

## Govt Undertakes Comprehensive Restoration Of Religious Sites Across J&K

**Syed Mohammad Burhan**

Srinagar: In a significant initiative to preserve the rich cultural and architectural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, the government has embarked on a comprehensive project to upgrade, reconstruct, and renovate numerous religious and historical sites across the Union Territory.

According to officials from the Archives Department, work is already in progress

on more than 30 projects, additional initiatives are poised to begin soon. The Directorate of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums, under the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has compiled a detailed list of sites for restoration and development.

In Kashmir, 44 sites have been earmarked for restoration at an estimated cost of Rs 10,077.33 lakhs, a figure that is currently tentative, according to the list of the undertaken

sites, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

While most detailed project reports (DPRs) have been prepared, a few are still under development.

In Srinagar, key projects include the conservation and restoration of the historical Aali Masjid at Eidgah and the construction of a prayer hall at Zeashta Devi, Zeathyar, following heritage

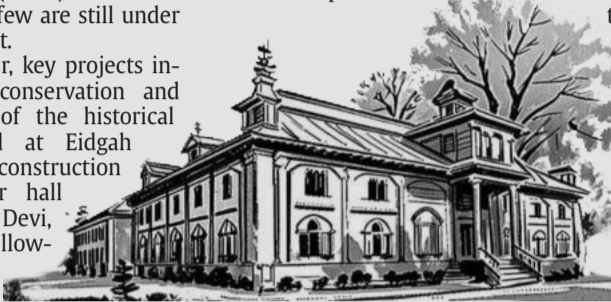
patterns. The restoration of the shrine of Baba Ghulamud-Din (RA) in Brain Nishat, the development of

Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA), the preservation of Narayan Math Mandir Shiv Ji at Solina, and the conservation of the Vichar Nag Temple in Nowshera are also part of this ambitious plan.

The restoration work spans multiple districts. In Baramulla, the government has prioritized the renovation of the shrine of Hazrat Syed Mohammad Moosa (RA) at

Utikoo in Tehsil Karhama, the revival of Hazrat Syed Mohammad Janbaz Wali (RA) at Khanpora, the preservation of Bab Shakoore-ud-Din (RA) at Watlab, and the restoration of Astan Aliya Syed Hussain Qumi (RA). Other significant sites in the district include the Mata Shailputri Astapan Temple at Khanpora and the Gurdwara Chati Padshahi.

In Pulwama, the government has focused on the revival of the Neolithic | [More on P6](#)



### WEATHER'S DOUBLE BLOW

### Freezing Temp & Rainfall Deficit Hit J&K

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The ongoing cold wave tightened its grip over the Kashmir Valley as Srinagar recorded its coldest night of the season with the mercury plummeting to minus 6°C, officials said Thursday. The temperature dropped sharply from the previous night's minus 4.5°C, creating a freezing environment across the city.

A thin veil of fog covered parts of the city, adding to the bone-chilling conditions. The night temperature was 4 degrees below the seasonal average, making it an exceptionally cold December night.

Fringes of iconic water bodies, including the Dal Lake, were frozen as sub-zero temperatures swept through the valley. Water supply lines in various parts of Srinagar and surrounding areas froze, leaving residents grappling with the extreme cold.

The prolonged dry spell in the region has also exacerbated common winter ailments such as coughs and colds, officials noted.

Pahalgam recorded a frigid minus 6.8°C, a full degree colder than the | [More on P6](#)

### 5 Terrorists Killed In Kulgam Encounter

## HM Presence In Shopian, Kulgam Wiped Out: Army



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Five terrorists were killed, and two army personnel were injured during a fierce encounter at Kadder village of Behibagh, Kulgam, on Thursday. The security agencies have hailed the operation as a major step forward in their mission to eradicate terrorism from the region.

Acting on credible intelligence about the presence of terrorists in the area, a joint team comprising the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Army's 34 Rashtriya Rifles, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a cordon-and-search operation late Wednesday night.

The operation culminated in a five-hour-long gunfight, during which five militants belonging to the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit were neutralized.

The slain terrorists were identified as Farooq Ahmad Bhat,

Mushtaq Ahmad Yatoo, Irfan Yaqoob, Adil Hajam, and Yasir Javed—all residents of Kulgam district. Farooq Ahmad Bhat, the oldest among them, had been active since 2015 and was a key commander of Hizbul Mujahideen. He had 37 FIRs registered against him. Mushtaq Ahmad Yatoo had joined the Hizbul Mujahideen cadre in 2020 and according to police, was also deeply entrenched in terrorist operations.

Brigadier Anirudh Chauhan, Commander of 2 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, while addressing the press after the gun-battle, lauded the coordinated efforts of the security forces. "We achieved significant success when we received news last night that a group of Hizbul Mujahideen cadres was present in the residential area. The operation was planned meticulously and launched jointly by the Army. | [More on P6](#)

### 'J&K's Security Roadmap For 2025'

## Implement Zero Terror Plan In Mission Mode: Shah

**Observer News Service**

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, with a detailed discussion on the roadmap for 2025, sources said. This was the first such meeting on the Union territory since the assembly elections were held during September-October.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and top officers of the Army, paramilitary forces, J&K administration, intelligence agencies and the Ministry of Home Affairs



(MHA) attended the meeting. This was Shah's first meeting to review the security situation in the Union territory

after the recent assembly elections that brought to power a National Conference government headed by Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two UTs in 2019, law and order in Jammu and Kashmir comes under the central government.

The Union home minister had a detailed discussion on the security roadmap for 2025, the sources said.

Addressing the meeting, the Union Home Minister said that in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Zero Tolerance Policy against terrorism, we will achieve the goal | [More on P6](#)

### Omar Meets Shah, Discusses Statehood

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah here and discussed various key issues, including an early restoration of statehood and involving the elected

government in the fight against terrorism. Meeting Shah for the second time after taking over as the chief minister of the Union territory on October 16, Abdullah said the talks took place | [More on P6](#)

### 'NOT IN HIS NATURE TO BE NASTY'

## Omar Defends Rahul Over Parliament Tussle

**KO Web Desk**

New Delhi: Omar Abdullah, Congress ally and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, defended Rahul Gandhi today after a BJP MP alleged that senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was responsible for his injuries during a brawl outside the parliament building.

Protests ruled parliament today over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's "fashion" remark on BR Ambedkar. The Congress claimed a group of MPs had tried to bar | [More on P6](#)

## Removal Of Sheikh-ul-Alam From 9th Std Textbook Sparks Outrage

**Press Trust Of India**

Srinagar: The removal of a chapter on the revered Sufi saint Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani (Sheikh-ul-Alam) from the Class 9 textbook by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) has sparked widespread outrage.

Political leaders, including CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami and People's Conference chief Sajad Gani Lone, have strongly condemned the move, calling it "cultural terrorism."

However, ruling National Conference spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said the chapter on the saint will not be removed from the textbooks



and the state education minister had asked the officials concerned to rectify the issue.

"The chapter on Sheikh-ul-Alam will not be removed from textbooks. The Education Minister has directed the Principal Secretary to address and rectify the issue found in the PDF version," Sadiq told reporters here.

