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OVER 98 LAKH PEOPLE IN J&K, INCLUDING MORE THAN 8 LAKH YOUTH and 9 lakh women have been reached by NMBA in FY 2023-24.

Over 31000 Treated For Drug Addiction In 2 Yrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of India (GoI) has implemented various initiatives to combat the rising drug abuse, particularly heroin addiction, in Jammu and Kashmir, with over 31,000 people treated for drug de-addiction, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Replying to a question raised by MP Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi in the Rajya Sabha about the alarming rise in drug abuse, particularly heroin addiction, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said, "Under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), the Union Territory has received support for preventive education, awareness generation, rehabilitation centres, and treatment facilities."

The Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) has reached over 98 lakh people

in Jammu and Kashmir, including more than 8 lakh youth and 9 lakh women, the ministry said, adding, "In FY 2023-24, over 31,000 people have been treated for drug de-addiction, and a toll-free helpline, 14446, has been established for immediate support."

Ruhullah also inquired about the steps taken to address the issue, the increase in rehabilitation centres, the effectiveness of the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan' and the collaborative measures with international law enforcement agencies to counter drug trafficking from Pakistan.

The Ministry said more than 98 lakh people have been reached through NMBA in Jammu and Kashmir, and the department supports several de-addiction programs, including Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA), Outreach and Drop-In Centers (ODIC), and Addiction | [More on P11](#)

CM Omar Abdullah Calls For Comprehensive Cultural Policy

Discusses 100-Day Target for Heritage Development In Jammu, Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the Department of Culture here at Civil Secretariat, focusing on revitalizing Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and infrastructure.

Addressing the gathering, Omar emphasized the need for a comprehensive Cultural Policy for J&K. The Chief Minister urged the department to consult stakeholders in order to formalize this policy, which he believes will play a crucial role in preserving the region's rich cultural heritage.

"Engage with the stakeholders to formalize a robust Cultural Policy," he said.

He emphasized the original vision behind the



conceptualisation of Tehzeeb Mahal in Srinagar, underscoring its role in promoting local artists. "Tehzeeb Mahal must serve as a space where artists can showcase their talent while preserving its core theme. Wherever possible, the available space should be expanded to align with this vision," he said.

Omar Abdullah also directed

the department to revive the restoration of Naagar Nagar at the foothills of Hari Parbat, a project halted a decade ago, to save its deteriorating walls.

He also called for immediate filling of departmental vacancies to ensure seamless functioning.

Earlier, Principal Secretary Culture presented a detailed overview of the department's

functioning, highlighting its initiatives through directorates such as Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Libraries and Research, and the Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

The progress on various key projects was reviewed, including the restoration of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and archival repositories.

The meeting | [More on P11](#)

Kashmir Shivers In Season's Lowest Temp

Dry Weather In J&K Till Dec 20: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Intense cold conditions prevailed in parts of the Kashmir valley as the minimum temperature plummeted several degrees below the freezing point, officials said on Tuesday.

Srinagar and many other places recorded the lowest minimum temperatures of the season so far owing to clear skies, the officials said.

The night temperature was 2.7 to 5.7 degrees down from the normal for this time of the season, they said.

The officials said Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 3.3 degrees Celsius.

Monday night was the coldest night of the season so far in the city and the night temperature was 4.8 degrees down from the normal, they said.

The water supply pipes froze due to the intense cold in few areas of the valley, the officials said.

The night temperature at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, settled at a low of minus 9.0 degrees Celsius, dropping to the lowest this season, the officials said, adding the resort | [More on P11](#)

Reviews Law Department's Progress

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs at the Civil Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani,

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Law Achal Sethi, Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita and other senior officials. During the review, the Chief Minister

assessed the functioning of the High Court, subordinate courts, the Advocate General's Office, and the Legislative Assembly. He was briefed on the sanctioned strength of the judiciary and discussed key issues, | [More on P11](#)

'Controversial Remarks Against Muslims' Ruhullah To Move Impeachment Motion Against Judge

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi is spearheading an impeachment motion in Parliament to remove Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court, accusing him of breaching judicial conduct with controversial remarks made against Muslims at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) event.

Speaking at the event Justice Shekhar opined that India must be governed as per the whims of the majority Hindus.

He also said that Hindu children are peaceful and tolerant whereas Muslim children are violent since their birth.

"We must be careful of these people who are dangerous to the nation and don't want to take the country forward," he reportedly said.

Ruhullah has begun



and other like-minded parties, expressing optimism about their support.

In the two page motion, a copy of which has been shared on social media, Ruhulla said that "Justice Shekhar must be removed as judge since his continued tenure is detrimental to the integrity, impartiality and secular ethos of the judiciary."

Slamming his remarks, Aga Ruhullah said, "The statements asserting that only Hindu values and practices should govern the nation challenge the secular fabric enshrined in the Preamble and Article 25 of the Indian Constitution."

"Veiled references to the Muslim community, suggesting that those who slaughter animals can't raise good children, are telling of his virulent bias."

"Further, he (the judge) dehumanised Muslims and painted them | [More on P11](#)

J&K Adds 5 More Disasters To SDRF List



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday while chairing the State Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) gave its approval for inclusion of 5 more local disasters to the already notified list of disasters as per SDRF norms.

During this high level meeting, the members of SEC had consensus on adding five more disasters of local nature to the already notified list as per SDRF. These include Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), Lightning &

Thunderstorms, Heavy Snowfall, Incidents of Man-Animal Conflict and Boat Capsizing.

These disasters were notified as UT specific disasters for disbursement of the benefits to the affected persons as per the guidelines/items and norms set under SDRF. This step is going to bring much requisite relief to hundreds of people becoming victims of such disasters.

The SEC also gave its consent to release of over Rs 6 Cr in favour of Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Srinagar, Rajouri and Ramban on | [More on P11](#)

Ito To Head CSC On Reservation Rules

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Conference-led government has constituted a three-member Cabinet Sub-Committee (CSC) to address concerns raised by youth regarding reservation rules.

The committee will be headed by Social Welfare Minister Sakina Masood Itto.

According to an order issued by the General Administration

Department (GAD), the CSC also includes Javed Rana, Minister for Public Health Engineering, and Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs.

The formal order for the CSC's constitution was issued 18 days after the cabinet gave its approval.

The committee's mandate is to examine grievances raised by aspirants for various posts concerning | [More on P11](#)

Sonamarg Master Plan To Start After Area Notification: CTP

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The Master plan preparation for Sonamarg shall commence after the extended local area for the same was notified by the Tourism Department, Chief Town Planner (CTP) Kashmir has said.

In an affidavit filed before the J&K and Ladakh High Court in compliance to directions seeking steps initiated for revising or drafting the new Master Plan and the timeline for finalization of same, the CTP, Belkies Jeelani, submitted that the matter regarding the preparation/revision of the Master Plan for the Tourism Development



Authorities was taken up with the Commissioner/Secretary to government Tourism department vide a communication on 16 November 2024.

"The Tourism Department

shall notify the extended area, if any, of Sonamarg Development Authority in the first instance and thereafter the Town Planning Organisation will start the | [More on P11](#)

GOI Urged To Rescue Stranded Kashmiris In Syria

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Tuesday wrote to Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, seeking immediate intervention for the safe evacuation of dozens of Kashmiri pilgrims stranded in Syria amidst the ongoing crisis.

In the letter, the association expressed grave concern over the safety and well-being of dozens of Kashmiri pilgrims who are currently stranded in Damascus and its surrounding areas due to the severe unrest in Syria.

Highlighting the deteriorating situation, the association

noted that the crisis, triggered by a swift rebel offensive and the ousting of President Bashar al-Assad, has left the pilgrims in dire straits.

National Convenor of the association, Nasir Khuehami, said that the pilgrims are facing significant challenges, including a lack of shelter, limited access to basic necessities, and mounting fears for their safety due to the tense situation on the ground. Families of the stranded pilgrims have made numerous distress calls to the association, expressing their anguish over the uncertainty and danger faced by their loved ones. These families are deeply worried for their safety | [More on P11](#)

J&K Seeks Specialized Courts To Combat Corruption

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid rising concerns over delays in addressing corruption cases, officials in Jammu and Kashmir have underscored the need for dedicated courts for the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on the lines of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court.

This move, they argue, will streamline the judicial process and expedite justice in corruption-related matters.

A senior police officer emphasized the urgency of the matter, highlighting that the existing courts are overburdened with a variety of cases, resulting in delays in corruption trials. | [More on P11](#)

Traffic Police To Cancel RCs For Pending Challans

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Traffic Police Office, Rural Kashmir, on Tuesday urged motorists with pending traffic challans to clear their dues immediately, failing which strict action will be taken.

Motorists are directed to pay the fine amount on the Parivahan platform or virtual court portals or appear before the Lok Adalat benches at the District Court Srinagar by December 14, 2024, an official said.

Despite repeated appeals through public notices and media channels, a significant number of vehicles with multiple challans continue to operate on roads, a senior traffic cop said. | [More on P11](#)



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I Aafaz Zargar F/o Sundus Zargar R/o Syed Fazal Abad have changed name of my daughter from (old Name) Sundus Aafaz to (New Name) Sundus Zargar.

NOTICE
I Aafaz Zargar F/o Aayat Zargar R/o Syed Fazal Abad have changed name of my daughter from (old Name) Aayat Aafaz to (New Name) Aayat Zargar.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT TANGMARG
Subject: Engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in Anganwadi Centres. Advertisement no.: 02 CDPO-T of 2024 Dated: 09-12-2024

Government of Jammu & Kashmir cdpoicdkeller@gmail.com
Office of the Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Keller
Subject: Engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahiyakas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Keller on honorarium basis

Public Notice
I have applied for the issuance of Fertilizers and Pesticides license under name and style Mir Pesticide & Fertilizers.

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022, Dated: 30-11-2022 and Order no. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated 28.04.2023.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of the District, Name of the Poshan Project, NAME OF PANCHAYAT HALQA, VACANCY/POST OF SAHIYAKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS)

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Criteria for Selection of Sahiyakas (Anganwadi Helpers): -
1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi center is located.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of the District, Name of the Poshan Project, NAME OF PANCHAYAT HALQA, VACANCY OF SANGINIS (ANGANWADI WORKERS)

NOTICE
The name of daughter has been wrongly written in her adhaar card as Adeeba Jan while her correct name is Madiha Lateef which needs to be corrected.

NOTICE
I Abdul Hamid Khan have lost my Passport somewhere Bearing Passport No L 5700384 now I want to its Duplicate.

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER) Form S.No.
1. Name of the District:- Baramulla
2. Name of the Poshan (ICDS) Project:- Tangmarg

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers):-
1. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post as on 01-01-2024.

NOTICE
This is to inform the public that I intend to rectify the name and date of birth of my son from Shah Zain Rashid to Zain Rashid (D.O.B: 25/12/2018) in the official records.

NOTICE
This is to inform the public that I intend to rectify the name and date of birth of my daughter from Shah Zuhra Mariyam (D.O.B: 27/08/13) to Zuhra Mariyam (D.O.B: 27/08/2014) in the official records.

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Application Form for Engagement of Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) / Sahiyakas (Anganwadi Helpers)
Whether Applied for AWW/AWH.....

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to transfer my domestic electricity connection (Consumer ID: 0204040017393 & Installation No: 85293) which is in the name of my late father Hakim Gulam Rasool to my personal name i.e Hakim Masood ul Hassan.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of Job, Reserve Bid Value (Rs. In Lacs), Auction Fees (in Rs.), EMD (in Rs.)

Signature of Candidate
I,.....D/o,W/o.....R/o.....do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The DOB of my daughter namely Faisal Gulzar in her school records has been wrongly written as 24-08-2014 while her correct DOB is 24-08-2016 which needs to be corrected.

1. Critical Dates:-
1. Date of Issue of Auction Notice: 09-12-2024
2. Bid submission Start Date: 10-12-2024 from 10:30 A.M

10. Academic Qualification
S.No Examination passed Board/School Year of passing Marks Obtained Max. Marks %age

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

2. Qualification Criteria:-
The bidders should upload scanned copy of Auction fees of Rs.500/- in form of DD (Non-refundable) online, pledged to Accounts officer, Islamia College, Srinagar.

Acknowledgement
Received application formD/o,W/o..... Residencefor the post of AWW today on

F&ES Averts Major Damage After Fire Engulfs MLA Hostel



Agencies

SRINAGAR: A major tragedy was averted by the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) officials on Tuesday after the fire engulfed the MLA Hostel in Lal Chowk area of Srinagar, creating panic in the area.

An official said that the F&ES received an emergency call at exactly 11:51 AM, and upon reaching the site, the teams found that the fire had engulfed parts of the four-story MLA Hostel.

He said the firefighting team worked efficiently to bring the situation under control within 30 minutes.

"Three to four rooms in the building were damaged but fortunately, these rooms were vacant at the time of the incident, preventing any loss of life or injuries," the

official said.

He said the cause of the fire is being ascertained, although preliminary reports suggest that it may have broken out due to an electrical short circuit. The timely intervention from authorities prevented the blaze from escalating further, he said.

Similarly, this incident comes amidst a series of fire-related incidents in the Valley, raising concerns about fire safety standards, while officials have urged the residents to remain vigilant and follow safety protocols.

"The residents should need to keep a check on electrical wiring and avoid storing flammable materials in one place, particularly during the winter months when the risk of such incidents increases," said the official—(KNO)

Wildlife Protection Wetland Division Conducts Raids



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Wildlife Protection Wetland Division conducted raids in Srinagar on Tuesday after some individuals were found allegedly involved in illegal poaching activities at Wular Lake.

The illegal poaching activities came to display through the videos surfaced on social media, which depicted people carrying firearms and suggesting wildlife hunting, prompting swift action from the authorities.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the department said, "The Department of Wildlife Protection Wetland Division has initiated a series of raids in the Srinagar area in response to social media videos showing individuals allegedly

involved in illegal poaching activities at Wular Lake. The videos depicted individuals carrying firearms, suggesting involvement in wildlife hunting, prompting swift action from the authorities."

In the early hours of December 10, the department conducted coordinated raids at multiple locations, aiming to apprehend those involved. While further details are awaited, preliminary reports suggest that the operation could lead to the confiscation of firearms and potential arrests of suspects, it said.

It further said the decisive action underscores the department's commitment to safeguarding wildlife and addressing illegal activities threatening protected areas. Further updates are expected as the investigation progresses.

GMC Hosts Annual Forensic Quiz-2024

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar Tuesday hosted the Annual Forensic Quiz-2024 to bridge the gap between medicine and law, highlighting their vital integration in real-life scenarios.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean of GMC Srinagar, who was also the chief guest. Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator, HODs, faculty, UG/PG students, medical and paramedical staff, SHO Karan Nagar, prosecuting officers, and officers from police and prosecution ensured their attendance.

