuries of social and economic neglect. It is not unlawful to reserve some representation for such groups but so much as was allowed here, gives so little for the so-called merit-based candidates, that the whole idea of fair competition loses its meaning

Aliya Khan always thought that her future was dependent on her work. She was dreaming of becoming a doctor and had done all the prep for the NEET exam sacrificing her social life, waking earlier than the crack of dawn and studying all day long. The results were announced but she had completed with such a swooping 650 out of 720-a score that placed her right at the front for a medical seat in any other part of the country. However, to her shock, another student from the reserved category - who had scored much less than her - was given this seat to which Aliya held her heart. The competition was not what had shocked Aliya; it was the larger problem of a reservation system that was beginning to veer so drastically as to disenfranchise students like Aliya.

It's not an isolated story as chances falling to those who come out flying colours in competitive exams is becoming a recurring reality for many students in Jammu and Kashmir who have shone in competitive exams but aren't getting opportunities. As a result, the state reservation policy maintained by keeping over 70 per cent of all educational and government job opportunities for various categories creates an atmosphere for merit to backseat. What began life as an attempt to modernise the most undeveloped areas of society has now become a frustrating experience for general-category students who feel that their hard work doesn't matter in the face of a policy that prioritises classes on socioeconomic and political grounds. There is a lot of scope in the Reservation framework in Jammu and Kashmir. It has special provisions for Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Economically Weaker Sections, Residents of Backward Areas and more recently, the Pahari-speaking people.

Therefore, it stands to reason that while these categories are designed specifically to address some of the disparities created by historical and structural inequalities, it is the deployment of these categories into the realms of education and employment that seems to exacerbate an increasingly unequal distribution of opportunities. For one thing, they are assigning students from reserved categories to medical colleges with scores much below what students of the general category generally need. Most of the competitive examinations, like KAS, are pushing the open merit candidates out even though they are scoring much higher than they are. General category students feel they are being unfairly penalised even though they put in all the effort to clear the exam. While the quota

system ensures a level playing field for marginalized communities, over the years it has started marginalising the very group that it was not designed to harm: the talented, ambitious students of open merit category. All is no longer limited to competition, which is why to many, this growing inequality ends up cutting into the very centre, psychological and personal well-being is at stake here. When lesser-scoring students replace Aliya's place, the disappointment is overwhelming and really depressing, and even to some extent no amount of preparation could prepare anyone for this kind of strong defeat.

Over recent years, the expansions within reserved categories compounded the things that made it worse. Conceived originally to correct history's disadvantages to certain groups, the system has only widened the sense of unfairness with ever new categories added, for instance, people speaking Pahari.

& those who worked much less are getting opportunities based on their category. Many are asking a simple question: How far can the system get away with promoting equality and still ensure fairness? This situation bears unprecedented emotional trauma to the student belonging to the general category. This "unnecessary burden" leads to serious mental disorders in youth, from anxiety or depression to agnosticism of the entire education system. That indeed coupled with the realisation that later on in their life, the system doesn't give a damn about their success, has increased the alienation of these youths.

And made worse by the fact that most of these students now prefer to move out of their home state, to other parts of India, or even abroad, where competition may be more meritocratic.

More importantly, this brain drain is a real and grave problem that poses a serious threat to the long-term devel-

“And made worse by the fact that most of these students now prefer to move out of their home state, to other parts of India, or even abroad, where competition may be more meritocratic.

Critics call these inclusions politically motivated, to expand the reach of these sorts of inclusions beyond the usual voters, and not to address genuine socio-economic gaps. In addition, although adding more reservations decreases the availability of slots for general-category students, it further complicates an already complicated system leaving many students confused about their standing.

Before we proceed further, it is important to realise that anger against reservation per se isn't a grouse against the reservation requirement itself, because nobody takes issue with the fact that the oppressed classes should be given some time to catch up with centuries of social and economic neglect. It is not unlawful to reserve some representation for such groups but so much as was allowed here, gives so little for the so-called merit-based candidates, that the whole idea of fair competition loses its meaning. The reservation system has its tentacles into 70 per cent of the seats in education and government employment and is overreaching itself as it begins to breed a backlash that can only portend very dangerous long-term consequences. The reservation system is choking merit in Jammu and Kashmir starting. Students, who were supposed to be given an intake and an opportunity to chase their dreams, are being pushed to the sideline

opment of Jammu & Kashmir which has, for various reasons, plenty of social and economic challenges of its own. As the best students leave, the state loses human capital and should have a big hole in its workforce, which constrains future progress possibilities. The Jammu and Kashmir education system is always adjudged to produce some of the brightest minds in the country, and it is at a crossroads. The policy would be this and the state would have to review it trying to find a balance between promoting equity at the cost of compromising the integrity of merit. This idea is why successive generations of students should be left with the same chances to excel, no matter their economic background. To the students though, like Aliya, this isn't about a medical seat, it's about fairness, making sure the playing field is equal. The reservation System in its basic shape may not be avoidable but has gone past that stage where it doesn't serve any purpose anymore. The time has now come for rethinking policy in such a way that will place all the backward elements on the pedestal without doing violence to the basic principles of merit and equity.

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



Did You Know?

Understanding Shariah-Compliant Investments in India

Investing in stocks typically involves purchasing shares, essentially representing ownership in a company. Investors hope the company's expansion and growth will increase their share value, achieving capital gains. Alternatively, companies often distribute part of their profits as dividends.

Shariah-Compliant Investing

- Ethical Screening:** Shariah-compliant investments exclude involvement in banking, alcohol production, gambling, and related industries. An ethical screening process ensures these investments align with Islamic principles by evaluating the company's income sources and financial practices.
 - Shariah Index Role:** India's Shariah indices, such as the Nifty Shariah Index, offer guidance for investors seeking ethical investments under Islamic law.
 - The Appeal of Shariah Investments:** Shariah-compliant investments are gaining attention due to their robust ethical standards and competitive returns. These investments often outperform conventional options over time, despite some investors preferring banks due to familiarity and accessibility.
 - Investment Strategies:** A successful stock investment relies on patience, disciplined money management, building a quality portfolio, and courage. Investors can participate in the stock market directly or via mutual funds, aligning their choices with ethical standards.
 - Why Awareness is Lacking:** A considerable number of Muslim investors remain unaware of Shariah-compliant options, often due to limited knowledge and access.
 - Government Support and Growth:** Indian government plays a role by supporting Islamic finance initiatives, promoting financial inclusivity. Various companies listed on Indian exchanges like NSE and BSE offer Shariah-compliant shares, yet knowledge and engagement remain critical.
 - Potential for Growth:** Shariah-compliant shares and mutual funds offer significant potential for growth, advocating ethical wealth generation. Investors are encouraged to explore these avenues for greater returns aligned with their ethical values.
- In conclusion, Shariah-compliant investments present a viable alternative grounded in ethical principles, providing competitive returns. Raising awareness and encouraging informed decisions can foster more inclusive investment practices.