Taking to X, CPI MLA M Y Tarigami had called the incident deeply troubling and urged CM Omar Abdullah to intervene to ensure that the chapter is reinstated.

"It is deeply troubling that an entire chapter on the revered Sufi saint Sheikh-ul-Alam has been dropped from the Class IX textbook. This censorship, carried out prior to the Assembly polls, is unacceptable to a society rooted in rich Sufi traditions," Tarigami posted on his X handle.

"I urge Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and ensure that this crucial chapter is reinstated, thereby preserving and honouring | [More on P6](#)

### Human-Wildlife Conflict Claims 36 Lives In 3 Yrs

Srinagar: Kashmir Valley has recorded a staggering total of 36 deaths due to human-wildlife conflict, alongside 261 injuries and 10,303 wildlife-related incidents, over the past three years. The alarming statistics reflect the increasing risks faced by residents, particularly in rural and ecologically sensitive areas.

Human-wildlife conflict has escalated in Kashmir, with a sharp rise in such incidents year after year. In the period between 2022-2023, 3,262 incidents were reported, resulting in 15 deaths and 99 injuries. The north division of Kashmir bore the brunt of the crisis, with 1,606 incidents and 10 fatalities. Meanwhile, areas like Shopian and wetlands in the south saw varying degrees of injuries, ranging from 1 to 40.

The situation worsened in 2023-2024 with 4,947 reported cases of wildlife conflict, leading to 12 deaths and 83 injuries. The North Division again accounted for the highest number of incidents—2,873 cases and 8 fatalities. | [More on P6](#)

### BABAR QADRI MURDER CASE

## SIA Files Chargesheet Against Mian Qayoom



**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: SIA Kashmir Thursday filed a supplementary chargesheet against senior lawyer and former president High Court Bar Association Kashmir Mian Abdul Qayoom in Babar Qadri murder case.

Babar Qadri was killed at his residence in Hawal area of Srinagar in September 2020. In a statement, SIA said that a case FIR No.62/2020 U/S 302 IPC 7/27 I A Act 13/16/18/20/39 UAPA was registered and investigation was taken up by an SIT framed by IGP Kashmir to be headed by SP Hazratbal.

"The SIT conducted the investigation and presented the chargesheet against six accused persons on 06.05.2021 before the Special NIA Court, Srinagar. Thereafter, further investigation in the case U/S 173 (8) CrPC was started by SDPO Zadibal. However, on 20.07.2023, PHQ J&K transferred the further investigation of the case to SIA J&K following which a SIT was formed, which was specifically tasked to unravel the larger conspiracy behind the killing," reads the statement.

It reads that the SIT took over the investigation and on the basis of sufficient oral, documentary and technical evidence arrested | [More on P6](#)

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یہ خبر استہانی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے منظور احمد بچہ کورسٹ کر گئے
غلام احمد بچہ کورسٹ کر گئے اور غلام احمد بچہ کورسٹ کر گئے
2024 بروز جمعرات اس جہاں فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو
نی جوار رحمت میں جگہ عطا کرے (آمین)۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی
21 دسمبر 2024 بروز پنجشنبہ 10:00 بجے ان کے آباں مقبرہ زرگون
شیکری ملکیا، انجمادی جانی کے مقبرہ پر بتی انتظام پذیر ہوگی۔
سؤگاران۔۔۔
محمد امین بچہ کورسٹ کر گئے اور منظور احمد بچہ کورسٹ کر گئے
9906663034 || 9149463494 || 9149606960

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 80 OF R&B/Anantnag/2024-25 /E-TENDERING/9586-95 DATED 17-12-2024
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for each of the following works:-

Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs), Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs), Earnest Money (In Rs), Time of Completion, Major Head of Account, Class of Contractor

Project Authority: Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services Srinagar/Jammu.
Position of AAA: Accorded Vide Order No. 308 GF & ES of 2024, Dated 10.06.2024.
Position of TS: Accorded Vide Order No. CE(R&B)/SK/TS/46 of 2024-25, Dated 11.12.2024.

Table with 2 columns: S.No, Particulars, Dated
1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 17-12-2024
2. Period of Downloading of bidder documents From 17-12-2024 (03:00PM) To 23-12-2024 (04:30PM)
3. Bid submission Start Date From 17-12-2024 (03:00PM) To 23-12-2024 (04:30PM)
4. Bid Submission End Date 23-12-2024 (04:30PM)
5. Date and time of opening of bid (online) 24-12-2024 (11:00AM)

- 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt ( Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. Q.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD[CDR/FDR/BG] should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days)
2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security(CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag
6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
11. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.
(Er Syed Ishaq Ahmad)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag
DIPK-9741/24
dated:19-12-2024

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION - IV.
Pampore Kashmir - 192121
Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com
EXTENSION NOTICE-5

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

Table with 2 columns: S.No, e-Bid submission end date and time, Date of opening of online techno commercial / financial bid
1. e-Bid submission end date and time 26-12-2024 up to 14:00 hrs
2. Date of opening of online techno commercial / financial bid 27-12-2024 at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in.
DIPK-NB-2857/24 dated: 19-12-2024

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER
POSHAN PROJECT KUNZER

Subject:-Engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)in Anganwadi Centres.
ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE
Advertisement no.:- 12 CDPO-Kunz of 2023
Dated:-17-12-2024

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sanginis (AWWs) for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Kunzer on "Honorarium basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of undersigned i.e. the Child Development Project Officer Kunzer by or before 31 of December, 2024 against proper receipt.

Table with 5 columns: S.NO, NAME OF THE DISTRICT, NAME OF THE PROJECT, NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALITY WARD, VACANCY OF SANGINIS (ANGANWADI WORKERS) NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC.WARD, NAME OF AWC
1. BARAMULLA Kunzer Hardshoora Ward No. 02 Hardshoora-A
2. BARAMULLA Kunzer Chichilora Ward No. 09 Chichilora-D
3. BARAMULLA Kunzer Lalpora-A Ward No. 02 Lalpora Band Mohalla-A
4. BARAMULLA Kunzer Larkipora Ward No. 05 Bongund
5. BARAMULLA Kunzer Karhama Ward No. 03 Karhama-E

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) Shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order NO 103 JK(SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.04.2023 i.e.