The Court Room Enactment was a highlight of the event, where students participated in a mock court session, arguing cases related to forensic medicine. The students demonstrated their knowledge of forensic medicine and its application

in legal proceedings.

The Crime Scene Enactments were another exciting aspect of the event. Students demonstrate their knowledge of forensic evidence collection and analysis. The enactments showcased the students' understanding of the importance of preserving crime scenes and collecting evidence.

The Buzzer Round was a rapid-fire question-answer session that tested the students' knowledge of forensic medicine. The students demonstrated their expertise in forensic medicine, answering questions on various topics, including toxicology, DNA analysis, and forensic pathology.

The Poster Presentation session provided a platform for students to showcase their research and knowledge on various topics in forensic medicine. The students presented posters on topics such as forensic anthropology, forensic odontology, and forensic psychiatry.

DDMA Unveils Winter Plan To Keep City Moving



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With the arrival of winter in Kashmir, Srinagar's District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has unveiled and finalised an extensive 'Winter Preparedness Plan' for 2024-25 to mitigate risks associated with the region's severe cold conditions.

DDMA has stressed a proactive approach to ensure safety and functionality during the harsh winter months in the district.

DDMA Srinagar, headed by Dr Bilal Mohi-Din Bhat, stated in his message that this Winter Preparedness Plan was focused on the hazards and risks caused by fog, smog, snowfall, urban flooding, landsliding, and cold waves.

For snow clearance operations, the plan has outlined that a total of 45 snow clearance machines have been allocated for critical routes across Srinagar, ensuring uninterrupted access to hospitals, ration depots, and emergency services.

According to the plan, all roads of District Srinagar fall under the category of 'Priority 1st', unlike other peripheral districts where various roads fall under 'Priority 2nd'. In case of snowfall, the machines shall be operated on their respective roads. The total number of snow clearance machines available with Snow Clearance Control Room Srinagar at present is Forty-Five (45).

The city has also been divided into zones, each with dedicated teams for snow removal and dewatering operations. "The city is divided into four zones headed by zonal sanitation officers who are assisted by 35 ward officers, sanitary inspectors, and sanitary supervisors to super-

vised the snow clearance," the winter plan mentions.

For health and emergency services, the plan states that rapid response teams are stationed across zones with emergency supplies like oxygen cylinders, medicines, and heating arrangements. Ambulances and power backups have been readied to address emergencies promptly.

All zonal medical officers have been advised to keep DG Sets with adequate fuel in ready position for power backup. Moreover, the ambulances have also been kept in ready position to meet any emergency.

For energy and utility measures, the plan states that during snowfall, the falling of trees and electrical lines on the road is a usual phenomenon thereby hampering the Mechanized Snow Clearance. Therefore, the Power Development Department / Forestry / Social Forestry Departments have to chip in, to ensure that the fallen trees, debris, electrical lines etc. are cleared and the way is paved for smooth snow clearance by machines.

To ensure water supply and maintenance, it outlines measures like insulation of pipelines, standby generators at water treatment plants, and chemical stockpiles to ensure uninterrupted water supply.

"The pipes & control valve chambers shall be covered with protection to avoid damages due to frost during severe winters. Standby generators for providing electric supply at Water Treatment Plants are to be made functional and shall be put in operation during power disruption in winter," it states.

Providing shelter for vulnerable populations during winters, the

DDMA Srinagar has laid out provisions to accommodate the homeless, elderly, and other vulnerable groups in shelters equipped with heating and basic amenities.

According to the plan for girl children (less than 18 years), a shelter home at Sanath Nagar Housing Colony with an intake capacity of 25 is in place with a basic minimum facility. For boy children (less than 18 years) a similar shelter home has been set up at Nowgam Srinagar with an intake capacity of 25.

An old age home, run by an NGO, namely HOPE through the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, New Delhi, with an intake capacity of 25 too, has been established at Baghi Mehtab near Railway Track with basic minimum facilities.

For coordination and communication with emergency control rooms, a District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) will operate round the clock, coordinating disaster response and issuing early warnings through the Indian Meteorological Department.

The winter plan states that the Fire and Emergency Services Department has conducted over 100 fire safety awareness programs to educate the public about winter-specific risks.

Regarding food and fuel reserves, buffer stocks of essential commodities like food grains and LPG cylinders have been secured for one month. Srinagar has 51 petrol stations and 24 LPG outlets prepared to meet public demand. Over 1,900 sanitation workers equipped with necessary tools are tasked with clearing lanes and by-lanes manually during heavy snowfalls, according to the plan—(KNO)

NEET PG Admissions

Doctors At SKIMS Bemina Protest Reducing OM Quota

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The doctors from SKIMS Medical College Bemina on Tuesday staged a protest against the reduction in the Open Merit (OM) quota in NEET PG admissions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Doctors expressed their concern over the drastic reduction in open merit seats for postgraduate medical courses.

The allocation has dropped from 75 percent in 2019 to just 38.5 percent in 2024, leaving limited opportunities for merit-based candidates after 50 percent of the seats are allocated to the All-India Quota.

They questioned the rationale behind extensive reservations, especially in specialized branches, arguing that it compromises the production of skilled doctors and undermines healthcare quality. "All students access the same resources during MBBS. Why should extensive reservations apply to NEET PG specialty courses?" one of the protesting doctors asked.

The protesters criticized Rule 17 of the J&K Reservation Rules (2004-2005), describing it as unfair to open merit candidates. They pointed out that when a reserved category candidate upgrades to a

higher specialty, the vacated seat is reassigned to another reserved candidate rather than to an open merit candidate. This, they argue, dis-

rupts the reputation of medical institutions. They emphasized that healthcare should remain uncompromised, urging that leadership roles in the sector

Calling for a review of the reservation policy, the professionals stressed that only truly deserving candidates should benefit from these schemes. They



portionately benefits reserved candidates.

The doctors warned that the reservation system is already harming healthcare standards, with less qualified individuals securing seats and promotions. They emphasized the need to prioritize merit to ensure a competent healthcare workforce.

Medical professionals have voiced concerns over the impact of reservation-based selections on the quality of healthcare and

should be occupied by competent doctors selected on merit.

The doctors highlighted the issue of candidates, who secure undergraduate medical seats through reservation but fail to qualify for postgraduate seats on open merit. They suggested that such candidates should be required to serve as medical officers in underserved areas, utilizing their reservation benefits for the greater good.

appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Sakina Itoo to address their grievances promptly and implement reforms to ensure fairness and uphold meritocracy in medical admissions.

The protesters warned that the healthcare system could face further deterioration if immediate action is not taken, framing their demands as essential for the betterment of the health sector and medical education—(KNO)

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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
8 Jumada al-Sani
1446

This Day In History

- 359 - Honoratus, first known Prefect of the City of Constantinople, takes office.
- 384 - St Damasus I dies and ends his reign as Catholic Pope. Began reign 366
- 1282 - Llywelyn ab Gruffydd/Llywelyn the Last, last native Prince of Wales is killed at Cilmeri, near Builth Wells, south Wales. Reigned from 1259.
- 1395 - John "Eleanor" Rykener, a male cross-dressing prostitute, is brought to court in London for "committing that detestable unmentionable and ignominious vice" in late medieval England's only recorded case on same-sex intercourse (verdict unknown)
- 1419 - Heretic Nicolaas Serrurier exiled from Florence
- 1477 - Duchess Maria of Burgundy ends the 'Great Privilege' in states of The Netherlands
- 1572 - Spanish troops begin siege of Haarlem
- 1602 - Surprise attack by forces of the Duke of Savoy and his brother-in-law, Philip III of Spain repelled by citizens of Geneva. Commemorated since as Fête de l'Escalade.
- 1618 - Russia & Poland signs Peace treaty of Dailino
- 1917 - German-occupied Lithuania proclaims independence from Russia
- 1931 - Japan leaves the Gold Standard
- 1937 - Italy withdraws from League of Nations.
- 1940 - Russian general Georgy Zhukov warns of German assault
- 1941 - Australian state cricket associations, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales decide at meetings with new Prime Minister John Curtin to abandon all interstate first class matches for the duration of WWII
- 1946 - Spain suspended from UN
- 1946 - UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) established (Nobel 1965)
- 1950 - British Physicist Cecil Frank Powell awarded Nobel Prize in Physics for his study of nuclear processes and the discovery of the pion
- 1959 - Emilio G. Segrè publishes his discovery of the antiproton, a sub-atomic antiparticle for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1959
- 1964 - Che Guevara speaks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. An unknown terrorist fires a mortar shell at the building during the speech.
- 1967 - People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) established
- 1969 - Libya adopts constitution
- 1972 - Astronauts Cernan & Harrison become 11th & 12th people on the Moon
- 1981 - Argentine President General Roberto Viola flees
- 1981 - El Mozote massacre: Salvadoran armed forces kill an estimated 900 civilians in an anti-guerrilla campaign during the country's civil war.
- 1981 - Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali's 61st and last fight; loses to Trevor Berbick by unanimous decision in 10 rounds at Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, Nassau, Bahamas
- 1981 - Spacelab I arrives at Kennedy Space Center
- 1981 - UN Security Council chooses Javier Pérez de Cuéllar of Peru as the 5th Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 1985 - Computer store owner in Sacramento California killed by package bomb
- 1990-US 69th manned space mission STS 35 (Columbia 11) returns from space
- 1993 - Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle elected President of Chile
- 1994 - Russian Federation forces attack city of Grozny, beginning the First Chechen War, in which the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria gains its independence from Russia
- 1994 - Russian troops enter Chechnya
- 1997 - Delegates from 150 industrial nations attending a UN climate conference in Kyoto, Japan, reach agreement to control heat-trapping greenhouse gases
- 2001 - The People's Republic of China joins the World Trade Organization.
- 2016 - Kyrgyzstan votes in a referendum to change the constitution to give the government more power
- 2017 - Rahul Gandhi, son of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is elected leader of the Indian National Congress
- 2017 - Saudi Arabia announces an end to its 35 year ban on cinemas
- 2019 - Climate activist Greta Thunberg is named Time magazine's Person of the Year
- 2019 - Discovery of the earliest figurative artwork in the world, (43,900 years old), figures part human part animal, from cave in Sulawesi, Indonesia, reported in journal "Nature"

Israeli Jets Pound Syria As Tanks Reach 20Kms Off Damascus

Sarah El Deeb, Bassem Mroue, and Melanie Lidman / AP

DAMASCUS, Syria — Israel carried out a wave of heavy airstrikes across Syria as its troops advanced deeper into the country, drawing to within 25 kilometers (15 miles) of the capital, a Syrian opposition war monitor said Tuesday. Israel denied its forces were advancing toward Damascus.

Associated Press reporters in Damascus heard heavy airstrikes overnight and into Tuesday on the city and its suburbs. Photographs circulating online showed destroyed missile launchers, helicopters and warplanes.

There was no immediate comment from the insurgent groups — led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS — that have taken control of Damascus.

Israel had earlier seized a roughly 400-square-kilometer (155-square-mile)

buffer zone inside Syria that had been established after the 1973 Mideast war, a move it said was taken to prevent attacks in the aftermath of the overthrow of President Bashar Assad.

Israel has also said it is striking suspected chemical weapons sites and heavy weapons to prevent them from falling into the hands of extremists. Israeli officials rarely acknowledge individual strikes.

Israel has a long history of seizing territory during wars with its neighbors and occupying it indefinitely, citing security concerns. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally, except by the United States.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has closely tracked the conflict since the civil war erupted nearly 14 years ago, said Israel has carried out more than 300

airstrikes across the country since rebels overthrew Assad over the weekend, ending his family's half-century rule.

The Observatory, and Beirut-based Mayadeen TV, which has reporters in Syria, said Israeli troops are advancing up the Syrian side of the border with Lebanon. It was not possible to independently confirm the reports.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesperson, said "the reports circulating in the media about the alleged advancement of Israeli tanks towards Damascus are false." He said Israeli troops are stationed within the buffer zone in order to protect Israel.

Israel's military had previously said troops would enter the buffer zone "and several other places necessary for its defense."

Israeli media meanwhile reported that the air force was methodically destroying Syria's military assets to ensure whoever rules the country next



would have to rebuild them.

The operations "have been systematically destroying all that remains of the escaped tyrant's military," wrote Yossi Yehoshua, the military correspondent for

Israel's largest daily, Yediot Ahronot.

"Dozens upon dozens of targets, including arms depots of various kinds, have been hit in waves of attacks so as to prevent them from falling into hos-

tile hands and from posing a threat to Israel." The air force "currently enjoys complete freedom of action," he added.

Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia have condemned Israel's incursion, accusing it of exploiting the disarray in Syria and violating international law.

Turkey, which has been a main backer of the Syrian opposition to Assad, also condemned Israel's advance. The Turkish Foreign Ministry accused Israel of "displaying a mentality of an occupier" at a time when the possibility of peace and stability had emerged in Syria.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric on Monday said Israel's incursion constitutes a violation of the 1974 disengagement agreement and called on both Israel and Syria to uphold it.

Mroue reported from Beirut and Lidman from Tel Aviv, Israel. Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

Israeli forces kill at least 34 people in Gaza

Agencies

Jerusalem : Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 34 Palestinians overnight and on Tuesday, medics said, as Israeli tanks pushed into areas in central and southern parts of the enclave.

An Israeli airstrike killed at least 25 people in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where Israeli forces have operated since October, and injured dozens of others in a multi-floored building, medics said.

The Palestinian Civil Emergency said most of those killed were from the same family, including women and children. Images posted online, which Reuters couldn't immediately verify, showed the bodies lined up in a single mass grave in the town.

"At 8:00 PM last night, Israeli strikes targeted a multi-story building belonging to the Al-Kahlut family, killing 25 people. Sixteen bodies have

been identified, while others remain trapped under the rubble," civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said, adding five women and five children were among the dead.

Bassal said "residents, without adequate support, are attempting to rescue those still buried".

Another airstrike on a house in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed at least seven people. It wounded several others, medics and the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said, while another killed two people in Rafah south of the enclave.

The Gazan health ministry said Tuesday that at least 44,786 people have been killed and 106,188 people have been wounded in more than 14 months of war.

In Deir Al-Balah near the coast, Israeli naval forces detained six Palestinian fishermen who tried to sail into the Mediterranean Sea earlier on Tuesday, according to residents.

Trump Promises To End Birthright Citizenship, What Is It, Could He Do It?

