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

BOOK APPOINTMENT

YELLOW ALERT!

MeT Predicts Cold Wave For Next One Week



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid no forecast of a major weather activity till December 26, the local Meteorological department here has issued a yellow alert, predicting a cold wave at isolated regions for the next one week.

According to the details available, the MeT has sounded a yellow warning for isolated regions, saying that the cold wave conditions would prevail for the next one week from December 17 to December 23.

The warning has been issued for the isolated places of both the regions including Jammu as well as Kashmir.

In the meantime, the mercury has plummeted further at

several places of Kashmir including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir where a night temperature of minus 5.3 degree Celsius was recorded against the previous night's 3.4 degree Celsius.

At Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, the minimum temperature settled at minus 4.0 degree Celsius while in Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 6.8 degree Celsius.

In Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, it settled at minus 6.0 degree Celsius. North Kashmir's Kupwara recorded a low of minus 5.6 degree Celsius while Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of 5.7 degree Celsius.

Shopian, was | More on P10

'One Nation, One Election'

Bill To Amend J&K Reorganisation Act Introduced In Lok Sabha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Government introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday to amend the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019, aiming to align the Union Territory's Assembly elections with the Lok Sabha polls.

Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal presented the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill-2024, which proposes amendments to the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, and the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

While the amendments to the Government of Union Territories Act and the



Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act aim to synchronize the assembly elections of Puducherry and Delhi with the Lok Sabha polls, the proposed changes to the J&K Reorganisation Act will align J&K's electoral cycle with Lok

Sabha elections as part of the Union Government's "one nation, one election" initiative.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, after being introduced in the

House, were referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further deliberation.

The amendments to the J&K Reorganisation Act stipulate that the five-year term of the Legislative Assembly will begin from the date of its first meeting. The Assembly's term will end upon the completion of the Lok Sabha's full term, once the President notifies the appointed day for implementing the "one nation, one election" law.

Simultaneous elections will be implemented on an "appointed date," which will be announced by the President after the first sitting of the newly elected Lok Sabha following a general election. Since the first sitting of the 2024 Lok Sabha | More on P10

Jammu-Srinagar Train Next Month

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The much-hyped Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) has been completed fully while the work at Reasi tunnel is all set to be completed within a week, General Manager (GM) of Northern Railway, Ashok Kumar Verma, said on Tuesday.

He also said the CSR inspections would be conducted in the next 15 days.

Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager of Northern Railways, said on Tuesday that this long-awaited project, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of seamless rail connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, is in its final stages.

During his visit to Qazigund, Verma shared encouraging updates on the progress of the project.

He mentioned that significant work, including the completion of Tunnel T1 and track installations, | More on P10

BJP Govt Will Bring Uniform Civil Code In Every State: Shah

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday attacked the Congress saying the party only believed in appeasement of minorities. He said the Grand Old Party wants to increase reservation for Muslims by reducing quota for other backward classes, or OBCs — reiterating the plank on which the BJP fought elections in Haryana and Maharashtra.

"Congress wants to give reservation to Muslims by increasing quota limit beyond 50 per cent," he said, giving some advice to the Congress: "Leave appeasement, dynastic politics and corruption, people will bring you back to power."

Shah was responding in the Rajya Sabha to the special debate



on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. He said the Congress had considered the Constitution as the "private fiefdom" of one family and amended it to remain in power.

He reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to implementing the Uniform Civil | More on P10

'Congress Curtailed Freedom Of Expression'

Amit Shah argued that if the Congress could change the constitution 77 times and even introduce a clause that curtails freedom of expression, they cannot object to the "One Nation One Election" Bill on the ground that it would require constitutional amendment. | More on P10

J&K Bank Reports Fraud Of Rs 320.42 Cr Over 3 Yrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Bank recorded financial frauds amounting to Rs 320.42 crore over the past three years, according to data presented by the Ministry of Finance in the Rajya Sabha on December 17. While fraud cases involving the bank fluctuated in number, a

sharp surge in monetary impact was noted in 2022-23.

The data showed that in 2021-22, the bank reported 11 fraud cases involving Rs 14.23 crore. The following year, 2022-23, saw a significant spike, with 13 fraud cases amounting to Rs 298.09 crore, the highest in the three years. However, the figures declined | More on P10



A young boy picks ripe oranges in an orchard in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Private Tuition By Govt Teachers Banned

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday banned private tuition by government teachers, and warned of disciplinary action against the violators.

"In view of the directions issued by the School Education Department from time to time and the clear instructions already circulated by this office, all lecturers, masters and teachers working under the administrative control of this office are directed not to practice private tuition, employment in any private institution or coaching centre," a circular issued by the chief education officer (CEO), Anantnag, said.

The circular also advised all DDOS/HOLs to certify that "no lecturer, master or teacher is unauthorisedly involved in private tuition/coaching".

"If any teaching staff is found violating the | More on P10

PSA Must Be Exception To General Laws Of Arrest, Detention: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The exercise of jurisdiction under laws of preventive detention must be an exception to the general laws of arrest and detention, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh said on Tuesday as it overturned its single bench verdict which had upheld an order under PSA against a resident from Budgam in May this year.

"Detaining a person under the provisions of the PSA is an exercise of executive discretion, seriously infracting the individual's right under article 21 of the constitution," a Division Bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani while allowing an appeal filed by Imran Rashid Rather of Khurhama Budgam against verdict of court's single bench on 21 May this year dismissing his plea against detention passed by the central Kashmir's district magistrate



under Public Safety Act (PSA) on 22 November 2022.

"Though constitutionally and statutorily valid, the exercise of jurisdiction under laws of preventive detention must be an exception to the general laws of arrest and detention," the Division Bench underlined.

The exercise of executive discretion of detaining a citizen under the preventive detention laws without justifiable grounds, the court said, is an act of "colourable exercise of executive discretion making such action violative of article

21 of the constitution".

The court also held that vague and non-specific grounds of detention firstly violates the fundamental right to life and personal liberty of the detainee under article 21 of the constitution as it summarily curtails the liberty of the citizen based on the subjective satisfaction of the executive which is an exceptional power as against the general law relating to arrest and detention.

Secondly, the court said, it deprives the detainee of giving a specific rebuttal to the grounds of detention which may satisfy the detaining authority or the Government that his detention is unlawful and compels him to answer the grounds of detention as "it is incorrect" or "it is false" etc.

Thirdly, the court said, vague and generalised grounds in the order of detention, smacks of arbitrariness on the part of the detaining | More on P10

EVICTED OF FORMER MINISTERS FROM GOVT ACCOMODATIONS

HC Raps Estates Department Over Delays

Agencies

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Estates Department over delays in evicting ex-ministers and ex-legislators from government accommodations.

The Division Bench, led by Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Rajesh Sekhri, issued stern instructions to expedite the eviction process and file an updated status report.

The court highlighted several cases, including those of Kavinder Gupta (former Deputy Chief Minister), Sat Sharma (BJP President), Surinder Ambarbar (ex-MLC),

and Zaffar Iqbal Manhas (ex-MLC). It also demanded updates regarding penal rent collection from individuals such as S.S. Channi and ex-MLAs Mohd Abbas Wani and Abdul Rahim Rather. The Bench warned that failure to comply with the directives would require the Commissioner/Secretary of the Estates Department to appear in person at the next hearing.

Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, representing the petitioner, criticized the Estates Department for its favoritism and inconsistent policies. While over 180 politicians, including two former Chief Ministers, have been evicted, he alleged that 43 | More on P10

Winter Vacations Likely In KU From Jan 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir (KU) is likely to announce winter vacation from January-01 to February-23.

An official said that vacations at KU are most likely to commence from January-01-2025.

"Most probably, the vacations will be announced till February-23. However, formal orders in this regard are yet to be issued," he said.

Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department has proposed to announce 50-days of winter vacations from December 27 for colleges of Kashmir division.

Besides, the department has also proposed 10-days winter vacations for colleges of Jammu division.

Pertinently, the School Education Department earlier this week announced winter vacations in phased manner from December 10 | More on P10



Subject- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "M/S Quince Apple Situated at New Colony Nigeen Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./Ms. Liyaqat Ahmad Qadri S/o Mohammad Yehya Qadri R/o New Colony Nigeen, Kashmir intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S Quince Apple Situated at New Colony Nigeen Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/ issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

INF

Sugary Drinks Can Raise Risk Of Stroke, Heart Failure: Study

AINS

A large-scale Swedish study on Monday suggested that drinking sweetened drinks can significantly increase your risk of serious cardiovascular diseases like stroke, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation. The study also showed that eating too much-added sugar can increase the risk of stroke or aneurysm. However, limited consumption of treats can be safe. "Consuming sweet drinks was worse for your health than any other form of sugar," noted the study published in the journal Frontiers in Public Health.

University said that the sweetened beverages, which contain liquid sugars, "typically provide less satiety than solid forms" Janzi said this makes people feel less satiated "potentially leading to overconsumption". Moreover, unlike treats that are "often enjoyed in social settings or special occasions, sweetened beverages might be consumed more regularly." To understand how sugar consumption affects cardiovascular disease risk, the team collected data from two major studies with a sample of 69,705 participants. The study evaluated the link between honey, treats like a pastry, or sweetened beverages like fizzy drinks—and seven cardiovascular diseases: two different types



of stroke, heart attacks, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, atrial fibrillation, and aortic stenosis. During the 10 years of follow-up, 25,739 participants were diagnosed with cardiovascular disease. High intake of sugar in general raised the risk of ischemic stroke and abdominal aortic aneurysm. It also spiked the risk of heart failure in participants with a normal BMI. Notably, they found that the highest risks of a negative health outcome arose in the lowest intake category for treats, suggesting that "extremely low sugar intake may not be necessary or beneficial for cardiovascular health." However, Janzi said the study is "observational and cannot establish causation".

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Rural Development and Panchyati Raj
Office of the Block Development Officer Khoveripora

Subject- Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for solid Waste Management Block Khoveripora District Anantnag.

On behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the eligible and interested agencies are hereby invited for the execution of solid waste management plan in District Anantnag Block Khoveripora

1- BACKGROUND:
 The Solid Waste Management program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practice in Block Khoveripora. In line with the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The program will cover the CD Block Khoveripora comprising of 32 Gram panchayats mentioned below:

S.No	NAME OF PANCHAYAT	APPROXIMATE NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	OTHER ESTABLISHMENT
1	RAMPORA	425	
2	RAMBIRPORA-A	460	
3	RAMBIRPORA-B	524	
4	PAIBUGH	650	
5	AKJURA	498	
6	NANIL HERPORA	400	
7	NANIL BONPORA	430	
8	PUSHKEERI	232	
9	HUGAM	224	
10	KHAIRBUGH	195	
11	NAMBAL-A	354	
12	NAMBAL-B	376	
13	HUTMARAH	450	
14	MANIGAM	235	
15	SALIA-A	480	
16	SALIA-B	471	
17	PANZMULLAH	327	
18	VAJLNAGBAL-A	158	
19	VAJLNAGBAL-B	270	
20	BRAD	350	
21	HANGALPAWA	376	
22	KHAYAR	405	
23	HAPATNARD-A	480	
24	HAPATNARD-B	550	
25	SHUMHALL	205	
26	HASSAN NOOR	479	
27	NOWGAM-A	300	
28	NOWGAM-B	370	
29	BADIGAM	230	
30	SELIGAM	352	
31	FOHAR	495	
32	HAKAD	473	

2- SCOPE OF WORK
 The contracting agency will be responsible for the following processes: Solid Waste Collection

- SOLID WASTE COLLECTION**
 a) Sanitation and Door to Door collection of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from households of one of the three designated clusters covering all households, shops, factories, industrial establishments, etc. at least twice a week.
 b) A Panchayat-Halqa-wise schedule of waste collection shall further be notified in consultation with the concerned Block Development Officer and Gram Panchayat.
 c) The intending agency shall collect all types of waste-door to door waste, waste already installed dustbins and legacy waste, so that the objective of ODF plus is obtained and sustained.
 d) Ensuring segregation of Waste preferably at the household level and mandatorily at the already constructed segregation shed sites.
 e) Effective and scientific management and disposal of collected waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. A weekly review/report shall be submitted by halqa panchayat to ascertain the effectiveness of weekly disposal.

REVENUE REALIZATION
 a) Conducting a fresh survey, in consultation with the field functionaries of the Rural Development Department to update the household data and include commercial factories, business units, shops etc. Collection of monthly fees/charges from the households preferably in digital mode in consultation with the officials of this department.
 b) Revenue generation through sustainable waste management practices, such as selling segregated dry waste to authorized dealers.
 c) User charges collected shall be deposited in Halqa panchayat fund of concerned Gram Panchayat on monthly basis out of which 10 to 40% (to be decided later) of the fee/user charges so collected shall form a revenue part and the remaining shall be utilized for incurring the expenditure on account of sanitation work done.

MAINTENANCE
 maintenance and upkeep of departmental garbage collection vehicles, and other amenities used for waste collection and ensuring their dedicated use only for solid waste management purposes.
 b) The vehicles used for waste collection shall be departmental and the agency has to use these vehicles/e-rickshaws etc. By engaging its own staff and ensuring the vehicle's maintenance in all respect.
 c) The intending agency shall be responsible for the smooth handling over of all assets (Vehicles/machinery/civil structures and possession of the sites in good condition to the concerned department after completing the allotment of one year (without any damage).

MANPOWER & MACHINERY
 a) The contracting agency has to engage sweepers/waste collectors, Drivers and management staff with a unique logo, the design and details of which shall be conveyed to the contracting agency later.
 b) The contracting agency has to operate and maintain all the e-carts, garbage collection vans and machinery at its own level and has to bear the electricity, POL and maintenance/repair charges of the machinery. The contracting agency will be required to obtain necessary permissions/approvals from BDO concerned for repair and maintenance of the existing machinery if required at any time.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND PENAL PROVISION
 1) In case of any dispute the Block Development Officer concerned shall be the first appellate authority, the 2nd appellate authority shall be the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Anantnag and the 3rd appellate & final authority shall be the District level sanitation committee for implementation of SBM-G. If the contracting agency shall have to report to the Block Development Officer concerned in case of any violation by any Household/Establishment for imposing a fine. Further the agency may be required to paste color-coded notices across the Panchayat. In matters pertaining to any disputes or repercussions arising, the District level sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. "Repercussion" in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claim, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.

IEC ENDEAVORS AND INCITING BEHAVIORAL CHANGE
 a) The contracting agency shall chalk out a plan for a sustained IEC campaign for inciting behavioural change among the people through various means. The means could be composing appealing and effective sanitation jingles played through overhead speakers of waste collection vehicles on a regular basis, organizing special sanitation drives by involving local youth clubs, students and Self Help Groups, organizing monthly felicitation ceremonies for best cooperative and complying panchayats in consultation with the BDO concerned and the District administration etc. Monthly IEC plans, 10 days in advance to be submitted to the concerned BDO for review and approval.
 b) The contracting agency shall influence the general public through its best possible sanitation services and shall motivate and convince them to segregate the waste at the source besides reducing the use of single use plastics

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
 The contracting agency must meet the following criteria:
 a) The agency can be a sole proprietor or contractor, registered partnership firm, limited liability partnership, public limited company, private limited company, society or NGO etc.
 b) The agency must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs.10,00,000 (Rupees Ten Lacs) for the last three years.
 c) Previous experience in managing public utilities as a PPP/outourcing and knowledge of waste management including running decentralized solid waste management processes, will be advantageous.
 d) Additional experience in community mobilization and IEC activities will be preferred.
 e) The agency must deposit a cash receipt (CDR) of Rs. 30,000 (Rupees Thirty thousand only) Pledged to the Block Development Officer Khoveripora

3- CONTRACTING PROCESS
 a) Interested agencies must submit their EOI in sealed envelopes addressed to the Block Development Officer Khoveripora by 25-12-2024 at 3 PM.
 b) The envelopes will be opened on the next day 28-12-2024 upto 2 PM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.

c) The EOI will be followed by technical Evaluation and Financial Evaluation.

4- GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:
 a) The selected agency will be awarded a one year contract, which may be extendable based on its performance and the necessity of the Department.
 b) The agency shall adhere to all the terms and conditions specified in the EOI document.
 c) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI without assigning any reason thereof, in the interest of the Government Department and public funds.