Learn from the insights of @Irrshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at misecondurities@bp.sharekhan.com

Distinctive Care and Attention Imperative for Older Parents

Mohammad Hanief

Elders desire a life with good health, dignity, economic independence and finally a peaceful death. They long for care, love and affection. Understanding their needs and concerns, will ensure their good health. Lending an emotional support to the elders keep them jovial, which is inevitably the ideal way to live a healthy life. However, for many people, providing care and attention to elders is not possible due to work priorities.

Elders suffering from cognitive challenges' undergo serious personality changes; at this point they need care and attention. When they are left unattended, most of them are gripped with overwhelming feelings of dejection, purposelessness; some of them even turn violent. Regardless of the fact that many of us know that aging is a natural progression and it has its own shortcoming, most of us tend to ignore this and resort to an unruly approach.

Old age is a sensitive phase; elderly people need care and comfort to lead a healthy life without worries and anxiety. Lack of awareness regarding the changing behavioral patterns in elderly people at home leads to abuse of them by their kin.

Birth, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age are the most crucial stages in a man's life. All these stages have their very own issues and troubles. As each level passes the physical strength deteriorates as well as the mental stability lessens. It is believed there are over 80 million older folks in India. Since age progresses, various medical issues happen, some of the particular known diseases usually are blood pressure, diabetes, heart failure issues, arthritis, cancer malignancy, joint pains, tuberculosis, as well as kidney infections.

It's just not disease that affects old age; there are various other issues that govern the downfall of the health of the old people. One of the main issues is the negligence from the younger generation. Old people need supervision, the laxity to understand the needs and worries of elders make them appear strangers to the younger generation, who later regard them as a burden.

Old people are subject to abuse



from family members over property dispute, some of them are even forced to sell their belongings and live in penury till death. Many of them are too scared to express themselves or fear being humiliated by their loved ones.

Taking care of elderly parents is a season many of us will walk through. Everyone who begins that journey has many questions. Perhaps you're an only child, and the responsibility of taking care of your elderly parents is yours alone. Maybe there are only a few options available for additional help due to location and affordability. You may have had a challenging relationship with your parents growing up or had a great relationship and now find it difficult to see them in this state. Though every person's scenario will look different, elder care is achievable with the right resources.

For many, the responsibility of caring for aging parents can be daunting. Over the years, everyone will transition from being dependent on parents to being adult friends to being a caretaker for parents' physical and emotional needs. Eldercare is an unfamiliar season of life for both adult children and parents.



Involving aging parents in decisions fosters transparency and mutual understanding. It encourages open communication about their health status, treatment options, and long-term care plans. This shared information enables aging parents to make informed choices aligned with their goals and values, enhancing their satisfaction with the care they receive

Sometimes medical diagnoses are unforeseeable and we deal with things as they come up. However, making a plan with your aging parent about long-term care allows you to create a rough draft that satisfies everyone involved.

Neglecting to involve aging parents in decisions about their care is a significant oversight that can undermine their autonomy, dignity, and overall well-being. This mistake often arises from well-meaning intentions to protect or oversee their welfare, but it can have detrimental effects on their sense of agency and quality of life.

Involving aging parents in decisions about their care respects their fundamental right to self-determination. As individuals age, they may experience physical and cognitive changes that require adjustments in their daily routines, medical treatments, or living arrangements. Consulting them on these matters ensures that their preferences, values, and concerns are considered, promoting a sense of control over their lives. Exclusion from decision-making can lead to feelings of helplessness, frustration, or resentment in ag-

ing parents. They may perceive decisions made on their behalf as paternalistic or dismissive of their insights and desires. This can strain relationships and erode trust between caregivers and parents, complicating future interactions and cooperation.

Involving aging parents in decisions fosters transparency and mutual understanding. It encourages open communication about their health status, treatment options, and long-term care plans. This shared information enables aging parents to make informed choices aligned with their goals and values, enhancing their satisfaction with the care they receive. Excluding aging parents from decision-making overlooks their unique perspectives and life experiences. They possess valuable insights into their own preferences, habits, and routines accumulated over a lifetime. Ignoring these insights may result in care plans that are impractical, uncomfortable, or incompatible with their lifestyles, diminishing their overall quality of life.

Failing to seek professional guidance and support while taking care of aging parents can be a critical mistake that caregivers often overlook. This error

can stem from various factors, including misconceptions about caregiving responsibilities, reluctance to admit limitations, or underestimation of the complexities involved in elder care. Caregiving for aging parents often begins with good intentions and a sense of familial duty. Many adult children take on caregiving roles without prior experience or training, assuming they can manage their parents' needs effectively on their own. However, the reality of caregiving can quickly become overwhelming, especially as parents' health declines or complex medical conditions arise.

Neglecting effective communication with other family members or siblings regarding the care of aging parents can indeed lead to misunderstandings, conflicts, and ultimately, challenges in providing the best possible care. Clear and open communication is crucial in navigating the complexities of caregiving responsibilities, ensuring equitable distribution of tasks, and fostering a supportive environment for both aging parents and caregivers alike.

One of the primary consequences of poor communication among family members is the emergence of misunderstandings regarding the needs and preferences of aging parents. Each family member may have their own perspective on what constitutes appropriate care, leading to disagreements about medical decisions, living arrangements, financial management, and overall caregiving approaches. Without effective communication, these differing opinions can escalate into conflicts, hindering collaborative decision-making and potentially compromising the well-being of aging parents.

The societal expectations and cultural norms surrounding caregiving can also contribute to caregivers neglecting their own well-being. There is often an unspoken expectation that caregivers should prioritize the needs of their parents above all else, sometimes at the expense of their own physical and mental health. This pressure can lead caregivers to feel guilty or ashamed if they consider their own needs or seek support from others.

The author can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com
X (Twitter): @haniefmha

Did the Keyboard Kill Cursive?

John Nosta

Cursive is more than an artistic flourish; it's a cognitive powerhouse. Research shows that writing by hand engages a symphony of neural pathways—activating fine motor skills, cognitive processing, and memory. The deliberate pace of handwriting requires focus, forcing the brain to summarize, synthesize, and internalize information.

A paper in *Frontiers in Psychology* highlights how handwriting, particularly cursive, stimulates brain activity more extensively than typing. This deeper engagement enhances memory retention and comprehension, making cursive not just an aesthetic choice but a tool for enriched learning.

However, cursive is not without its drawbacks. It's slow, error-prone, and, for many of us, nearly illegible over time. These limitations have made it difficult to sustain cursive in a world that values speed and efficiency.