Press Trust Of India

Washington: President-elect Donald Trump has promised to end birthright citizenship as soon as he gets into office to make good on campaign promises aiming to restrict immigration and redefining what it means to be American.

But any efforts to halt the policy would face steep legal hurdles.

Birthright citizenship means anyone born in the United States automatically becomes an American citizen. It's been in place for decades and applies to children born to someone in the country illegally or in the US on a tourist or student visa who plans to return to their home country.

It's not the practice of every country, and Trump and his supporters have argued that the system is being abused and that there should be tougher standards for becoming an American citizen.

But others say this is a right enshrined in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, it would be extremely difficult to overturn and even if it's possible, it's a bad idea.

Here's a look at birthright citizenship, what Trump has said about it and the prospects for ending it. What Trump has said about birthright citizenship During an interview Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" Trump said he "absolutely" planned to halt birthright citizenship once in office.

"We're going to end that because it's ridiculous," he said.

Trump and other opponents of birthright citizenship have argued that it creates an incentive for people to come to the US illegally or take part in "birth tourism", in which pregnant women enter the US specifically to give birth so their children can have citizenship before returning to their home countries.

HTS appoints Mohammed al-Bashir as Syria's caretaker prime minister

Agencies

Damascus: The HTS militant group has appointed Mohammed al-Bashir as the caretaker prime minister of the transitional Syrian government until March 1, 2025.

Bashir, who has been tasked with forming a transitional government, has close ties to the HTS and headed their so-called Syrian Salvation Government (SSG) in Idlib.

He announced his appointment in a televised statement on Tuesday.

The HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Julani earlier met outgoing Prime Minister Mohammed al-Jalali on Monday to discuss the transition. Jalali, who served under former President Bashar al-Assad, agreed to transfer power to the SSG.



Mohammed al-Bashir holds a press conference in Idlib on November 28, 2024. (AFP)

"We are working to ensure the transitional period is quick and smooth," Jalali was quoted as saying.

Armed groups, led by the HTS, a former al-Qaeda affiliate, announced on December 8 that they had fully captured the Syrian capital and confirmed the fall of the Assad government.

Various foreign-backed militant groups operating across Syria are now in talks to take formal control of the Arab country.

Geir Pedersen, United Nations special envoy to Syria, called for a transition process that ensures the continuity of Syria's institutions and allows its people to "chart the path to meeting their legitimate aspirations ... and restore a unified Syria".

The United States and Britain are also mulling the removal of the HTS from their terror list after the former offshoot of al-Qaeda overthrew the Syrian government.

But the Syrian people are concerned that a fragmented coalition of armed groups could ignite intense political jockeying and cause chaos by targeting religious minorities, political opponents and personnel from former government.

Julani on Tuesday vowed

“**Armed groups, led by the HTS, a former al-Qaeda affiliate, announced on December 8 that they had fully captured the Syrian capital and confirmed the fall of the Assad government.**

to pursue former senior government officials who had been responsible for curbing militancy across the country over the past years.

Massive displacements and internal and external security challenges are of the main concerns.

According to a UNHCR report, security situation in

Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Homs, and Damascus remains fluid amid overlapping population movements.

Taking advantage of instability in Syria, Israel is pressing ahead with its aggression, targeting multiple army positions across the Arab nation.

The Israeli military occupies several villages south of Damascus with its tanks now stationed around 20 kilometers from the outskirts of Damascus.

The Israeli military says it has struck facilities that allegedly were stockpiling long-range missiles and rockets. Also reports suggest that weapons depots, navy vessels and a research center have been destroyed.

In Latakia, a navy vessel equipped with machine guns and rocket launchers was seen half sunken in the water.

Israel has also sent troops into a buffer zone east of the occupied Golan Heights, but the regime denies advancing towards Damascus, insisting that its forces were stationed within the zone.

More than 300 Israeli strikes have been reported since the fall of the government in Syria.

Rajnath Presses Russia To Expedite Delivery Of Remaining S-400 Missile Systems

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday pressed Russia to expedite the supply of two remaining units of S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems as he held wide-ranging talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov in Moscow.

In the meeting, Singh showcased new opportunities in India for Russian defence industries in joint production of various military hardware, noting that India-Russia engagement is very strong, and it has lived up to the "responsibilities" of a special and privileged strategic partnership.

Singh voiced India's determination to extend the capabilities of its domestic defence industry across domains and industrial collaboration, the

defence ministry said.

The meeting under the framework of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation was co-chaired by Singh and Belousov. The Indian defence minister is on a three-day visit to Russia.

Official sources said Singh strongly pitched for expedited delivery of the two remaining units of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems.

Russia has already completed supplies of the first three regiments of the missile systems. There has been a delay in supply of the remaining units in view of the Ukraine conflict.

Singh also called for carrying out maintenance and related services of the missile systems in India.

CUET-UG: Students Can Appear For Any Subject, Says UGC

Press Trust Of India

CUET-UG will be conducted only as a computer-based test (CBT) from 2025 and students will be allowed to appear for any subject irrespective of the subjects studied in class 12, according to University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Jagadish Kumar.

In an interaction with PTI, Kumar said an expert panel set up by the UGC conducted a review of the exam and proposed several changes.

"The exam will be conducted only in CBT mode from 2025 unlike hybrid mode last year. We have also reduced the number of subjects from 63 to 37 and admissions for the dropped subjects will be conducted on the basis of scores of the General Aptitude Test," Kumar said.

"Candidates will also be allowed to opt for subjects in CUET-UG which they haven't studied in class 12 to allow the students to cross over the rigid disciplinary boundaries in

higher education," he added.

Explaining the changes in the 2025 edition of the exam, Kumar said students will be able to appear for CUET-UG in a maximum of five subjects as against six previously.

"Similarly, the exam duration which varied from 45-60 minutes depending upon the subject, has now been standardised to 60 minutes. The concept of optional questions in the exam has also been done away with and all questions will be compulsory now," Kumar said.

In the first edition of the exam in 2022, CUET-UG was plagued by technical glitches. Also, as a result of tests for a subject being conducted over multiple shifts, the scores had to be normalised during the announcement of results.

The exam was conducted in hybrid mode for the first time in 2024. It was cancelled across Delhi a night before it was to be held citing logistical reasons.

NEWS MAKERS

Karnataka ex-CM Krishna, the architect of Bengaluru's silicon city, dies at 92

Former Karnataka Chief Minister SM Krishna passed away at his residence early Tuesday morning, his family said.

The 92-year-old veteran politician was ailing for quite some time, a family source said.

"SM Krishna is no more. He breathed his last at 2:45 am at his residence. Mortal remains are likely to be taken to Maddur today," the source said.

Somanahalli Mallaiiah Krishna is survived by his wife Prema and two daughters Shambhavi and Malavika.

Born in Somanahalli in Karnataka's Mandya district on May 1, 1932, Somanahalli Mallaiiah Krishna started his career in electoral politics in 1962 by winning the Maddur assembly seat as an independent.

He was then associated with the Praja Socialist Party before joining the Congress.

He later joined the BJP in March 2017, ending his nearly 50-year-long association with the Congress.

He announced his resignation from the Congress in January 2017, saying the



party was in a "state of confusion" on whether it needed mass leaders or not.

Krishna in January last year announced that he was retiring from active politics, citing his age as the reason.

He was the 16th Chief Minister of Karnataka from October 11, 1999, to May 28, 2004, (from Congress).

He also served as the Governor of Maharashtra and was the External Affairs Minister during the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government from 2009 to 2012.

A 34-year-old deputy general manager of a private firm died by suicide on Monday, leaving behind a 24-page suicide note accusing his wife, her family members, and a judge of "explicit instigation for suicide, harassment, extortion, and corruption".

According to a statement released by the police, the victim identified as Atul Subhash was a resident of Uttar Pradesh who was living in Bengaluru.

The police stated that Hoyalala Police Control Room received a call at 6 am on Monday about the suicide in a flat at Bengaluru's Manjunatha Layout in Delfinium Residency.

The statement further stated that when the police went to search the place, the flat was locked from inside, and the lock was broken, following which

Techie dies by suicide, leaves 24-page death note accusing wife, her family Members

they went inside and saw Atul hanging from a ceiling fan by the support of a nylon rope. The police stated that he was found dead upon arrival.

The police informed the incident to the brother of the deceased, Bikas Kumar, who later filed a complaint against Subhash's wife, his mother-in-law, his brother-in-law, and his wife's uncle, accusing them of filing a false complaint against Subhash and demanding Rs 3 crore money for the settlement, which led to his men-

tal and physical harassment, following which he had to take the step.

A case was later registered under the BNS Act, and an investigation is underway, the police stated.

In his suicide note, Subhash called for justice, stating, "Justice is Due" on every single page of the 24-page note.

Along with his wife and her family members, Subhash also accused a principal family court judge in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur, along with an officer in

the court, accusing him of taking bribes in front of the judge.

Subhash further described the instances that instigated him to take such a step. Subhash recorded a video describing his alleged harassment and asking his family members not to immerse his ashes till justice is served to him. His suicide note also had a message for his four-year-old son who he claimed had been kept estranged from him. The note and the link to the video was sent to the WhatsApp group of an NGO, which he was connected to. The note also called for his parents to be given custody of his child.

Subhash mentioned in his suicide note that his wife had filed 9 cases against him, including murder, sexual misconduct, harassment for money, domestic violence, and dowry.

J&K Records 327 Cybercrime Cases, 178 Arrests

Agencies

SRINAGAR: From 2021 to 2022, a total of 327 cybercrime cases were registered in Jammu and Kashmir while 178 people were arrested, 142 were chargesheeted, and one conviction was reported under cyber-crime laws.

According to data accessed, in 2020, 120 cases were registered while the charge sheet was produced in 14 cases. It added that 33 people were arrested in 2020 while 23 were charged.

However, 2021 saw a rise in incidents with 154 cases registered and 49 charge sheeted. The number of arrests increased to 102, and 60 people were charge sheeted in the particular year.

In 2022, the region recorded 173 cases, the highest in the three years, with 53 charge sheeted and one convicted. A total of 76 people were arrested, 79 charge sheeted, and one convicted under cybercrime laws in the year.

The government has implemented several measures to combat cybercrime and financial fraud under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination

Centre (I4C).

"Launched in 2021, the 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' has facilitated the recovery of over ₹3431 crore in more than 9.94 lakh complaints, supported by a toll-free helpline number, 1930, for lodging online cyber complaints," it said, adding that proactive efforts by I4C have led to the identification and blocking of over 1700 Skype IDs and 59,000 WhatsApp accounts linked to digital fraud.

Also, more than 6.69 lakh SIM cards and 1,32,000 IMEIs have been blocked based on police reports until November 15, 2024.

The Central Government has also issued alerts about blackmail and digital arrest scams conducted by cybercriminals impersonating officials from agencies like NCB, CBI, and RBI. To address the misuse of international spoofed calls masquerading as Indian numbers, a system has been devised in collaboration with telecom service providers (TSPs) to detect and block such calls, which are commonly used in scams like fake digital arrests and impersonations—(KNO)

With Enhanced Infra, Pahalgam Sees Rise In Tourist Footfall This Winter

Agencies

PAHALGAM: The famous tourist destination in South Kashmir—Pahalgam has been witnessing a rise in the footfall of tourists at the picturesque place this winter with the officials claiming that lakhs of people have visited Pahalgam this year.

Officials said all the efforts are being made to keep the famous tourist destination vibrant during winter too.

An official of Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) said that as the infrastructure has been enhanced and there is a good flow of tourists at Pahalgam in winters as well.

"All stakeholders did good business this year as there was a good flow of tourists and due to efforts of every department, the footfall has increased in winters and every effort is being made to keep this destination vibrant round the year," he said.

"Pahalgam has uninterrupted power supply, water supply and hoteliers have up-



dated heating facilities that has helped to keep Pahalgam alive," he said, adding that on the eve of the new year, different programmes will be held and the main aim is to attract more and more tourists.

The official said that adventure activities including skiing and snowboarding will be conducted to attract more and more tourists. He said that as infrastructure has been enhanced, Pahalgam now can host thousands of tourists in winters.

He said that a proper mechanism has been put in place to sanitize both Urban and Rural areas of Pahalgam besides

that the PDA carries out frequent sanitation drives. He requested the tourists whether domestic, foreign or locals to behave responsibly and avoid using polythene to keep Pahalgam neat and clean.

He said that recently a high level meeting was conducted in which all stakeholders were consulted and many demands were put forth that are being looked into to keep Pahalgam more vibrant. He said that this year there has been very little snowfall so far and they are expecting further increase in the footfall of tourists after the snowfall—(KNO)

As Temp Plummet, Dengue Cases Decline Across J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the mercury plummeted, the dengue cases in Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed a decline as fewer cases are being reported across the Union Territory.

As per the details available 6,822 cases of dengue and one death have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far.

An official from State Epidemiology said that the majority of the cases (4041) were reported from Jammu district alone. The district was followed by Samba with 701 cases, Kathua with 698 cases and Udhampur with 349 cases, he said.

"A total of 192 cases have been reported in Rajouri, 348 in Reasi, 215 in Doda, 77 in Ramban, 78 in Poonch, 26 in Kishtwar, 29 in Kashmir and 43 from other areas," he said.

In the year 2022, over 8,000 dengue cases and 18 deaths were reported while in 2023 over 6,000 cases and eight deaths were reported.

According to the data for more than a decade, 1709 cases were reported in 2021, 439 in 2019, 53 in 2020, 214 in 2018, 488 in 2017, 79 in 2016, 153 in 2015, four in 2014, 1 837 in 2013, 16 in 2012,

three in 2011, none in 2010 and two in 2009.

According to the official, the cases are on decline now but advised people to take "pre-emptive" measures in the absence of a dengue vaccine and called for proactive prevention to combat the painful ailment. He said a total of 507 dengue patients have been admitted to the hospitals till date and of them, 492 have been discharged and three patients are still under treatment.

"Panic is unnecessary but vigilance and preventive measures are crucial," he said.

The official said that individuals who test positive for dengue should prioritise physical and mental rest, maintain proper hydration, and consume a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

Outlining a comprehensive approach to dengue prevention, he urged people to manage and modify the environment to prevent mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats. "This involves proper disposal of solid waste, removal of artificial water-holding containers, and regular cleaning and maintenance of domestic water storage units," he said and recommended appropriate use of insecticides in outdoor water storage containers.—(KNO)

Khanqah-E-Hyderi Organizes Seminar On Lady Fatima Zahra (S.A)



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: One day research seminar was organised by Khanqah-e-Hyderi, Alibabad, Aishmuqam wherein the scholars and prominent literary figures of Kashmir deliberated upon the theme "Mention of Lady Fatima Zahra in Kashmiri Folklore and

Literature".