5- SUBMISSION OF EOI AND CONTACT INFORMATION
 a) Interested agencies must submit their sealed envelopes containing the EOI to the following address:
 Block Development Officer Khoveripora Mattan near police station Mattan.
 Email : bdkhoveripora@gmail.com

For any inquiries or clarifications regarding the EOI, interested agencies may contact Block development Officer Khoveripora at the above mentioned address.

6- NOTIFICATION OF RESULT

a) The result of the EOI evaluation will be communicated to the eligible agencies through official communication channels.

7- LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

a) The selected agency must comply with all applicable laws, regulations and ethical standards during the execution of the solid waste management project in khoveripora
 b) The contracting agency has to adhere the environment protection act 1986, the water prevention and control of pollution Act 1974 and the bylaws drafted and passed by the Gram Panchayats in letter and spirit.
 c) Sub-Contracting shall not be allowed and shall be considered illegal.
 d) The contracting agency has to submit an affidavit duly attested by a Judicial Magistrate affirming therein the commitment to bear all costs related to damage, theft or loss incurred to the vehicles /Machinery of the Department during the execution of the SWM Project.

e) In matters pertaining to any dispute, or repercussions arising, the District level sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. "Repercussions" in this context refer to any adverse consequences claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.
 The process of technical Evaluation will be done by a designated committee based on the score for the solutions and procedures provided by the agencies to transform the entire solid waste management into an efficient, effective and sustainable one in the Block. NO- KB/2024-25/SBM/1907

DIKP-9597/24 Dated:- 17-12-2024 Block Development Officer Khoveripora

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CLASSIC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AHMADPORA (MAGAM) KASHMIR

SEE STRUCTURE FOR SESSION 2024

S.No	CLASS	MONTHLY TUITION FEE
01	PRE-NURSERY	600
02	NURSERY	600
03	L.K.G	600
04	U.K.G	600
05	IST.	625
06	2ND	625
07	3RD	715
08	4TH	715
09	5TH	715
10	6TH	800
11	7TH	800
12	8TH	800
13	9TH	1350
14	10TH	1350

PRINCIPAL

BMG CLASSIC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CLASSIC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL Goom Ahmadpora District Baramulla

Subject : list of managing body of Classic Public High School Goom Ahmad Pora

S. No	Member Name	Parentage	Residence	Occupation	Designation/Member f Type	Qualification
1	Asif Ali Mir	Mohd Ibrahim mir	Walamagam	Private Em	Principal/Principal	M.Sc
2	Bashir Ahmad Malik	Gh Hussain Malik	Goom Ahmadpora	Business	Chairman/Other	12th
3	Firdous Ahmad Bhat	Ab Rahman Bhat	Kanterbugh	Private Em	Member/Parent	BA
4	Gh Mohammad Baba	Gh Mustafa Baba	Goom Ahmadpora	Private Em	Parent/Parent	8th
5	Mohd Ibrahim Baba	Gh Hussain Baba	Goom Ahmadpora	Private Em	Member/Other	BA
6	Syed Ahmad Shah	Syed Hassan Shall	Goom Alimadpora	Business	Secretary/Other	8th
7	Syed Maqbool Hussain	Syed As-sadullah Shah	Goom Ahmadpora	Private Em	Treasurer/Teacher	MA
	Syed Mudasar	Syed Mehdi	Goom Ahmadpora:	Private Em	Parent/Parent	12th

Principal

bmrg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name wrongly mentioned in DOB Certificate as RIDA WASEEM D/O WASEEM AHMAD WANI R/O SHRAKWARA JAHINGEERPIRA bearing id No 101002640108 while her correct name is RIDA WASIM D/O WASIM AHMAD WANI R/O SHRAKWARA JAHANGEEPORA which needs to be corrected ...if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of SDH kreesi / BMO office kreesi within seven days from publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name ... WASIM AHMAD WANI
 F/O RIDA WASIM
 R/O SHRAKWARA JAHANGEEPORA fko

Office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool and Associates

In the case of Ghulam Rasool kuchey S/o: late mohd Subhan kuchey R/o: Tantraypora Palhallan pattan Baramulla

V/s Public at large (Caveator)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order. fko Sd/advocate

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
 Phone/Fax: 01933-247152 email: pheidivisionawantipora@gmail.com

Corrigendum

Refer this office eNIT No: 27/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 09-12-2024 endorsed vide this office No: AWP/PHE/3194-3207 dated: 09-12-2024 regarding the work "Providing water supply facilities by way of providing & F IXING OF G.I Pipes ,Construction of 0.30 lac gallons SR ,Sluice chamber, Pump house cum operator quatre, Chain link fencing, Retaining Wall and P/F of regulatory system of pipe specials for WSS Her Mohalla Saimooh under UT Capex. ", wherein for the unbalanced tendered should be uploaded additional Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR of Advertised cost in addition to his earnest money as specified in eNIT, as per following breakup:-

S.No	% age of unbalanced bid Via Advertised cost on a/c of low rates	Addition performance security
01	Up to and including 15 % below	Nil
02	Greater than 15 % and up to 20 %	05%
03	Greater than 20 % and up to 25 %	10%
04	Greater than 25 % and up to 30 %	15%
05	Greater than 30%	20%

The said Additional Performance Security shall be released only after completion of 50% of the Allotted work.

No: AWP/PHE/3448-59 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
 DATED: 17-12-2024 DIVISION AWANTIPORA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
 Phone/Fax: 01933-247152 email: pheidivisionawantipora@gmail.com

Corrigendum

Refer this office eNIT No: 29/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 10-12-2024 endorsed vide this office No: AWP/PHE/3247-60 dated: 10-12-2024 regarding the work "Construction of Filtration Gallery Cum PST for WSS Shah Mohalla Chohan Basti (Under UT Capex)", wherein for the unbalanced tendered should be uploaded additional Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR of Advertised cost in addition to his earnest money as specified in eNIT, as per following breakup:-

S.No	% age of unbalanced bid Via Advertised cost on a/c of low rates	Addition performance security
01	Up to and including 15 % below	Nil
02	Greater than 15 % and up to 20 %	05%
03	Greater than 20 % and up to 25 %	10%
04	Greater than 25 % and up to 30 %	15%
05	Greater than 30%	20%

The said Additional Performance Security shall be released only after completion of 50% of the Allotted work.

No: AWP/PHE/3412-23 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
 DATED: 17-12-2024 DIVISION AWANTIPORA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
 Phone/Fax: 01933-247152 email: pheidivisionawantipora@gmail.com

Corrigendum

Refer this office eNIT No: 30/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 10-12-2024 endorsed vide this office No: AWP/PHE/3261-73 dated: 10-12-2024 regarding the work "Construction of 02 no. Pump house cum Operator Quarter at AIIMS for WSS AIIMS Awantipora(Phase Ist.)Under UT CAPEX", wherein for the unbalanced tendered should be uploaded additional Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR of Advertised cost in addition to his earnest money as specified in eNIT, as per following breakup:-

S.No	% age of unbalanced bid Via Advertised cost on a/c of low rates	Addition performance security
01	Up to and including 15 % below	Nil
02	Greater than 15 % and up to 20 %	05%
03	Greater than 20 % and up to 25 %	10%
04	Greater than 25 % and up to 30 %	15%
05	Greater than 30%	20%

The said Additional Performance Security shall be released only after completion of 50% of the Allotted work.

No: AWP/PHE/3424-35 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
 DATED: 17-12-2024 DIVISION AWANTIPORA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
 Phone/Fax: 01933-247152 email: pheidivisionawantipora@gmail.com

Corrigendum

Refer this office eNIT No: 31/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 12-12-2024 endorsed vide this office No: AWP/PHE/3329-42 dated: 12-12-2024 regarding the work "Construction of 0.1 MGD RSFP WSS Allouchibagh (Balance work(Roofing) WSS Allouchibagh (Under UT Capex Adv.Cost: 17.04 lacs)", wherein for the unbalanced tendered should be uploaded additional Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR of Advertised cost in addition to his earnest money as specified in eNIT, as per following breakup:-

S.No	% age of unbalanced bid Via Advertised cost on a/c of low rates	Addition performance security
01	Up to and including 15 % below	Nil
02	Greater than 15 % and up to 20 %	05%
03	Greater than 20 % and up to 25 %	10%
04	Greater than 25 % and up to 30 %	15%
05	Greater than 30%	20%

The said Additional Performance Security shall be released only after completion of 50% of the Allotted work.

No: AWP/PHE/3436-47 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
 DIKP-9675/24 DATED: 17-12-2024 DIVISION AWANTIPORA



Police Attach Property Under NDPS Act

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said to have attached property of a drug peddler worth 20 lakhs under relevant sec-



tions in the downtown area of Srinagar district.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the police said that it has attached property comprising of movable assets in the form of two vehicles, valued at approximately ₹20 lakhs, which were acquired through the sale of illicit drugs and substances by two drug peddlers namely Altaf

Ahmad Shah alias Pacha son of Ghulam Hassan Shah resident of Dalal Mohalla and Rakib Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Salam Dar resident of Rajouri Kadal, who are accused in NDPS Act cases.

The spokesman further stated that during the course of investigation in two NDPS cases, FIR No. 48/2024 u/s 8/21 NDPS Act and FIR No. 51/2024 u/s 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station MR Gunj, the proceeds of illicit drug trade have been identified and attached today under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act.

The proper legal procedure under the NDPS Act has been followed during the attachment process, he said.

Pertinently, this decisive action is a part of the relentless crackdown on drug peddlers by Srinagar Police in the last few months, he said.

The ongoing crackdown on drug peddlers and their illegally acquired assets will continue with full vigor, as it remains a key strategy to eliminate the drug menace from society. The commitment of J&K Police towards achieving a drug-free society is unwavering and steadfast, reads the statement.

Chattabal Weir Operationalized To Save Iconic Houseboats



FILE PIC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With dwindling water levels threatening Srinagar's iconic houseboats, authorities at the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) have operationalized the Chattabal Weir to maintain adequate levels in the river Jhelum to keep houseboats afloat.

The I&FC official said that due to the precipitation deficit in the valley, the water level in the water bodies had reduced, prompting them to operationalize the Chattabal Weir to keep houseboats afloat.

Since its operationalization, the water level in Jhelum has risen from 1.23 to 2.9 Ft, an official said. "This is an annual routine to maintain water levels, but this year's dry spell has made the situation more urgent."

He expressed optimism about receiving much-needed precipitation in the coming weeks.

Kashmir Valley is grappling with a concerning decline in water levels across its rivers, springs and other water bodies due to the ongoing dry spell and insufficient precipitation.

Experts and officials have expressed concerns over the long-term impacts on drinking water, irrigation and the valley's overall ecosystem.

The officials report a stable drinking water supply in the region, saying this is primarily due to reduced seasonal demand. However, the lack of significant precipitation continues to pose a long-term challenge, with authorities stressing the need for immediate rainfall and snowfall to recharge water bodies.

As per the Kashmir Houseboat Association, currently, there are around 86 houseboats in the river Jhelum from Old Zero Bridge to the Foot Bridge. However, several decades ago, the river boasted over 245 houseboats, they said.

While the operationalization of the Chattabal Weir has been welcomed by locals, the association has expressed dissatisfaction over its 'incomplete' capacity. "All the required planks need to be installed to raise the water level to the desired point. Once achieved, the authorities can adjust for the movement of Shikaras," it said.

Locals said the Chattabal Weir is over 100 years old and was constructed by British engineers between 1903-1907 in the valley to maintain the water level of the river—(KNO)

E-Challans To Be Issued Through ITMS In Sgr

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) is now functional in Srinagar, and the e-challans will be issued to traffic violators from today.

This new initiative aims to improve traffic regulation and ensure road safety by promoting adherence to traffic rules.

According to the details available the authorities urged all the drivers to drive safely and follow the rules to avoid penalties under the new e-challan system.

The system has been implemented by the traffic police to streamline law enforcement and reduce manual interventions.

In the meantime, a tweet from Traffic Police Srinagar reads: INTELLIGENT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ITMS), E-Challans will be initiated against traffic violators in Srinagar through ITMS

from tomorrow, as the system is functional now. Drive safely & follow traffic rules.

Also, a video attached in the tweet highlights the feature, stating that high-resolution cameras strategically placed at intersections and highway ramps capture live video feeds, analyzed by computer vision algorithms, to identify traffic conditions, vehicle types, and potential incidents.

Another snapshot from the video said that sensors like inductive loop detectors and radar sensors detect vehicles at intersections and along roads, measuring traffic volume, speed, and occupancy, providing real-time data on road conditions.

Furthermore, sensor and camera data are integrated into a centralized Traffic Management Center or cloud-based platform, processed in real-time by advanced software, to understand traffic patterns and potential congestion points—(KNO)

DC Stresses Intensified Mass Awareness Against Drug Abuse

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A meeting of District level Committee on NCORD was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to curb the drug menace and tighten the noose against drug peddlers in Srinagar District.

At the outset, DC took first hand appraisal from Officers of all line Departments and other stakeholders regarding the progress achieved in ongoing fight against the drug menace.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to ensure adoption of 'Zero Tolerance Policy' against drug trafficking to curb the menace of drugs by strengthening institutional structure, coordination among all narco agencies and extensive public awareness campaign. He added that through a coordinated and multi-pronged approach which includes prevention, enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation and IEC strategies, the menace of drugs will be eliminated from Srinagar soon.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on conducting intensified mass awareness programs to particularly educate the youth against the detrimental effects of drug abuse. He directed the Departments for organizing joint awareness programmes in collaborations with NGOs and civil



society groups to spread awareness about substance abuse, both in rural and urban areas of the District.

During the meeting, the DC expressed his concern regarding the drug abuse by the youth including students and emphasized on intensifying the deterrence measures against the drug menace and its peddling particularly identified hotspots in the District.

With regard to 100 percent installation of CCTVs and implementation of online billing at Retail and Wholesale pharmacies, the DC asked the concerned Department to ensure all pharmacies strictly adhere to the guidelines.

During the meeting, the Officers

briefed the chair regarding the action taken by their respective Departments to achieve drug free Srinagar District.

The meeting was informed that 88 cases were registered in the District involving 150 persons. The substances seized during the current year include 1.17 kg of Brown Sugar, 2.90 Kgs of Heroin, 13 Kgs of Charas besides Psychotropic Syrup 273 bottles, Psychotropic Capsules 2430, Ganja 10.16 Kgs, poppy straw/bhung/cannabis 44.18 Kgs and cash of Rs 489696 was also realized.

In addition, to tighten the noose of drug peddlers the District Police has seized properties worth 4.13 crore in 10 attachment cases.

Entrepreneur Credits PMFME Scheme For Business Growth

Agencies

SRINAGAR: From a small bakery in Srinagar to becoming a ground-breaker in India's food processing industry, Gulam Mahiuddin Sufi is proving how government support can transform dreams into reality.

As benefiting from the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) Scheme, Sufi has not only expanded his business but also introduced a creative product with India's first fortified bread enriched with essential nutrients like iron, folic acid, and vitamin B-12.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries shared a video in which Sufi explained how the scheme has

helped him expand his business. "We manufacture 45 bakery products, including India's first fortified bread enriched with iron, folic acid, and vitamin B-12. We also produce millet-based cookies," he said.

Through financial assistance under the PMFME Scheme, he has been able to procure machinery and diversify his production, boosting his business significantly. He expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the Government of India for support.

"With this assistance, I can grow my business well and also have bought machinery. With it, I can prepare various types of bread," Sufi said.—(KNO)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Third Seniority list of Junior Dental Technicians District Cadre Budgam
Reference:- Administrative Department Health & Medical Education Circular No: 15-HME of 2024 Dated: 24-06-2024 duly endorsed by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir under No:-DHSK/Est/NG/E-7509487/5814-48 Dated: 27-06-2024,

CIRCULAR

Whereas, 1st Tentative Seniority list of Junior Dental Technicians District Cadre Budgam whose initial posting is in District Budgam was issued by this office vide No:-CMOB/4753-79 Dated: 16-11-2024 and also disseminated among all DDO's for objection, if any.

Whereas, various representations has been received by this office alongwith supported documents for rectification, which were scrutinized and accordingly included in the 2nd tentative seniority list. Whereas, 2nd Tentative Seniority list of Junior Dental Technicians District Cadre Budgam was issued by this office vide No:- CMOB/5573-5598 Dated: 04-12-2024 and also disseminated among all DDO's for objection, if any.