The Typing Revolution

Typing revolutionized communication. Keyboards made it possible to write faster than ever before, democratizing access to information and enabling collaboration on a global scale. Typing became the tool of choice for capturing

and disseminating ideas, a pragmatic replacement for handwriting in an increasingly digital world.

But this shift came with cognitive trade-offs. Typing often encourages verbatim transcription—a habit that bypasses the deeper cognitive processing of summarization. Notes become a flood of unprocessed information, and the mechanical act of typing can feel detached from the mental effort of crafting ideas.

Yet, typing also paved the way for something extraordinary: LLMs.

LLMs and the Rise of the Cognitive Catalyst

Large language models have transformed the keyboard into a portal for dynamic learning. When paired with typing, LLMs elevate the act of writing into an interactive dialogue. They act as thought partners, refining ideas, introducing counterpoints, and suggesting connections that a single mind might overlook.

Unlike cursive, which thrives on deliberate reflection, LLMs thrive on iteration. They enable rapid exploration of ideas, accelerating the creative process while maintaining intellectual depth. This "iterative dynamic" between human intuition and machine intelligence unlocks insights faster and more effectively



than either could achieve alone.

Moreover, LLMs integrate seamlessly with voice-to-text, turning spoken words into coherent, structured outputs. This adaptability democratizes access to learning tools, making them accessible to a wider audience and fostering engagement in ways that handwriting or typing alone cannot.

Iterative Intelligence and Learner-Centricity

LLMs represent a powerful shift in learning. Unlike static tools, they adapt to individual users, creating personalized and iterative learning experiences. This learner-centricity transforms education into an active, dynamic process, where knowledge evolves through interaction.

LLMs foster critical thinking by challenging users with counterpoints, encouraging exploration of new ideas, and guiding thought refinement. This iterative process not only accelerates learning but also makes it more engaging and meaningful.

The Case for Balance

The decline of cursive isn't about handwriting versus technology; it's a reflection of shifting priorities. In a world that values speed and scalability, cursive offers some-

thing rare: a moment to slow down and reflect. Meanwhile, LLMs, with their iterative brilliance, open doors to possibilities cursive could never achieve.

Imagine an educational environment where cursive teaches foundational cognitive skills, while LLMs foster creativity and iterative problem-solving. Together, these tools create a continuum of learning methods, blending the best of tradition and innovation.

Writing the Next Chapter

Cursive may be a casualty of technology, but its cognitive benefits remain timeless. LLMs, on the other hand, are redefining how we think, learn, and create in the digital age. The challenge isn't to choose one over the other but to harness the strengths of both.

In a world obsessed with progress, perhaps the ultimate act of innovation is slowing down to write a single elegant sentence by hand, then using an LLM to expand that thought into something extraordinary. This fusion of reflection and iteration is how we write the next chapter in the story of human cognition.

The article was originally published by *Psychology Today*

Jaishankar holds talks with Bahraini counterpart; underlines new opportunities in space, education, FinTech and technology

Agencies

Manama: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday underlined new opportunities in space, education, FinTech and technology as he held talks with his Bahraini counterpart and exchanged views on recent developments in the region.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Manama on Saturday on the final leg of his two-nation trip, co-chaired the 4th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission (HJC) with his Bahrain counterpart Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani.

"We see great potential in many new areas like space, education, FinTech, and science & technology. I would like to take the opportunity to publicly affirm the priority that we attach to developing our cooperation with Bahrain," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks.

Noting "significant progress" in recent years in trade and investment, the minister said that New Delhi wants to develop a positive momentum and invited investors from Bahrain to come and explore opportunities in India.

He said the two countries also cooperate closely in defence and security matters and reaffirmed India's firm commitment to the safety and security of international maritime activities.

Describing Bahrain as a "valuable partner" in the Gulf region, Jaishankar said India appreciates Manama's support at various multilateral and international forums.

Jaishankar said West Asia is a region of deep strategic interest



to India, and in recent times, it's a region where there is cause for deep concern, particularly over the conflict in Gaza.

"We condemn acts of terrorism and loss of civilian lives into conflict. We believe in adherence to international humanitarian law. We have emphasized the importance of safe and timely supply of humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine, and we call for an early ceasefire and release of all hostages," he said.

He said India has consistently supported the resolution of the Palestinian issue through a two-state solution. "We have also contributed to the building of Palestinian institutions and capacities, and we certainly appreciate that Gulf countries are also working in the same direction," he added.

Jaishankar also thanked the Bahrain government for ensuring the welfare of the Indian community.

Later, in a post on X, he said,

"Took stock of our bilateral relationship focusing on trade, investments, healthcare, energy, security, tourism and people-to-people ties. Discussed new opportunities in space, education, FinTech and technology. Also exchanged views on recent developments in the region."

A joint statement issued after their meeting said both sides discussed key global developments, and regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

The two countries view each other as key partners in the region, working together to foster a more peaceful and inclusive global community in West Asia, it said.

The two ministers appreciated the progress made in the bilateral ties and agreed to continue the pace of high-level bilateral visits and meetings.

The Indian side acknowledged that the bilateral security dialogue and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) in the field of combating international

terrorism, are important mechanisms in institutionalizing cooperation in the area of security cooperation, including Cybersecurity.

The two ministers reiterated their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and called on all states to reject and abandon the use of terrorism against other countries, the joint statement said.

They also reaffirmed their commitment to exploring avenues of cooperation in diverse areas including Energy and Hydrocarbons, Renewable Energy, Infrastructure, Trade and Investments, Defence and Security, Health, Food and Agriculture, Hospitality, Pharmaceutical Industry, Electronic Industry, downstream Aluminium, IT and data centres, Space, Tourism, Environment, Youth and Sports.

Both sides acknowledged the deepening of political and people-to-people ties since the

historic state visits. The Indian side highlighted the increase in Indian investment in Bahrain since the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

The two sides also expressed satisfaction at the stability, sustainability, and diversity of bilateral trade. They agreed to work towards strengthening these trade and investment ties and work towards creating a bilateral Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, the statement said.

Bahrain renewed its desire to conclude a bilateral agreement to eliminate double taxation with India (DTA), to strengthen cooperation in tax matters and develop economic, commercial and investment opportunities between the two friendly countries.

The two ministers agreed to expedite negotiations for an early launch of acceptance of the Indian RuPay Card in Bahrain. They also agreed to work towards closer cooperation in the sectors of FinTech and Digital Payments.

Both sides emphasized the importance of bilateral collaboration in the field of health and pharmaceuticals. The two sides recognized the significance of hydrocarbon trade as a vital component of this cooperation, contributing to mutual energy security and economic growth.

Both committed to taking steps to enhance energy cooperation, especially in upstream and downstream sectors of Oil and Gas in Bahrain and exploring avenues for expanded trade, joint ventures, and mutual investments, the statement said.