- ♦ Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post.
♦ The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
♦ The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AWC is located.
♦ Minimum Education qualification should be 10+2 pass and maximum graduation.
♦ Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be granted purely on academic merit basis & there shall not be any interview.
♦ In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retired AWW the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.
♦ Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
♦ In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:

- ♦ Panch Ward Certificate /Electoral Card/present /continuous, ward residence certificate issued by BDO.
♦ Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsilidar concerned.
♦ Date of Birth Certificate.
♦ Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.
♦ If candidate belong to family of retired AWW, Copy of document proof.
♦ Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
♦ Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
♦ Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.
> All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
> Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Sanginis (AWWs) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
> The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sangini (AWW)

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".
Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan Kunzer

No.-CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2024/916-934 Dated:-17-12-2024

(ANNEXURE-I) S.NO: APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)

1. Name of the District: - Baramulla
2. Name of the ICDS Project: -
3. Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
4. Panch Ward/MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa/MC Ward.....
5. Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters) .....
6. Fathers Name (In Block Letters) .....
7. Marital Status: - Married /Un Married
8. Husbands Name (if married) .....
9. Place of Permanent Residence.....
Mohalla.....Village.....
Panch Ward Constituency.....
Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
House No..... (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral) Block:.....
10. Address for Correspondence.....Mobile No:.....
11. Date of Birth.....
D D M M Y Y Y Y
12. Age as on 01-01-2023.....
13. Academic Qualification
S.No Examination passed Board/School Year of passing Marks Obtained Max. Marks %age
1 10+2
2 Graduation
14. Do candidate belong to family of retired AWW (Yes/No).
15. Documents attached.
♦ Panch Ward Certificate /present /continuous, ward residence certificate issued by BDO duly countersigned by ACR/SDM.
♦ Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsilidar concerned.
♦ Date of Birth Certificate.
♦ Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.
♦ If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, then copy of the e-ration card.
♦ Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
♦ Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.

Signature of Candidate
I.....D/o,W/o.....R/o.....
do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

DIPK-9705/24
dated:19-12-2024 Signature of Candidate

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL
BEMINA, SRINAGAR (J&K)-190017.

Abbreviated Advertisement Notification No: SKIMS-MC (09) Acad, of 2024
Dated: 17-12-2024

SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, Srinagar invites applications on prescribed format from eligible domicile candidates of J&K & Ladakh, up to 45 years of age as on last date of receipt of application forms for vacant / likely vacant tenure posts of Senior Residents (Registrars/Tutor Demonstrators) in the following Departments:

Table with 2 columns: S.No SENIOR RESIDENTS (REGISTRAR), S.No SENIOR RESIDENTS (TUTOR DEMONSTRATOR)
1. Anesthesiology & Critical Care 7. Biochemistry
2. Chest Medicine 8. Community Medicine
3. ENT 9. Forensic Medicine
4. Gen. Medicine /Medical Casualty 10. Pathology
5. General Surgery 11. Pharmacology
6. Radiology

ELIGIBILITY: MBBS with MD/MS/DNB/PhD (As defined by National Medical Commission).

NOTE: In view of present exigency, candidates with MD/DNB in CHEST MEDICINE, GENERAL MEDICINE / EMERGENCY MEDICINE, GENERAL SURGERY & MD/DNB in BIOCHEMISTRY who have already completed Senior Residency can also apply and would be considered only if no fresh candidate is available in above mentioned specialties, however in other specialties only fresh candidates are eligible.

- Date of issue of Application Forms: Up to 2nd Of January, 2025 till 3 PM. (on all working days).
▪ Last Date of receipt of Application Forms: Up to 3rd Of January, 2025 till 3 PM. (on all working days).
▪ CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO CHECK REGULARLY THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE viz http://www.skimsmc.edu.in FOR UPDATES.

Sd/-
Prof. Mohd. Ashraf Ganie
Principal
No: SKIMS/MC/Acad/Advt./ 89-980
DIPK-NB-2863/24 Dated: 19-12-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Old name Aijaz Ahmad to New Name Aijaz Hussain Shah. In future I will be known as Aijaz Hussain Shah. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the concerned office within 7 days . after that no objection shall be entertained.

Aijaz Hussain Shah phw
S/o Mahbob Shah
R/o Chani Pora Payeen Tehsil Karnah

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No. 705895 Session: May June Year 1993 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/ Board against my name as M. Amin. Dar Instead of Mohd Amin Dar
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mohd Amin Dar
F/N: Gh Jeelani Dar
M/N: Mugli Bano
DOB : 05-04-1975
Residence: Kangan Pulwama
Mobile: 7889362642 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice I have changed my name from Bega Begum to Bega W/o Ghulam Hussain. Now I want to update my name in J&K Bank records and other relevant documents in case anybody has any objection he/she may report in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank Singhpora within 7 days . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Bega W/o Ghulam Hussain Malla
R/o Amargarh Patimatpora
J&K Bank Branch Singhpora bmg\_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that we have changed the name of our pharmacy from Rizvis Pharmacy Chemists and Druggists (bearing License No. RLF20JK2023003316 & RLF21JK2023003304) to Multicare Pharmacy Chemists and Druggists. If anyone has any objections regarding this change, they are requested to contact us within 7 days at 9541388813. Issued by: Management
Multicare Pharmacy Chemists and Druggists bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost all the document of my vehicle bearing redg no: JK05D-1411. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shaista Majeed
D/o Ab Majeed Wani
R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I want to change the name of the electricity power connect of Consumer No. 0205010001170 and installation No. 12671-R1 already registered on the name of Mohammad Hanief to Shakeela Bano presently installed at Ganie Mohalla, Pandach, Ganderbal, Kashmir. Any person having any kind of objection can contact the concern Jammu and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd, Ganderbal within a period of Seven days from the date of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained.

Shakeela Bano
Ganie Mohalla, Pethpora, Pandach,
Ganderbal, Kashmir inf



### Over 1,000 Cameras Installed Across City To Curb Traffic Violations: CEO Smart City

Srinagar: CEO Srinagar Smart City, Owais Ahmad Thursday said that over 1,000 cameras have been installed across the city under the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) to curb traffic violations. Speaking with reporters, the CEO said that cameras are designed to capture various traffic violations, including seatbelt and helmet non-compliance, mobile phone usage while driving, and jumping traffic signals. He said that in the coming days, the system will also track speed violations. "On the first day of operations, approximately 102 challans were issued. Once a vehicle's number plate is captured, a challan is automati-

cally generated, and the driver is required to follow the payment procedure," he said. He said that ITMS is fully operational at 33 of the 66 junctions, and due to some technical issues, the remaining signals are not yet functional. "Efforts are underway to resolve these problems step by step, with full functionality expected soon", the CEO said. The ITMS uses advanced technology, such as high-resolution cameras and radar sensors, to monitor intersections and highways. By collecting real-time data and analysing it through advanced computer algorithms, ITMS provides instant insights into traffic violations and patterns—(KNO)



### Mosque Located Inside Govt Silk Weaving Factory Rajbagh Guttled In Blaze

Srinagar: A masjid located in the premises of the Government Silk Weaving Factory, along with a Chinar tree, was damaged in Rajbagh area in a fire incident, officials said. They said the masjid and Chinar tree were damaged, while the Government Silk Weaving Factory remained safe and unaffected

by the fire. An official said that a masjid located within the premises of the Government Silk Weaving Factory in Rajbagh Srinagar was damaged after a blaze broke out. He said the masjid was built by the employees and local people to offer prayers, while it suffered damage due to the fire, along with the Chinar tree. He added that the Govern-

ment Silk Weaving Factory was safe in the fire incident, and the fire was confined, preventing it from spreading to the area. "The fire call was received at 06:29 PM, and soon F&ES headquarters and Gowkadal command of Srinagar were alerted and made their way to Rajbagh. Upon arrival at the scene, one wooden structure, along with the Chinar tree, was found to be on fire," said the official—(KNO)