Whereas, one representation from Showkat Nayeem duly forwarded by Block Medical Officer Nagam vide No:- BMO/N/1048 Dated: 09-12-2024 regarding his seniority position at S.No. 2 instead of S.No.3 alongwith supported documents and one representation from Mohammad Rafiq Ganai duly forwarded by Block Medical Officer Chattergam vide No:- BMO/CH/1078 Dated: 07-12-2024 alongwith supported documents regarding his seniority position at S.No. 21 instead of S.No.45 as per SSRB Merit, which were scrutinized and accordingly included in the third seniority list.

Now, third seniority list of Junior X-Ray Technicians (borne on 2210) District Cadre Budgam is hereby framed and circulated among all concerned for information and objection, if any which should reach to this office within two days.

The list is available on DHSK website www.dhskashmir.org.
No:- CMOB/6437-62 Dated:16-12-2024
DIPK-9644-24 DT: 17/12/2024
Chief Medical Officer, Budgam

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works
S.No Name of Work Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) Earnest Money in Rs. Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender. Date & Time of Opening of Bid Class of Contractor

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200
AIRPORTS SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311
RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPOR: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

PRAYERS
FAJR 6:01
ZUHR 12:27
ASR 3:47
Magrib 5:28
ISHA 6:53
15 Jumada al-Sani 1446

This Day In History
1118- Alfonso I of Aragon occupies Zaragoza defeating taking Moorish Taifa Zaragoza after the Moors
1271- Mongol Emperor Kublai Khan renames his empire "Yuan" (yuán), marking the start of the Yuan Dynasty of China
1603- First fleet of the Dutch East India Company under Admiral Steven van der Haghen departs for the East-Indies
1621- English parliament accept unanimously, Protestation
1787- New Jersey becomes the third state to ratify the US constitution
1813- British take Fort Niagara in War of 1812
1839-John William Draper takes 1st portrait photograph of a female face made in US
1849- William Bond obtains 1st photograph of Moon through a telescope
1852- George Hamilton-Gordon (Peelite party) becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after the downfall of the Conservative government of Edward Smith-Stanley
1898- First automobile speed record set of 63 kph (39 mph) by French Count Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat of Paris
1902- British parliament passes the Education Act, which will come to be regarded as the most important legislation of Arthur Balfour's government
1913- The Indian Inquiry Commission, also known as the Solomon Commission, commences its sittings in Pretoria
1916- Battle of Verdun, longest of World War I, officially ends in German defeat after nine months of fighting and almost 1 million total casualties
1917- The Soviet government issues a decree recognizing Finland's newly-declared independence [N.S. December 31]
1935- The Lanka Sama Samaja Party is founded in Ceylon
1939- Finnish army recaptures Aglajärvi (Karelia)
1941- Dutch & Australian troops lands on Portuguese Timor.
1941- World War II: Beginning of the Siege of Sebastopol.
1942- Allies in London sentence German war criminals.
1944 - US Army announces end of excluding Japanese-Americans from West Coast, detainees released.
1944 - US destroyers sink in storm off Philippines, 790 killed.
1949 - Burma recognizes People's Republic of China.
1953 - US Federal Communications Commission approves RCA's black & white-compatible color TV specifications.
1954- 1st fully automated railroad freight yard (Gary, Indiana).
1957 - US successfully test-fires Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile.
1961 - India seizes Goa & 2 other Portuguese colonies.
1963 - West & East Berlin sign accord about travel rules.
1965 - British government proclaims ends oil-embargo against Rhodesia.
1965 - Largest newspaper-Sunday NY Times at 946 pages (50 cents).
1971 - Cease fire between India & Pakistan in Kashmir.
1978 - OPEC raises oil prices by 18% and agrees on a 14.5% petroleum price increase for 1979, to be implemented quarterly.
1980 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
1999 - The United Nations General Assembly passes resolution 54/134 designating November 25 as the annual International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women.
2002 - Second Congo War: The Congolese parties of the Inter Congolese Dialogue sign a peace accord which makes provision for transitional governance and legislative and presidential elections within two years.
2007 - Republic of Lakotah asserts independence from the United States.
2012 - Jiroemon Kimura of Japan becomes the world's oldest verified man at 116 years old.
2012 - 17 people are killed and 70 are injured by a blast in a market in the Khyber Agency, Pakistan.
2012 - NASA completes a successful mission to map the Moon's gravity field.
2013 - Angela Merkel is elected Chancellor of Germany for a third term.
2015 - Libyan warring political factions sign a UN-brokered deal to form a unified government.
2018 - Meteor explodes in huge fireball over the Bering Sea with 10 times the energy of Hiroshima atomic bomb, 2nd largest in last 30 yrs

Teenage Girl Shoots Dead Fellow Student, Teacher At US School

Agencies

Washington: A 15-year-old girl opened fire in a Wisconsin school classroom on Monday, fatally shooting a fellow student and a teacher and wounding six other people before killing herself with the handgun, police said.

The latest school shooting to devastate a US community took place at the Abundant Life Christian School, a private institution that teaches some 400 students from kindergarten through 12th grade in Madison, the state capital of about 270,000 people.

Two students who were wounded in the shooting had life-threatening injuries, Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes told a press conference. A teacher and three other students were shot and expected to survive.

The shooter was identified as Natalie Rupnow, who also went by the name Samantha, Barnes said.

A school shooting carried out by a girl remains a rarity, with only about 3% of all US mass shootings perpetrated by females, studies show.

There was as yet no known motive for the violence. The shooter's family was cooperating with the investigation, police said.

"Today is a sad, sad day, not only for Madison, but for our entire country, where yet another police chief is doing

a press conference to speak about violence in our community," Barnes, a former school teacher, told reporters at an earlier press conference.

"Every child, every person in that building, is a victim, and will be a victim forever. These types of trauma don't just go away," Barnes said.

He said a second-grade student, who would generally be 7 or 8 years old, called 911 to report the shooting at the school.

"Let that soak in for a minute," Barnes said.

There have been 322 school shootings this year in the US, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database website. That is the second highest total of any year since 1966, according to that database - topped only by last year's total of 349 such shootings.

"We need to do better in our country and our community to prevent gun violence," Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway said.

'LOCKDOWN, LOCKDOWN'

The shooter arrived at school on time and pulled out the handgun about three hours into the school day, officials said.

Once the shooting began, students were locked in their classrooms and "handled themselves magnificently," said Barbara Wiers, Abundant Life's director of elementary and school relations.



'One Nation, One Election' Bill introduced in LS with 269 votes in favour

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla conducts proceedings in the House during the Winter session of Parliament, in New Delhi.

Two Bills that lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections were introduced in the Lok Sabha after a fiery debate on Tuesday.

Opposition parties dubbed the draft laws - a Constitution amendment Bill and an ordinary Bill - as an attack on the federal structure, a charge rejected by the government.

The Bills were introduced after the Opposition sought a division of votes.

After electronic voting and a subsequent count by paper slips, the Bills were introduced with 269 members in favour and 198 against.

This was the first time that the electronic voting system was used in the Lok Sabha in the new Parliament House.

The proceedings were later adjourned for a little over an hour till 3 pm.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal moved for introduction of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to align the elections of the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry and the NCT of Delhi.

Opposing the Bills at introductory stage, Manish Tewari of the Congress said they are against the basic structure as enshrined in the Constitution. Members can oppose any

Bill at the introduction stage. Following this, the Bill is introduced by the minister concerned through a voice vote.

Dharmendra Yadav (SP) said the Bill is an attack on the federal structure outlined by framers of the Constitution. He said while a set of Assembly polls cannot be held together, the government is talking of one nation, one election.

T R Baalu of the DMK questioned the expenditure it will entail in holding the massive exercise.

Kalyan Banerjee of the TMC said it hits the basic structure of the Constitution. He said proposed insertion of an article is contrary to the present Constitution.

TDP's Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani supported the bill, saying his party extends unwavering support to the proposal.

Delhi High Court Grants Time To ASI To Conduct Jama Masjid Survey



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has granted more time to the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct an inspection of the Jama Masjid in the national capital and file a report.

A bench comprising Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma, while dealing with the PILs to declare the mosque a "protected monument", asked the ASI for the report at least a week before the next hearing on January 29, 2025.

"Let the survey/inspection

time, the bench permitted one counsel on behalf of the petitioner to accompany the team during the inspection.

The PILs filed by Suhail Ahmed Khan and Ajay Gautam in 2014 raised questions over the Jama Masjid not coming under the purview of the ASI.

They objected to the use of the "Shahi Imam" title by Jama Masjid's Imam, Maulana Syed Ahmed Bukhari, and the appointment of his son as the naib (deputy) Imam.

In 2015, the ASI informed the court that former prime minister Manmohan Singh had assured the Shahi Imam that Jama Masjid would not be declared a protected monument.

In its latest affidavit, the ASI said declaring the historic Jama Masjid a "protected monument" would have a "substantial impact" and no steps had been taken in this regard so far.

It said once a structure was declared a protected monument, certain regulations and prohibitions in the area around it would come into force.

Explosion Kills Head Of Russia's Nuclear Defence Forces Along With His Assistant In Moscow

Agencies

Moscow: An explosive device planted close to a residential apartment block in Moscow killed the head of Russia's Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defence Forces, Lt. General Igor Kirillov, early Tuesday, Russia's Investigative Committee said.

Kirillov's assistant also

Investigative and search activities are being carried out to establish all the circumstances around this crime



died in the blast, triggered by the device which was placed in a scooter, officials said.

Russian investigators have opened a case into the two deaths, according to the committee's spokesperson Svetlana Petrenko.

"Investigators, forensic experts and operational services are working at the scene," she said in a statement. "Investigative and search activities are being carried out to establish all the circumstances around this crime."

Ukraine's Security Services on December 16 charged Kirillov with the use of banned chemical weapons during Russia's military operation in Ukraine that started in February 2022. USS said that they had recorded more than 4,800 uses of chemical weapons on the battlefield since February 2022, particularly K-1 combat grenades.

During the almost 3-year operation, Russia has made small but steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls

Uttarakhand HC Asks Police To Grant Protection To Interfaith Couple In Love

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Uttarakhand High Court has directed the police to

Akanksha's mother and certain political and religious organisations are opposing the alliance, they said in the petition.

Hearing their petition on Monday, a division bench com-



grant protection to an interfaith couple who cited opposition from the woman's mother and some political and religious organisations to their marriage.

Shanu, who runs a hair cutting salon at Bajpur in Udhham Singh Nagar district, and Akanksha Kandhari, doing B.com, said in their petition that they are adults and in love. They want to marry each other but are afraid to take the step as

prising Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Justice Pankaj Purohit directed the Bajpur police station SHO to give protection to the couple for six months. It also asked the police official to assess the situation after six months and take the required steps.

Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by The Telegraph Online staff and has been published from a syndicated feed.

NEWS MAKERS

Priyanka Brings 'Bangladesh' Bag, Day After Row Over 'Palestine' Tag

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra walked into Parliament on Tuesday, making yet another statement with imprints on her bag, this time sending a message to Hindu and Christian minorities of Bangladesh.

The move comes a day after Priyanka's display of support for Palestine via her bag. On Monday, her bag featured the 'Palestine' tag and also some emblems of the war-torn nation.

"Bangladesh ke Hindus and Christians ke saath khade ho" (stand up with the Hindus and Christians of Bangladesh) was inscribed on the bag that the Congress General Secretary carried on Tuesday.

Wayanad MP along with fellow Congress lawmakers



also protested outside Parliament against the atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh. They were seen carrying cream-coloured handbags to Parliament. Many opposi-

tion members carried placards and bags, expressing solidarity with the minorities.

Priyanka, speaking in Parliament on Monday, had raised the issue of the safety

and security of both minorities including Hindus and Christians in Bangladesh.

"The government should raise the issue of atrocities against Hindu and Christian minorities in Bangladesh. It should discuss this with the Bangladesh government and support those who are in pain," she had said.

Later, during an informal interaction with reporters outside the Parliament, she said that she wanted to speak on 'Vijay Diwas' but was not allowed to complete her statement.

She told scribes that she wanted to speak on how the Indira Gandhi government had led the country during the Bangladesh War, and how it was a war of principles.

Goa CM's wife files Rs 100 cr defamation suit against Sanjay Singh

A court in Goa on Tuesday issued a notice to Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh on a defamation suit filed by CM Pramod Sawant's wife who sought Rs 100 crore in damages from the AAP politician for allegedly naming her in the cash-for-jobs scam.

The court has sought Singh's reply by January 10, 2025.

Singh, a Rajya Sabha member, had recently addressed a press conference in Delhi where he allegedly made allegations against Sulakshana Sawant.

Sulakshana filed a complaint in the civil court at Bicholim in north Goa. The ad-hoc civil judge heard the suit and issued a notice to Singh, returnable on January 10, 2025.

Sulakshana requested the court through her lawyers to direct Singh to publish an apology clarifying that the said defamatory video/article and interview are false, not based on facts, and tender an unconditional apology, her complaint stated.



The complainant also urged the court to restrain Singh from making any public statements maligning her by injunction on social media or other platforms, such as WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube and X.

Many aspirants had lodged complaints across Goa alleging they were forced to pay lakhs to some persons who promised to facilitate jobs in the Goa government.

The chief minister had said that the state police are conducting a transparent investigation into the alleged cash-for-jobs scam.

Jt. Director Information Kashmir Convenes Meeting Of Divisional & District Officers



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, convened an introductory and review meeting on Tuesday with the Heads of various units from the Divisional office and District Information offices in his office chamber, here.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director Information & PR, Ahsan ul Haq Chishti, Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain; District Information Officers; Assistant Accounts Officer; and Section Officer.

During the meeting, the Joint Director reviewed the functioning of the department, particularly the coverage of official meetings, dissemination of information, and the organization of cultural events aimed at achieving the department's objectives.

Bukhari issued a series of directives to optimize the operations of both Divisional and

District Offices. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and urged staff to collaborate effectively to enhance the department's outreach and overall performance.

He also stressed the need to increase vibrancy and efficiency within the offices while expanding their presence on digital platforms to ensure the timely dissemination of news and information about government welfare schemes with special focus on Employment schemes. Bukhari further underlined the importance of combating disinformation.

The Officers apprised the Joint Director of various infrastructural challenges hindering the effective functioning of their respective offices, particularly the shortage of staff.

Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari assured the Officers that the issues flagged will be taken up with higher authorities for prompt resolution.

Article 370 Removal Integrated J&K Completely With India: JP Nadda

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Union Minister, JP Nadda on Tuesday said that the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, marked the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, he discussed the historical and legislative issues surrounding Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

He stated that the provision had long hindered the region's integration with India, limiting the applicability of central laws and curtailing basic rights.

"Article 35A, introduced in 1954 through a Presidential Order under Article 370, was implemented without parliamentary debate," he said, adding that Article 35A defined citizenship in Jammu and Kashmir, restricting it to those who resided in the region before 1944.

"This provision also excluded women from property rights if they married non-Kashmiri men, a rule that contradicted India's broader efforts to promote gender equality," he added.

He pointed out that key national laws, such as the Prevention of Atrocities Act, the Human Rights Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act,



were not applicable in J&K under Article 370.

He criticized the lack of parliamentary scrutiny over the provision's far-reaching consequences, calling it a significant oversight.

Participating in the discussion on the "Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India," Nadda emphasized the contributions of the Constituent Assembly while cautioning against mismanagement of constitutional principles.

Quoting B.R. Ambedkar, Nadda said, "However good a Constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad." He added, "The bad lot has interfered with the Constitution many times."

Targeting the Congress, Nadda criticized former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the inclusion of Article 370, claiming that B.R. Ambedkar had opposed it. He also refer-

enced Syama Prasad Mookerjee's opposition to Article 370, noting his ultimate sacrifice for the cause. "Mookerjee raised the issue of Article 370 and sacrificed his life for it. His mother wrote to Nehru and sought an investigation, but the request was ignored," Nadda said.

Nadda highlighted the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, as a historic achievement that fully integrated Jammu and Kashmir with India. "Because of the Prime Minister's wisdom, Jammu and Kashmir is now an inseparable part of India," he remarked. Calling the event a turning point, he said, "It is a question of the good lot and the bad lot. After the bad lot, we got the good lot."

He also said that the abrogation of Article 370 ended J&K's special status, enabling the full application of Indian laws and granting equal rights to all its citizens—(KNO)

Farmers Brave Freezing Waters To Harvest Nadru

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the winter chill tightens its grip on Kashmir, local farmers are venturing into freezing waters to harvest Nadru (lotus stem), a delicacy deeply rooted in the region's culinary heritage and culture.