HADP to revolutionise agriculture in J&K: Javid Dar

APD, SKUAST-K hold Agriculture Innovation Summit 2024

Srinagar, Dec 9: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir organised the Agriculture Innovation Summit 2024 on Monday. Agriculture Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar, was the chief guest at the event that brought together leading minds from academia, industry, and governance to explore innovative solutions for advancing agriculture startups and businesses in Jammu and Kashmir.

The summit, organised by SKUAST-K and Mission Directorate HADP under Project 20 'Innovative Extension Approaches for Promoting Agriculture in J&K', featured a number of activities, including, startup pitching events, panel discussions, flagging off of the Student Rural Internship Mobile Agri-clinics by the minister and visit of SKUAST-K and line department startup stalls.

The opening ceremony held at the Nund Rashi Hall was marked by the premiere of the HADP Impact documentary.

Agriculture Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar, in his keynote address, lauded SKUAST-K's leadership in driving agricultural innovation and emphasized the government's commitment to supporting youth-led agripreneurship. He praised the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme formulators for conceptualising

such a "wonderful program that will revolutionise agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir".

While stressing the enhanced collaboration between SKUAST-K and the line departments, the minister said there is a need for more grassroots connect, translating research into practice and scaling innovative solutions across the J&K. He said it is the responsibility of this university to give new ideas to the people, farming community and students so that agriculture becomes lucrative for all.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Prof Nazir Ahmad Gani, while welcoming the minister to SKUAST-K, gave an overview of the university and apprised him about various programs of the university.

Mission Director HADP Rahul Yadav briefed about the functioning of HADP and JKICP. CGM NABARD, Partho Saha, also spoke at the occasion. He stressed on making the innovation relevant for the farming community. Director Research SKUAST-K Prof Haroon R Naik presented the vote of thanks.

Directors from the Line Departments, SKUAST-K faculty members, students, innovators, startup founders and farmers where also present at the occasion.

The minister also felicitated the innovators who pitched their ideas at the occasion.

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

444 Corruption

as the region reported only 66 cases, of which Kashmir province reported 45 cases.

2024 has recorded 85 FIRs, with Kashmir province recording registration of 43 FIRs, with Jammu province closely following at 42.

Notably, as the fight against corruption in J&K seems far from over, the data highlights the persistent prevalence of corruption in J&K, particularly in Kashmir province. (KNO)

Can Kashmir's

crude heating gadgets and are illegally consuming the power against the sanctioned load." "In case of the areas where we have completed smart metering, very little damage has been recorded so far," she said.

"In the first week of December, KPDCCL has witnessed damage to more than 250 DTs. We however have repaired and fixed the issues as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), but there is no relief in the damage," Deva said.

22 JKAS Officers

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, has been appointed as Director of Handloom and Handicrafts, Kashmir.

Vikas Gupta, Special Secretary for Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction, has been appointed as Director of Tourism, Jammu. Kanta Devi, Special Secretary in the School Education Department, has been posted as Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (ex-officio Settlement Officer), Jammu.

Syed Qamar Sajad, Additional District Development Commissioner of Baramulla, has been posted as Managing Director of J&K Cable Car Corporation. Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Special Secretary in the Jal Shakti Department, has been appointed as Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Anju Gupta, Regional Director of Survey and Land Records, Jammu, has been posted as Special Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department. Parveez Ahmad Raina, Member of the J&K Special Tribunal (Srinagar Bench), has been posted as Additional Commissioner of State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Kashmir.

Soheel Noor Shah, Additional Secretary in the Tourism Department, has been posted as Additional Secretary in the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department.

Masarat Hashim, Programme Officer for ICDS Project, Pulwama, has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Development Authority, Pahalgam.

Qazi Irfan Rasool Zargar, Registrar-cum-Controller of Examinations at SKIMS, Soura, has been posted as Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

The Government order reads further that Mohammad Aslam, Joint Director of Information, Kashmir, has been posted as Registrar-cum-Controller of Examinations at SKIMS, Soura.

Vivek Modi, Director of Land Management at Jammu Development Authority, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Floriculture, Parks, and Gardens Department.

Tariq Hussain, Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Development Authority, Pahalgam, has been posted as Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Development Authority, Gulmarg.

Garbi Rashid, Additional Secretary in the Floriculture, Parks, and Gardens Department, has been appointed as Director of Land Management at Jammu Development Authority.

BJP Seeks CBI

Jammu, and stringent action, including prosecution and imprisonment, should be taken against them," Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief spokesperson advocate Sunil Sethi told reporters here.

Sethi claimed the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu and Kashmir began around the same time militancy started in the region in the 1990s. "This is a major conspiracy that warrants a CBI probe. All forces behind this should be exposed and punished. The BJP condemns those who support these individuals on religious grounds," he said.

He said that NGOs played a significant role in resettling Rohingyas and questioned the sources of funding for these organisations. "Was the funding sourced domestically or from abroad? The BJP believes the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu, an area close to the international border, was done under a conspiracy," Sethi said.

He called for a detailed investigation to identify those who facilitated the settlement of these individuals on government lands, provided them with water and electricity connections, and helped them obtain Aadhaar cards. "These people have even cast votes in local elections. These facts have now come to light," he added.

Hitting out at political parties supporting them, Sethi said, "Ironically, these are the same individuals who opposed the abrogation of Article 370 and claimed that no Indian could settle in Jammu and Kashmir. Yet, they facilitated the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu. Indians residing in other parts of India cannot settle in Jammu and Kashmir, but these illegal immigrants were allowed to settle here based solely on religion."

Sethi alleged that these individuals pose a threat to national security as they have settled in areas close to the international border. "They were settled as part of a political conspiracy to create a vote bank," he claimed.

The BJP leader said the nation should know which forces are working against its interests and prioritising political gains over national welfare. "The BJP demands the eviction and deportation of Rohingyas residing in Jammu, who have formed large settlements in the city. Illegally settling on the land of Jammu and Kashmir is a crime," he added.

Sethi further said that evidence suggests Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are allegedly involved in local crimes, drug trafficking, and even cross-border terrorism.

Replying to a question about NC minister Javid Rana's directive to provide water supply to Rohingya settlements, Sethi said, "I want to ask the NC government and its minister Javid Rana whether they will follow the law or if the law does not matter to them. As per the rules in Jammu and Kashmir, obtaining water or electricity connections requires a domicile certificate and legal possession of land. Are they unaware of this?"

Criticising Rana, Sethi said, "Under the UN charter, decisions are made about who qualifies as a legal immigrant, but these individuals are illegal. There is no justification for providing them with water and electricity. Removing them from Jammu is essential for national security and efficient governance."

Sethi said that Rana supports these individuals based on their religion. "If they belonged to another religion, would his stance remain the same? This protection based on religion is part of a political conspiracy," he said.