### Admin Gears Up For "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" Campaign

Srinagar: In connection with Nationwide Campaign 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' as a part of Good Governance Week-2024, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to gear up the line Departments for successful conduct of programmes under the initiative. Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Joint Director Employment, Zeenat Ara, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Abaas, Chief Agriculture Officer, Manohar Lal Sharma, Lead District Manager, Neelofer Jan, Block Development Officers of Harwan, Khonmoh, Srinagar & Qamarwari, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, the meeting was attended by the Officers of R&B, KPDC, PHE, Health, Education, NRLM and other Departments. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted

the objectives of the Nationwide Campaign 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' scheduled to be held from December 19 to 24, 2024. He said that the initiative is aimed to bring Administration at the doorsteps of the rural population and address their grievances in a time bound and qualitative manner. He added that the purpose of the campaign is to reinforce the principles of good governance and improve service delivery at the grassroots level. The Deputy Commissioner asked the Officers to hold mass awareness camps in all Panchayat Blocks of the District and provided Government services directly at their doorstep. He directed the Departments of Labour, Employment, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, FCS&CA, Health, Social Welfare, ICDS, Rural Development, R&B, KPDC, PHE, Health, Education, NRLM, Revenue, Forest Cooperatives and other line Departments to reach out to the people by conducting joint programmes during the Good Governance Week-2024.

### VC SKUAST Calls For Action To Preserve Kashmir's Agricultural Land

Srinagar: Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Dr. Nazir Ahmed Ganai Thursday voiced grave concerns over the shrinking of arable land in Kashmir. While talking to the news agency CNS, Dr Nazir Ahmed emphasized the pressing need for comprehensive planning to mitigate the impact of unplanned urbanization and safeguard the region's agricultural future. "The shrinking of agricultural land is an alarming trend that seriously threatens our food security and rural livelihoods. If we do not act now, the conse-

quences will be irreversible," Dr. Ganai said. He advocated for a shift in urban development practices, specifically urging a move towards vertical housing models. "By adopting vertical planning for houses instead of horizontal sprawl, we can significantly reduce the encroachment on farmland and increase landholding capacity," he said. Dr. Nazir Ahmed also took pride in SKUAST's recent accomplishments, asserting that the university has emerged as a leader in agricultural innovation and education in India. "SKUAST is now ranked number one in innovations among agricultural universities. This is a testament to the dedication of our faculty and

students," he said, adding that the institution's commitment to research, quality education, and successful placements has set it apart on the national stage. He said, "SKUAST has been making significant strides in promoting agricultural development and addressing the challenges faced by farmers in Kashmir." He concluded by reiterating SKUAST's role in driving sustainable solutions for Kashmir's agricultural challenges. "Our focus remains on equipping students with the tools they need to address the agricultural and environmental issues of tomorrow. Together, we can create a future that balances development and preservation."

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200
AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311
RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

PRAYERS
FAJR 6: 02
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 3: 48
Magrib 5:29
ISHA 6: 55
HIJRI CALENDAR
17 Jumada al-Sani
1446

This Day In History
69 - General Vespasian's troops occupy Rome after 1448 - Pope Nicholas V appoints Rudolf of Diepholt, Bishop of Utrecht, as cardinal.
1522 - Suleiman the Magnificent accepts surrender of the surviving Knights of Rhodes, who are allowed to evacuate. Eventually settle in Malta, become known as the Knights of Malta.
1585 - English fleet & Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, reach Vlissingen.
1626 - Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II and

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur Division invites applications for allotment of halt contract for sale of tickets for the following stations:-
Name of work: Allotment of Halt contract at (1) Salla Khurd (2) Bolina Doaba (3) Ghallu (4) Sham Chaurasi (5) Khatkar Kalan Jhanda Ji (6) Jajjon Doaba (7) Garshankar (8) Malupota (9) Garna Sahib (10) Jansher Khas Railway Halt Stations over Firozpur Division.
Tenure of contract: 05 (five) years
Last date & time of submission and opening of applications: On 21.01.2025 Up to 15:00 hrs (Applications will be opened on 21.01.2025 and in case the day on which the applications are to be opened is a holiday, the same will be opened at the same time on next working day).
Address of the office & date from which application forms will be available: Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur. Date 19.12.2024 to 21.01.2025
Northern Railway's web site: Applications can also be downloaded from Northern Railway's official website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3888/24

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE, PARKS & GARDENS,
HAR KI POU DI ROAD BAGH-E-BAHU JAMMU
e-mail:- floriculturejammu@gmail.com Tele- 0191-2435121
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (SHORT-TERM)
e-NIT No.10/2024-25/Floriculture Department Jammu Dated: 17.12.2024
The Director/Director General, Deptt. Of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K invites Short Term Tenders by e-Tendering mode from the registered Individuals/Firms/Companies/Agencies for outsourcing of Cafeteria at Bagh-e-Bahu Garden, Jammu for a period of three years (as is where is basis) from the date of issue of allotment.
S.No Name of the Asset Minimum Reserve bid Earnest Money as CDR/FDR Cost of Tender Document
1. Outsourcing of Cafeteria at Bagh-e-Bahu Garden, Jammu Rs.14 lakh (Fourteen Lakh only) Per annum Rs. 70,000 ( Seventy Thousand only) Rs. 500/- (Non-refundable)
The bidding documents (s) consisting of qualifying information eligibility criteria, specification, items and conditions and other details can be downloaded through the Departmental website www.dfg.jk.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
1. Period of downloading of bidding documents 18-12-2024 to 24-12-2024 upto 1500 Hrs.
2. Bid Submission Start Date 18-12-2024
3. Bid Submission End Date 24-12-2024 upto 1500 Hrs.
4. Date and time of opening of Tenders online 26-12-2024 at 1130 Hrs.
1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, conditions and other details.
The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect site of Bagh-e-Bahu Garden, Jammu before bidding.
2. Bids must be accompanied by CDR/FDR and cost of tender Document as specified in column 4 and 5 of the table payable at Jammu pledged in favour of Accounts officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu .CDR/FDR shall have to be valid for one year (12 months) The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be paid in form of DD payable in favour of Accounts officer, Directorate of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu.
3. Cost of tender document shall also be uploaded online along with requisite Treasury Challan/ receipt under Receipt Head 0406- Forestry & Wild life.
4. Bidders are required to sign and upload bid security declaration form as warranted under GFR-2017 Rule 170 (III) (Annexure A)
5. Bids will be opened online in the office of the Director/Director General Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Har-Ki-Poudi Road Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu. In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.
6. Bidders should get ready with the hard copies of list of documents & EMD as specified in the Tenders documents. The hard copies of the bids shall be obtained from the bidders who is declared as H1 after opening of financial bids.
7. The detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from this Directorate on any working day during office hours and also through Departmental website www.dfg.jk.gov.in.
Sd/-
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
(Chairman)
Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Jammu.
No:- DFG/GS/4269-79
DIPK-9701/24 Dated:- 19.12.2024