This arduous task, carried out in shallow wetlands, highlights the resilience of farmers who rely on this seasonal crop for their livelihoods.

Nestled in the Dal Lake, Anchar Wular Lake, and other wetlands, Nadru fields transform into icy waterbeds during the harsh winter months. Dressed in traditional woolen clothing and armed with tools, farmers wade into the freezing waters, often enduring sub-zero temperatures. They dig deep into the lakebed's mud to extract the pristine white stems, which are prized for their crisp texture and nutty flavor.

"Nadru harvesting is not just a job; it's a tradition we've carried forward for generations," Bashir Ahmad, a farmer from Anchar Lake, told news agency KINS. "But winters are the most challenging. The cold pierces through the skin, and we work tirelessly to meet the demand."

Kashmiri households eagerly anticipate fresh Nadru, which is used in dishes like nadru yakhni (lotus stem in yogurt



curry) and nadru monje (crispy fritters). The vegetable also holds economic importance, with demand peaking during winter in local markets and even beyond the valley.

However, declining wetland areas due to urbanization and pollution have posed significant challenges. Farmers report a decrease in nadru yield over recent years, forcing some to abandon the trade. Environmentalists warn that unchecked degradation of wetlands could threaten this iconic Kashmiri crop.

Aijaz Bhat, an environmentalist called the need for conservation efforts. "Wetlands are vital not only for biodiversity but also for the livelihoods of communities. Protecting these ecosystems is essential to sustain traditional practices like nadru harvesting." (KINS)

Transport Dept Launches Crackdown On Number Plate Masking

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Transport Department has started a drive against number plate masking and commercial use of personal vehicles.

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Tuesday reviewed the work in offices of the Motor Vehicle Department. He directed the officers to streamline the functioning of the field offices to provide hassle-free services to the general public being offered by the Transport Department.

The Commissioner directed the officers to launch special

drives against number plate masking and the carrying of goods by passenger vehicles, according to a government spokesperson.

He directed the officers and officials of the Motor Vehicles Department to be polite and at the same time firm in dealing with any kind of violations by the drivers. "Deal strictly against overloading, drunken driving, rash driving, driving without helmets," the officer said.

Mahajan, the spokesperson said, directed seizing vehicles and cancelling the driving licences of habitual offenders—(KNO)

ACB Arrests Fire Service Deptt Clerk In Bribery Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested a clerk of Fire & Emergency Service department posted in Sopore for demanding a bribe of Rs 5000 for issuance of NOC to open a timber sale depot.

According to a statement issued, a complainant alleged that he intended to open a sale depot of timber in Baramulla for which he had applied online with forest department for securing licence and as per checklist, he completed all formalities except fire department NOC which was mandatory.

The statement reads that when he approached the office in Sopore concerning the clerk, Nisar Ahmad Wani initially delayed NOC on different grounds and finally told him to give a bribe of Rs 5000. "The clerk also compelled the complainant to pay Rs 1500 through bank account to some unknown person on the pretext of fee for NOC besides making him install various instruments at the proposed timber depot through a selected

shopkeeper at higher price," it reads. It added that as the complainant was not interested in paying the bribe he accordingly approached ACB with his complaint and demanded legal action against the concerned official.

"On receipt of the complaint a discreet verification was conducted by ACB PS Baramulla. The verification prima facie disclosed the commission of offence punishable under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by Nisar Ahmad Wani. Accordingly, a case FIR No 16/2024 Under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered against him and the investigation was initiated".

The statement reads that during investigation, a team laid a successful trap and the accused clerk was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 4000 from the complainant. "Accordingly, after completing all legal formalities the accused was arrested on the spot. The bribe money was also recovered, while further investigation is going on," it added.

CM Abdullah Inaugurates MRI, CT Scan Facility At Jammu Charitable Hospital

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art MRI and CT scan centre at a charitable hospital here, assuring continued government support to the hospital.

Abdullah praised the Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission hospital (SVMH) for its commitment towards providing affordable and high-quality healthcare.

"This institution stands as a beacon of service, offering quality healthcare at rates even lower than government hospitals," he said.

The chief minister highlighted the hospital's inspiring journey, which began as a small dispensary and has grown into a reputable medical institution.

He called this transformation "remarkable and worthy



of admiration."

Abdullah also acknowledged the hospital's exceptional work in its neonatal section, where the infant ICU boasts a 100 percent recovery rate.

The chief minister toured the hospital, interacted with staff and patients, and reviewed various departments

to gain firsthand insights.

He emphasized the importance of serving humanity, stating, "To serve God, we must serve humanity."

Abdullah assured continued government support for the hospital and pledged assistance to help it expand its services and strengthen its healthcare initiatives.

Pattan Traders Federation Protests 'Unscheduled' Power Cuts

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Traders Federation Pattan on Tuesday held a protest over prolonged and frequent power cuts in the area.

The protest led to halting of traffic movement on Srinagar-Baramulla highway, causing inconvenience to commuters Nasir Bashir, president of the traders federation said that despite being a metered area, Pattan receives only a few hours of electricity.

He said that they have raised the issue repeatedly with concerned officials, but no action has been taken. Another protester said that they receive just 2-3 hours of electricity in a day.

"This is nothing short of harassment. The government must address this issue immediately," he said.

Tehsildar Haroon Rashid, who reached at the protest site to pacify the demonstrators, assured them that the issue would be raised with higher authorities and that efforts would be made to restore electricity supply as per the schedule—(KNO)

Deputations Call on Dy CM, Seek Redressal Of Issues

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary said that ensuring prompt redressal of public grievances is the top most priority of the present government.

The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with scores of deputations who called on him today to project several issues related to welfare and development of their respective areas.

A deputation of Brahman Sabha Jammu called for allocation of Sanskrit lecturers in the recent notification is-

sued by the education department. Another delegation from Gurudwara Baba Sundar Singh Ji Jasrota, Kathua, and JK Blood Donors & Welfare Society raised their issues and concerns.

During interaction with the delegations, the Deputy Chief Minister shared his vision for creating a more inclusive, prosperous and progressive society. He emphasized the importance of fostering unity among communities, improving infrastructure in underserved regions and promoting initiatives that uplift the socio-economic standards of all citizens.

The Deputy CM expressed his commitment towards empowering youth, enhancing healthcare facilities and supporting volunteer-driven organisations. He highlighted the need for greater collaboration between the government and community stakeholders to address pressing issues effectively and ensure sustainable development.

Several legislators, DDC members and former Sarpanchs from different areas also called on the Deputy Chief Minister and projected several development related issues of their respective constituencies.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PW (R&B) DIVISION, SHOPIAN

E-mail: rmbdivisionshopian@gmail.com

Fax No./ Phone No. 01933-260226(M)

Javid Ahmad

No:R&B/Spn/DSR/6474-75

S/o:- Mohd Ahsan Mantoo,

Dated: 03-12-2024

R/o:- Nehama Kulgam.

Subject:- Strengthening/Up gradation of Checki Kachdoora Cheki Nowgam and Chitripora Kaprin road BWO construction of Major/minor drainage crossings, cement concrete drain, Kacha drain and P/L1WBM G-II i/c laying of MS and RCC pipes & completion of work regarding.

- Reference:**
- 1) This office Allotment orders No:- A-1/12574-78 Dated:-31/12/2021.
 - 2) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Shopian's No:- 274/SSD Dated:-25-05-2023
 - 3) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Shopian's No:- 314/SSD Dated :-01-06-2023
 - 4) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Shopian's No:- 526/SSD Dated:15-07-2023
 - 5) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Ramnagri's No:- R&B/RSD/13-14 Dated:-11-09-2023
 - 6) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Ramnagri's No:- R&B/RSD/38-39 Dated:-28-10-2023
 - 7) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Ramnagri's No:- R&B/RSD/100-101 Dated:-12-12-2023
 - 8) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Ramnagri's No:- R&B/RSD/150-51 Dated:-27-2-2024
 - 9) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Ramnagri's No:- R&B/RSD/163-NI Dated:-4-3-2024
 - 10) This office Notice No:- R&B/Spn/13134-35 Dated:-05-03-2024
 - 11) This office Notice No:- R&B/Spn/13728-29 Dated:-25-03-2024
 - 12) Assistant Ex. Engineer Sub Div- Ramnagri's No:- R&B/RSD/35-36 Dated :-17-5-2024
 - 13) This office Notice No:- R&B/NT-45/1404-05 Dated:-12-06-2024.
 - 14) This office Notice No:- R&B/NT-45/1743-45 Dated:-01-07-2024.

Whereas the subjected named work stands allotted to you via this office Allotment Order No. referred to above under reference, and as per the terms and conditions of NIT, you were supposed to complete the work within the prescribed time. However, after a lapse of near about 3 years, the work is still incomplete, which is an open breach of contract.

Whereas, you were served chain of notices with the aim of completing the said work with the shortest possible time period both at R&B Divisional Office Shopian and Sub-Divisional Office R&B Ramnagri vide the above referenced no's.

Whereas, in addition to the above-referenced official notices, you were constantly directed to resume the work telephonically many a time, not only by the field officer but undersigned as well. However, you have been turning a deaf ear, and nor have shown any inclination to do the same till date.

Whereas, a sufficient amount of Rs. 56.72 lacs got lapsed during financial year 2023-24 due to non-completion of work, which is an open violation of contract.

Whereas, due to your lackadaisical and unprofessional approach, you have put this office in an embarrassing position before the District Administration and the general public in particular, who have faced a lot hardships due to the incompleteness of the bridge. It is worthwhile to mention here that due to the halted execution process since 3/2024, which led the concerned inhabitants of the areas under question to approach not only this office and the District Administration but are also highlighting the matter regarding execution/completion of the project on the Grievance portal/social media portal & in public darbars, due to which the District Administration has taken a serious note on the issue and directed for early completion of the project.

Now, in view of the above and in order to execute/complete the work within 2 months, you are as such directed to mobilize your resources and get the work started within 3 days positively, failing which it shall be presumed that you are not willing to do the same and the contract shall be considered as terminated, the CDR shall be forfeited accordingly, and work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost without issuing further notices, which shall be noted; furthermore, you shall be debarred from the tendering process in the R&B Department, and competent authority shall be approached for blacklisting your registration card, which may be noted.

"Treat this notice as final through print media".

"One Copy of this notice also send to you on your Whatsapp No: 9906570060 besides on copy through speed post"

DIPK-9635-24
DT: 17/12/2024

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Shopian

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor: Sajjad Haider
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Elusive Statehood

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is once again meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah today to discuss the now contentious issue of the restoration of statehood—a promise made repeatedly by the Union Government but yet to have a definitive timeline. Earlier Omar had met the prime minister Narendra Modi and the home minister soon after passing of the statehood resolution by his cabinet on October 18. Later, Omar told senior officials in a meeting that he had “had successful meetings” in Delhi and that he had received “assurances at the highest level that the commitments made to Jammu and Kashmir, particularly with regard to our governance model, will be honoured.”

Although the CM had mentioned this in the context of the warning to bureaucrats against exploiting the existing hybrid governance system, his remarks renewed debate about the prospect of early reinstatement of statehood. However, since then there has been little progress towards this goal. In fact, some of the renewed optimism about the return of statehood that followed the assumption of office by the elected government in October has evaporated. The hope seems to have further receded in the wake of the Maharashtra outcome which has put the BJP back in control at the national level. This, in turn, seems to have altered the party's priorities and distracted it from Kashmir.

Centre had abrogated Article 370 in August 2019, stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and reorganizing the region into two Union Territories—Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Both PM Modi and the home minister Shah have already assured the restoration of statehood to J&K at an appropriate time. What, however, they have not given so far is a timeline. So, there is a section of people who believe that statehood might take longer than expected. And if and when statehood is restored, it is expected to be more or less a truncated one just like that of Delhi. Considering the troubled state of affairs prevailing in the UT, Centre, it is believed, is unlikely to let go of control on the security agencies and the allied security related matters, lest it unravel the gains made in recent years. The recent rise in militancy-related violence is likely to further dissuade the central government from handing over complete control over the region to an elected government. Should this happen, a future governor will continue to wield a strong say in the affairs of J&K.

But who knows, the central government might still surprise us, just like it did with Assembly elections. Statehood could very well be around the corner. And should the centre do so, it will certainly earn goodwill from the people of the union territory.



Did you know?

The Importance of Investing: Understanding the Need for Financial Growth

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing is essential for achieving financial stability and promoting growth. While many individuals prioritize purchasing luxury items like cars—whether it's a Mahindra, Maruti, Hyundai, or Tata—it's equally important to recognize the value of investing in these companies through their shares.

Purchasing a car is undoubtedly a significant decision, but investing in the company that manufactures these cars can yield substantial returns over time. Companies like Maruti, Hero Motors, and Mahindra & Mahindra have historically proven to be rewarding for investors, while Royal Enfield has also demonstrated impressive returns throughout its history.

When we buy products we believe in, such as Asian Paints and everyday items like Britannia's Crack biscuits, it showcases our trust in those brands. This loyalty can naturally extend to investment opportunities. By observing the successful businesses around us, we see that investing in them can lead to growth and prosperity over the long haul.

To invest wisely, it's crucial to understand strategic investment methods. One effective approach is through mutual funds. Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) allow individuals to invest fixed amounts regularly—starting from as little as Rs 500 per month. Over time, even small investments can create significant wealth, especially when started at a young age. This early investment mindset fosters a habit that cushions against economic uncertainties in the future.

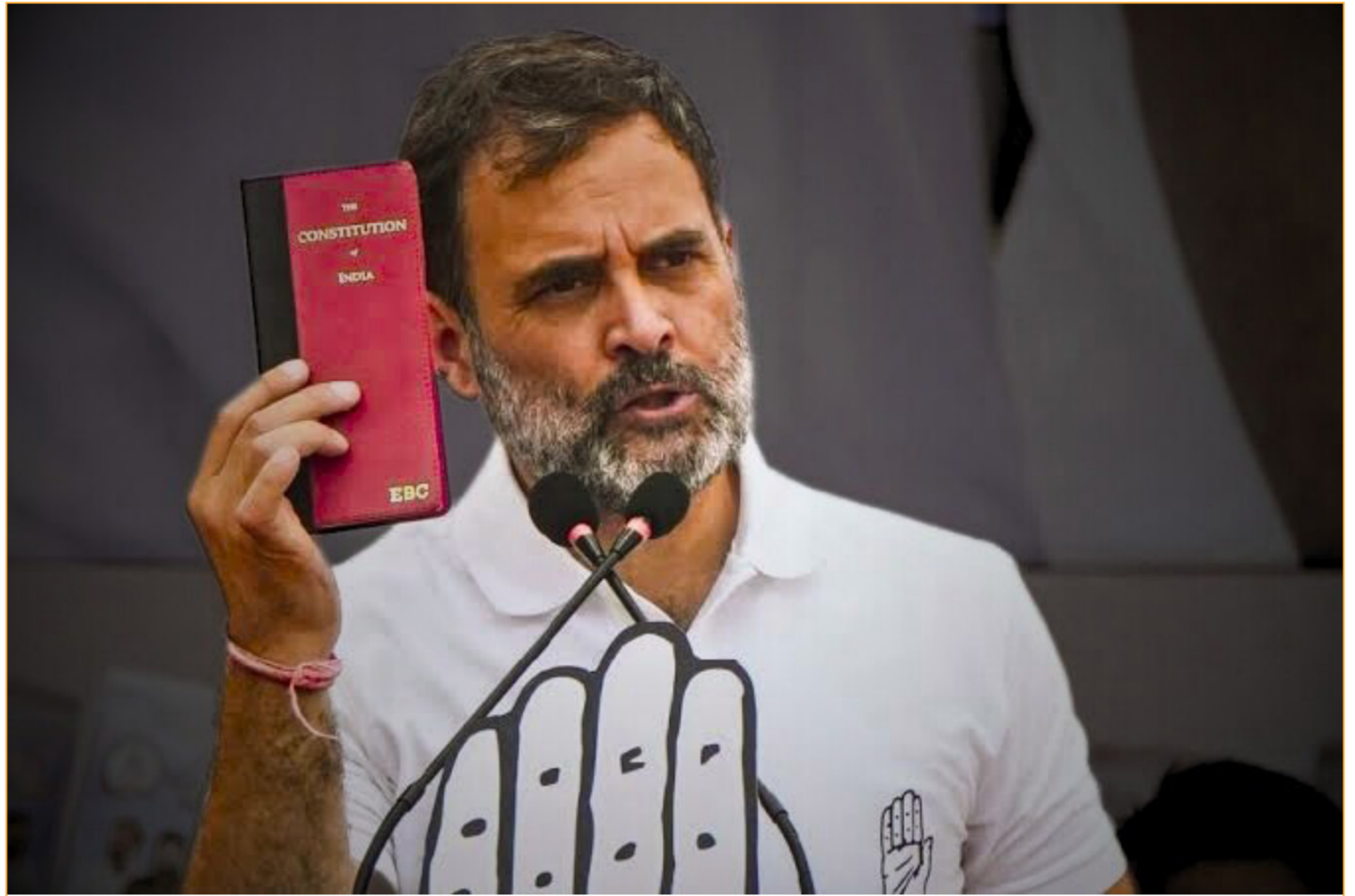
The key takeaway is to transition from being solely consumers to also becoming investors. Encourage your money to work for you rather than merely laboring for it. Prioritize investing in quality shares and mutual funds, as they are vital to your financial future. If the companies you're investing in thrive, your financial outlook will likely be promising.