He referred to Pakistani refugees, Valmikis, and Gorkhas, who were denied citizenship for 70 years by Kashmir-centric rulers.

The BJP leader said the Rohingyas should

have been restricted to areas near the Assam or Myanmar borders. "What justification is there for them to travel thousands of kilometers to settle in Jammu and Kashmir? This appears to be a well-orchestrated conspiracy to settle them close to the international border in Jammu," he said, adding that this conspiracy must be exposed, and those involved punished.

According to government data, more than 13,700 foreigners, most of them Rohingyas (illegal immigrants from Myanmar) and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and other districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Their population increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016.

In March 2021, police found over 270 Rohingyas, including women and children, living illegally in the Jammu city during a verification drive and lodged them at a holding centre inside the Kathua sub-jail.

On November 25, SSP South Jammu Ajay Sharma said 18 FIRs were registered during a drive against landlords renting out properties to Rohingyas and other illegal immigrants without informing police as mandated by the district magistrate's orders.

Will Not Let

and must be treated as such. The Chief Minister while speaking to the reporters when asked about the restoration of the water supplies to the Rohingya refugees taking shelter in Jammu, said that his government cannot allow the refugees to starve or let them die of cold.

Last week, the water and power connections of many such property owners, housing the Rohingyas were disconnected and the latter were told to vacate their properties within a month in the Jammu region.

The administration had issued orders to snap the facility to 409 Rohingya families in the Channi Himmat, Sunjuwan and Narwal areas of Jammu.

However, Omar Abdullah led dispensation issued directions to restore the water supply to the Rohingya immigrants.

Omar Abdullah when asked about the issue said that the issue of Rohingya refugees is a humanitarian one. "It is for the central government to decide what to do with them. If they need to be sent back, then send them back. If you can send them, do so. But if you can't, then you cannot let them starve here or let them die of cold. The Government of India must clarify its policy towards them," Omar Abdullah told reporters.

He stressed that until a clear decision is made, the refugees must not be subjected to inhumane conditions. "We did not bring them here or settle them. They were brought and settled here by others. If the central government's policy has changed, then take them wherever you want, but as long as they are here, they must not be treated like animals. They are human beings and must be treated as such," he added. (KNO)

CM Omar Flags

only emerged in the past decade, it would be misleading. These challenges are not new, nor are they solely the result of Jammu and Kashmir's transition into a Union Territory. However, the UT transition has undoubtedly compounded these issues," he stated.

Highlighting the geographical constraints of the region, the Chief Minister said, "Several challenges stem from our location. Jammu and Kashmir is situated in a corner of the country. Our market is very small, and our raw material base is limited. An industry that relies on importing raw materials and exporting finished

products cannot sustain itself without governmental support."

Reiterating his government's responsibility, he added, "When we hold your hand and provide support, it is not a reflection of your helplessness or weakness. It is our responsibility, and we will fulfill it."

On the tourism potential of Jammu, the Chief Minister emphasized the untapped opportunities presented by the large number of pilgrims visiting the region.

"Over a crore pilgrims visit Jammu for Mata Vaishno Devi every year. If we can successfully divert even 15% of them to local tourist destinations, we would gain 15 lakh tourists immediately. We have managed the entire tourism economy of Kashmir with just 15 lakh tourists," he remarked.

He stressed the need to showcase Jammu's unique cultural heritage.

"Our Dogra culture-this is treasure unique to Jammu. Our traditions, food, and specialties are unmatched and must be leveraged as key selling points for tourism."

On the resumption of the now-defunct Darbar Move, Omar Abdullah highlighted its positive impact on Jammu's vibrancy. "The hallmark of Jammu city was the biannual Darbar Move. For six months, people from Srinagar would work here, creating a lively environment. It fostered interaction between people from both sides of the mountains, whether at Wave Mall, Residency Road, or Gole Market. I assure you that we will resume the Darbar Move in the future. Unfortunately, time constraints prevented us from doing so this time," he said.

Discussing the impact of industrial packages, he cautioned against their transient nature. "Industries attracted solely by packages stay only as long as the incentives last. Once the benefits end, they pack up and leave. The industries that endure are those rooted in this land, run by people who are inherently connected to it," he stated.

Omar Abdullah, in his conclusion, assured his government's commitment to addressing industrial concerns.

"Whatever issues you want us to raise with the Finance Minister, please provide me with a detailed note. We will take them up with the Government of India and work toward tangible solutions," he said.

J&K Ministers

been allocated the districts of Kupwara, Srinagar, Kathua, and Samba.

Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, has been allocated the districts of Doda, Rajouri, Pulwama, and Baramulla. Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives, and Elections, has been allocated the districts of Ganderbal, Budgam, Kishtwar, and Ramban.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, has been allocated the districts of Reasi, Udhampur, Kulgam, and Bandipora.

Destiny Of J&K

and Dr Sanjay Sharma were also present.

Candidate Wins

A Amin had claimed that she was entitled for 60 points without viva voce marks even as one of the two other candidates selected in OM / RBA category secured 58.48 points and the other secured 53.74 points under RBA category.

She said that against the two advertised posts of Library Assistant in the district cadre Budgam - one each for OM and RBA - both the selected and appointed candidates belong to RBA category by setting aside all norms and guidelines of JKSSB.

While stating that J&K Service Selection Board had no power or authority to change the quota of selection, OM or RBA, at their own will, A Amin sought quashment of the selection of the two candidates and their subsequent appointment orders on 27 January 2011.

"...we are of the view that the respondents (authorities) not only changed the selection criteria midway but they also changed the category from Open Merit to RBA without assigning any reasons and without notifying the same," said the two-member Bench.

"... we feel it expedient to direct the respondents to be more cautious in future and immediately do away with the practice, if still prevailing, of changing the criteria of appointments midway, as has been done in the instant case, in the interest of justice and in the interest of all candidates who appear in the competitive examinations expecting fairness and level playing field for all candidates from J&K Service Selection Board, which is a premier recruiting agency in non-gazetted category for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

Accordingly, the CAT allowed A Amin's petition with the directions that she shall be appointed against an available post of Library Assistant in the Education Department, District Budgam and in consequence of the orders of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, dated 9.6.2016, vide which the Court had ordered to not fill up one post of Library Assistant in district Budgam.

"It is further provided that the petitioner (A Amin) shall not be entitled to any backwages... however, she will be entitled to all other consequential benefits accrued to her during the intervening period as if she was in service for the said period," the CAT said, adding that it expected that authorities would do the needful expeditiously, within six weeks "positively".

"In the facts and circumstances of the case we also impose exemplary costs of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) on respondents to be paid collectively to the petitioner (A Amin) by the respondents within six weeks time.