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Higher Education Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K.
Subject: Appointment of the Assistant Professor, Agriculture Technology, in the Higher Education Department.
Reference : Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP- Agriculture Technology /2023 dated 10-09-2024 (Recommendation) from the J&K Public Service Commission.
Government Order No. 565-JK(HE) of 2024
Dated: 17-12-2024
In continuation to the Government Order No. 533-JK(HE) of 2024 dated 20.11.2024 and as recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of following candidates as Assistant Professor (Agriculture Technology) on Regular Temporary basis in the Pay Band of Rs.15600-39100 with AGP Rs. 6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 (with Pay Structure of Rs. 57700/-) in the Higher Education Department, notionally w.e.f.20-11-2024 and monetarily with immediate effect:-
S. No. Name Mr./ Mrs. Parentage Address Selection Category
1. Mohd Tahir Mohd Yousuf Ganai 0050 Ganai Mohalla Kharwara Herman OM
2. Shahida Nisar Nisar Ahmad Thoker Sehpora Near Jamia Masjid Sehpora Near Jamia Masjid Tulmulla OM
The candidates hailing from Kashmir Division shall report to the Nodal Principal, Government College of Education, Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order failing which their appointment shall be deemed to have cancelled without any notice.
The appointment of candidate(s) shall be subject to the following conditions:-
1. The appointees will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.
2. The appointment of the above candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
3. The appointees shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principals:-
a. Domicile Certificate.
b. Date of Birth Certificate.
c. Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and marks cards/ degrees.
d. Category certificate as may be applicable to the appointees.
e. Health and Medical Certificate.
f. Any other certificate as required under law.
The salary of the appointees shall be drawn and disbursed only after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of the genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate(s) and subject to production of an Affidavit as per Annexure-A to this order.
The inter-se-seniority of the candidates shall be determined in terms of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.
The appointment of the candidates shall remain provisional till such time the certificates are got verified by the concerned Principal(s) and are found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with the eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidate(s) shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.
The appointment of the candidates shall be subject to the outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending in any competent Court of law on the subject.
By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
Sd/-
(Dr. Rashmi Singh), IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government
No. HED-GAZ/286/2024-04 (7573381)
DIPK-9698/24
Dated: 19-12-2024
Annexure-A to Government Order No: 56 JK(HE) of 2024
Dated: 17.12.2024
AFFIDAVIT
I, S/O do hereby solemnly declare on oath that:
(a) My name has been recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission for appointment as Assistant Professor in the Higher Education Department.
(b) I understand that the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate has not been furnished by the concerned verifying agency in my case.
I, therefore, undertake that in the event of permitting me to join, pending receipt of the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate, I shall have no claim for the post in the event of my being adversely reported upon by the verifying agency found not to be genuine.
DEPONENT
VERIFICATION
The contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.
DEPONENT

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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# Will New Reservation Policy in J&K Kill Merit?

Suhail Farooq

The reservation system in India is a government policy that is based on provisions in the Indian Constitution. It is also known as affirmative action or positive discrimination. The system is a quota-based scheme that reserves seats in government jobs, educational institutions, and political bodies for certain sections of the population.

The purpose of the reservation system is to ensure that historically underserved communities have representation in these areas. It also aims to correct historical injustices and ensure that economically disadvantaged sections of the population can participate in state services.

The origins of the reservation system can be traced back to the ancient caste system, which created a rigid social hierarchy. The idea of caste-based reservation was first conceived in 1882 by William Hunter and Jyotirao Phule. The system was introduced in its true sense in 1933 when British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald presented the "Communal Award".

In Jammu and Kashmir, the reservation policy had traditionally focused on regional and socio-economic disparities. However, the new amendments extend reservations to groups that do not align with the original objectives of affirmative action, leading to concerns about arbitrariness and misuse.

This policy, framed after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, reflects a departure from regional autonomy to centrally dictated socio-political frameworks. While proponents argue that these changes aim to "mainstream" the erstwhile state, critics believe they erode the constitutional spirit of equality.

## Discrimination Against Open Merit Candidates

One of the most significant and concerning aspects of the new reservation policy is its detrimental impact on open merit candidates. The policy, implemented by the Lieutenant Governor-led administration just before the assembly elections earlier this year, has drastically reduced the quota for the general category to a mere 40%. In contrast, the reservation for reserved categories has been increased to 60%. This stark shift has created an imbalance that disproportionately disadvantages the general category, which constitutes the majority of the population in Jammu and Kashmir.

For students and job aspirants in the open category, this policy translates into a sharp reduction in the already limited opportunities available to them. The competition within this segment has intensified to an unsustainable degree, creating an environment of systemic discrimination. Aspirants who work tirelessly to achieve academic and professional excellence now find themselves sidelined, not because of a lack of merit but due to a shrinking pool of opportunities.

The implications of this policy extend beyond mere numbers. It strikes at the core of the principles of meritocracy, which are essential for the progress and development of any society. Hard-working and deserving individuals are left demoralized as they face rejection, not for their capabilities but because of an excessively skewed reservation system. This has led to widespread resentment among the general category, who feel alienated and unjustly treated under a policy that seems to prioritize political expediency over fairness and equality.



Moreover, the policy's failure to balance social justice with merit is a glaring shortcoming. While reservations are a necessary tool to uplift historically marginalized communities, an overextension of quotas disrupts the delicate balance needed to ensure equal opportunities for all. The exclusion of a significant portion of the population from access to education and employment opportunities raises fundamental questions about the fairness and inclusivity of the policy. Such measures, instead of fostering societal harmony, risk deepening divisions and undermining the trust in the system.

In essence, this policy highlights the urgent need for a more thoughtful approach to reservation. Affirmative action must aim to empower marginalized groups without alienating others or compromising the principles of merit and equality. A policy that marginalizes the majority in the name of inclusivity is not only counterproductive but also unsustainable in the long run. The administration must address these concerns to ensure that fairness and social justice are not mutually exclusive but rather work in harmony to create a truly equitable society.

## Constitutional Concerns

The Constitution of India, through its Articles 14, 15, and 16, enshrines the fundamental principles of equality before the law and the prohibition of discrimination on grounds such as caste, religion, or gender. At the same time, it provides exceptions under Articles 15(4) and 16(4), allowing the state to implement reservation policies aimed at addressing historical injustices and social backwardness among marginalized communities. However, these exceptions are not absolute and must conform to constitutional safeguards of reasonableness, proportionality, and judicially established boundaries. Reservation policies are intended as remedial measures and must exhibit a rational connection between the groups receiving benefits and their genuine social and educational disadvantages.

The recent changes to Jammu and Kashmir's reservation framework fail to uphold these principles. By expanding reservations to include dominant groups without evidence of their backwardness, the policy appears arbitrary and politically motivated, rather than rooted in the intended objectives of affirmative action. This dilutes the meritocratic ethos central to a progressive society, sidelines genuinely disadvantaged communities, and creates systemic inequalities. Such a policy undermines the trust of citizens in fair governance.