The conference was presided over by Prof. Bashir Bashir, former director of Sheikh ul Aalam Chair in the University of Kashmir. Some of the prominent speakers who spoke on the occasion included Prof. Shad Ramzan (convener of the Kashmiri Board for All India Sah-



itya Academy), Mr. Mohd. Amin Bhat (President of Adabi Markaz Kamraz), noted poet and scholar Inayat Gul, Dr. Zulfiqar Siddiqui and Dr. Tanveer Hayat.

Speaking on the occasion the patron of Khanqah e Hyderi, Dr. Sameer Siddiqui said that Kashmiri language and folklore

is resplendent with the mention of Ahul Bayt and especially Hazrat Fatimah Zahra holds a special significance in the folk literature of Kashmir.

On the occasion Siddiqui also reiterated Khanqah e Hyderi's commitment towards promoting the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of Kashmir.

Ravees Ahmad To Represent India At World Pencak Silat Championship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ravees Ahmad, a resident of Downtown khanyar Srinagar, a distinguished international medalist has been selected to represent India at the 20th World Pencak Silat (Martial art) Championship 2024. The championship is set to take place at Sports City in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 18th to 22nd December 2024.

Ravees said his journey to this prestigious event has been made possible through the unwavering support and mentorship of his coach Mohd Iqbal and his senior officers of his respected department with their guidance has been instrumental in shaping Ravees into one of India's leading Pencak Silat athletes.

Over the years, he has earned multiple international accolades, and this selection serves yet another milestone in his illustrious career.

In addition to his personal achievements, Ravees said he is committed to uplifting sports in UT



J&K. Ravees said that has been actively working to support young talent and underprivileged athletes—both boys and girls—by providing them with guidance and opportunities to pursue their dreams.

"I owe my success to my coach Iqbal sb, who has always believed in me. Representing India at the World Championship is a great honour, and I hope to make my country proud again. I am also committed to helping the youth of UT achieve their dreams, just as I have been fortunate to achieve mine," said Ravees.

The upcoming World Pencak Silat Championship will witness athletes from other nations competing at the highest level of the sport.

'Contractual Lecturers Unpaid For Two Months'

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Contractual lecturers employed in various degree colleges across Jammu and Kashmir have raised concerns over non-payment of their salaries since their appointment two months ago. The delay has caused widespread frustration among the teaching staff, who have been struggling to meet their financial obligations.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, a contractual lecturer from Degree College Handwara expressed disappointment over the prolonged delay. "We have been performing our duties diligently for the past two months, but we have not received a single penny. This has put us in a very difficult position," the lecturer said.

The lecturers have appealed to the authorities to address their grievances at the earliest, emphasizing that many of them rely solely on these salaries for their livelihoods.

Responding to the issue, the Nodal Principal Colleges, Kashmir division Dr. Seema Naz said that those lecturers whose police verification has been completed are being paid. However, those whose verification is still pending will have to wait until the process is finalized," the principal told Kashmir Observer.

However, another contractual lecturer from Degree College said on anonymity that her verifications have been completed but salary has not been deposited in her account.

Pertinently, the contractual lecturers in Jammu & Kashmir are intensifying their demands for salary enhancements, citing significant discrepancies between their earnings and those of their counterparts in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Currently, lecturers in Jammu and Kashmir say they are paid Rs 28,000 per month while those in Ladakh receive a monthly salary of Rs 57,700 which has angered contractual lecturers in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, the contractual lecturers said that they perform the same duties and responsibilities as their peers in Ladakh, yet they are compensated with nearly half the salary. This discrepancy, they say, is causing significant financial strain on them and their families, particularly in a time when the cost of living continues to rise.

Dr. Seema Naz said that the file for a salary hike has been forwarded to the finance department. "The financial implications of the move are currently being reviewed. We are hopeful that the hike will be approved soon," she added.

Gol Approves ₹256.46 Crore For Tourism Development In Ladakh

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has sanctioned Rs 256.46 crore for a series of tourism development projects in Ladakh to bolster the region's growing tourism sector. This key announcement was made by Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, during a Lok Sabha session on December 9.

According to details obtained the allocated funds will be directed towards

several initiatives under the schemes of Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, and Assistance to Central Agencies, with the aim of promoting infrastructure and enhancing adventure tourism.

Shekhawat said the Ministry of Tourism is playing a crucial role in supporting initiatives to cultivate tourism, including promoting local events and leveraging social media campaigns. "Efforts such as the Incredible India Digital Portal and the launch of the Incredible

India Content Hub are designed to provide stakeholders in the travel industry with accessible resources to promote India as a leading tourism destination," he said.

Key components of the funding include Rs 77.33 crore for developing tourist facilities along vital routes and Rs 86.39 crore earmarked for facilities in Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar and Zaskar regions. The minister said Rs 91.84 crore has been allocated for developing infrastructures for

the Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Kargil-Leh route.

He said the government also plans to enhance community involvement and sustainable tourism growth through its newly introduced Ladakh Homestay Policy 2023. This initiative aims to equip local households with essential kits to establish homestays, thereby promoting rural tourism and supporting skills development through institutes like the State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), he added.—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER RAMHALL
ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE: NO 01 OF 2024
DATED: 10-12-2024

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Ramhall.

Reference: 1. Government Order No.222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:30.11.2022
2. Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: MD/Poshan/38418-21 Dated: 03.12.2024 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Ramhall, as per the details given below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Ramhall	Sangini (AWW)	03
Total			03

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Proforma in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

a) Date of commencement for submission of application 10.12.2024
b) Last date for submission of applications is 24-12-2024
c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
d) Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE
Format of Application

- Name of POSHAN Project _____
- Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
- Post applied for _____
- Name of the Candidate _____
- Father's Name _____
- Husband's Name _____
- Residence _____
- Ward No. _____
- Address for correspondence _____
- Contact No. _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Age as on 01.01.2024 _____
- Academic Qualification: _____

Sr.No.	Examination passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

14. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)
15. Document Attached: _____
Date: _____ Signature of the candidate _____

ANNEXURE 'B'
Detail of Vacant Posts (AWW/AWH) along with name and location of AWC_

S. No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	Name of Panchayat Halqa/MC ward	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
01	Daril Bala Dar Mohala	06	Tarathpora B (Daril)	Sangni (AWW)	01
02	Hatchmerg Payeen	01	Hatchmerg	Sangni (A WW)	01
03	Gund Las Shahn	07	Kalmoona	Sangni (AWW)	01

Eligibility:

A. For Anganwadi Workers

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+ 2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSH AN.
- In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria to be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

B. Anganwadi Helpers

- The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The committee shall select the most destitute/ needy married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfil the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidates shall qualify for additional two percent points.

Document Verification

- The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
- Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
- Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
- Domicile Certificate.
- Unmarried Certificate (where required)
- Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
 - Aadhaar Card
 - Voter ID card.
- The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificate Issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for Anganwadi Helper and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/Ramhall/Adv/2024/1084-1100
Dated: 10-12-2024

DIPK-9327-24
DT: 10/12/2024

Child Development Officer
Poshan Ramhall

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Staring Through Complex Tides: The Three 'Rs' Challenge for NC Government

Tehleel Sathoo

Jammu and Kashmir, a region shaped by its distinctive history and socio-political dynamics, stands at a critical stage in its journey of governance and development. The National Conference assumed power after huge mandate and years of direct central administration, the expectations from the newly elected government are immense. This period represents not only an opportunity for governance but also a test of leadership and consolidating 'people's trust' in navigating the complex challenges that have long defined the region.

The restoration of a democratically elected government follows the tumultuous changes of August 2019, when J&K's special status under Article 370 was abrogated, altering its political and constitutional identity. The National Conference's overwhelming mandate reflects both support for its leadership and a collective expression of dissatisfaction with recent political shifts. Addressing the accumulated grievances and restoring public confidence demands resolute action on a range of critical issues.

Central to this phase of governance are three interlinked priorities: the Resolution passed in the inaugural session of the new assembly, the ongoing debates surrounding the Reservation Policy, and the ambitious but contentious Road and Railway Projects. These pillars symbolize the region's struggles and aspirations, touching upon themes of identity, equity, and infrastructure. Together, they represent a litmus test for the government's ability to balance development with justice, economic progress with ecological sustainability, and political pragmatism with public sentiment.

Resolution: Strategic or Balanced?

The first assembly session in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 marked a significant milestone in the region's political landscape. Under the leadership of the National Conference (NC), this session was defined by the passage of a carefully constructed resolution aimed at addressing the sensitive issue of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. This resolution, while diplomatically worded, has stirred both support and criticism, encapsulating the complexities of regional and national politics.

The assembly session commenced with a governor's address, emphasizing themes of development, infrastructure, and governance. The central government positioned the high voter turnout in the elections as an endorsement of the post-2019 political changes. However, for many in the region, this consolidation of voting percentage towards NC's electoral victory reflects dissatisfaction with the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The phrasing of each point in the resolution reflects a deliberate choice of words that leaves much open to interpretation. For instance, the term "special status" lacks specificity, offering no explicit mention of Article 370, and the word "concern" feels restrained, as though avoiding an outright rejection of past changes. By using phrases like "any process for restoration," the resolution opens doors to future discussions with a general demand for special status similar to many other states without necessarily committing to a specific political agenda. Jammu and Kashmir's historical and political claim to such status is unique in terms of a remnant to the states and the union's historical establishment of relationship. The absence of a strong, unified regional stance is significant; if anything, this moment called for a landmark expression of solidarity. Yet, the lack of alignment among regional players suggests that short-term strategy may be overshadowing the region's long-term vision. It is a nuanced stance, carefully balancing the region's aspirations with the political sensitivities at the center.

For the National Conference, this resolution represents both a calculated move and a missed opportunity. While it aligns with the INDIA alliance and positions the NC as a pragmatic force, it risks alienating those who sought a resolute defense of Jammu and Kashmir's unique status. The cautious tone, while politically expedient, raises questions about the NC's ability to galvanize regional unity and assert its mandate effectively.

In a region where political actions carry profound implications, this resolution has left many wondering whether it signifies a step toward meaningful change or yet another instance of compromise.

Reservation Policy: Political misadventure

In March 2024, the BJP-led administration amended the J&K Reservation Rules of 2005, a move that significantly reshaped the region's reservation landscape. The amendments introduced an additional ten percent reservation to



the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category, incorporating communities such as Pahari, Paddaris, Kolis, and Gadda Brahmins, while simultaneously increasing the OBC quota by four percent. As a result, the total reservation quota reached a staggering sixty percent, leaving just forty percent for the general category. This massive shift has sparked intense debate, especially when viewed through the lens of the 1992 Indira Sawhney verdict, which capped reservations at fifty percent. Yet, J&K joins states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh in breaching this constitutional limit—a precedent that raises critical questions about the sanctity of the Supreme Court's guidelines.

Compounding the issue is the employment scenario in J&K, which already suffers from the highest unemployment rate in India at thirty-two percent, as per the National Statistics Office's Periodic Labour Force Survey. Critics argue that the BJP's move was less about governance and more about political maneuvering to secure a vote bank in the Pir Panchal region. However, this strategy has failed to deliver electoral gains, as evidenced by the party's lackluster performance in recent Lok Sabha and state elections.

The National Conference, now at the helm with overwhelming public support, faces a dilemma. Revisiting the newly introduced quotas could alienate its voter base in Pir Panchal, where it is striving to consolidate its presence. Historically, once reservation benefits are granted, they are nearly impossible to retract. This creates a tightrope walk for the NC government, which must balance its aspiration of becoming a pan-J&K party with the risk of eroding trust among other regions and communities.

Adding to this complexity is the opposition from Gujjar communities, who argue that the newly inducted groups represent well-off, upper-class segments that do not require affirmative action. This contention highlights a deeper socio-economic divide and questions the merit-based justification of these reservations.

The problem extends further into the disproportionate allocation of reservations compared to population demographics. With 60% of government job reservations catering to just 30% of the population, the imbalance becomes glaring. The general category, which roughly constitutes 60-70% of the population, is left with only forty percent of job opportunities. This disparity has led to widespread discontent among general category aspirants, especially in J&K, where the absence of a robust industrial sector leaves government jobs as the primary source of employment.

Facing mounting pressure from job seekers and opposition parties like the PDP, the NC government, in a cabinet meeting on 22nd November, announced the formation of a subcommittee of three ministers to examine the reservation policy. However, this move has been widely criticized as a time-buying strategy. Many believe it is an attempt to deflect attention and avoid making politically risky decisions. Meanwhile, job notifications and examination results continue to highlight the diminishing opportunities for the general category, exacerbating frustration and disillusionment.

The government's inability to address the issue decisively has pushed it into the legal domain, where it has become a sub-judice matter. While the judicial process offers a potential resolution, the protracted nature of court proceedings means that years could pass before any concrete outcome is achieved. In the meantime, the disparity in opportunities risks deepening, creating further socio-economic divides.

This scenario is particularly troubling in a region like J&K, where the reliance on government jobs is heightened by the lack of industrial or private-sector alternatives. The government's hesitancy to act decisively threatens to erode public trust and fuel further resentment. Addressing these issues

head-on is not just a political necessity but a moral imperative to prevent long-term damage to J&K's social fabric.

Ring Road/Rail Project - Eclipsed Evil

The ongoing developments in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly regarding the rail and road projects, have become pivotal to the region's future infrastructure. However, while these projects promise growth, they also come with significant challenges, primarily concerning land acquisition, ecological concerns, and socio-economic impacts, especially in the Kashmir division.

The Ring Road Project alongside development of 'satellite towns' in Kashmir has sparked considerable debate, primarily due to restrictions imposed on land sales in the vicinity. The government has prohibited land transactions within certain boundaries around the road, effectively limiting the ability of landowners to sell properties in case of financial emergencies. This is particularly problematic given that Kashmiri farmers hold the smallest land holdings in India, making land their primary, and often only, asset. The inability to sell land during times of crisis could severely impact their livelihood and financial stability.

In addition, land pooling, though a preferable alternative to outright acquisition, presents its own set of challenges. While it allows for the redistribution of land after development, it is hampered by slow developmental pace and uncertain capital value appreciation. Furthermore, without strict zoning controls, there is the potential for improper land use, leading to unplanned growth. The method is also difficult to implement in congested urban areas, further complicating matters.

Moreover, the lack of clarity surrounding the redistribution of land raises concerns. When land is exchanged for other parcels, it's uncertain whether the replacement land will be equally fertile, accessible, or hold the same market value. This ambiguity makes landowners wary of the process, as they fear they may end up with less productive or less advantageous land, further exacerbating the risks for the local agricultural economy.