One Nation, One

has 112, the Opposition parties 85. For a two-thirds majority, the government needs at least 164 votes.

Even in the Lok Sabha, the NDA has 292 of 545 seats. The two-thirds majority mark stands at 364. But the situation could be dynamic, since the majority would be counted only in terms of the members present and voting.

The government has been pushing for simultaneous elections for a while, contending that the current system is a drain on time, money and effort. Then there is the question of the Model Code of Conduct, declared before elections, which puts brakes on development work, the government has pointed out.

The Opposition has called the idea impractical, pointing to the logistical challenges the poll commission faces in just holding the state elections that sometimes run into multiple phases.

The simultaneous election idea is also undemocratic and unconstitutional, the Opposition has contended.

The Kovind report has suggested that the government narrative bipartisan support and a countrywide bipartite. The implementation of "One Nation One Election" can only happen after 2029, the report has recommended.

Cancer Patients Struggle Without Radiotherapy At GMC Anantnag

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of cancer patients in south Kashmir are facing immense difficulties due to the lack of radiotherapy facilities at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag. The absence of critical equipment has left patients and their attendants struggling to access essential treatment.

Attendants, especially from financially weaker families, are finding it challenging to transport their loved ones daily to SKIMS Soura or SMHS Srinagar for radiotherapy.

Relatives of a 45-year-old cancer patient from District Hospital (DH) Kulgam said that their patient, who has undergone multiple chemotherapy sessions, now requires radiotherapy. "We have to take him to Soura regularly for about four weeks. This daily travel from Kulgam is not only exhausting but also financially burdensome for a family like ours," they said.

Other patients and their attendants said that cancer cases are rising at an alarming rate. They lamented the lack of such critical facilities at GMC Anantnag, which would have made treatment more accessible and less expensive.

Doctors at GMC Anantnag revealed that while trained manpower is available, the radiotherapy department lacks essential equipment such as

Tele-cobalt and Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machines. The absence of these machines forces patients to travel to Srinagar for treatment, where existing facilities are already overcrowded.

"It becomes extremely difficult for poor patients from far-off places to travel to Srinagar for radiotherapy regularly," a doctor said, adding that patients requiring radiotherapy at GMC Anantnag are left to suffer due to these shortcomings.

According to hospital records, over 1,600 cancer patients are registered at GMC Anantnag, and approximately 60-70% of them require radiotherapy at some stage. Apart from patients from south Kashmir, the hospital also caters to those from Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and other districts.

Doctors and attendants have urged higher authorities to address this issue at the earliest by establishing a regional cancer centre at GMC Anantnag. Such a facility would significantly ease the burden on patients from south Kashmir and other districts, they said.

Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr Rukhsana Najeeb told KNO that all formalities for establishing radiotherapy facilities have been completed, and efforts are underway to launch these services at the earliest.

"We are hopeful that radiotherapy services will be available at the hospital by next year," Dr Najeeb said—(KNO)

Govt Confirms Reduction In Duty On US Apple Imports

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary Monday informed the Parliament that the import of apples currently attracts a customs duty of 50%, which is at par with the World Trade Organization (WTO) bound rate.

The statement came in response to a question raised in Parliament by Srinagar's member of Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, who inquired about the impact of reduced import duties on apple imports from the US, its implications for domestic apple farmers in Kashmir, and whether the government plans to increase the

import duty to protect domestic producers.

The reply states that the 70% import duty earlier applied only to imports from the United States as a retaliatory measure. This additional duty was removed following the resolution of certain WTO disputes, it added.

The trade statistics for apple imports provided by the Department of Commerce show fluctuating import values over recent years: 36,237 lakh in 2019-20, 25,998 lakh in 2020-21, 16,153 lakh in 2021-22, 4,117 lakh in 2022-23, and 17,716 lakh in 2023-24. For the period April to September 2024, the import value stood at 17,902 lakh.

J&K Got Rs 69.58 Lakh For Development Of Wildlife Habitats In 2023-24

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has received a total of Rs 69.58 lakhs for the development of wildlife habitats over the last two years, an official data reveals.

According to data accessed, Rs 69.58 lakh were allocated to J&K in 2023 and 2024 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of wildlife habitats.

An official said that this initiative aims to strengthen the conservation and management of J&K's diverse and ecologically significant wildlife habitats. "By providing financial sup-

port, the scheme seeks to promote biodiversity, protect endangered species, and improve the overall health of natural ecosystems in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Ministry's scheme, Development of Wildlife Habitats, also focuses on holistic habitat management, including measures to mitigate human-animal conflicts.

"It provides funding for various interventions such as animal-proof fencing, anti-depredation squads, rapid response teams, ex-gratia relief, and technology-based animal tracking systems," the official said—(KNO)

3,500 Units Established In Baramulla Over 3 Years: KVIB Chief

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Bhat, highlighted significant progress in employment generation and livelihood initiatives in Baramulla during an event in Sopore on Monday.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Bhat revealed that approximately 3,500 units have been established in Baramulla over the past three years, with Rs 104.8 crore in margin money already disbursed. "These efforts have provided livelihoods to nearly 28,000 people in the district," she said.

Focusing on women empowerment, she noted that 10,000 units in Baramulla are being successfully operated by

skilled young women.

She added that KVIB's was committed to supporting 250 young female artisans, who were part of an interaction group in Sopore, by mid-2025.

She announced plans to establish additional units, either in clusters or as stand-alone enterprises, to further enhance livelihood opportunities.

"These young women are not just skilled but also highly dedicated and experts in their respective fields. They will play a pivotal role in creating job opportunities for others," she added.

The KVIB Chairperson expressed optimism about the progress made so far and reiterated KVIB's support for women-led initiatives in the region—(KNO)

Gulmarg Turns Into Winter Wonderland As Snowfall Delights Tourists



Agencies

GULMARG: As predicted by the weatherman, Kashmir's higher reaches, including the world-renowned ski resort, Gulmarg, have received snowfall, transforming the region into a magical winter wonderland.

The snowfall has brought joy to tourists and stakeholders alike, marking the onset of a thriving winter tourism season, with tourists thronging Gulmarg to witness the mesmerizing snow-covered landscape.

Pawan Kumar, a first-time visitor from Uttar Pradesh, expressed his delight, saying, "I've never seen live snowfall before, and seeing it for the first time is an experience beyond words. I would highly recommend those who haven't been here to visit Gulmarg."

"This (December-January) is undoubtedly the best time to explore this beautiful place," Kumar added.

Similarly, Suneedi Khanna, who travelled from Delhi with her family, said Gulmarg is a

"Paradise on Earth!" "We are having the time of our lives here in Gulmarg. The snow, the scenery, and the atmosphere—it's magical. Everyone should visit this destination at least once during winter," the excited Suneedi said.