The Supreme Court, in its landmark judgment in Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992), imposed a 50% cap on reservations, emphasizing that excessive quotas could erode the merit-based framework necessary for a balanced society. This principle was reinforced in the Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil v. Chief

Minister, Maharashtra case (2021), where the Court struck down the Maratha quota, which breached the 50% ceiling, reiterating that reservations cannot become tools for appeasement of politically powerful communities. Most recently, in Dr. Jaideep Gupta v. Union of India (2023), the Supreme Court underscored that reservation policies must be based on a clear demonstration of backwardness and must undergo periodic review to ensure relevance and fairness.

The reservation policy introduced in Jammu and Kashmir blatantly disregards these precedents. Instead of ensuring equitable opportunities for genuinely marginalized groups, it risks creating an unequal system that prioritizes political gains over constitutional principles. This not only deepens the constitutional crisis but also raises significant concerns about the arbitrary application of reservation policies, which could set a dangerous precedent for the rest of the country. For a policy to achieve its intended purpose, it must strike a delicate balance between social justice and meritocracy, and the current framework in Jammu and Kashmir falls woefully short of this ideal.

## Positive Discrimination?

Prior to the amendments in the reservation policy of Jammu and Kashmir there was a good margin of reservation enjoyed by the open merit but post amendments the percentage has been totally compromised and contracted while discriminating against the open merit class of students and unemployed youth.

Reservation is the availability of opportunities and when someone faces issues and does not get an opportunity to excel in his field, it creates a feeling of distress and that is why it is heard that 1.8 Million of people are facing mental issues and 24.6 percent unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Positive discrimination, while often criticized for its perceived impact on the open merit category, serves as a necessary tool to address deep-rooted social and economic disparities. In regions like Jammu and Kashmir, where historical inequities have marginalized certain communities, reservation policies aim to level the playing field by providing opportunities to those who have faced systemic barriers. While the contraction of open merit seats may seem like a disadvantage to some, it is essential to view these changes through the lens of social justice. By uplifting underrepresented groups, reservation policies can foster a more inclusive society, where all individuals, regardless of their background, have a chance to contribute meaningfully to the region's development. This, in turn, can create a ripple effect, driving social and economic progress for the collective good. Rather than being a cause of distress, such policies can encourage resilience and adaptability, urging the open merit class to explore alternative pathways and innovative solutions.

to excel in their fields. Addressing mental health issues and unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir requires a multi-pronged strategy that goes beyond reservations. Investments in education, skill development, and mental health resources are equally critical. The real challenge lies in ensuring that the reservation policy is implemented transparently and equitably, without fostering resentment, while simultaneously empowering all sections of society to thrive.

## NC Aims for Inclusivity in J&K Reservations

The National Conference's (NC) decision to establish a sub-committee for reassessing Jammu and Kashmir's reservation policy is a commendable step toward fostering inclusivity and addressing long-standing concerns about equitable access to opportunities. In a region marked by its unique demographic and socio-political complexities, this move reflects NC's commitment to ensuring that reservation policies are not only fair but also inclusive of all sections of society. The reassessment aims to address imbalances that may have inadvertently marginalized the open merit category while simultaneously safeguarding the rights and benefits of reserved categories. By initiating a holistic review, the NC showcases a forward-thinking approach that prioritizes social justice and meritocracy.

Reservation policies, though essential for uplifting historically disadvantaged communities, must adapt to changing socio-economic realities to remain effective and just. The subcommittee's establishment offers hope for a balanced solution that recognizes the legitimate aspirations of open merit candidates, who often feel constrained by limited opportunities. This initiative could pave the way for reforms that ensure a level playing field, fostering a culture where merit is valued without undermining the genuine needs of reserved categories.

By involving experts and stakeholders, the NC's move has the potential to create a nuanced policy framework that aligns with contemporary requirements while addressing historical disparities. Such a reassessment is not just a political necessity but also a moral obligation to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their category, can access opportunities based on both merit and need. This step, if executed transparently and inclusively, could strengthen public trust and set a precedent for other states grappling with similar challenges.

The initiative also underscores the NC's vision for social cohesion and empowerment, particularly in a region where equitable development is crucial for stability and progress. It is a reminder that reservation policies should not become static instruments but rather dynamic tools for achieving a just society. The hope is that this subcommittee will emerge with an innovative, equitable solution that harmonizes the principles of affirmative action with the survival and growth of the open merit category. This balance, if achieved, would be a testament to NC's resolve to champion inclusive governance, heralding a brighter, more equitable future for all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author can be reached out for feedback at gsuahil742@gmail.com*

KO VIEW

## Lingering Violence

The encounter at Kulgam in South Kashmir, which claimed lives of five militants and injured two security personnel, serves as a stark reminder that violence continues to persist on the margins of an otherwise relatively peaceful Kashmir. While the region has witnessed significant changes in recent years, with a revival of tourism and a measure of normalcy returning to the Valley, the shadow of violence looms large, especially in the hilly areas and some parts of the countryside.

This gunfight underlines how pockets of militancy continue to disrupt the region. Though the general perception of Kashmir may lean towards a return to normalcy, incidents like these reveal that beneath the surface, a marginal violence remains a reality, manifested in sporadic, deadly clashes.

This is not to downplay the gains made on the security front in the valley in recent years. Militancy has by and large shrunk into insignificance in the region. The number of the local youth taking up arms has come down drastically. And the foreigners seem to be stepping into the consequent void. Jammu division, on the other hand, has been in the news this year mainly for security reasons. Militancy in the region has revived after over a decade of absence. Recurrent attacks have brought Jammu to the edge. And a more or less similar state of affairs is prevailing in the Valley now.

However, it is an evolving situation and thus has nothing to do with the formation of the elected government and which has no control over the security situation. Also, there is nothing surprising about the resurfacing of the militancy in the Valley. The past 35 years have witnessed a rise and fall of violence. And often when we thought the militancy was over, it returned to disrupt the peace. Never had it come so close to extinction as by 2013 when the Valley had a little over fifty militants, only a small number of them locals.

In recent years also, the number of local militants in the Valley steeply went down and the recruitment almost came to nought. But here we are again, with the shortfall being replenished by the militants from Pakistan. This has been the story of J&K militancy over the past more than three decades and a factor in its perpetuation. The best counter-insurgency strategy that would help can't be entirely security-centric. It has always alienated people. We need one that reaches out to people and seeks their cooperation.



Did you know?

## Understanding Demat and Trading Accounts

Irshad Mushtaq

In the world of investing, demat accounts and trading accounts play crucial roles. Here's a comprehensive look at each:

### What is a Demat Account?

A demat account, short for "dematerialized account," is an electronic account that allows investors to hold shares and other securities in a digital format, eliminating the need for physical share certificates. Before the introduction of demat accounts, investors received paper share certificates, which could be easily lost or damaged.

The demat account stores not only shares but also mutual funds, bonds, and other financial securities. The main advantage of a demat account is the safety it provides; since everything is stored digitally, the risk of losing your share certificate is virtually eliminated.