Remember, investing is not just an option; it's a necessary step toward securing and enhancing your financial health. Embrace the journey of becoming an investor—start small, and cultivate a wealth-building mindset that will benefit you for years to come.

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

INDIA Bloc Crisis

Opposition must regroup swiftly to avoid sliding into irrelevance



Rahul Gandhi during Samvidhan Rakshak Abhiyan (Save Constitution Campaign) event at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi, 26 November 2024

RIYAZ WANI

“After the Maharashtra result, one can't help but wonder what makes the BJP tick and frequently come back from behind to stage a spectacular return to the centre stage? What makes the party grow from strength to political strength with such effortless ease, after some occasional reverses?”

Six months after spectacularly denying the BJP a near-certain absolute majority in the parliamentary polls, the INDIA bloc seems to have once again been relegated to the background. More so the Congress that yet again seems to have lost the will to fight. Three successive defeats in Assembly elections in J&K, Haryana and the all-important Maharashtra have effectively reversed the gains the party had made in the parliament polls. Congress' presence on the ground is depleting again and there are not even distant signs that it will recover anytime soon. That is, unless there is a fundamental shift in the kind of politics the party has been practicing for many years now. After a brief spark early this year, Congress once again seems to lack ideas, ideology, organization, and above all leadership.

Rahul Gandhi's image makeover is now threatening to unravel. Gandhi's speeches are sincere but carry little conviction in the prevailing polarized environment. He has paid attention to his communication style: he now frames his arguments in a way that generates a bigger ideological contestation with the BJP. But Gandhi's scion has still a long way to go to match the prime minister Narendra Modi's overarching persona.

So, Congress does need a deep surgery. It can only survive if it not just challenges the ruling party on day to day governance but also aggressively peddles a credible alternative vision of India. The chances of this happening in the near future look very bleak. The party comes alive spasmodically, and then retreats into a shell. The party's post-parliamentary polls politics attests to this fact. It let go of a distinct advantage in J&K and Haryana Assembly polls, and subsequently in Maharashtra too.

In J&K polls, the party won just six out of 90 seats. In the

Jammu division of the union territory where it was expected to do well, the party won just one out of 32 seats it was contesting. On the contrary, the party bagged five of the nine seats it contested in the Kashmir Valley where it has never enjoyed a conspicuous popular support. One main reason for the party's poor performance in Jammu is believed to be its lacklustre campaigning. This was unlike the BJP, whose top leaders descended on the region to hold rallies. They included from prime minister Narendra Modi on down to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, party national president J P Nadda, and the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

On the contrary, Rahul Gandhi addressed just five rallies in the region. He couldn't attend the two planned rallies at Ramgarh and Chhamb on September 27, after his plane failed to take off from New Delhi due to bad weather. This cost the party dear. A similar scene more or less played out in Haryana, where all opinion polls, poll analysts and ordinary people saw the Congress winning the election. The BJP, in its best-ever performance in Haryana, won 48 seats, while the Congress secured 37.

The Congress failed to take the lessons from J&K and Haryana to Maharashtra. The party's dismal performance in the state highlighted its ongoing struggles in mobilizing support and executing an effective electoral strategy. Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising Udhav Sena and Sharad Pawar-led NCP failed to present a cohesive and compelling alternative to voters, which significantly diminished their chances of success.

The opposition's uninspiring politics continues to be its Achilles' heel. In the months ahead, it must regroup and present a stron-

ger, more credible challenge to the BJP. However, this will be no easy feat. The BJP, in its current form, demands not just opposition unity but also a compelling alternative ideological narrative.

After the Maharashtra result, one can't help but wonder what makes the BJP tick and frequently come back from behind to stage a spectacular return to the centre stage? What makes the party grow from strength to political strength with such effortless ease, after some occasional reverses? The answer to the question is complex, yet seems very self-evident. In over ten years that the saffron party has been in power at the national level, it has inventively expanded its political appeal to be all things to all the people—right from its core rightwing base through the centre to the left. Combining ideology, welfare programs, and sectarian politics, the saffron party has transformed into a formidable and dominant political force.

In 2025, the Assembly elections in Delhi and Bihar will be crucial for the INDIA bloc to stay relevant as a political force. It can't afford to lose either of the two. The Maharashtra win has restored the BJP's status as a dominant party. It is the party that adapts and renews itself, enabling it to bounce back from setbacks. The opposition has to evolve a compelling narrative, align its fragmented factions, and demonstrate its ability to govern as a unified and viable alternative. The failure to do so could spell political irrelevance for the INDIA bloc, further consolidating the BJP's dominance and diminishing the opposition's credibility in future electoral battles.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



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

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On the Death of the Tabla Maestro

The passing away of Ustad Zakir Hussain, the globally revered tabla virtuoso, is an irreparable loss to the field of world music. Known for his amazing finger-work and rhythmic brilliance, he brought the tabla to a global stage, collaborating with some of the world's finest musicians. His gargantuan contribution to music was recognized with Padma awards

and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award. On the global stage, he was a four-time Grammy Award winner. His unparalleled skills earned him the reputation of a “fearsome technician” and a “whimsical inventor,” as The New York Times remarked in a 2009 review of his Carnegie Hall performance. Over the years, Hussain built a reputation for himself as a master of rhythm, gaining recogni-

tion worldwide for his technical brilliance and innovation in the classical and fusion music scenes. Beyond his musical prowess, Zakir Hussain's life was a testament to the power of dedication, passion, and cultural exchange. His influence extended beyond the concert stage, as he mentored countless young musicians and left an indelible mark on the world of music education. His collaborations

spanned various genres, from traditional Indian classical music to jazz, rock, and film scores, making him a true ambassador of global musical harmony. As fans, fellow musicians, and admirers around the world mourn his loss, Zakir Hussain's legacy remains a lasting symbol of the power of music to transcend borders and unite people across cultures.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Other skies beckon Between Romanticism & West's 'Enlightenment'

Wajahat Qazi

In the 17th and 18th centuries, a movement arose in the west. One major premise of this movement was doubt. Pioneered by a bunch of brilliant philosophers – Descartes, Comte, Kant, Lock, Bentham, to name a few – doubt and empiricism became its core premise with man(woman) at the centre. Thus began the 'Age of Reason'. This was also known as the 'Enlightenment'. Semantically, philosophically and practically, this meant that humans and the human mind stood free from 'encumbrances' like religion, tradition, convention and so on. In this schema, mankind stood 'liberated' and was on the cusp of a great future determined by man(woman). Other themes – democracy, liberalism, constitutional government, free speech – and so on were mere corollaries to the bedrock, foundational ideas or ideals of the West's 'enlightenment'.

Gradually and inexorably, it was held that 'enlightenment' ideas would envelop the whole world: mankind that 'stood on the edge of the precipice' would be wrapped in the garment of 'nirvana'. The attendant and accompanying themes – structural and conceptual – like western colonialism, imperialism, total wars and so on – were, in this schemata mere blips in the larger direction and course of history. These blips were supposed to wither and wilt with the 'End of History' after the Cold War where one gifted sales person pronounced that all history had ended with America being the ultimate vortex into which the historical process melted and collapsed. Toward this end, the great German philosopher, Hegel's dialectic was employed. The verdict was pronounced with Hegel used as a philosophical crutch. (It may be that the aghast Hegel would still be twisting and turning in his grave).

Of course, this description is a crude and a reductive one of the West's Enlightenment. But let me take this at face value. The question that arises is: Is the West really 'Enlightened' and 'rational'? And should we, non-western brown and black men and women take these standards as our ultimate destiny?

But a caveat first: it may be that the West's enlightenment is flawed and rationality has been taken to an extreme, but undoubtedly the theoretical man(woman) created by the Enlightenment, at least in philosophical terms is an advanced man(woman) – at least pre-disposition to elemental aspects of 'real-



ity'. This is not a drooling or grovelling statement by a brown man in awe of the West. I would like to think I have a reasonable understanding and even appreciation of some aspects of the West without losing my essence in the process.

Now returning to the thematic core of this essay: Is the west Enlightened? Let me take Rene Descartes 'Method' – where this great philosopher collapsed 'reality' into the vortex of doubt and empiricism as a starting point. Descartes postulated that anything that cannot be proved empirically must be doubted. (This was later adduced by Karl Popper in the 'truth' /falsification binary). If Enlightenment equals modernity then doubt is its cardinal premise. While doubt may serve as a useful corrective in terms of power and power dynamics in society – especially in Foucauldian terms – it is a serious liability when it comes to determining the higher purpose in life. Into the cauldron of doubt stepped Immanuel Kant who made

reason the 'new religion' – with a focus on instrumental aspects of it. Paralleling Kant and Descartes were Jeremy Bentham and J S Mill who held that the apogee of the human endeavour was 'pleasure maximization and pain minimization' and 'the greatest good for the greatest number'.

Again, this is a reductive delineation of western philosophy that informs the West's Enlightenment. But does the West correspond to these? And are these ideas worth 'the proverbial candle'?

Consider doubt first and apply it to the West's power political paradigms. The 'power elite' in the West by playing the 'Wizard of Oz' on a daily basis creates an illusion of empowerment for people. Not only this, many aspects of public policy are crafted in such a way that obscures the import of these policies (foreign policies, for example) creating a 'false consciousness' in the process among people. Similarly, most of western mainstream media 'manufactures consent'

in and among the people – sometimes subtly and other times 'in your face', that actually militates against reality and real welfare of people. In terms of the lived reality of most people in the West, relations are determined and mediated by capital and capitalism modes of production. This, in contemporary terms, means the ultimate endeavour of human kind is conspicuous consumption. (At a sophisticated and advanced level, it means a post-industrial society informed and determined by Artificial Intelligence and Robotics where humans are 'wired' to be passive consumers of a virtual reality).

If the West does not itself conform to the tenets of its Enlightenment, why, the question is, should we? If the apogee of enlightenment is consumption and passive consumerism, and the illusion of empowerment, aren't we – brown and black men and women 'staring at the Nietzschean abyss'? Does this mean we negate and reject the west's enlightenment?

Yes, if consumption and social relations mediated by capital is the answer. But if aspects of the west's enlightenment mean curiosity, discovery and science in the service of humanity then surely these elements are worth their while. However, at the same time, if the summum bonum of the West's Enlightenment are features delineated in this essay, then both Enlightenment reasons are very limiting themes, concepts and philosophies. Their very limitation then suggests an alternative. What is that?

Romanticism. Purely and simply. The grist and mill of romanticism is intuition, imagination, passion, and beauty, respect for the sublime and the heroic. If enlightenment reduces humans to mere 'rational' 'cogs whose highest endeavour is pain minimization and pleasure maximization, romanticism elevates humans and imbues life with a higher moral and aesthetic purpose. In this sense then romanticism merges and meshes with the essence of religion whose aim is to imbue humans with a higher purpose, morality and ethics and than mere 'instrumentalists'. This may be best illustrated in the pithy but brilliant and profound couplet of the poet philosopher of the East, Allama Iqbal who enjoined us to think beyond reason and rationality:

'You are the falcon, soaring flight is your destiny

Many other skies beckon and await you'

This pithy couplet sums up the purpose of humans, their quest, endeavours and ultimate destiny. Grandeur, romance, romanticism, a higher purpose, a higher moral and ethical sensibility inheres in it. Contrarily, enlightenment rationality reduces humans to mere biological neurotransmitters whose ends of life should be prosaic enjoyment, pain avoidance and doubt, to finally rot and decompose into bodily elements in a grave where 'both the king and the pawn go into the same box' and it's all over. Are we to accept aspects of rationality like the spirit of discovery that aid humanity and jettison the rest? Or are we to be romantics defined by a higher sensibility, higher moral and aesthetic quests and intuition that allows us to imagine in clear and lucid terms the humanity that resides in each of us? The choices are clear and ours to make!

The author is a writer and columnist. He has a Masters with Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and has worked as Associate Editor of Kashmir Observer

Artificial Intelligence and the Physics of Learning

John Nosta

I'll admit it, I'm a math guy. And recently, I've tried to express the emerging power of large language models (LLMs) in many aspects of life—including education. And it got me thinking: What if learning could be framed as a mathematical or physics construct, where "cognitive energy" serves as the fuel for understanding? This conceptual approach isn't about oversimplifying the complexities of learning but about exploring how LLMs might optimize the dynamics of effort and understanding.

At its heart, this idea examines how LLMs reduce unnecessary resistance—putting the learning at the very center of the process—while fostering productive effort. But, as learning science tells us, not all effort is created equal. Some challenges—what may be "desirable difficulties"—are crucial for deeper understanding and long-term retention. The challenge, then, is to balance reducing unproductive friction with introducing the right kinds of cognitive engagement.

And, like a lot of math, this might get a little difficult, but it's worth the cognitive effort.

Learning as Cognitive Energy

In this conceptual framework, learning can be thought of as moving from confusion to clarity—bridging a gap between initial understanding $x(i)$ and final understanding or mastery $x(f)$. Borrowing from the equation for potential energy, the cognitive energy required for learning might be expressed as

$$E = 1/2 k(x(f) - x(i))^2$$

Where

E is the total cognitive energy required for a topic understanding.

k is the rigidity of the learning system—how inflexible or adaptable it is.

$x(f) - x(i)$ is the gap between current and target understanding.

Of course, learning isn't as linear as this equation suggests, but it provides a helpful way to frame the dynamics of effort and resistance.



In traditional systems, k tends to be high. Fixed pathways and rigid curricula force learners to expend significant energy overcoming obstacles that often feel disconnected or irrelevant. For example, memorizing formulas without understanding their applications is like stretching a stiff spring: It requires effort but provides little meaningful progress.

Productive Effort vs. Unproductive Friction

Here's where the physics analogy requires refinement. While reducing unnecessary work or friction is valuable, not all effort is bad. These are "desirable difficulties"—challenges that are just hard enough to engage the brain's deeper processing mechanisms, enhancing long-term retention and understanding.

This reframes the overly simple idea of

just effort reduction—LLMs lower cognitive resistance (k), but, in doing so, they optimize effort, channeling it into productive rather than unproductive pathways. It's less of a paradox and more akin to designing an effective workout. A well-structured learning process doesn't eliminate effort; it ensures that the effort learners expend is meaningful and rewarding.

For instance, struggling to apply a formula to solve a problem is far more engaging and beneficial than rote memorization. LLMs can scaffold this productive struggle by offering hints, feedback, and analogies that help learners work through challenges without becoming overwhelmed.

Yes, a Tortured Analogy

While the energy equation is a helpful metaphor, it oversimplifies the complexity of learning. Unlike the linear mechanics of physical systems, learning often involves the following:

Networks of Understanding: Concepts interconnect in nonlinear ways, and progress often depends on integrating prior knowledge rather than moving step-by-step.

Backtracking: Revisiting earlier stages of learning is common, as learners refine their understanding.

Qualitative Leaps: Insights often occur suddenly, as learners restructure their mental models in ways that don't align with gradual energy expenditure.

These complexities remind us that learning is as much about creativity, exploration, and qualitative shifts as it is about effort and resistance.

LLMs as Cognitive Optimizers
Despite the limitations of the analogy, LLMs represent a powerful tool for reshaping the dynamics of learning. By lowering unnecessary rigidity, they reduce unproductive cognitive energy expenditure, making learning paths smoother and more accessible. But they also foster productive effort by

Personalizing Challenges: Tailoring tasks to the learner's current abilities, ensuring the right level of difficulty.