Similarly, the project, particularly the new line expansion in Kashmir, introduces its own set of complexities. Though infrastructure development is crucial, it should not come at the cost of environmental degradation and long-term socio-economic harm. The project's need for land acquisition has raised concerns, especially given that post-2019 abrogation, central land acquisition laws now apply. There is significant ambiguity regarding the application of the 2013 Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, particularly in determining how land values will be assessed.

The Act mandates higher compensation for urban and rural lands, but questions persist about its application, especially concerning agricultural and horticultural land. For example, how will the value of horticultural land, including factors like the age, class, fruit bearing capacity and productivity of non-fruit bearing trees, be calculated? The Supreme Court's intervention in cases like these is crucial, but the lack of clarity in current policies remains a concern.

Furthermore, the process of determining market value through stand-duty rates, which are primarily designed for taxation purposes, does not always reflect the true market value of land. There have been instances in which market values have been assessed based on outdated or inaccurate information, causing frustration among landowners and leading to prolonged legal battles. The issue is especially pronounced when the land in question is vital to the agrarian economy of Kashmir, where most people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

The environmental implications

are another pressing concern, especially when land acquisition involves state-owned forests or ecologically sensitive areas. Historically, there has been a ban on cutting down certain species of trees, such as Chinar and walnut, without proper government permission. With the introduction of the rail project, it remains unclear how such regulations will be enforced, particularly in the absence of a comprehensive environmental assessment process.

In terms of ecological compensation, the concept of composite forestation—planting a similar number of trees in another area to replace those cut down—remains an unresolved issue. While the idea of compensatory afforestation is sound, its implementation has historically been lacking, and the government's ability to properly enforce this policy is questionable. Additionally, the project surpasses the 50 crore mark, making it subject to the Environment Protection Act of 1986, which mandates an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, even though the Supreme Court in MKRanjitsinh case affirms that the right to life under Article 21 includes the right to be protected from environmental harm, there has been no substantial move to address the long-term ecological consequences of such large-scale infrastructure projects.

Taken together, while both the rail and road projects in Kashmir offer immense potential for future growth, they must be implemented with caution, ensuring that landowners are fairly compensated and the environment is not unduly harmed. As these projects continue to develop, the challenges of land acquisition, environmental preservation, and socio-economic stability must remain at the forefront of decision-making, ensuring that progress does not come at the expense of the region's delicate balance.

Moreover, the complexities of the reservation issue and lingering resentment over the abrogation of Article 370 have placed the NC in a difficult balancing act between appeasing both the central government and the opposition. This careful navigation must not overshadow the priority of addressing the people's concerns—especially regarding land rights, compensation, and agricultural livelihoods.

Litmus Test

The National Conference (NC) faces a significant challenge after its substantial mandate, which, while reflecting public dissatisfaction with the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, was more about voicing the people's will for political change than a mandate for governance. The issues discussed—land acquisition, environmental concerns, slow development, and impacts on local agriculture—pose critical obstacles for the government.

NC must tread carefully, balancing governance and political interests, particularly with its promises of one lakh jobs and filling government vacancies, which have not been fully realized. The reservation issue further complicates matters, exposing tensions between local needs and political expectations.

The railway and ring road projects present opportunities for development but come with risks to the environment, economy, and social stability, particularly for farmers with limited land holdings. If not managed carefully, these projects could exacerbate the very discontent that brought the NC to power.

Moreover, the complexities of the reservation issue and lingering resentment over the abrogation of Article 370 have placed the NC in a difficult balancing act between appeasing both the central government and the opposition. This careful navigation must not overshadow the priority of addressing the people's concerns—especially regarding land rights, compensation, and agricultural livelihoods.

In essence, the NC's mandate is both a call to action and a warning. It carries immense responsibility to deliver on promises while being mindful of the long-term impact of decisions. The road ahead is fraught with challenges, and failure to meet the people's expectations could result in disillusionment.

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

The author is a legal professional with extensive experience in human rights law, policy analysis, and advocacy

KO VIEW

Frosty Nights, Cold Days

Over the past week, Kashmir has been in the grip of a severe cold wave. The night temperature in parts of the Valley has progressively plummeted to upwards of minus 8 degree Celsius and each new night beats the previous night's record. In popular memory, the bone chilling cold and the snowfall in upper reaches has come as a throwback to the storied old winters with their feared Chillai Kalans. People are experiencing severe hardships with water pipes freezing in houses and in many cases bursting.

But the severe nature of the winter has hardly made the government more sensitive towards the needs of the people. The people have more or less been left to fend for themselves. Compared to past winters, nothing has changed for the better on the ground. The power supply has reduced significantly in parts of the Valley, with long unscheduled power cuts the order of the day - albeit, in some urban areas including the situation on power front has been relatively better. Both metered as well as unmetered areas have already been slapped with a drastic load-shedding schedule. The only parallel state of affairs that comes to mind is the mid-nineties when power during a brief period of the winter was supplied for one hour a day. There is little hope that the power situation will change for the better unless this government gives up the prevailing adhocist approach for a long term policy which exploits and builds on the state's power resources.

Now that the Valley is heading into a 40-day harsh period of winter, there's hope that the newly elected government will take steps to improve things going forward. One benefit of a cold, snow-bound winter is that it sees a jump in the arrival of tourists. Gulmarg, a renowned tourist destination, has become the major attraction for visitors from across India and abroad.

Snowfall is thus a boon for tourism. It is important for its novelty for the ninety-nine percent of more than 1.4 Indians, so they look forward to visiting Kashmir in winter, no matter the severity of cold. The snowfall in upper reaches has not only delighted tourists but has also brought a renewed sense of hope for the local players in the industry, who were grappling with a slump in business over the past few months. As Kashmir endures this long, cold winter, the challenges faced by its residents must not be overshadowed by the tourism boom. The government must act decisively, not just in addressing the immediate challenges of this winter but also by implementing long-term policies to improve basic amenities like power and water



Did you know?

Understanding Shariah-Compliant Investments: Aligning Finance with Islamic Principles

Irshad Mushtaq

Shariah, an Arabic term, represents the Islamic religious law governing daily life, particularly finance. It dictates that any form of interest, whether given or taken, is strictly prohibited. For instance, obtaining a car loan, business loan, home loan paying interest, or earning through savings or fixed deposits is not permissible under Islamic law. Instead, Islamic finance models offer alternatives, such as consumers paying rent instead of traditional EMI.

Moreover, Shariah law restricts investments in businesses generating income from alcohol, pork products, gambling, or harmful goods. Conversely, sectors like FMCG, technology, and pharma, which do not intersect with interest-based banking or defense products, align with Shariah principles. This compliance has led to the creation of Shariah-compliant funds.

In India, options like the Tata Ethical Fund, Tarus, and Nippon ETF adhere to these laws. Notably, Quantum Ethical Funds offers a new fund offering at Rs 10 per unit. Historically, these Shariah funds have yielded higher returns compared to fixed deposits, insurance, or gold, making them a compelling choice for investors who are committed to their moral and religious values.

Investing in Shariah funds requires a mindset shift, emphasizing long-term growth, especially through systematic investment plans (SIPs). Such investments are seen as an optimal strategy for wealth creation and preservation.

Additionally, entities like AMFI, SEBI, fund managers, AMC, and the financial ministry play pivotal roles in ensuring the safety, security, and transparency of digital holdings in Shariah-compliant investments. This advisory and technological support bolsters investor confidence in aligning financial goals with ethical and religious beliefs.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of MT Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com

Children Need Your Presence More Than Your Presents

Imran Reshi

As all of us know, children are the most innocent and straightforward section of every society. And perhaps, this is the reason that some societies believe that children are the incarnation of God. The children folk are free from any prejudices and biases. They say whatever comes to their minds without any fear and ill intentions. They utter and act as per their instincts and intuitions without bothering about the consequences of their words and/or actions on the person they are addressing. As a matter of fact, they are always loved and pampered by everyone in the family and outside family as well. And the most important thing is that no one minds, in case they make any mistake by words or actions; they are still embraced and kissed by their kith and kin.

On one side, the innocence and straightforwardness of children brings peace and pleasure to our lives. When a person especially, a parent, comes home after a long arduous and tiresome day of work, and spends even a little time with his/her children, all the boredom and stress obliterates and the same person feels like the king/queen of the world. Such is the blessing of having children in family. Even the obstinate activities of the children are no less than a blessing for the family, especially parents. If we want to know the value of any blessing almighty has endowed us with, ask the person who is deprived of such a gift and you will come to know the value and worth of the same.

But on the other side, the same innocent and straightforward nature of children is a matter of concern for parents and other significant and responsible persons in their life as well. Being of innocent and amateur nature, children start learning by imitating people around them, no matter if it is good or bad. They just copy what is going on in their surroundings. The people in their surroundings may be parents and outsiders, elders or other children like them, and the most important thing to be mentioned here is that



the people around them might be good and bad as well. As good and virtuous people are engaged in performing good deeds, the same way bad and notorious people are busy in creating fuss and doing nonsense and immoral activities. Since children are fresh minded, they act according to the environment they are in, without knowing the possible outcomes of the same. They do not possess such cognitive abilities to differentiate between the good and the evil and the subsequent impact of the same, on their health, hygiene, character and future above all.

Since the world is advancing and developing at a lightning speed in every respect and everyone is fighting to compete and tackle the complexities of the society and the world around them. Same happens with parents, because parents get too engaged and concerned in fulfilling societal and economical obligations and they somehow cease/fail to spend sufficient time with their children. Where did they go today? Who was accompanying them to school or somewhere else? Who are the people they spent their time with? Who is their friend in school or in the

locality? What activities are they engaged in apart from their regular studies? All these are the obligation of parents and guardians and to be taken care of, apart from performing their daily based activities.

Unfortunately, parents work all day long for the family and to meet other obligations and expenses but fail to spend sufficient time with their wards and fail to get to know about their daily activities. Some parents believe that working hard, day in and day out, and bringing some gift or some favorite snacks for the kids is everything.

All the responsibilities regarding the children are fulfilled and satisfied just by giving those favorite gifts and or dresses or taking them to any restaurant for refreshment or to any showroom for some fancy dresses!

No doubt, this is a very beautiful thing on the part of a parent. It develops more love and affection between the duo (parents & children) and it reinforces their relationship as well, but this is not everything. This may give pleasure to the children but this is not fruitful and beneficial for their life in the long run.

One more strange thing that I have observed in our society is that some parents send their wards to school or other places just to get rid of them. I have many times heard them say during vacations, "School must open soon so that we can send children to school and get some respite from their noise and mischievous activities." And they add, "Children create chaos and noise while being at home and when they are outside, whether in school or somewhere else, we take a breath of relief and relaxation." Here, it becomes clear that their motive to send their wards to school is only to get relief and relaxation from the mischievous and obstinate activities or demands their wards do or make.

As parents, we should neither get too irritated owing to their stubborn behavior nor should we give them too much freedom and fulfill every demand and aspiration of theirs. Children need your presence more than your presents. It is your presence and positive intervention in their lives that lets you know about the nature of your children, their activities, their likes and dislikes and so on. This is important so you direct their innocent steps towards the path of righteousness, morality, education, character building and overall personal development, which in turn, makes them competent enough to understand the value of their health, time, character, career and other peculiarities and delicacies of the practical world.

The author can be reached for feedback at reshiimran777@gmail.com

Reconciling technology with humanism The Future Of Education In The Age Of Generative AI

Massol guillaume

In the age of generative AI, we face a major challenge: the growing gap between technological advancements and a humanistic understanding of education. This divide threatens our ability to use AI tools wisely and our capacity to foresee their societal impact. Generative AI is profoundly shaping our everyday educational experiences in classrooms and in decision-making institutions. It is transforming, with remarkable speed, how we learn and create.

In traditional education, most students, regardless of background, ability or temperament, followed a general curriculum designed for the collective rather than the individual. In an era where individuality and personalisation have become pillars of modernity, the limitations of this approach are clear. Yet, many educational stakeholders – students, teachers and policymakers – struggle to grasp how generative AI can enhance individual learning while addressing ethical and societal challenges. This lack of understanding creates tensions, hindering the harmonious integration of generative AI in education.

Personalised learning

It is not that the concept of personalised learning is new. In his 1762 work *Emile*, or *On Education*, Jean-Jacques Rousseau advocated for education tailored to each student's needs and interests. More recently, educator Célestin Freinet promoted an approach that respected each child's rhythm and curiosity. In France, these methods have remained on the margins of the education system, limited by the demands of mass education. The 1833 Guizot law, which mandated primary education, and the 1975 Haby reform, which established a unified secondary school system, sought to promote equality through uniformity. While these reforms widened access to education, they have often been criticised for neglecting the diversity of students' talents and aptitudes. Today, generative AI presents an opportunity to address the challenges of personalised learning that traditional education struggles to overcome.



With its data analysis capabilities, generative AI promises real-time, tailored adaptation to individual needs without overburdening teachers. Using sophisticated algorithms, generative AI can analyse students' performances, learning styles and even preferences, designing custom learning paths that adjust levels of difficulty and types of exercises as students progress.

Harvard's tailored generative AI tutor illustrates generative AI's ability to personalise education. Integrated into a physics course, it significantly boosted student engagement by providing real-time support and tailored feedback. However, Harvard professors demonstrated that generative AI should augment, not replace, human instruction, emphasising the distinct yet complementary strengths of both.

While AI excels in delivering personalised feedback and fostering engagement through data-driven insights, it lacks the

nuanced contextual understanding and adaptability that human educators bring to the classroom, especially in nurturing critical thinking and ethical reasoning. Indeed, overreliance on AI could undermine the teacher's role as a guide for deeper intellectual exploration. The professors advocated for comprehensive teacher training programmes that integrate ethical and pedagogical frameworks, ensuring AI serves as a tool to enhance, rather than detract from, the humanistic mission of education.

Another area of concern is generative AI's effect on creativity. If an algorithm guides every aspect of a student's learning, are they still free to explore, make mistakes and pursue unpredictable paths that are often the most intellectually fruitful? Research conducted at the University of South Carolina found that while tools like ChatGPT helped students brainstorm effectively, they

also made students overly reliant on generative AI, reducing their confidence in their own creative capabilities. Many students reported that generative AI's ideas influenced their thinking, limiting independent exploration.

Teacher training

Digital-native students intuitively use these technologies, yet they often lack an understanding of the ethical and philosophical implications. Today's teachers are caught between the call to innovate and a lack of sufficient training. To bridge these gaps, a deep rethinking of education is needed.