### The Role of NSDL and CDSL

Demat accounts are maintained by custodians like the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL). These entities are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and ensure the safe custody of your securities. It's important to note that individuals cannot open a demat account directly with NSDL or CDSL; instead, they must go through a Depository Participant (DP) such as a brokerage firm like Sharekhan or various banks.

### What is a Trading Account?

A trading account is distinct from a demat account. While a demat account is for the safekeeping of securities, a trading account is used primarily for buying and selling shares. This account acts like a bank account but is tailored to facilitate trading activities.

When you decide to purchase stocks, your trading account allows you to execute those transactions. Once the stocks are bought, they are transferred to your demat account for safekeeping.

### The Importance of Both Accounts

Having both a demat and trading account is essential for anyone looking to invest in the stock market. The trading account allows you to carry out transactions, while the demat account provides a secure place for your assets.

Since the implementation of demat accounts in India after 1996, investors no longer need to worry about the preservation of physical certificates. Everything is handled electronically, making transactions more streamlined and less prone to loss.

### How to Open These Accounts

Opening a demat and trading account is a straightforward process. You can approach various brokerage firms that offer these services. It's advisable to choose a provider based on the quality of service and support offered. It's completely online nowadays.

### Conclusion

In summary, a demat account holds your securities in digital format, while a trading account facilitates the buying and selling of these securities. Together, they provide a comprehensive platform for investors to manage their investments effectively and securely.

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



OBSERVER  
MAIL

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

## MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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## Prioritising Limited Screen Time for Children's Well-being

I am writing to address an urgent concern that affects the well-being and development of our younger generation – the excessive screen time that children are exposed to in today's digital age. It is essential that we recognize the potential risks associated with unrestricted screen time and take proactive steps to ensure a healthier balance between technology use and real-world experiences. In recent years, the proliferation of screens in our lives has been remarkable, providing us with

unprecedented access to information and entertainment. However, the impacts on children are increasingly worrying. Extended screen time has been linked to various issues, such as disrupted sleep patterns, sedentary lifestyles, and even negative effects on mental health. The potential consequences are not to be taken lightly, as they can have far-reaching implications for the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of our youth. To address this concern, parents, educators, and policymakers must

work together to establish guidelines and boundaries for children's screen time. Encouraging outdoor activities, physical play, and face-to-face interactions should be prioritized to promote healthy growth and social skills. Moreover, educational initiatives that teach children about responsible technology use can help them develop the necessary skills to navigate the digital world safely and thoughtfully. As a society, we must recognize that screens are a tool, not a substitute for genuine human interactions and experiences.

By setting limits on screen time and offering alternative activities, we can empower children to lead more balanced lives and develop essential life skills that extend beyond the virtual realm. In conclusion, it is crucial that we address the issue of excessive screen time among children. By fostering a culture of balanced technology use, we can ensure a brighter future for our youth, one that promotes their holistic development and well-being.

Mehak Wahid

# Unraveling the Self

## A Journey Through Philosophy, Psychology and Mental Well-being

Syed Nasir Ahmed Gilani  
Umer Iqbal

The concept of the self is a foundational and enduring topic in psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, religion, and existential literature. In its simplest terms, the self refers to the idea behind the pronoun "I"—the subject of human experience and language. Yet, the question "What is the self?" remains one of humanity's most challenging and unresolved inquiries.

The term "self" originates from the Old English word *seolf* or *self*, derived from Proto-Germanic *selbaz*, meaning "one's own" or "same." It represents the core of human existence, embodying individuality, identity, and agency. However, across cultures and intellectual traditions, the concept of self has been interpreted in vastly different, often conflicting, ways. Fundamental questions persist: Is the self innate or shaped by experience? Is it eternal or transient?

### The Self in Western Philosophy

Western philosophy has long grappled with the nature of the self, particularly its relationship to identity, consciousness, and purpose. From ancient to modern thinkers, central questions revolve around whether the self is a distinct, stable entity or a fluid, ever-evolving process. Western thought often explores how the self interacts with the external world, others, and the divine.

### Freud and Jung: The Psychological Self

Sigmund Freud conceptualized the self as a dynamic interplay of unconscious drives, dividing it into the id (instinctual desires), the ego (rational self), and the superego (moral conscience). He viewed the self as a battleground where these forces compete for dominance, shaping behavior and identity.

Carl Jung expanded Freud's ideas, emphasizing the process of individuation—the integration of conscious and unconscious aspects of the self. For Jung, self-realization involved harmonizing the psyche's different facets, such as the persona (social mask)



and the shadow (hidden or repressed qualities). His archetypal framework underscored the multifaceted nature of the self, positioning it as both deeply personal and universally connected.

### Iqbal's Vision of Selfhood: Khudi

In Islamic philosophy, the poet-philosopher Allama Iqbal introduced a profound conception of selfhood, articulated as *Khudi*. The term derives from the Urdu word *khud*, meaning "by oneself." Iqbal's philosophy is deeply rooted in the Quranic verse:

"And [Allah] breathed into him of His Spirit" (Quran 15:29).

He believed that humans are endowed with divine essence—a creative power that enables them to shape their destiny (*Qadr-e-duniya*).

Iqbal's *Khudi* transcends mere self-awareness, representing the capacity for creation, empowerment, and transformation. For him, *Khudi* was not a psychological construct but a divine spark—a window to the metaphysical within the physical. It reflects human dignity and purpose,



The challenge lies in our perception of the ideal self as perpetually distant and unattainable, representing an unimprovable perfection. While absolute perfection may be unachievable, striving toward a healthy, evolving ideal fosters personal growth

emphasizing the journey of self-mastery and transcendence.

In his poetic masterpiece *Asrar-e-Khudi* (Secrets of the Self), Iqbal highlighted self-awareness as the foundation of progress:

"Know thyself, for self-knowledge leads to the knowledge of God."

He advocated for discipline, willpower, and active engagement with life, rejecting passivity and fatalism. According to Iqbal, a strong *Khudi* is essential for overcoming weakness and directing one's destiny:

"This world is no place for the weak. Only those with a strong *Khudi* can carve their path."

Iqbal's ultimate vision for the self involves self-transcendence, aligning human will with divine will. He drew on mystical concepts like *fana* (self-annihilation) and *baqa* (subsistence in God) to explain the process of spiritual growth. This journey leads to a state where worldly desires are subdued, and the soul becomes illuminated by divine essence:

"To reach perfection is to rise beyond the self, and to unite with the infinite."

### The Self and Mental Health

Modern mental health crises often stem from disordered narratives of the self. While physical health has improved globally, mental illness is on the rise. Excluding organic deficiencies, most mental health issues arise from negative self-perception and unhealthy internal dialogue. A distorted narrative of self—shaped by inadequacy, trauma, or societal pressures—can lead to conditions like depression and anxiety.

For example, negative self-talk ("I'm a failure" or "I don't deserve happiness") reinforces cycles of low self-esteem and despair. This destructive internal dialogue erodes mental resilience over time. In contrast, a healthy self-narrative, rooted in self-compassion, purpose, and resilience, can act as a protective factor, promoting emotional regulation and well-being.