Encouraging Exploration: Presenting diverse examples, analogies, and thought experiments to spark curiosity.

Providing Timely Feedback: Redirecting learners when they're stuck, preventing frustration while maintaining engagement.

A New Framework for Learning
This optimized balance between reduced friction and meaningful effort is the heart of the learner-centric revolution. With LLMs as partners, education becomes less about overcoming rigid systems and more about navigating dynamic, engaging pathways to understanding.

Imagine a student tackling quantum mechanics. Instead of memorizing abstract concepts from a textbook, they could ask an LLM for tailored explanations, simulate thought experiments, or explore analogies suited to their interests. This approach doesn't eliminate effort—it channels it into productive, rewarding engagement.

Rethinking Effort in Learning

The physics analogy provides a lens for conceptualizing how LLMs reshape learning, but it's not a perfect construct. Learning is far more complex than potential energy equations—it's nonlinear, iterative, and deeply human. Yet, the core insight remains: By lowering unnecessary resistance and fostering meaningful effort, LLMs make learning less about endurance and more about discovery.

The real transformation doesn't lie in making learning "easier" but in making it more engaging, purposeful, and, ultimately, more human. This shift from friction to flow, from unproductive effort to meaningful challenge, is what will define the next era of education.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

New Study Links Paracetamol To Side Effects In Digestive Tract Heart Kidneys Among Older Adults

Press Trust Of India

Paracetamol, a common over-the-counter medication, may increase the risk of gastrointestinal, heart- and kidney-related complications among adults aged 65 and above, a new study has found.

Taken commonly for treating mild-to-moderate fever, paracetamol is also the first drug recommended for treating osteoarthritis -- a chronic condition causing pain, stiffness and swelling in the joints due to wear-and-tear -- as it is considered effective, relatively safe and accessible.

However, some studies have provided evidence to contest the effectiveness of paracetamol in relieving pain while others have shown increased risks of gastrointestinal side effects, such as ulcers and bleeding, from prolonged use.

The latest study, conducted by researchers from the University of Nottingham, UK, found that paracetamol use was linked to a 24 per cent and 36 per cent increase in risk of peptic ulcer bleeding (bleeding due to ulcer in the digestive tract) and lower gastrointestinal bleeding, respectively.

Taking the drug may also increase the risk of chronic kidney disease by 19 per cent, heart failure by 9 per cent and hypertension by 7 per cent.

"This study shows a significant incidence of renal, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal side effects in older people, who are prescribed acetaminophen (paracetamol) repeatedly in the UK," the authors wrote in the study published in



“Whilst further research is now needed to confirm our findings, given its minimal pain-relief effect, the use of paracetamol as a first line pain killer for long-term conditions such as osteoarthritis in older people needs to be carefully considered”

the journal Arthritis Care and Research. "Due to its perceived safety, paracetamol has long been recommended as the first line drug treatment for osteoarthritis by many treatment guidelines, especially in older people who are at higher risk of drug-related complications," said lead researcher Weiya Zhang from the University of Nottingham's School of Medicine.

"Whilst further research is now needed to confirm our findings, given its minimal pain-relief effect, the use of paracetamol as a first line pain killer for long-term conditions such as osteoarthritis in older people needs to be carefully considered," Zhang said.

For their analysis, the researchers looked at health records of 1,80,483 (1.80 lakh) people repeatedly prescribed paracetamol (more than two prescriptions within six months).

Their health outcomes were compared to those of 4,02,478 (4.02 lakh) people of the same age who were never prescribed paracetamol repeatedly.

Data from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink-Gold was analysed for the study. The participants were aged 65 and over (average age 75) and had been registered with a UK general practitioner for at least a year between 1998 and 2018.

A 2016 study in The Lancet journal pooled and analysed data from 76 randomised trials, involving 58,451 patients, published between 1980 and 2015. Researchers from the University of Bern found that paracetamol did not provide the minimum levels of effective pain relief or improve physical function in patients with knee and hip osteoarthritis.

Flu Virus Remains Infectious In Refrigerated Raw Milk: Study

ANI

According to a new study, raw milk, which is marketed as a natural and healthier alternative to pasteurised dairy, may contain hidden hazards. The research found that the influenza or flu virus can remain infectious in refrigerated raw milk for up to five days. The findings come at a time when outbreaks of bird flu in dairy cattle have raised concerns about the potential for a new pandemic. The study was conducted by Stanford University.

"This work highlights the potential risk of avian influenza transmission through consumption of raw milk and the importance of milk pasteurization," said study senior author Alexandra Boehm, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Professor of Environmental Studies in the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability and the Stanford School of Engineering.

Study links raw milk to potential flu transmission

More than 14 million Americans consume raw milk annually. Unlike pasteurized milk, raw milk is not heated to kill potentially harmful pathogens. Proponents of raw milk claim that it leaves more beneficial nutrients, enzymes, and probiotics than in pasteurized milk, and can boost immune and gastrointestinal health.

The Food and Drug Administration has tied raw milk to over 200 outbreaks of illnesses, and - together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - warns that germs, such as E. coli and Sal-



monella, in raw milk present "serious" health risks, especially for children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems. The researchers explored the persistence of a strain of human influenza virus in raw cow's milk at typical refrigeration temperatures. The flu virus, called H1N1 PR8, survived and remained infectious in the milk for up to five days.

"The persistence of infectious influenza virus in raw milk for days raises concerns about potential transmission pathways," said study co-lead author Mengyang Zhang, a postdoctoral scholar in civil and environmental engineering. "The virus could contaminate surfaces and other environmental materials within dairy facilities, posing risks to animals and humans."

Additionally, the researchers found that flu virus RNA - molecules that carry genetic information but are not considered a health risk - remained detectable in the raw milk for at least 57 days. By comparison, pasteurization completely destroyed infectious influenza in the milk and reduced the amount of viral RNA by almost 90%, but didn't eliminate the RNA entirely. Although exposure to influenza virus RNA does not pose a health risk, RNA-based testing methods are often used to conduct environmental surveillance of pathogens like influenza.

Raw milk's role in flu virus spread

"The prolonged persistence of viral RNA in both raw and pasteurized milk has implications for food safety assessments and environmental sur-

veillance, particularly because many of the techniques used in environmental surveillance detect RNA," said study co-lead author Alessandro Zulli, a postdoctoral scholar in civil and environmental engineering.

The research grew out of an earlier project - funded by the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment's Environmental Venture Projects program - focused on human norovirus and the subfamily of viruses responsible for the Covid-19 pandemic. In the U.S. alone, flu viruses infect more than 40 million people and kill more than 50,000 every year. These types of viruses can spread from animals to humans, as in the case of swine flu, which led to as many as 1.4 billion human infections globally in 2009-2010.

Although bird flu has not proven as dangerous to people yet, it could mutate to become so. Recent detection of bird flu in cattle has raised questions about its potential transmission through milk and other dairy products. The study's findings underscore the importance of improving monitoring systems, particularly as bird flu continues to spread among livestock, according to the study's authors.

The study complements earlier research involving several of the same researchers that pioneered the use of wastewater for detection of avian influenza. That analysis revealed commercial and industrial dairy waste as primary sources. By analyzing wastewater, public health officials could detect virus activity in nearby cattle populations.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA**
Email: rbddivisionawantipora@gmail.com
NO: T-1/EEA/7726-29 Dated: 17/12/2024

Extension Corrigendum

Subject:-

S.No.	Name of Work
1	Repairment of drain opposite house of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat at Drangbal Pampore.
2	Construction Of drain from H/o Shabir Ahmad to H/o Assad Ullah Bhat at Herpora Ward No 06 MC Awantipora.

Reference: 1. This office E-NIT No: 83/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/6016-6026 Dated: 02/11/2024
2. This office e-NIT. No. 103/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/7409-19 DATED: 06/12/2024

It is notified for the information of all concerned that zero bidder has participated for above said work in subject for S.No. (1) and single bidder for S.No.(2). Hence the above-mentioned works/Tenders are hereby extended/modified and fixed as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	26-12-2024 up to 3.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	27-12-2024 at 12.00 PM

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NITs

Sd/-
Tech. Officer
DIPK-9664/24 dated: 17-12-2024

sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR**
NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)
Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail id: xenmidrsrinagar@gmail.com

Corrigendum to this office e-NIT No. 20 of 2024-25 dated: 03-12-2024 for below mentioned work:-
Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of 02 cusec capacity 197m dynamic head submersible class pumping unit to be installed at LIS Beigh Mohalla Watlar.
Ref:- JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No. :- 2024_IFC266759_1

Corrigendum

Intending bidders are requested to note the following change in the tender document:

S.No.	Read the below given	Instead of below given
1	Terms of Payment: Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of 02 cusec capacity 197m dynamic head submersible class pumping unit to be installed at LIS Beigh Mohalla Watlar. Income tax/ any other taxes/ charges shall be deducted at source as may be required as per rules in force. Electro-mechanical component: a) 70% (Seventy Percent) payment shall be made on supply of equipment at site on certified by the site engineer (AEE concerned). b) 15% (Fifteen Percent) payment shall be released in favour of the firm after installation, testing and successful commissioning and operation of the pump for a minimum period of 400 hours. c) Balance 15% (Fifteen Percent) shall be released after satisfactory performance of the equipment for a period of two irrigation season or 24 months from the date of testing and commissioning, whichever is later. However, the balance 15% amount can be released against furnishing of a Bank Guarantee for an equivalent amount valid for the warranty period of the contract.	Terms of Payment: Providing, fitting, installation, testing and commissioning of 02 cusec capacity 197m dynamic head submersible class pumping unit to be installed at LIS Beigh Mohalla Watlar. Income tax/ any other taxes/ charges shall be deducted at source as may be required as per rules in force. Electro-mechanical component: a) 50% (Fifty Percent) payment shall be made on supply of equipment at site on certified by the site engineer (AEE concerned). b) 25% (Twenty Five Percent) payment shall be released in favour of the firm after installation, testing and successful commissioning and operation of the pump for a minimum period of 400 hours. c) Balance 25% (Twenty Five Percent) shall be released after satisfactory performance of the equipment for a period as enunciated in warranty clause below. However, the balance 25% amount can be released against furnishing of a Bank Guarantee for an equivalent amount valid for the warranty period of the contract.
2	The pump shall be integrated with existing rising main and there is no need of new valves except pressure gauge. However, in order to connect the pumping unit with the existing delivery line, any modification like fabrication of bends, off sets, reducers, increasers if required shall be borne by the firm. The submersible motor shall be connected with existing panel.	The pump shall be integrated with existing rising main and all the accessories piping/ bends/ valves/ pressure gauges needed shall be borne by the firm. The submersible motor shall be connected with existing panel.
3	Performance Guarantee/ Warranty: The firm shall be bound for satisfactory performance of equipment/ works for a period of two irrigation season or 24 months from the date of testing and commissioning, whichever is later. If during warranty period any malfunctioning/ defects arise, the firm /joint venture shall have to rectify the same within a period of ten days of receipt of intimation. In case of any failure on the part of the firm to remove the defect, the Department may get the defects removed/ repaired by any other agency and cost thereof shall be recovered from the firm and shall be recommended for further punitive action as governed under the relevant clause of the contract including blacklisting. Corporate Warranty for 60 months on equipment's from the date of commissioning on non-judiciary stamp paper from OEM shall be provided.	Performance Guarantee/ Warranty: The firm shall be bound for satisfactory performance of equipment/ works for 36 months from the date of testing and commissioning of the equipment. If during warranty period any malfunctioning/ defects arise, the firm /joint venture shall have to rectify the same within a period of ten days of receipt of intimation. In case of any failure on the part of the firm to remove the defect, the Department may get the defects removed/ repaired by any other agency and cost thereof shall be recovered from the firm and shall be recommended for further punitive action as governed under the relevant clause of the contract including blacklisting. Corporate Warranty for 60 months on equipment's from the date of commissioning on non-judiciary paper from OEM shall be provided.

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/3230-35
Dated:- 16-12-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

DIPK-9663/24 dated: 17-12-2024

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND,
RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR**
Email id:- std2rajbagh@yahoo.in
RETENDER CORRIGENDUM

Inadvertently, due to some typing error the document type has been mentioned as .Xls file instead of .pdf with respect to e-NIT No. STD-II/28 of 2024-25 Dated:-22-11-2024 having Tender ID 2024_PDD_265734_1 issued vide this office endorsement No.:STD-II/ 3248-50/Ts Dated: 23-11-2024 and is therefore hereby retendered.
Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 14-12-2024; 5:00pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	14-12-2024; 5:00pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	21-12-2024; 2:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	14-12-2024; 5:00pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	21-12-2024; 2:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	23-12-2024; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 2000.00 (Rupees Two Thousand only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 167332.00 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Seven thousand Three hundred Thirty Two only)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No.:STD-II/3680-82/Ts
DIPK-NB-2821/24 Dated:- 17-12-2024

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Estates & Engineering Department
Corporate Headquarters, M.A. Road
Srinagar 190001 J&K

On Line Tender (e-Tender)
For Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of
Daikin Make VRV type HVAC Systems installed at various
Offices/Branch of the Bank in Kashmir Zone

Tender Notice along with Complete Tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. December 17, 2024, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is January 07, 2025, 17.00 Hrs. e-NIT Ref.No. JKB/E&ED/AMC-VRV/2024-1290 Dated 13-12-2024

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK19385GCC00048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2853/24
dated: 17-12-2024

Lower Q2 GDP Growth A Temporary Blip; Eco To Improve In Coming Quarters: Sitharaman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the lower-than-expected GDP growth of 5.4 per cent in the second quarter was a "temporary blip" and exuded confidence that the economy will see healthy growth in the coming quarters.

Replying to a debate in the Lok Sabha on the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants, she said India has seen "steady and sustained" growth and its GDP growth rate has averaged 8.3 per cent in the last three years.

"The real growth rate for Q1 and Q2 of this financial year (FY25) has been 6.7 per cent and 5.4 per cent, respectively. At 5.4 per cent, the Q2 rate is slower than expected...Q2 of this financial year has been a challenging quarter for India and most other economies of the world," she said.

India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world, Sitharaman said, adding that the credit goes to the people of India who are struggling and meeting their aspirations, thereby, contributing to the economy.

Terming the second quarter's less-than-expected growth as a "temporary blip", she said the economy will see healthy growth in the coming quarters.

The finance minister further said there is no broad-based slowdown in the manufacturing sector. Half of the sectors within the overall manufacturing basket continue to remain strong.



"A generalised slowdown in manufacturing is not expected, as it is restricted to few segments...out of 23 manufacturing sectors in the Index of Industrial Production, about half of them remain strong even now," she said.

Besides, she said, the capital expenditure of the Union Government has grown by 6.4 per cent between July and October 2024.

The government has allocated Rs 11.11 lakh crore toward capex during the current financial year.

"I think steps that we are taking to push for growth and to sustain growth are going to this route of capital expenditure so that the multiplier effect will spread through the economy and therefore give a greater traction," she said.

For every rupee spent on the capital account, she said, the multiplier effect sometimes results in touching 4.3, whereas if you spent on the revenue account, for every one rupee, you would get only 0.98.

About inflation, Sitharaman said it is better controlled in the NDA regime, whereas under the UPA, it touched double digits.

Over 90% Of Indian Population Did Not File Income Tax Return In 2023-24 Fiscal Year

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Only 6.68 per cent of India's population filed income tax returns in 2023-24 fiscal, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said there is an increase in filing ITR with over 8.09 crore income tax returns were filed in fiscal 2023-24, up from over 7.40 crore in 2022-23. In FY22, the number of ITRs filed was over 6.96 crore, up from over 6.72 crore in FY21 and over 6.48 crore in FY20.

"In FY 2023-24, the percentage of population that files Income Tax Return is 6.68 per cent. (In FY 2023-24, the total number of persons filling income tax return is 8,09,03,315),"



Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

He further said total number of individuals reporting zero taxable income in their ITRs is 4.90 crore in Assessment Year 2023-24, up from 4.64 lakh in 2022-23.

FCIK Condemns PCC Closure Notices For Stone Crushers And Hot-Mix Plants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has vehemently condemned the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee's (PCC) unilateral decision to issue closure notices to stone crushing units and hot-mix macadam plants under the pretext of non-possession of licenses under S.O. 60, despite such a license not being legally required.

FCIK President Shahid Kamili criticized the J&K PCC for its actions, noting that copies of the closure notices are promptly forwarded to the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC) for power disconnection and to the Director of Industries and Commerce for deregistration of long-standing units. This denies businesses any opportunity to address the issue, despite their decades of operation.