It is crucial to integrate generative AI epistemology into teacher training to help teachers understand how generative AI systems acquire, process and generate knowledge. For example, in France, the AI4T (Artificial Intelligence for and by teachers) project

equips educators with tools such as MOOCs (massive open online courses) and open textbooks to integrate AI into classrooms.

The initiative emphasises ethical considerations like transparency and equity while fostering critical understanding of AI's capabilities. By providing practical and epistemological training, AI4T helps teachers navigate the challenges of personalised, inclusive learning environments. Similarly, in the United States, the EducateAI initiative, launched by the National Science Foundation, provides resources for teachers across educational levels to ensure accessible and inclusive AI education. Additionally, the AI for Education organisation offers "Train-the-Trainer" programmes, enabling school staff to develop expertise in generative AI and deliver high-quality professional development within their institutions.

This training should not turn teachers into engineers but should give them insights into the ethical, social and philosophical aspects surrounding generative AI. Teachers with this background would be able to make these complex technologies more accessible to students and foster critical thinking about generative AI's uses. This expanded role for teachers is key to democratising understanding of generative AI and encouraging an informed debate about its role in education.

Generative AI integration must not come at the expense of fostering critical thinking, creativity, empathy and the development of ethical reasoning – on the contrary, it should reinforce them. These principles, central to a humanistic understanding of education, ensure that learning remains focused on the holistic growth of individuals rather than solely on technological efficiency.

Generative AI in education should be guided by goals and values collectively defined by all educational stakeholders. It is essential to prevent these technologies from evolving autonomously, disconnected from the real needs of learners and teachers. Only in this way can we shape a future where generative AI enhances our humanity, realising a vision of technology that serves emancipatory education.

By arrangements with *The Conversation*

New Research Reveals Key Evolutionary Benefit Of Sleeping For Season – Or For Centuries

The Conversation

What can plants or animals do when faced with harsh conditions? Two options for survival seem most obvious: move elsewhere or adapt to their environment.

Some organisms have a third option. They can escape not through space but through time, by entering a dormant state until conditions improve.

As it turns out, dormancy may not only benefit the species who use it. In new research, we found that a propensity for dormancy may affect the balance of competition between species, and make it possible for more species to survive together when environments change.

What is dormancy?

Many organisms use dormancy as a survival strategy.

Bears hibernate in winter, for example, and many plants produce seeds in summer that lie dormant in soil over the cold months before sprouting in spring. In these examples, the organisms use dormancy to avoid a season where conditions are hard.

However, other organisms can remain inactive for decades, centuries, or even thousands of years.

The oldest known plant seeds to germinate are 2,000-year-old seeds of a Judean date palm.

Even older plant material (though not seeds) has been brought back to life: placental floral tissue more than 31,000 years old, found in an ice age squirrel burrow.

In our research we focus on a particular kind of dormancy in animals called diapause, in which organisms reduce their

metabolic activity and resist changes in environmental conditions. Here, animals usually do not eat or move much.

Does dormancy protect species from extinction?

In theory, dormancy can allow species to escape hostile conditions. However, it has been difficult to directly link dormancy to the persistence of a given species.

We tried to make this link by means of experiments using a kind of nematode worm often found in soil called *Caenorhabditis elegans*. In these worms, the genetic pathway that affects dormancy is well understood.

We looked at four groups of worms. The first group were genetically more inclined to enter dormancy, the second group were less inclined to enter dormancy, the third group were completely unable to enter a dormant state, and the fourth were ordi-

nary wild-type worms with a medium propensity for dormancy.

We created an experiment where all these groups competed with a common competitor species – another worm called *C. briggsae* – for food in different environments.

Using data from these experiments, we then ran millions of computer simulations to determine whether one species would drive the other to extinction over the long term, or if they could coexist in different environmental conditions.

Dormancy and competition between species

We found that when species are more inclined to dormancy, competing species can coexist under a wider range of environmental conditions.

When we simulated fluctuating environmental conditions, species with a high-

er investment in dormancy were able to coexist with a competitor over a wider range of temperatures.

This outcome is what is predicted in theory, but it is an exciting result because the prediction has been difficult to test. The experimental system we used has great potential, and can be used to further explore the role of dormancy in species persistence.

Our results also raise an important question: will species that have a dormant form be more resilient to the huge environmental fluctuations the world is currently experiencing? Organisms that can avoid heatwaves and drought may well be more prepared for this era of unprecedented global change.

We hope to begin finding out in the next phase of our research: linking the dynamics we saw in the laboratory to dormancy in plants, animals and microbes in the real world. (The Conversation)

Drinking Coffee Could Add 2 Years Of Healthy Living: Study

Press Trust Of India

Drinking coffee could add almost two years of healthy living to one's life, according to a new study that reviewed previously published research.

The study, published in *Ageing Research Reviews* journal, found that the benefits of drinking coffee "correspond to an average increase in health span of 1.8 years." Researchers from Portugal suggested that as the global population ages, regular, moderate consumption of coffee could play an important role in supporting a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

"We know that the world's population is aging faster than ever, which is why it's increasingly important to explore dietary interventions which may allow people to not only live longer but also healthier lives," said Rodrigo Cunha, from the University of Coimbra in Portugal and lead author of the study.

Coffee has been shown to reduce deaths from various causes, including lowering the risk of heart disease, cognitive decline, and chronic diseases, among others.

Coffee contains a mixture



of over 2,000 potentially bioactive compounds, including those that offer antioxidant and anti-inflammatory benefits, reduce neuroinflammation, and regulate insulin sensitivity.

"Our review underlines the role regular, moderate coffee consumption can play in mediating against the biological mechanisms which naturally slow or fail as we get older - triggering a range of potential health issues and comorbidities," Cunha explained.

Furthermore, the team noted that studies suggest nutritional "anti-ageing" interventions may

have a gender bias, favouring either men or women. However, the ageing-related benefits of coffee were found in both sexes.

The authors specifically focused on studies examining how coffee affects biological processes that contribute to ageing, including genomic instability and cell mutations. Although older adults are traditionally advised to reduce or avoid coffee, the authors suggested that clinical guidelines should now be re-evaluated in light of compelling scientific evidence supporting coffee's role in healthy ageing.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG. NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 75/R&B of 2024-25

Dated: 09-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPW, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Preparation of Ice skating rink incl. repair of CGI roofing and clearance of sides.	11.67	600/-	23340/-	One season	3452-Tsm Non-Plan	D/C/B	Gulmarg Dev. Authority

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below--

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-12-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10-12-2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	10-12-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	16-12-2024 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17-12-2024 11:00 AM

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

4. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

5. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @5% of contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority).

7. The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

9. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

38. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office NIT No. 01 and 02 of 2024-25.

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/5578-88
DIPK-9294/24 Dated: 10-12-2024

Sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION URI NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

eNIT No.76 of 2024-25/7236-44/R&B Uri e-tendering

DATED: 09-12-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
01	Construction of Sub Centre at Nambla-C	47.10	1100/-	94200/-	270 days	27.12.2024	AAY BEE	District Capex Health

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Baramulla

Position of AAA/TS: Accorded/Sanctioned

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09.12.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.12.2024 from (10:00 AM) to 26.12.2024 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	09.12.2024 from (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	26.12.2024 (04:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	27.12.2024 (11:00 AM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan only (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender inviting authority) (NIT No, Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Uri (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/ Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ in favour of Engineer (R&B) Division Uri (Tender Receiving Authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the Lt as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR/ of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/ and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office Engineer (R&B) Division Uri (tender receiving authority).

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. The earnest money/ Performance security shall be forfeited, if-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit. c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. d. If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

47. All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated by this Chief Office letter No. CE/RBK/HD/29158-88 dated 10-02-2018

No.: 2024-25/7236-44
:DIPK-9273/24 Dated: 10-12-2024

Sd/= (Er. FayazKumar)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division, Uri,
/Sajad/

Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION BARAMULLA

Email: midbaramulla@gmail.com

Corrigendum for this office E NIT No: 33 of 2024-25 Dated: 11-10-2024

Sub: - Extension of dates.

In view of in-adequate response, the following extension of dates in respect of this office eNIT no: 33 of 2024-25 work no: 01 issued under no: MIDB/CC-02/2520-25 dated: 11-10-2024 under tender id no: 2024_IFC_259377_1 is being given.

1. Tender Submission date Ends	=	26/12/2024 upto 06:55 pm
2. Date of Opening	=	27/12/2024 at 13:00 pm, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

All other terms/conditions and stipulation as contained in the eNIT shall remain unaltered/unmodified.

No. MIDB/CC-02/3286-91
DIPK-9351/24 DATED: 10/12/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail: phegwd@yahoo.com,

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 3rd.

Subject: Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Well at Water Supply Shame Katchpora Baghatpora.

Due to "Poor Response" for the work advertised vide e-NIT No.36/J5-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25 issued vide this office endorsement No: --JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./7626-39, Dated: 18-11-2024. Bearing Tender ID No. 2024_PHE_265161_1. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 10-12-2024 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	17-12-2024 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	18-12-2024 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./8652-63
DIPK-9348/24 Dated: 10-12-2024

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Employability Among Indian Graduates Improves To 54.81%: Report



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- As the demand for talent continues to rise, a report on Tuesday revealed that employability among Indian graduates has seen a steady rise, reaching 54.81 per cent as per a recent test.

The employability among graduates for the year is calculated from the Global Employability Test (GET) in the previous year.

In the previous test, employability among Indian graduates stood at 51.25 per cent, according to Wheebox ETS India Skills Report 2025.

"This decade belongs to India as a leader in global talent mobility. This decade must be focused on quality of skills training that shall make a stark difference for international mobility. Long term and internally certified skill programs with embedded language training will be the winning bet to provide early work opportunities. The skilled and certified talent from India provides a unique advantage and leverage to India," Nirmal Singh, Chief Convener of India Skills Report and Wheebox CEO added.

India Skills Report is based

on data from over 6.5 lakh candidates who participated in the Global Employability Test (G.E.T.) across India alongside insights from over 1,000 corporations across 15 diverse industries.

According to the report, over 50 per cent of Indian graduates are now employable, which is an increase from 33 per cent a decade ago.

This 17 per cent increase over a decade reflects India's commitment to building a future-ready workforce capable of meeting the needs of a rapidly evolving global economy, it stated.

This shift is further amplified by India's focus on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and automation, reshaping traditional job roles and creating new opportunities, the report added.

Moreover, the rise of digital nomadism and hybrid work models has unlocked unprecedented opportunities for Indian talent to contribute globally without geographical constraints, which could add USD 500 billion to the global economy by 2030, with India playing a central role, it said.

J&K Paid ₹37,273 Cr As GST Since 2017: GoI

Agencies

SRINAGAR- Jammu and Kashmir has paid a whopping amount of Rs 37,273 crore as Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 2017 till November 2024, the government data revealed on Tuesday.

During the period, the region has received Rs 59,611 crore in SGST, IGST settlements, and compensation payments.

Jammu and Kashmir's annual GST collections have grown steadily, from Rs 2,320 crore in FY 2017-18 (July 2017 to March 2018) to Rs 6,704 crore in FY 2023-24.

For the current fiscal year, the collections till November 2024 stand at Rs 4,861 crore.

Similarly, the settlements and compensation rose significantly, peaking at Rs 11,171 crore in FY 2021-22, with Rs 5,932 crore disbursed so far in FY 2024-25.

"GST collection in India is classified into CGST, SGST, and IGST, depending on whether the supply of goods or services is intrastate or interstate," the government said, adding that while CGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI), SGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of the respective States.

"For inter-state supply



"These reforms include measures like the e-way bill, ITC matching, e-invoice for B2C suppliers, Aadhaar authentication for registration, and targeted actions against non-filers and risky taxpayers, using artificial intelligence and machine-based analytics,"

and imports, IGST is levied and collected by the Centre,

with the collected IGST being apportioned between the Union and the States/UTs on a monthly basis as per the Goods and Services Tax Settlement of Funds Rules, 2017. Provisional settlements are made depending on the un-apportioned IGST," it said.

It said that the government has also undertaken several reforms to improve GST compliance, based on the recommendations of the GST Council. "These reforms include measures like the e-way bill, ITC matching, e-invoice for B2C suppliers, Aadhaar authentication for registration, and targeted actions against non-filers and risky taxpayers, using artificial intelligence and machine-based analytics," it added. (KNO)

Director JKEDI Asks Officers To Strengthen Loan Recovery Process

Reviews Functioning Of District Centres Across UT

Observer News Service

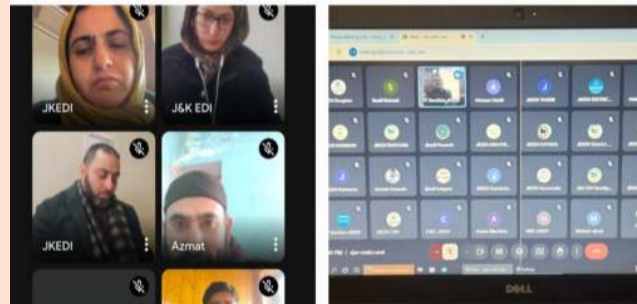
JAMMU- Director Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Rajinder Kumar Sharma on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of all district centres of the institute here at Bari Brahmana.

During the review meeting, the Director reviewed the overall functioning of the district centres and different program verticals of the institute, especially the progress made regarding recovery of loans under different self-employment schemes and the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) conducted in various districts of for the months of October and November 2024 across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Range Officers, District Nodal Officers of JKEDI, In-charges of the concerned sections and program verticals.

The Director gave a thorough analysis of the recovery of loans granted to beneficiaries under different self-employment schemes and highlighted the progress achieved in all the districts of J&K. He said the overall review of the recovery and repayment status underscores the institute's dedication to transparency, accountability and sustainable growth.

He pressed upon all the District Nodal Officers to follow a dynamic approach to deal with the defaulters and re-



alise the government money disbursed as soft loans under different schemes, and follow the due process especially the issuance of demand notices well in advance.

"Recovery of the public money is paramount. All district officers and their staff must strengthen the efforts to recover the money from the wilful defaulters and follow a due process in doing so," the Director told the officers.

The DNOs were briefed about the importance of the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) and the conduct of the same in Government Degree Colleges

(GDCs), ITIs and the Polytechnic colleges across the UT so that mass awareness is created regarding the Startup Policy 2024-27 and other initiatives of the government towards entrepreneurship development in J&K.

The Director applauded the top performing district teams and pressed upon the others to enhance their efforts and complete the recovery targets in designated time. He highlighted the importance of a unified approach among JKEDI employees to guide youth towards establishing successful ventures as envisioned in the institute's mandate.