Another tourist, Shalani from Delhi, said, "We have been in Kashmir for a few days, and witnessing snowfall in Gulmarg has been breathtaking. The beauty of this place during snowfall is unmatched."

Meanwhile, the hoteliers and tour operators in Gulmarg expressed optimism about the season. "The snowfall has set the tone for what we hope will be a busy winter season. Tourists are already arriving in large numbers, and we are geared up to provide them with the best hospitality," Rayees Ahmed Bakshi, a hotel owner said.

Taj Irshad, a travel operator, said the snowfall has brought a festive vibe to Gulmarg, and they are already seeing a rise in tourist bookings for winter

activities. "Snowfall always brings new opportunities, and we are fully equipped to offer the best winter experiences to our guests", Irshad said.

Visitors were seen enjoying the snow, capturing moments, and heading towards the Gulmarg Gondola, which has always been a major attraction for tourists visiting the destination for rides up the snow-laden hills.

Notably, authorities have issued advisories for safe travel on the Gulmarg-Tangmarg road. "Only 4x4 vehicles with anti-skid chains will be allowed due to slippery conditions," the advisory said, adding that the LMVs will not more than 10 seats will be permitted to prevent jams.

"Registered anti-skid chain vendors will install chains at Rs 600 per pair. Tour operators and private vehicle owners are urged to park in designated spaces, and coat and boot vendors are prohibited from blocking roads to avoid traffic disruptions," reads the advisory—(KNO)

Workshop On Suicide & Its Prevention Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A workshop on Suicide and its prevention was held at the Happy and Healthy Minds auditorium at Daresh Kadal, Srinagar.

The workshop was conducted by Arbeen Iqbal, a counseling psychologist, supervised by Dr. Mohd Muzaffar Khan, senior clinical psychologist associated with the Happy & Healthy Minds project.

The workshop aimed at creating awareness about the

alarming issue of suicide, focusing on identifying early warning signs, addressing mental health challenges, and equipping individuals with practical strategies for intervention and prevention.

The participants included staff members of HHM project, counseling psychologists from the SACPE (South Asia centre of people's empowerment) organization, and volunteers from diverse professional backgrounds, reflecting a collective commitment to

addressing mental health concerns in society.

This initiative marks an important step in fostering community resilience and ensuring timely support for individuals at risk.

Free counseling services regarding different mental health related issues can be availed at Happy and Healthy Minds clinics from Monday to Saturday.

Clinic is located at First Floor HPVT Pharmacy Building, Darish Kadal Srinagar.

Sakeena Itoo Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo held the review meeting-cum-public grievance redressal camp.

The camp saw a diverse group of individuals, from elderly citizens and youth to women and local businesses, each seeking redressal of their concerns and grievances. The issues mainly ranged from the need for improved health care facilities, issues of electricity and water supply, concerns regarding the timely implementation of government welfare schemes as well as other developmental issues.

During the camp, the Minister personally listened to each delegation and individual, assuring them that immediate action will be taken for prompt redressal of genuine grievances and issues. While interacting with these delegations and individuals, the Minister said, "Our Government is committed to ensure that the concerns and issues of the common masses are not only heard but acted upon."

The Minister added that our government is people centric and we are determined to fulfill their aspirations. "Our Govern-

ment remains accessible and responsive to the needs of people and our priority is to bring governance to the doorsteps of common masses," she remarked.

The Minister further assured the locals that their issues and grievances will be redressed on priority.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo emphasized on the importance of maintaining a transparent and accountable system where citizens are heard and their grievances are addressed in a timely manner. "Our Government is People's government and we are firm to resolve every issue and grievance concerning the well being of our citizens", Sakeena said.

The Minister on the occasion called upon the officers to deal with issues raised during the camp of their respective departments effectively and take due efforts for timely redressal of the same.

She also called upon the district administration to consult the local representatives beforehand for any developmental plan of the area as it is vital for effective execution as well as implementation of the plan.



J&K Generated 225,630 Tonnes Of Plastic Waste In Last 5 Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has generated approximately 225,630 tonnes of plastic waste over the past five years, according to official data.

The year-wise data reveals variations in plastic waste generation across the region.

In 2018-19, J&K generated 34,367.37 tonnes of plastic waste, which saw a significant spike to 74,826.33 tonnes in 2019-20. However, the trend reversed in subsequent years, with 51,710.6 tonnes generated in 2020-21, followed by 34,384 tonnes in 2021-22. In 2022-23, the figure further declined to 30,342 tonnes.

The government said the management of plastic waste is due to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, which mandate local bodies and gram panchayats to oversee the collection and transportation of plastic waste.

"Guidelines under the Swachh Bharat Mission have been issued to ensure door-to-door collection of solid waste, including plastic waste, in both urban and rural areas across the country," officials said.

Further, the government said the introduction of a market-based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for plastic packaging. Notified on February 16, 2022, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, this framework aims to bolster plastic waste management systems.

Under the EPR framework, Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PBOs) are tasked with developing collection and segregation systems for plastic packaging waste. These systems are designed based on different categories of plastic and can be implemented through various modalities to ensure effective waste management.

Tanishq Launches Grand Store In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the house of Tata has expanded its retail footprint with the launch of its grand store in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir.

The store was inaugurated by Mr. Nirmal Lobo, Regional Business Head, Titan Company Ltd, at 12:00 PM. As part of the grand inauguration, the brand is offering an irresistible offer wherein customers can get a free gold coin on every purchase. The offer is valid from 10th December to 14th December 2024. The store is located at KP Road, Near Sarnal Check Post, Iqbal Abad, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, pin code -192101

Spanning across 3000 sq. ft., the store presents an extensive selection of iconic Tanishq jewellery designs across dazzling plain gold, stunning diamonds, kundan and polki. The store proudly presents Tanishq's exclusive festive collection 'Nav-Raani', inspired by the grandeur of royal courts, majestic palaces, and rich heritage. Additionally, the store also houses festive collection 'Dharohar', drawing inspiration from the heirloom artefacts from the eras gone by along with 'Alekha' collection that celebrates today's woman as the 'karigar' of her life. The

store is also equipped with 'Enchanted Trails' collection that draws inspiration from the intricate beauty of the exotic nature. Furthermore, the store showcases a beautiful collection of 'Dogri' alongside accommodating stunning jewellery pieces from 'Rivaah', a dedicated wedding jewellery sub-brand of Tanishq. Rivaah is meticulously crafted to align with the fashion preferences of women from various regions across India and has evolved as a one-stop destination for wedding shopping.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Ashish Tewari, Regional Business Manager, North, Tanishq said, "We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of our newest store in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir. As one of India's most beloved jewellery brands, Tanishq remains dedicated to providing exceptional service and a memorable shopping experience to our valued customers. This new store marks another step in our commitment to bringing an exquisite range of jewellery closer to you, from stunning gold and dazzling diamonds to timeless Kundan, Polki, and modern designs. We invite the residents of Anantnag to visit and explore our thoughtfully curated collection, perfect for every occasion."