While highlighting the negative impact these closures, Kamili warned that shutting down these units would disrupt the supply of essential aggregates like sand, gravel, and crushed stone which is the key materials for infrastructure projects such as roads, buildings, and bridges. He also noted that closing the hot-mix plants would severely hinder the development of macadamized roads.

The PCC has been issuing closure notices to numerous stone crushing units and hot mix plants across the valley, particularly in the Lasjan, Summerbugh, and Shalina areas of Budgam district, where approximately 300 units are operating.

Nazir Ahmad Mir, President of the Stone Crusher Owners Association, revealed that around 1,000 stone crushing units are operational across Jammu and Kashmir, each with an average investment of ₹7 crore and providing employment to about 40 people.

He emphasized that these units are registered with Industries and Commerce department and operate fully in compliance with the J&K PCC guidelines having consent to establish and consent to operate as required under law.

He said that these units are classified as "orange" under environmental norms entitled for renewal of consent to operate for a period of 10 years as per the norms set by Central Pollution Control Board.

"However, it is regrettable that the J&K PCC only issues renewals for two years to these units, without providing any clear explanation, despite their website stating that renewals should be valid for eight years," said Mir, adding that both periods are shorter than those prescribed under GOI guidelines.

Echoing similar concerns, Rafiq Hussain Bhat, President of the Hot Mix Plant Association, pointed out that scores of hot-mix plants and crusher units in Lasjan, Summerbugh, and Shalina have received closure notices over the past few months on the pretext of non-compliance with Notification S.O. 60, issued under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

He clarified that this notification does not apply to stone crushers and hot-mix plants, as these units operate under the Jammu and Kashmir Stone Crushers/Hot and



Wet Mixing Plants Regulation Rules, 2021, and legally procure minor minerals from authorized mining concessionaires.

Rafiq Bhat further shared that the units receiving closure notices are being forced to seek stay orders from the Hon'ble Courts to prevent the PCC from forcibly shutting them down.

The Chamber expressed concern over the nearly year-long delay in obtaining the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for title verification and land usage from the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, emphasizing that units should not be penalized for this delay.

"The repeated requirement of basic formalities with each renewal reflects a misinterpretation of regulatory norms, resulting in unnecessary legal complications and obstacles for legitimate businesses which needs to be done away with" stated FCIK.

FCIK has called for the intervention of the Deputy Chief Minister and Chairman of J&K PCC to withdraw the arbitrary closure notices and ensure that stone crushers and hot-mix plants operate within the proper legal framework. The Chamber emphasized that these units are vital to the region's economy, and imposing licensing requirements not grounded in law could result in severe economic setbacks and job losses.

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Investors' Wealth Down ₹4.92 Lakh Cr As Mkts Slump



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Investors' wealth tumbled Rs 4.92 lakh crore on Tuesday amid a sharp sell-off in the equity market where the Sensex tanked 1,064 points.

Falling for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 1,064.12 points or 1.30 per cent to settle at 80,684.45. During the day, it slumped 1,136.37 points or 1.39 per cent to 80,612.20.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 4,92,644.06 crore to Rs 4,55,13,913.24 crore (USD 5.36 trillion).

"The Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp decline on Tuesday, with the benchmark BSE Sensex sinking 1,064 points or 1.30 per cent to 80,684.45.

"Investor sentiment remained cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting, scheduled for Wednesday. While markets have priced in a 25 basis points rate cut, much of the focus is on Fed Chair Jerome Powell's commentary regarding future rate moves," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, said.

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, all firms ended in the red. Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank,

JSW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Asian Paints, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank were the biggest laggards from the Sensex pack.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were mostly trading in negative territory. Wall Street ended mostly higher on Monday.

"Widespread pessimism prevails across all sectors ahead of key policy decisions from the US Fed, BoJ (Bank of Japan), and BoE (Bank of England). While the market has already factored in a 25 bps cut from the US Fed, it remains vigilant for any hawkish signals. The BoJ and BoE are largely expected to maintain their current rates for the year.

"Concurrently, the rupee has depreciated to an all-time low, and a record-high trade deficit is exacerbating the pressure," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 278.70 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The BSE midcap gauge declined by 0.65 per cent and smallcap index slipped by 0.52 per cent.

Gold Jewellery Consumption To Grow 14-18% in FY25 In Value Terms: Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The domestic gold jewellery consumption in value terms is expected to continue its growth momentum in the current financial year and is likely to witness an on-year rise of 14-18 per cent, a report said on Tuesday. Rating agency Icria in a report said in FY25, gold jewellery consumption growth is pegged at 14-18 per cent in value terms, led by favourable realisations.

In 2023-24, gold jewellery consumption growth had witnessed a growth of 18 per cent in 2023-24, primarily driven by realisations even as volume growth was subdued.

According to the report, while gold prices were volatile, improving consumer sentiments and festive-led demand aided consumption growth in the recent months.

Moreover, a sharp 900 bps cut in import duty in the Union Budget in July 2024, and consequent correction in gold prices for a brief period led to some pre-buying of jewellery as well as bars and coins during the second quarter of FY25, which is generally a seasonally weak quarter, it said.

This, coupled with higher number of auspicious and wedding days, and favourable



monsoons aiding better rural output, is likely to help jewellery demand growth in H2 FY25, it added.

"The organised market is projected to record a healthy YoY expansion of 18-20 per cent in FY25. Planned store additions with focus on tier II and III cities, rising gold prices, shift in preferences towards branded jewellery and some likely pre-buying in the fourth quarter of FY25 on account of higher number of auspicious days in the first quarter of FY26 shall drive growth.

"The customs duty cut is also expected to disincentive unofficial imports, thus supporting the growth in organised trade," Icria Vice President and Sector Head - Corporate Ratings, Sujay Saha said.

Revenue growth for organised jewellery in FY24 had been supported by realisations with gold prices rising by 14 per cent YoY, the report said, adding that the same trend is expected to continue this fiscal as well.

J&K Bank Opens New Branch At Rahain In Samba



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Reinforcing its commitment to provide modern banking facilities across the Union Territory, J&K Bank Tuesday inaugurated a new branch at Rahain in Samba district, which falls under its Kathua Zone.

MLA (Ramgarh) Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal inaugurated the branch in the presence of DGM & Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar, Cluster Head (Samba) Sanjay Belowo, and DDC Member Asha Rani amid a gathering of valuable customers, prominent citizens, local residents and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal expressed his gratitude to J&K Bank for addressing the demand of the people of the border area by opening a branch equipped with all modern facilities. He congratulated the local residents, emphasizing that the branch would cater to their diverse banking needs, significantly benefiting the people living in surrounding areas.

Commending the Bank's role

in the economic development of the region, he remarked, "J&K Bank's efforts in expanding its presence across the region are commendable, as it brings banking services right to the doorsteps of people living in far-flung and border areas also."

Reiterating the Bank's commitment to empowering people, Zonal Head said, "J&K Bank remains steadfast in its resolve to support the people of this region in their financial needs leading to their social upliftment and employment generation. This branch is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and will provide world-class banking services to the local population and will further boost the economic growth of this area."

After the inauguration, the dignitaries along with Zonal Head interacted with the local residents and customers. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Bank for commissioning the banking touch-point and assured their full support and cooperation in strengthening the Bank's business in the region.

Par Panel Bats For Legal Guarantee Of MSP To Protect Farmers' Interests

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- A parliamentary panel on Tuesday recommended the government implement a legally binding minimum support price (MSP) for agricultural produce, arguing that such a measure could significantly reduce farmer suicides and provide crucial financial stability.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing, headed by Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi, submitted a comprehensive report to Parliament highlighting the potential benefits of a legally guaranteed MSP.

"The committee strongly recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare declare a roadmap for implementing MSP as a legal guarantee at the earliest," the report stated.

Currently, the government fixes MSP for 23 commodities based on the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommendations.

The panel argued that a legally binding MSP would not only safeguard farmers' livelihoods but also promote rural economic growth and enhance national food security.

The committee's key recommendations include: implementing a robust MSP system to mitigate farmer suicides, providing compensation to farmers for managing crop residue, establishing a National Commission for Minimum Living Wages for Farm Labourers, introducing a debt waiver scheme for farmers and farm labourers, and renaming the agriculture department to include farm labourers.

The committee emphasized that assured income through MSP would encourage farmers to invest in agricultural practices, potentially increasing productivity and sustainability.

The panel also suggested the government provide a statement in Parliament after each crop season, detailing the number of farmers selling produce at MSP and the gap between MSP and market prices.

New Banking Data Reveals 'Huge' Leap Within India Business Corridor

Press Trust Of India

LONDON- Business activity between the UK and India has flourished in 2024 as the value of payments received by clients in Britain from India rose by 121 per cent, according to the latest data released by HSBC UK.

The multinational bank, which highlighted the figures based on its two-way support for businesses within the India-UK corridor this week, said its data on payments and client referrals showed year-on-year growth.

In the nine months to October 2024, the value of payments made by HSBC UK business clients to India reportedly rose by 32 per cent and the bank received 36 per cent more new business client referrals from HSBC India year-on-year.

"Our data shows that business between the UK and India is not only strong, it's getting even stronger, and the opportunities for expanding businesses in India are huge," said Cora

McLaren, Head of International Subsidiary Banking at HSBC UK.

"India's population is not only a vast number of potential customers, within it there is a growing middle class, creating opportunities for UK businesses selling high quality products and services. In addition, India is increasingly seen as a hub for Global Capability Centres - from which multinational corporations run multiple strategic functions - due to the level of language and technology skills," she said.

The banking executive described it as a relationship that is working both ways as Indian businesses are increasingly doing business in the UK, "particularly those in the pharmaceutical sector in which India is a global leader".

"HSBC has ties to India which go back more than 100 years. We're proud to be able to help ambitious UK businesses expand there and likewise welcome Indian firms operating on these shores," she added.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION ZAINPORA.
TENDER CANCELLATION

It is for the information of all concerned that the Tender invited vide this office NIT No.: Fresh37/ZNP/RnB/e-TENDERING/2024-25 Dated:21-11-2024 is hereby cancelled due to poor response.

No.:R&B/ZNP/DIV/5036-40 Sd/-
Dated: 16-12-2024 (Er. H.M Jahangir)
DIPK-9640-24 Executive Engineer
DT: 17-12-2024 R&B Division Zainapora

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC
CENTRAL STORES DIVISION PAMPORE
CORRIGENDUM

Ref: NIT NO. ECSD/Sgr/ 03 of 2024-25 Dated: 09.12.2024

In Partial modification to this office NIT No.: ECSD/Sgr/ 03 of 2024-25 Dated: 09.12.2024 for up-gradation of weighing bridge at ECSD Pampore kindly read the dates as under.

Tender Issuing date:	14.12.2024
Last Date for submission	21-12-2024
Tender Opening Date and Time	23-12-2024 at 01:30 hrs.

SD/
NO.ECSD/Sgr/1906-09 DIPK-NB-2831-24 Executive Engineer
Dated:16.12.2024 DT: 17/12/2024 ECSD Pampore

Cluster University Srinagar holds 6th Academic Council meet

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 17: Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar (CUS), Prof. Mohammad Mobin chaired the 6th Academic Council meeting of the University here today.

During the meeting detailed deliberations were held on different aspects of the University besides several other important proposals were also discussed in detail for future procedural clearances.

The meeting was attended by special invitees like Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. Nisar Ahmad Khan; former Dean Faculty of Natural Sciences Jamia Millia Islamia and former Pro Vice Chancellor, SGT University

(Gurugram), Prof. Sharif Ahmad and Head Academics & Clinics, Composite Regional Centre, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Dr. Mir Zaffar Iqbal.

From Cluster University Jammu, the meeting was virtually attended by Vice Chancellor, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar; Dean Academic Affairs, Dr. Naveen Anand, Registrar and Deans of various faculties.

From Cluster University Srinagar, senior officials including Dean Academics Affairs, Prof. Yasmeen Ashai; Registrar, Prof. Syed Wilayat Hussain Rizvi; Controller of Examinations, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Mir; Nodal Principal,

Prof. Seema Naz, Deans of various faculties and Principals of constituent and affiliated colleges attended the meeting besides coordinators of IG programmes, senior faculty members from constituent colleges and other office bearers.

With respect to the introduction of the Ph.D programme in the constituent colleges of the university from the next academic session, the members approved the guidelines framed by the university while suggesting some changes to make it more compatible with the university's unique mandate.

With respect to the introduction of the innovative Design your Degree

(DYD) programme, the council was informed that the preparations for the same have been finalized with two constituent colleges, Amar Singh College and Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, taking the lead in identifying the mentors and constituting the Board of Studies for finalizing the curriculum.

Besides the Ph.D norms, the meeting also discussed the policy guidelines framed for internships, subject tours and intra/inter-university migration of students. The members endorsed these guidelines.

The meeting also discussed revival of some IG Programmes which were

earlier discontinued and it was resolved that the concerned Deans and HODs will be consulted regarding the feasibility of the same considering infrastructural and man-power requirements. The council members strongly endorsed the proposal for introduction of two year B.PED Programme in the constituent colleges considering the importance of physical education. The meeting also discussed the introduction of 1-Year PG Diploma Course in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

Earlier, Registrar, Prof. Syed Wilayat Rizvi briefed the members about the various items on agenda, including the matters meant for ratification and

those proposed for consideration in the higher decision making bodies.

The meeting began by confirming the minutes of the meeting of the previous academic council after Controller of Examinations, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Mir read out the profiles of the special invitees.

In their post-meeting remarks, the special invitees appreciated the way the academic council meeting was conducted with all inputs being heard out and taken on board for further consideration. They also commended Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mobin for ensuring a free and fair exchange of ideas for constructive outcome of the meeting.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

MeT Predicts

the coldest place in Kashmir where the mercury settled at minus 8.9 degree Celsius followed by Pulwama at minus 8.5 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, the MeT director, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has predicted generally dry and cloudy weather conditions for the next three days and predicted light snow over a few higher reaches on December 21 and 22.

Furthermore, he said that generally dry weather is expected from December 23 to December 26. He also added that nothing significant is expected till December 26.

Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT has said that in view of fresh snowfall, the sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travellers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory. (KNO)

Bill To Amend

has already occurred, the earliest possible date for simultaneous elections would be after the first sitting of the 2029 Lok Sabha, with the next simultaneous elections likely to occur by 2034 when the 2029 Lok Sabha term concludes.

The bill clarifies that it will not affect the current five-year term of the J&K Assembly, which began on October 8, 2024. However, it will shorten the tenure of the next Assembly by six months in 2034.

Additionally, if the J&K Assembly is dissolved before completing its full term, a midterm election will be held only for the remaining period of the five years.

Jammu-Srinagar

is nearing its end.

"Electrical works are expected to be completed within the next 10-15 days. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) inspection, a mandatory step before launching any new rail section, will likely be conducted in the first week of January," he said.

While the exact date for the start of Jammu Srinagar Train service is yet to be finalized, Verma expressed confidence that it could begin running in the first or second week of January.

Verma, who previously worked in the region between 2003 and 2006, reflected on the

importance of this project. "It is a dream coming true to see rail connectivity in Kashmir. Soon, trains running here will be no different from those in any other part of the country," he said.

On the possible introduction of the Vande Bharat Express, Verma clarified that decisions regarding stops at various stations would depend on passenger demand and station footfall.

Addressing concerns about security, Verma assured that necessary precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of tracks, trains, and passengers.

"This project is a significant step towards achieving the vision of connecting Kashmir to the rest of India seamlessly. We are committed to its smooth and successful implementation," Verma stated.

Meanwhile Dinesh Chand Deshwal, the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), today conducted a thorough inspection of the Reasi-Katra rail link, an important part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project.

Before the commencement of train services, the Railway Safety Commission is responsible for such inspections.

J&K Bank Reports

in 2023-24, with 8 cases reported involving a relatively modest Rs 8.10 crore.

This trend underscores both volatility in fraudulent activity and the financial toll on the bank, particularly in 2022-23, when the amount involved in fraud surged dramatically despite a marginal increase in the number of cases.