PNB Fraud: ED Begins Restitution Of Over ₹ 2,500 Cr Assets Of Mehul Choksi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday said it has begun restituting assets worth more than Rs 2,500 crore as part of a money laundering investigation against absconding businessman Mehul Choksi in connection with the alleged Rs 13,000 crore PNB loan fraud case.

The federal agency said in a statement that it initiated the 'restitution of assets' to the rightful owners in this case following an order passed by a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court based in Mumbai.

"In pursuance to the order, the process of handing over of assets has been initiated and properties worth more than Rs 125 crore have been handed over to the Liquidator of Gitanjali Gems Ltd (a company of Choksi).

"The handed over properties include six flats in Kheni Tower at Santacruz in east Mumbai and two factories/godowns situated at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) in the capital city of Maharashtra," it said.

The ED has attached or seized assets worth Rs 2,565.90 crore in this PMLA case against Choksi and the court has allowed "monetisation" of all these properties.

The agency said it took "proac-



tive steps" to initiate the restitution process and the probe agency, along with the affected banks, "agreed to take a common stand" and moved the court.

The court, on September 10, ordered that the ED would "facilitate" the banks, liquidators in different Gitanjali Group companies to carry out valuation and auction of the attached or seized properties. It also directed that after auction of the said properties, the sale proceeds would be deposited in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and ICICI Bank (affected lenders) as fixed deposits.

Choksi has been staying in Antigua since 2018 after leaving India.

Choksi, his nephew, fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi and their family members and employees, bank officials and others were booked by the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2018 for perpetrating the alleged loan fraud at the Brady House branch of the PNB in Mumbai.

E-commerce Firms Must Ensure Transparency Uphold Consumer Interest: Joshi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Minister for Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday asserted that e-commerce companies have a significant role to play in ensuring transparent, trustworthy, and safe shopping environment for all consumers.

Speaking at Amazon smbhav Summit, Joshi outlined the government's all-out efforts to ensure that consumer rights are protected through slew of measures such as Consumer Protection Act, establishment of central consumer protection authority, consumer helplines, and specific rules to protect consumers from unfair trade practices in e-commerce sector.

The future of e-commerce in India is bright, inclusive and transformative, the minister said emphasising the sheer size and potential of India market.

"While this digital revolution offers incredible opportunities, our government believes it is equally important for our consumers to feel confident and make informed choices, and for the e-commerce platforms to gain the trust and the confidence of the consumer is equally very, very, very important," Joshi pointed out.



The rapid growth of e-commerce also brings with it the risk, specially around consumer protection and rights of users, he cautioned.

"Our government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has taken multiple initiatives to create a trusted and the safe e-commerce environment," he said. Rules are in place to protect the consumers from the unfair trade practices in the e-commerce sector.

"Online platforms are now required to provide accurate product details, clear pricing and disclose the country of origin and with clear return and the refund policy at the same time ensuring the product quality," he said.

The minister also said that many-a-times platforms try and promote one particular brand, and when complaints are flagged by consumers, they claim they are just operating as a platform.

Gold Climbs ₹820 To ₹79,780 Per 10g; Silver Jumps ₹1,000

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices climbed Rs 820 to Rs 79,780 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to fresh buying by jewellers and stockists amid a firm global trend, according to local marketmen.

The bullion prices boosted after China indicated easier credit and other forms of stimulus for its sluggish economy and the resumption of gold purchases by the People's Bank of China (PBoC), traders said.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 78,960 per 10 grams on Monday.

Silver jumped Rs 1,000 to Rs 94,850 per kg on Tuesday. The white metal had settled at Rs 93,850 per kg in the previous session.

The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity advanced Rs 820 to Rs 79,380 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 78,560 per 10 grams.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for February delivery climbed Rs 279 or 0.36 per cent to trade at Rs 77,765 per 10 grams.

"Gold prices trading sideways as participants awaited Wednesday's US CPI data. The data is expected to provide clarity on the future trend.

"While the overall bullish outlook for gold remains intact, the sharp pre-event rally suggests caution," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Se-



curities, said. However, silver contracts for the March delivery fell Rs 129 or 0.14 per cent to Rs 95,068 per kg. Globally, Comex gold futures rose USD 15.20 per ounce or 0.57 per cent to USD 2,701 per ounce.

"Gold continues to trade positive with international spot around USD 2,700 per ounce, supported by rise in safe-haven demand amid signs of escalation in the middle-east tensions with latest developments happening in Syria and South Korea.

"The bullion has also gained support on reports that China has again resumed its gold purchases and rising bets for another Fed rate cut next week," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

Silver was quoted 0.19 per cent lower at USD 32.55 per ounce in the Asian market hours.

On the macro front, the US will release non-farm productivity data to be released later on Tuesday, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Sensex, Nifty Close Flat; IT Shares Gain On US Spending Hopes

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed flat in a volatile trade on Tuesday amid bouts of buying and selling in select heavyweight stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged up 1.59 points to close at 81,510.05 with 16 of its components closing higher and 14 ending lower.

The index opened flat and climbed 217.88 points or 0.27 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,726.34 in the first half. However, the index fell 325 points to hit a low of 81,508.46 due to profit booking in the second half. A recovery in select heavyweights Infosys, ICICI Bank and SBI helped it recover losses in the pre-close session.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION - IV.

PAMPORE KASHMIR - 192121

Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-4

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/01 of 2024-25 for "Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Spherical balls at various Grids Including Transmission lines under the jurisdiction of TLMD-IV, Pampore is extended as under:

S.No	e-Bid submission end date and time	17-12-2024 up to 14:00 hrs
1		
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	18-12-2024 at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

DIPK-NB-2739-24
DT: 10/12/2024

--sd--
Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV Pampore

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHREW CORRIGENDUM

The Mode of Payment in E-Nit called by this office vide MC/KH/2024-25/111 dated: 06.12.2024 published vide tender ID No. 2024_HAUDD_267162_1 may treated as:-

- 10% of the highest bid as token amount on spot.
- 65% of the highest bid to be deposited before the date of taking over the possession.
- 25% of the highest bid within three months from the date of taking possession.

All other Terms and Conditions laid down shall remain the same.

No. MC/KH/2024-25/1325-28

Dated: 06/12/2024.

DIPK-NB-2712-24
DT: 10/12/2024

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Khrew

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

ADR CENTRE, SRINAGAR
Email: dlsa.sgr@gmail.com

ORDER

No. 66/DLSA/SGR/2024 Dated: 07/12/2024

In partial modification to public notice dated: 04/12/2024 and Order No: 63/DLSA/SGR/2024, Dated 05/12/2024, including the SOPs on the subject, the challans available on the Virtual Court Portal can be taken up for disposal by the respective benches irrespective of the date of offence as described in the challan.

No:DLSA/SGR/2024/1443

Dated: 07-12-2024

DIPK-9281-24

DT: 10/12/2024

Sd/
Chairman
District Legal Services Authority
Srinagar

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION SKIMS/ JVC,

HEAD QUARTER: SKIMS SOURA SRINAGAR
email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

Sub: i-Extension notice.
Name of the work:- Annual operation of DM Plant including Chemicals, repairs/Replacement of sub-Assemblies etc (Chemicals) at SKIMS, Soura.

Ref:- This office e-NIT. MHD/SKIMS/JVC/60 OF 2024 DATED.03.12.2024 (Tender ID. 2024_PWDJK_266754_1)

Due to poor response the critical dates for above referred e-NIT are hereby extended as follows:-

S.no	Bid submission (uploading) closing date:-	14.12.2024 upto 1.00pm.
1	Date of opening Cover-1st-	16.12.2024 (3.00pm. or next convenient date)
2	Date of opening Cover-2 nd -	Shall be intimated separately.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No: MHD/ SKIMS/ JVC/ 5122-26

Dated. 10/12/2024

DIPK-NB-2740-24
DT: 10/12/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Mechanical
& Hospitals Division SKIMS/ JVC

India Focus On Red-Ball Prep In Adelaide Before Brisbane Test

Press Trust of India

ADELAIDE: Reeling from their humiliating 10-wicket defeat in the pink-ball Test, the under-fire Indian batters, led by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, turned their attention to red-ball preparations with an intensive net session here on Tuesday, aiming to bounce back in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

While Australia moved to Brisbane for the third Test from Saturday, the Indian team chose to stay back, focusing on honing their red-ball skills, particularly their defensive techniques and judgment in leaving deliveries.

"It's time to look ahead. Preparations for the Brisbane Test starts right here in Adelaide," the BCCI posted on X, sharing a video of Team India's practice.

Struggling with poor form, having scored just 142 runs with only one fifty (52) in his last 12 innings, the Indian skipper, who rejoined the team af-



ter the birth of his son, aimed to quickly regain his rhythm as he faced both Indian spinners and pacers.

Dropped himself to No 6, Rohit capped scores of three and six in Adelaide; first, he



was adjudged LBW to a fuller delivery that nipped back, while in the second essay he was cleaned up by a length ball from his Aussie counterpart Pat Cummins that held its line and clipped the off stump.

Kohli, who ended his 16-month century drought with a hundred in Perth, fell victim to edging two deliveries -- first to second slip and then to wicketkeeper in the pink ball Test.

The star Indian batter looked full of intent as he had a watchful start to his net session before slowly finding his flow.

KL Rahul looked more subdued, focusing more on his defence, while Rishabh Pant played a few pick up shots.

Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who starred with a 161 in India's massive 295-run win in the opening Test, was the aggressor among the all, displaying his cheeky shots and even stepped out to the Indian bowlers.

The bowling unit consisted the likes of Harshit Rana, Akash Deep, Yash Dayal and the spin trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Washington Sundar, while there were a few throwdown specialists as well.

The key Indian pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj along with seam-bowling allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy looked to have a lean day.

India are scheduled to reach Brisbane on Wednesday.

68th National School Games Conclude In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma on Tuesday declared the 68th National School Games in four sports disciplines of Judo, Fencing, Wushu and Football closed in a grand valedictory ceremony at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

A total of around 4000 athletes and officials drawn from 44 state/UT/organisation teams across the country took part in these prestigious games, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the aegis of School Games Federation of India.

While addressing a large gathering of participants, the Sports Minister extended gratitude to them for showing sporting spirit and discipline during this month long

sporting extravaganza, helping its smooth and successful conclusion.

Emphasising Government's commitment towards promoting genuine sports talent while ensuring that no individual or group would be allowed to politicise sports, the Sports Minister assured that only deserving athletes would be supported and those who have misused sports bodies for personal gain would be shown the door.

Extending gratitude to the parents, coaches and sports teachers for their unwavering support and encouragement of young athletes, the Minister also highlighted the broader benefits of sports.

Secretary YSS Sarmad Hafeez, while speaking on the occasion, stressed the role of the department in nurturing the sports talent at the grass-root level and instilling values of

leadership, discipline and perseverance.

He also congratulated the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, for successful completion of the 68th National School Games in Jammu.

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

The ceremony also witnessed an enthralling performance by famous Dogri singer Sonali Dogra.

Meanwhile, Jharkhand clinched gold, Haryana bagged silver and Manipur claimed the bronze medal, while Anushka Kumari of Jharkhand was declared as the Best Player in the U-17 Girls Football Championship.

The Sports Minister, along with other dignitaries, distributed medals/trophies among the winners of Girls U-17 Girls Football Championship.

Budgam's Ajmal Pathan Wins Silver In Cycling National



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ajmal Pathan, a trainee of J&K Sports Council's Khelo India Cycling Centre, has won a Silver medal in the 10-kilometer Youth Boys category at the 29th Road National Cycling Championship held in Puri, Odisha. The championship, organised by the Cycling Federation of India, witnessed the participation of the finest young cyclists from across the country.

Ajmal trains under the mentorship of international cyclist Akber Khan at the Khelo India Cycling Centre in Budgam. Hailing from Check-i-Kawoosa, a village along the Gulmarg highway, often referred to as the "cycling hub of Kashmir," Ajmal was selected during the Khelo India selection trials conducted under Akber Khan's supervision.

Congratulating the young athlete, Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma said: "Ajmal's achievement reflects the growing prominence of cycling in J&K and the impact of initiatives like Khelo India. Our government is committed to nurturing talent and providing opportunities for athletes to excel on national and international platforms."

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, also praised the cyclist for his remarkable accomplishment. "This medal is a testament to the dedication of our athletes and the success of our sports training programs. We will continue to invest in infrastructure and coaching to ensure our players reach their full potential," he said.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, ex-

pressed her delight at Ajmal's success. "This is a proud moment for the entire J&K," she said. "Ajmal's performance shows the immense potential of our young cyclists. The J&K Sports Council is fully committed to supporting budding athletes and helping them achieve greater heights."

Akber Khan, Ajmal's coach and an accomplished international cyclist, lauded his trainee's effort, saying, "Ajmal's hard work and determination have paid off. This is just the beginning for him, and I am confident he will achieve even greater milestones in the future."

The achievement not only highlights Ajmal Pathan's talent but also underscores the growing cycling culture in Kashmir, fostered by programs like Khelo India.

Short TAKES

J&K Wushu Team Shines At Sub-Junior National



The J&K Wushu team has brought laurels by winning 16 medals, including 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 11 Bronze, at the 24th Sub-Junior National Wushu Championship held at Tarn Taran, Punjab, from December 1 to 6, 2024.

In the Sanda category, Geenakshi clinched a Gold medal, while in the Taolu event, Arzath Wangoo and Mohd Arman Malik bagged Gold medals.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, have all sent congratulatory messages to the athletes.

Dronacharya Awardee and Chief Wushu Coach of India, Kuldeep Handoo, also expressed his pride in the team's performance and thanked the J&K Sports Council for their steadfast support.

The commendable performance of the team highlights the growing prominence of J&K in the field of Wushu and its potential to achieve greater heights on national and global stages. (Observer News Service)

Sports Ministry To Introduce National Leagues In Dozen Disciplines

With an aim to tap into the huge talent pool in the country, the Sports Ministry is planning to introduce a dozen-odd national sports leagues (NSLs), which it feels would be a game-changing move for the nation that is harbouring ambitions of hosting the Olympics in 2036.

A source privy to the developments said though the timeline is yet to be worked out, the planning process and the identification of the disciplines is in the advanced stage and details will roll out in due course.

Another source told PTI that the established leagues, such as the Hockey India League (HIL) and the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL), among others, which have become hugely popular and don't require government funding, will not be touched.

The source refused to divulge the disciplines in which the ministry intends to introduce the leagues, saying it will be done "shortly".

The source also said that the 'Letter of Intent' for hosting the 2036 Olympic Games, sent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), was not for any particular city.