Over 90 Lakh Pilgrims Visited SMVD Shrine For 3rd Consecutive Year

Agencies

JAMMU: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Katra has welcomed over 90 lakh devotees for the third consecutive year since 2022, as the government plans to establish a new Vaishnavi Bhawan, an exit track, and an all-weather queue complex.

Anshul Garg, CEO of the Shrine Board, shared the achievement on X (formerly Twitter), acknowledging the unwavering devotion of pilgrims from around the world.

"Yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine crosses 9 million for the 3rd consecutive year in 2022. Projects in the pipeline for 2025 include New Vaishnavi Bhawan, an exit track, and an all-weather queue complex," he wrote on X.

The shrine, nestled in the Trikuta Hills of Jammu and Kashmir, remains one of India's most cherished spiritual destinations. The management has

focused on enhancing facilities and ensuring a safer and more comfortable journey for visitors. Garg highlighted several projects set for completion by 2025, including the New Vaishnavi Bhawan with family rooms, an exit track for smoother crowd movement, and an all-weather queue complex at Darshani Dodi, Banganga.

The shrine holds profound significance in Hindu spirituality and mythology. Dedicated to Mata Vaishno Devi, an incarnation of Goddess Durga, it symbolizes divine energy (Shakti). According to legend, the goddess meditated and performed penance in the Trikuta Hills, which later became her sacred abode.

Historical references to the shrine date back to the Mahabharata, where Arjuna is said to have sought blessings from Mata Vaishno Devi before battle. Over time, the shrine evolved from a secluded cave to a renowned pilgrimage site.—(KNO)

1st Open Super Cup Women's Hockey C'ship Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 1st Open Super Cup Women's Hockey Championship, organised by Hockey J&K in collaboration with J&K Sports Council, concluded on Monday with an exciting final match featuring teams from Srinagar District and Baramulla District at the Polo Ground in Srinagar.

In a thrilling contest, Baramulla triumphed with a 6-2 victory over Srinagar, showcasing

exceptional skill and teamwork.

The chief guest for the event was Member of Legislative Assembly Eidgah Mubarak Gul, while DDC Khanshab Bashir Ahmad Bhat was the guest of honour.

Sports lovers in large numbers were also present to support the players.

Later, Mubarak Gul distributed the prizes to the winning team and extended his best wishes to all the players, praising their dedication and sportsmanship.

CUS Football Tourney Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Inter-College Football Tournament, organised by Cluster University Srinagar in collaboration with Indian Army (31 Sub Area, Chinar Corps), concluded on Monday with Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, winning the girls' title, and Amar Singh College clinching the boys' title.

Sixteen teams from eight constituent colleges of Cluster University Srinagar participated in the tournament which began on November 28. Amar

Singh College lifted the boys' trophy after defeating Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, with a 3-0 margin. In the girls category, the final match was played between 'Team A' and 'Team B' of Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, in which the former secured the win with a thumping 8-0 margin.

The award and prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, and General Officer Commanding (31 sub-area), Major General P. B. S. Lamba.

Siraj Fined, Head Also Sanctioned By ICC For Adelaide Confrontation



Press Trust of India

ADELAIDE: Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj was fined 20 per cent of his match fee, while Australian batter Travis Head was also "sanctioned" by the ICC for indulging in a heated exchange of words during the just-concluded day-night Test here.

Siraj and Head were held guilty of breaching the world body's code of conduct following a disciplinary hearing on Monday.

"Siraj has been penalised 20 per cent of his match fee after being found guilty of breaching article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel," the ICC said in a statement.

The cited rule relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon dismissal."

The ICC said Head too was

"sanctioned" for breaching Article 2.13 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel.

However, he escaped a fine for breaching the rule that relates to the "abuse of a player, player support personnel, umpire or match referee during an international match."

Siraj and Head also received one demerit point each on their disciplinary records, marking their first offence in the last 24 months.

Head and Siraj had a brief showdown on day two of the match that Australia won by 10 wickets on Sunday. Head had struck a splendid 141-ball knock of 140 before being castled by Siraj, who went on to give him an aggressive send-off following an exchange of words.

The Indian endured boos from the Adelaide crowd following the confrontation.

Head later claimed that he

had merely said "well bowled" to Siraj and that he was disappointed at how the visiting bowler had responded. Siraj disputed that claim, asserting that Head had abused him.

"I only celebrated and he abused me and you saw that on TV too. I only celebrated at the start, I didn't say anything to him," Siraj told broadcaster 'Star Sports'.

"What he said in the press conference wasn't right, it's a lie that he only said 'well bowled' to me. It's there for everyone to see that that's not what he said to me."

Head also acknowledged his role in the incident.

"There was no confrontation leading up to him and I felt like it was probably, yeah, a little bit far at the time, and that's why I am disappointed in the reaction that I gave back," he said in a post-play press conference.

The two teams are tied 1-1 in the five-match series.



Image via I-League

Real Kashmir Draw 1-1 With Inter Kashi In I-League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a battle of two undefeated I-League teams on Monday at TRC Stadium in Srinagar, Real Kashmir FC drew 1-1 with Inter Kashi FC.

Midfielder Ramsanga Tlaichun opened the scoring in the eighth minute, giving the Snow Leopards hope that they can topple the Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-based team. The Srinagar club held on to take a 1-0 lead into half time.

The second half saw Inter Kashi pile the pressure on the

hosts and their persistence paid off in the 69th minute after a counter saw Spanish striker level the proceedings 1-1 in the 69th minute, much to the dismay of the home crowd.

The two teams remain unbeaten in the 2024-25 I-League after four rounds. Both teams have two wins and two draws for eight points, with Inter Kashi leading the standings via a superior goal difference (5, compared to Real Kashmir's 3).

Real Kashmir will next play Namdhari FC on December 15 in Ludhiana, Punjab.

J&K Cycle Polo Association To Hold Trials for Nationals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Cycle Polo Association is set to organize selection trials for various age groups in preparation for the 21st Sub-Junior Girls, 27th Junior Girls, 25th Senior Women, 39th Sub-Junior Boys, 43rd Junior Boys, and 45th Senior Men National Cycle Polo Championships 2024-25. The championships will be held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, and Habibpur, Kolkata.

The selection trials will take place at Bakshi Stadium, Sri-

nagar, on December 14 at 10:00 AM. Players from affiliated district units, as well as interested individuals, are invited to participate.

"Each player must bring the following documents for eligibility verification: Two passport-size photographs, A photocopy of their Aadhaar card Age proof and a physical Fitness Certificate," the association said in a press release.

"For more information, please contact: 7006294963, 7006919285, 9419466424," it added.



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