At the national level, fraud cases across private and public sector banks saw a declining trend in financial impact. The total amount of frauds involving Rs 1 lakh and above dropped from Rs 9,298 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 3,607 crore in 2022-23 and further to Rs 2,715 crore in 2023-24, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

Among private sector banks, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank reported the highest fraud amounts over the three years. HDFC Bank alone reported Rs 624.41 crore in fraud for 2023-24, followed by ICICI Bank with Rs 322.61 crore and Axis Bank with Rs 324.19 crore

In the public sector, Punjab National Bank (PNB) and State Bank of India (SBI) were among the top banks reporting fraud. PNB's fraud-related losses, however, showed a significant decline, falling from Rs 2,449.14 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 89.80 crore in 2023-24. Meanwhile, SBI reported frauds worth Rs 223.92 crore in 2023-24.

To curb such incidents, the government has implemented stringent measures under RBI's revised Master Directions on Fraud Risk Management issued in July 2024. These measures include strengthening the role of bank boards in governance, improving internal audits and controls, enhancing early warning systems, and mandating dedicated analytics units to detect fraudulent activities early.

The government asserted that these efforts have contributed to the decline in fraud amounts, but challenges remain, as reflected in region-specific fluctuations like those observed in Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

BJP Govt Will

Code (UCC) and declared, "The BJP government will bring the Uniform Civil Code in every state." He also criticised Congress for its stance on Muslim personal law, calling it the "beginning of appeasement politics in the country" and demanded clarification from the party on the matter.

He further accused the Congress of being anti-reservation and said it never worked for the benefit of the backward classes. "Bringing in Muslim personal law was the beginning of appeasement politics in country. The Congress should clarify if it supports Muslim personal law. Even if the BJP has just one MP, it will not allow reservation on basis of religion," he added.

'Congress Curtailed

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha after the bill for the flagship project was introduced in the lower house, Shah said, "Another amendment was brought by Indira Gandhi which gave Parliament the power to curtail the fundamental rights of the citizens".

Then mentioning Article 19A, he questioned why it was brought in. "To curtail the freedom of expression," he added amid loud protest

from Congress members.

"The Opposition can only object to my statement if I am wrong," he then shot back.

The takedown of the Congress continued and Shah marshalled arguments about the need for the constitution to change with the times.

"The Opposition can only object to my statement if I am wrong," he then shot back.

The takedown of the Congress continued and Shah marshalled arguments about the need for the constitution to change with the times.

Then quoting BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, he added, "However good a constitution is, it can be bad if the people who are entrusted with its responsibility don't have a good intent".

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha today by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal

The government plans to send it to a committee for discussion and get everyone on board, especially because the huge numbers that will be required to make the switch that will require a series of amendments to the Constitution. These amendments will then have to be ratified by the governments of all states and union territories.

The Opposition contends that the bill will subvert the Constitution - a charge the government has repeatedly denied

Private Tuition

directives, strict action shall be taken against the person involved, as it amounts to a serious violation of the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Service Conduct Rules, 1971," the CEO said in the circular.

The official also said the zonal-level monitoring committees constituted earlier have been instructed to maintain a strict vigil and promptly report any violation of the directives to his office.

"Any deviation shall invite disciplinary action as warranted under rules," the circular warned.

PSA Must Be

authority rendering the subjective satisfaction arrived at as violative of article 14 of the constitution.

Fourthly, the court said, vague and

non-specific grounds raise the impression that the same has been done deliberately in order to deprive the detainee of giving a precise rebuttal.

Subsequently, the court set aside the detention order. "If the period of detention has expired, the appellant (Imran Rashid Rather) shall be set forth at liberty from the date on which this order is pronounced in open court and the continued incarceration of the appellant for even a day thereafter, would be illegal detention for which there shall be consequences to be suffered by the Respondents (authorities).

HC Raps Estates

"blue-eyed" individuals continue to unlawfully occupy government accommodations.

He also noted the absence of the Administrative Secretary at court hearings, calling it a disregard for judicial authority.

The court expressed frustration over the Estates Department's non-compliance with its prior directives to file a comprehensive status report, which should have detailed the eviction process, the number of unauthorized occupants served with notices, and the collection of penal rent from violators. The Bench reiterated that no exemptions or excuses would be entertained.

According to the status report, accommodations for figures like Ghulam Nabi Azad (former Chief Minister) and Ravinder Raina (former BJP President) were extended based on recommendations from a designated committee. However, 15 individuals have vacated their premises, and eviction proceedings for five others are complete. Penal rent notices have also been issued to violators.

The High Court set the next hearing for January 2, 2025. (KNNT)

Winter Vacations

and December 16 respectively in the Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division.

Principal Secretary School Education Department Suresh Kumar Gupta in an order had said that for students upto 5th standard, the vacations shall begin from December 10 to February 28 and in case of students from 6th standard to 12th standard, the vacation shall begin from December 16 to February 28, 2025.

27th year OF PUBLICATION

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Rahul, Jadeja, Brave Tailenders Help India Avoid Follow-On

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja were determination personified as their fighting fifties helped India avoid the follow-on on the fourth day of the weather-hit third Test against a menacing Australia that seems meandering towards a draw.

Jadeja (77, 123b, 7x4, 1x6) and Rahul (84, 139, 8x4) were the heavy-lifters in India's 252 for nine when bad light forced an early close to the day.

Jasprit Bumrah (10) and Akash Deep (27), who showed appreciable gumption, are holding the fort for India.

The visitors trail Aussies by 193 runs. But they wouldn't mind that one bit as Australia will now have to bat again and forcing a result in three sessions looks an improbable target, considering the Brisbane weather pattern.

The city is bracing up for rain and a thunderstorm or two on



Wednesday.

A quick word of appreciation is also required for No. 10 Bumrah and No. 11 Akash Deep for knocking down the 33 runs required to go past the follow-on mark of 246. The much-awaited moment came when Akash

crunched Pat Cummins overgully for a boundary.

When these two joined forces, India were reeling at 213 for 9 after Jadeja was dismissed off a Cummins' snorter.

But while resuming from a wafer-thin overnight score of

51 for four, India needed someone to offer fight, and Rahul, India's standout batter in this series so far, did precisely that.

Rahul displayed admirable technical nous to withstand the stern test posed by the Australian bowlers to take the game

deep into the day.

A nine toes down Rahul and an equally feisty Jadeja added 67 runs for the sixth wicket, and it was the first sign of India's fight.

There was a moment of massive fortune too for Rahul when Smith spilled a regulation catch at second slip off the first ball of the day from Cummins.

Rahul was on 33 then. A quick look upwards and a silent prayer showed how much he valued that reprieve, which he exploited to the hilt, notching his 17th Test fifty.

Once he woke up from a bit of morning haziness, Rahul looked a class apart from the rest of his colleagues. Jadeja added 53 runs for the seventh wicket with Nitish Reddy to keep India afloat.

Bumrah and Akash added 39 runs to put the smiles back on their faces, as Aussies dearly missed the metronomical Josh Hazlewood, who was ruled out of the series with a calf injury.

LG Addresses Chaman Lal Gupta Khel Ratna Award Ceremony



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta Khel Ratna Award 2024 ceremony on Tuesday and felicitated the recipients of the prestigious sports award. The LG also paid tributes to Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta.

In his address, the LG congratulated the talented sportspersons and sports officials, who have been conferred with this year's award. "All the sports person-

alities awarded today are living embodiments of the positive change taking place in J&K. I am confident they will work with dedication to earn glory for the country through their performances and continue to inspire young generation," he said.

Remembering Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta, the LG said the former Union Minister devoted his life for the welfare of the people of Jammu Kashmir.

The new sports policy has kindled brighter hope

for our talented sportspersons, he said.

The LG also commended the important contribution of Sports Department, Sports Council and all the stakeholders in the promotion of sports in J&K.

Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Sports Council Screens Soft Tennis Team For Junior Nationals

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The J&K Sports Council on Tuesday conducted screening of players for participation in Soft Tennis Junior National Championship, scheduled to be held in Chandigarh from 27th to 31st December.

The screening was done

by Divisional Sports Officer, Jammu, Baljinder Singh, Senior Boxing Coach J&K Sports Council, Anil Wadhwa and Indu Bhushan (International Soft Tennis Players) and Mentor/Coach Soft tennis Khelo India Center, M A Stadium.

The J&K Soft Tennis

contingent comprises of: Sania Qadir, ul Ain Tabish Khurshed, Sohamb Bhat, Shreemai Bhat, Madhendra Singh Sambyal, Antekshika, Saksham Koul Jalali, Harshita Jalali Harikeesh Dutt, Aditya Dutt, Rehmandeep Singh, Yatin Manhas, Akashi Sharma and Simran Sharma.

NIT Srinagar Beats NIT Hamirpur In All-India Final

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar J&K delivered an impressive all-round performance to defeat NIT Hamirpur by 23 runs in the finals of All India Inter-NIT Faculty and Staff Cricket Tournament at NIT Silchar Assam.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss at NIT Silchar Cricket Ground, Silchar, NIT Srinagar posted a competitive total of 138/5. Faisal Irshad made unbeaten 52 runs, striking four boundaries and one six.

However, NIT Hamirpur bowlers did manage to take key wickets at regular intervals. Despite their efforts, NIT Srinagar's total proved challenging.

Chasing 139 to win,



NIT Hamirpur struggled to maintain momentum against NIT Srinagar's disciplined bowling attack. Dr Majid Hussain took 2 wickets for 22 runs in his spell, while Mustafa Zargar, Dr Shakeel Waseem, and Dr. Janibul Bashir chipped in with one wicket each. The bowlers effectively restricted NIT Hamirpur to 115/6 in their allotted 15 overs, sealing a convincing 23-run victory.

Faisal Irshad was de-

clared Man of the Match for his vital knock of 52 runs. Aqib Jan emerged as the highest run-scorer for NIT Srinagar in the tournament, while Mustafa Zargar secured the title of the highest wicket-taker for the team. Additionally, Dr Mohsin Shabir was recognized as the most economical bowler of the tournament for NIT Srinagar.

The prestigious event saw 20 NITs from across India participate.

BHSS Kurhama Wins Open Volleyball Tourney In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The two-day Open Volleyball Tournament, organised by 115 BN CRPF Zakura in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services & Sports Ganderbal and Education Department Ganderbal, concluded successfully on Tuesday at BHSS Ganderbal.

The tournament witnessed participation from eight Higher Secondary Schools across the district. On the final day, the event featured two semi-final matches, a hard-liner match, and the much-



anticipated final face-off between BHSS Ganderbal and BHSS Kurhama.

The final match turned into an exciting contest, as BHSS Kurhama emerged victorious, defeating BHSS Ganderbal by 2-1 sets.

The closing ceremony

was attended by Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ganderbal, S.K. Sharma, DYSSO Ganderbal, Sheikh Shaifqat Iqbal, Commanding Officer 115 BN CRPF S.K. Pradhan, Deputy CEO Ganderbal and Principal BHSS Ganderbal.

Short TAKES

Real Kashmir Play Aizawl FC In I-League 2024-25 Today



Real Kashmir FC is all set to take on Aizawl FC in their second away game of the 2024-25 I-League season on Wednesday. The game will be played at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Aizawl, Mizoram, and will kick off at 7:00 PM. Fans can watch the contest on Sony Sports 2 and SSEN App.

Srinagar club's 1-0 loss to a 10-man Namdhari FC will hurt it, especially since it was the Snow Leopards first away match of the season and they failed to prove their credentials while playing outside Kashmir. The Ishfaq Ahmad-coached team will now look to bounce back with three points.

Meanwhile, Aizawl conceded two late penalties to lose 2-0 to Rajasthan United FC in their previous game. They will also aim to record a win on their home ground.

Their recent loss has dropped Real Kashmir to fourth in the I-League standings, with 8 points from 5 games. Aizawl is 10th in the 12-team table, accumulating 5 points in 5 games.

Aussie Pacer Josh Hazlewood To Miss India Test Series

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood is likely to miss the remainder of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India due to a right calf strain which he sustained during the ongoing third Test at the Gabba, Cricket Australia said on Tuesday.

The niggle has also ruled Hazlewood out of the Brisbane Test, weakening Australia's bowling attack. On Tuesday, the New South Wales player bowled just one over before walking out of the field following a discussion with captain Pat Cummins, senior cricketer Steve Smith and team physio Nick Jones. Hazlewood underwent scans later to ascertain the severity of the injury.

"He's pretty despondent," Australia's assistant coach Daniel Vettori said at the post day press conference.

The 33-year-old had nicked off star India batter Virat Kohli on Monday, the third day of the match, with a fine delivery outside the off-stump. Hazlewood made his return to the side for the third Test after missing the Pink Ball Test at Adelaide due to a side strain.

The Unify League Latest Incarnation Of Super League

Organisers of a breakaway European Super League have revealed new plans to create a rival to the Champions League.

The Unify League is the latest incarnation of a proposed elite competition for the biggest soccer clubs in Europe. It comes after the launch of a Super League in 2021 collapsed when clubs backed out in the face of angry fan protests.

Madrid-based A22-Sports Management said Tuesday it has submitted proposals to governing bodies UEFA and FIFA for official recognition of its proposed competition.

The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled last year that UEFA and FIFA acted contrary to EU competition law by blocking plans for a Super League.

That decision was celebrated at the time by Real Madrid president Florentino Pérez, who said a "Europe of freedoms has triumphed."

Madrid has been one of the main supporters of a breakaway league, along with Barcelona — but the rest of the proposal's original backers pulled out.

Mbappé Set To Play For Madrid In Intercontinental Cup Final Against Pachuca

Agencies

LUSAIL: Real Madrid meets Mexican club Pachuca in the final of the watered-down Intercontinental Cup on Wednesday, with Kylian Mbappé expected to be available to play for the Spanish powerhouse after nursing a left-thigh injury. The tournament — being played in a new format after FIFA expanded the Club World Cup for 2025 — brings together the champions of all six soccer confederations. It takes place every year while the bigger Club World Cup will happen every four years.

Madrid made it straight to the final without having to play any matches as the European champion, while Pachuca advanced by defeating South American champion Botafogo and Al Ahly of Egypt in the preliminary rounds of the tournament taking place in Qatar.



Mbappé has been practicing with the rest of Madrid's squad again after missing a Spanish league match against Rayo Vallecano — a 3-3 draw on Saturday. The France star, still to meet full expectations in his first season with Ma-

drid, got hurt and was substituted after scoring in Madrid's 3-2 win at Atalanta in the Champions League last week. Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti was optimistic about the chances of Mbappé being available for

Wednesday's final, though he was still missing some other key players in a season marred by injuries, including Dani Carvajal, Eder Militão, David Alaba and Ferland Mendy.

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois will likely play after recently returning from a muscle injury that sidelined him for a few games. Ancelotti completed his squad for the final against Pachuca with a few players from the club's youth squads.

Madrid won the Intercontinental Cup three times (1960, 1998 and 2002) before FIFA began organizing the Club World Cup every year. It has won the Club World Cup five times (2014, 2016, 2017-18 and 2022).

Madrid is currently third in the Spanish league standings. Pachuca finished third at the Club World Cup in 2017.

Chelsea's Mykhailo Mudryk Confirms Banned Substance Found In Doping Test

Agencies

LONDON: Mykhailo Mudryk, one of the most expensive players in soccer history, said he was in "complete shock" Tuesday after the results of a doping test contained a banned substance.

The Chelsea forward, who cost \$108 million when signed from Shakhtar Donetsk in 2023, said he had never knowingly broken any rules.

"I can confirm that I have been notified that a sample I provided to The FA contained a banned substance," Mudryk wrote on a post on Instagram. "I know that I have not done anything wrong and remain hopeful that I will be back on the pitch soon."

Chelsea said the 23-year-old Mudryk was contacted by the English Football Association following an "adverse finding" in a routine



urine test.

The FA did not comment on the situation when approached by The Associated Press and Chelsea did not say if he had been suspended. Mudryk was last included in a Chelsea squad as an unused substitute on Dec. 1.

"Both the Club and Mykhailo fully support

has caused the adverse finding."

Mudryk has made nine appearances for Chelsea this season, but played only once in the Premier League.

The FA's anti-doping regulations state it is a player's "personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters his body".

Mudryk was one of the most sought-after players in Europe when he became Chelsea's latest big money signing under American owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital.

It was widely reported that he was a target for Arsenal before he completed a move from Shakhtar Donetsk to Chelsea. He was given an 8 1/2-year contract, which is unusual in soccer.

But he has so far struggled to live up to the hype and his price tag, making just 26 league starts.



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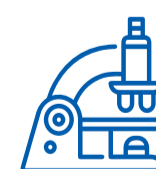
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