Sunny Dhillon Banned By ICC For 'Attempt' To Fix Matches

Sunny Dhillon, a former assistant coach of an Abu Dhabi T10 League franchise, was on Tuesday banned from all forms of cricket for six years by the sport's governing body for "attempting" to fix matches.

Dhillon was charged last year. The ban has been back dated to September 13, 2023, the date Dhillon was provisionally suspended.

"Sunny Dhillon has been found to have breached the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code and has been banned from all cricket for a period of six years," said the ICC in a statement.

Dhillon, a former assistant coach of a franchise team, was one of eight individuals charged last year for breaching the Anti-Corruption Code. The charges are related to the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 Cricket League and alleged attempts to influence the outcome of matches during the tournament.

Two other individuals Parag Sanghvi and Krishan Kumar Chaudhary were among the eight individuals charged by the ICC on different counts of corruption during the 2021 edition of Emirates T10 League.

After a full hearing and presentation of written as well as oral argument, the Tribunal found Dhillon guilty.

Norway Plans To Protest FIFA, Abstain From Decision Giving 2034 WC To Saudi

Agencies

GENEVA: Norway's soccer federation plans to abstain from giving its approval when Saudi Arabia is confirmed Wednesday as the 2034 World Cup host, saying FIFA has done too little to protect human rights around the tournament.

"FIFA's own guidelines for human rights and due diligence have also not been adequately integrated into the process, increasing the risk of human rights violations," Norway federation president Lise Klavness said in a statement Tuesday.

FIFA's 211 member federations are holding an online meeting on Wednesday to rubberstamp the decision to give Saudi Arabia the 2034 World Cup and award the 2030 edition to a six-nation project led by Spain, Portugal and Morocco that will see games played on three continents.

"(Wednesday's) vote is not about who gets the 2030



and 2034 World Cups — that has already been decided," Klavness said, adding that FIFA's approval without an itemized vote "does not align with the principles of a sound and predictable governance system."

FIFA shaped the contests last year to have just one bid each that faced limited outside scrutiny, as the soccer body and its president Gianni Infantino continued to build deeper financial and political ties to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has a massive construction plan for stadiums, hotels and transport for the World Cup set

to rely heavily on migrant labor — raising concerns that FIFA is inviting a repeat of intense challenges and fatalities faced by workers in Qatar during preparations to host the 2022 edition. Norway and Klavness also put pressure on FIFA and Qatar before that tournament.

FIFA's in-house evaluation of the Saudi bid rated the tournament an elevated risk though with "significant opportunities for positive human rights impact," which activists claimed was a whitewash.

A FIFA-mandated Saudi report on human rights

was commissioned from a legal firm closely tied to the kingdom, and it committed World Cup organizers only to work with state-approved domestic agencies plus the UN-backed International Labor Organization.

The ILO in Geneva, which worked with Qatar to reform the "kafala" system of labor rules, is currently investigating a formal complaint alleging abuses in Saudi Arabia filed by the global trade union Building and Wood Workers' International.

Switzerland's soccer federation said Tuesday it will support FIFA's 2030-2034 decisions, but noted "some vagueness on certain points" of the Saudi strategy to protect rights and freedoms.

"We consider it the duty of FIFA and the organizers, in cooperation with renowned independent international organizations" beyond the ILO, Swiss federation president Dominique Blanc said.

Juventus Must Be On Top Form To Pose Manchester City Problems, Says Motta

Agencies

Juventus host Manchester City in a clash on Wednesday between two European giants who are struggling in the Champions League and manager Thiago Motta said his young side must be at their best to cause problems for the visitors.

Juve, who are 19th but level on eight points with 17th-placed City after five games, won their first two matches in Europe's top club competition but suffered a shock 1-0 loss to VfB Stuttgart before drawing at Lille and Aston Villa.

"It is a Champions League game, two big clubs facing each other. We have to concentrate on what we have to do, everything else is relative," Motta, whose side are sixth in Serie A where they are still unbeaten this season, told reporters on Tuesday.

"We are a young team that can improve in every aspect of the game. We



have shown great character, we grow because we have great solidarity on the pitch," he added.

"In the end you look at everything but we have to give priority to the most important things. We have to think about the game and try to stay compact and play with intensity. We will need a lot of quality to create difficulties for them."

Injury-hit City are strugg-

ling with one win in their last nine games in all competitions but Motta, who has his own injury worries, said counterpart Pep Guardiola "is very strong" as "he has won everything" and noted the Premier League side's success.

"In recent years Manchester City have won everything and you just have to congratulate them on the value they have shown," Motta said. "Guardiola's a very good coach, I don't just say that - the facts prove it. He has won ... consistently."

Juve are also dealing with injury concerns but ahead of Wednesday's game midfielders Weston McKennie and Douglas Luiz trained with the squad and are expected to be included.

Defender Andrea Cambiaso, who was injured in a 2-2 draw with Bologna at the weekend, became the latest addition to a long list including Gleison Bremer, Juan Cabal, and Arkadiusz Milik.

"Tomorrow, those who deserve to play will play and obviously those who have been out for a while need more time," Motta said. "... I'm happy that the guys are back because they are the first ones who are unhappy to be out, and it's also good to know that they can give us a hand; having said that, I don't think our problems, when they exist, are due to injuries."

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

CM Omar Abdullah

was informed about the digitization of archival records which has been fully completed in Jammu and is 50% complete in Srinagar, with six lakh records being shifted to a new facility near Kala Kendra at a cost of Rs 7.2 crore.

The meeting also discussed the 100 days target for cultural and heritage development in Jammu and Srinagar.

Key initiatives include the operationalization of a new archival repository, modernization of the SRS Library under the Smart City Project, restoration of 16 heritage sites, and the completion of several library and cultural infrastructure projects.

A special presentation on Tehzeeb Mahal gave details of its design, architectural heritage revival, and cultural elements, further reinforcing the government's commitment to preserving and promoting J&K's rich legacy.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Culture Suresh Gupta, Secretary PWD, and other senior officials. Kashmir-based officers joined via video conferencing.

Reviews Law Department's

including ongoing litigations, e-stamping, e-courts, and e-court fee systems. The implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the J&K Legislative Assembly was a key point of discussion.

The Chief Minister directed officials to liaise with the Ministry of Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, to ensure NeVA is operationalized before the upcoming budget session of J&K Legislative Assembly. Other components included the classification of laws, appointment of officers in charge of litigations, opinion and vetting of notifications, and the department's achievements in 2023-24.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the Rs 908 crore New High Court Complex project in Srinagar, enquiring about progress, timelines, and phase-wise completion of the project. He emphasized the importance of adhering to deadlines to ensure the timely delivery of this critical infrastructure.

Kashmir Shivers

was the coldest weather station in Kashmir last night.

Pahalgam, which serves as base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 8.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in north Kashmir registered the minimum of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag in south Kashmir minus 4 degrees Celsius.

While the higher reaches of Kashmir experienced snowfall on the intervening night of

Sunday and Monday, there has been no snowfall in the plains of the valley.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Tuesday predicted dry weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir till December 20.

Today there was generally dry weather conditions, while on December 11 tomorrow there is a possibility of generally cloudy with light snow over isolated higher reaches during evening & night of December 11, the officials said.

They said from December 12-20, the weather conditions will likely remain dry. "There will be no significant weather activity till December 20," the officials said.

They added that cold and dry weather will generally prevail over many stations during the next 7-10 days.

In view of sub-freezing temperature and icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, tourists, travelers and transporters are advised to follow advisories being issued from administration and traffic department.

Ruhullah To Move

as anti-India," Ruhullah said in the motion. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Ruhullah said that these parties believe in the idea of India and its principles and values. He said he is hopeful that they will support this motion.

The notice for impeachment accuses Justice Yadav of violating principles of judicial conduct and the constitutional mandate. Video evidence and media reports highlight his comments on practices like triple talaq and halala, which he criticized for disrespecting women.

"You can't claim the right to have four wives, perform halala, or practice triple talaq," he said. He also expressed support for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), stating that having separate laws for different communities poses a threat to national unity. He had also made some other controversial comments.

J&K Adds 5

their requisition for additional funds for meeting the expenses of various disasters which have occurred in these districts during this year.

It also decided to release an amount of Rs 6.5 Cr in favour of HG/CD/SDRF for modernizing the force by providing different kinds of equipment like drones, remote controlled Lifebuoy, Fire entry suits, Power Descenders, and Battery operated cutter cum spreaders.

The other agenda items which were discussed in this SEC and find takers for their approval includes provisioning of Rs 50 lakhs on account of SDRF capacity building by conducting training programs, mock drills, other preparedness activities during the ensuing financial year. It also decided in favour of giving Rs 30 lakhs to the Department for upgradation of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) here in J&K.

Besides the Principal Secretary Home and DMRR&R, the meeting was attended by other members of the SEC including Principal

Secretary Finance; ADGP L&O; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu and Secretary Revenue.

Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing from their respective offices.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to enquire from Deputy Commissioners about the disaster preparedness in their districts. He also took note of the suggestions forwarded by them.

The Principal Secretary, DMRR&R Department, Chandraker Bharti gave out details of the activities held by the department during the year. He also highlighted the significance of each agenda item for augmenting the capacity of the UT to be better prepared against the disasters the region is prone to.

Traffic Police To

However, he warned that strict legal action will follow from December 16, 2024, against defaulters, which may include the seizure of vehicles or cancellation of Registration Certificates (RCs).

Motorists are advised to act promptly to avoid penalties.

Sonamarg Master

Preparation of the Master Plan for Sonamarg." The officer also gave the procedure and the time lines for formulation of GIS based Master plan Sonamarg 2025-45, stating that the Master plan preparation shall commence after the extended local area for Master plan Sonamarg is notified by the tourism department after consultation with various stakeholders.

The officer said the KML file delineating the tentative local area proposed to be notified stands already conveyed to the tourism department for comments/vetting and forwarding of KML files of all Khasra numbers of areas proposed/existing in the local area of SDA.

The Town planning Organisation, she said, shall be providing the technical guidance for the preparation of Sonamarg Master

"The RFP shall be prepared taking feedback from various stakeholders like Forest department, Wildlife department being in the vicinity of forest and wildlife areas and Revenue Deptt, Remote Sensing Department etc, for inviting technical and financial bids from consultants for preparation of Master plan on outsource basis."

Once the local area is notified and funds are made available through HUDD, the officer said, technical and financial bids will be invited from reputed consultants having expertise in preparation of such Master plans as per the requirements listed in the RFP.

"The Project shall be awarded to the consultants based on the QCBS method," the officer said, adding, "The preparation of Draft Master Plan Sonamarg 25-2045 shall be prepared using latest technologies and high resolution imageries."

The Draft Master Plan shall be put in public domain by the Tourism department for a

period of 60 days for seeking objections or suggestions from various stakeholders and the general public as per the provisions prescribed in J&K Development Act-1970, the officer said.

"The objections/suggestions received shall be examined by the board constituted by the Govt."

The final Master Plan, the officer said, shall be framed after incorporating the recommendations of the committee and shall be submitted to the government for its approval.

So far as a timeline was concerned, the officer said that it was for the Tourism department to finalize the boundaries and thereafter the Town Planning Organisation, Kashmir will provide the technical support, "for that it will take at least minimum one year for its completion subject to stages being completed within their respective time lines."

GOI Urged To

and well-being. He asserted that, The pilgrims themselves have reported facing severe hardships, including a lack of shelter, limited access to basic necessities, and mounting fears for their safety due to the tense situation on the ground.

"The situation in the Sayyidah Zaynab area of Damascus is especially volatile, with reports of incidents of firing creating panic among the stranded pilgrims. Adding to their distress, flights scheduled for their return have been abruptly cancelled, leaving them without a clear route back to India," Khuehami said.

In their appeal, the association urged the Union External Affairs Minister to prioritize the evacuation of these pilgrims and other Indian nationals in Syria. They also called on the Ministry to coordinate with allied organizations and authorities to provide temporary shelter and ensure the safety of those stranded in the affected areas.

"This is a pressing humanitarian issue that demands immediate intervention. We trust in the Government of India's commitment to safeguarding its citizens and urge the Ministry to expedite efforts to bring the stranded pilgrims home," Khuehami emphasized.

The association further requested the Ministry engage with relevant authorities and United Nations organizations to facilitate a coordinated and swift response to the crisis. The swift action from the External Affairs Ministry in this matter will bring solace to countless families and reinforce the faith of citizens in the Government's dedication to their welfare, he added.

J&K Seeks

"There is a dire need for a specialized court exclusively for corruption cases. The current judicial setup lacks the bandwidth to handle the growing number of corruption cases promptly," the officer said.

Jammu and Kashmir's Anti-Corruption Bureau has been at the forefront of combating corruption, filing numerous cases against

individuals and entities across the Union Territory. However, the absence of a dedicated judicial mechanism to handle these cases has led to a backlog, slowing the delivery of justice and potentially diluting the deterrent effect of legal action against corruption.

Drawing a parallel with the NIA, which has its own courts to address cases of national security, the police officer argued that a similar model could be replicated for the ACB. "The establishment of ACB-specific courts would not only speed up the resolution of cases but also send a strong message about the government's commitment to eradicating corruption," he added.

Legal experts also echoed these sentiments, pointing out that specialized courts often result in a more focused and efficient judicial process. "Corruption undermines public trust and governance. Quick and decisive action against the guilty is essential to restore faith in institutions," said a prominent advocate. (CNS)

Itoo To Head

reservation rules. This will involve consultations with all relevant stakeholders. The Social Welfare Department will provide administrative support to the CSC, which will submit its findings to the council of ministers. The council holds the authority to recommend amendments to the reservation rules.

Notably, the government has not specified a deadline for the committee to complete its work.

Reservations have become a major issue in J&K following the Central government's decision to add more communities to the reserved category and expand quotas in the UT over the past five years.

There are increasing objections to the Centre's move to push the reservation quota to 70 percent in Jammu and Kashmir.

This follows recent announcements to introduce a separate 10 percent reservation for Paharis and other tribes and an enhancement of the OBC (Other Backward Classes) quota to 8 percent.

Over 31000

Treatment Facilities (ATF). "The government has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and participates in international forums like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to address cross-border drug trafficking," the ministry added.

According to the National Survey on the Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India, conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, alcohol and opioids are the most commonly abused substances in Jammu and Kashmir. The survey, based on data from 2018, revealed that approximately 354,000 individuals in the region were estimated to be alcohol users, and 151,000 were involved in opioid abuse. Cannabis and sedatives also showed significant usage rates.

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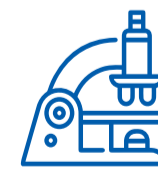
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