Modern life's relentless pace often leaves little room for introspection. People are encouraged to achieve, consume, and compete, but rarely to reflect on their own identity or purpose. This disconnection from the self

fosters feelings of alienation and mental instability. Ignorance of self can disempower individuals, potentially leading to psychological disintegration.

### The Paradox of Self-Actualization

Self-actualization is often viewed as achieving the "ideal self," a concept frequently contrasted with the "real self." While the ideal self represents an aspiration, the real self reflects one's current state. Importantly, the ideal is not static; it evolves over time.

The challenge lies in our perception of the ideal self as perpetually distant and unattainable, representing an unimprovable perfection. While absolute perfection may be unachievable, striving toward a healthy, evolving ideal fosters personal growth. The real self, though imperfect, is a reflection of the ideal. Changes in the ideal naturally influence the real, creating a dynamic interplay that drives self-improvement.

### Conclusion

The concept of self is as profound as it is elusive, intersecting with philosophy, psychology, and spirituality. Western thought explores the self as a dynamic or stable entity, while figures like Freud and Jung analyze its psychological dimensions. Iqbal's *Khudi* adds a spiritual perspective, presenting the self as a divine essence capable of shaping destiny.

In mental health, understanding and nurturing the self is crucial for resilience and well-being. Whether viewed as a battleground of drives, a spiritual spark, or a narrative to be redefined, the self remains central to human experience. Through self-awareness, discipline, and introspection, individuals can navigate the complexities of selfhood, unlocking their potential for growth, purpose, and transcendence.

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# The Art of Refusal

Tasha Golden

The transition into a new year often comes with pressure to radiate optimism and new year, new you energy. Social feeds and cultural narratives often suggest that our future success depends on our current enthusiasm and positive thinking.

Yet for many of us, this season feels anything but light. Reflecting on a year marked by personal struggles, societal divisions, and vast uncertainties, anxiety and despair might rise to the surface. These emotions often reveal a deep concern for our communities and futures.

But in a culture that equates progress with positivity, the pressure to suppress such emotions and perform a cheery outlook can not only diminish our humanity but keep us from reaching our goals.

Contrary to popular belief, our challenging emotions are not obstacles to envisioning new futures or creating change. They may be the key to unlocking them.

### Creativity Is Rooted in Refusal

Over years of researching creativity and health, I've come to refer to challenging emotions as evidence or sites of refusal—the first step in the creative process.

Research shows that emotions serve important adaptive functions. They act as messengers: alerting us to problems, motivating us to

act, and helping us recognize when change is needed. Challenging emotions often signal our refusal to leave circumstances as they are or to accept them as fated or fixed.

Though refusal often emerges in moments of difficulty and vulnerability, it's a crucial step in healing and transformation—and it lies at the heart of creativity and innovation. If we want to create a bold vision and honor our well-being, we must reframe our assumptions. Creativity and change may draw upon hustle and optimism—but they are rooted in refusal.

### The Role of Refusal

This may feel counterintuitive. After all, we're regularly encouraged to "think positive" and accept our circumstances as part of healing. As writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin reminds us: "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

But Baldwin also said, "The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in." Facing reality doesn't mean approving of it. It means recognizing it for what it is, so we can decide how to respond. The seeds of creative change lie in that decision.

Once we've seen reality clearly, we can refuse to leave it as it is. In this sense, refusal is what ignites healing and change. It's what generates creativity.

Put simply, creativity begins with refusal.

### The Role of Refusal in Art and Creativity

Artists have long demonstrated this. At the most basic level, to play a song is to refuse the silence or sound that would have existed without it. To paint, to dance, to compose, to perform: These are acts of creation, but they are also acts of refusal.

The artist refuses to believe that everything is fine as it is. They refuse to believe that a change wouldn't be better. They refuse to believe they can't be part of initiating that change. As a result, they create. They change what is into something else.

In short, every creative act begins with a refusal to leave the world as it is. Creativity begins with saying "no" to how things are so that we can imagine something else. Far from being an end, this emphatic "no" is a vital first step toward change.

### Not Just for Artists

Notably, refusal is not just for artists. We all encounter moments when we recognize something that isn't clear, right, or as it "should" be, and we refuse to leave it as it is.

These moments of refusal may be on the lighter side, such as the hope we might feel in turning a plain wall into a vibrant mural, or a stale idea into a scalable product.

But refusal can also be heavy. It may show up as

grief when a relationship ends, or despair when a job offer falls through. It can surface as discomfort at a colleague's inappropriate comment, or rage at systemic injustices.

There are innumerable forms and causes of refusal, each revealing a gap between what is and what should be. This gap is what compels us to imagine and create something new.

### Why It Matters

Why does this matter? To be clear, noticing refusal's role in healing isn't about finding a silver lining in suffering. The fact that challenge and uncertainty can lead to creative change doesn't make them any less difficult, nor should it make suffering seem welcome. It certainly doesn't justify harm or excuse our failure to prevent it. So what does it do?

By framing challenging emotions as evidence of refusal, we locate ourselves at the beginning of a creative process. This perspective doesn't change our situations or erase our emotions, but it shifts the context in which we experience and process them.

It's a form of cognitive reappraisal that positions us as agents who can create and move forward. Research suggests that reframing challenges while recognizing our capacity to influence outcomes can reduce emotional distress and foster resilience.

Recognizing refusal's role in the creative process isn't

about avoiding reality; it's about confronting it more fully. It helps us see a critical truth: difficulty is not always or inevitably an end. Challenging emotions can function as a beginning: illuminating gaps and stimulating change.

When we can hold our present pain with compassion, and when we can see it as evidence of our ability to imagine and enact change, we find new ways to metabolize and contextualize our struggle.

### Embracing Refusal: A 5-Step Process for Change

Reframing challenging situations as sites of refusal is a deeply personal and individual process. This perspective shift won't look the same for everyone, but the 5 steps below offer a practical framework for exploring and embracing refusal:

#### 1. Honor and investigate your emotions.

Begin by acknowledging your feelings without pressuring yourself to "move past" them. Then get curious about what your emotions might be telling you, from obvious to nuanced "messages." Consider:

- What am I feeling? Why?
- What am I refusing to accept?
- What do I wish were different—not just about my feelings but about the root causes behind them?
- What vision of the

world are my emotions pointing to?

Remember: What we refuse often reveals what we value.

#### 2. Imagine alternatives.

Brainstorm alternatives to your current reality. What could or should exist instead? Be descriptive, creative, and uncensored. This step isn't about being reasonable or polished—it's about exploring the aims or visions your emotions are pointing toward.

#### 3. Find actionable ideas.

Review your imagined alternatives and identify any concrete steps or ideas they suggest. Even "unreasonable" imaginings hint at real-world needs, actions, or possibilities. List as many as you can, whether they involve personal or collective effort. Reflect on questions like:

- What surprises me about these ideas?
- How do they connect with my other values and goals?
- Has this process shifted my emotions or perspective?

#### 4. Share.

Share your reflections with others—friends, colleagues, or interest groups. Finding people who share your values can help sustain both your refusal and your vision of what could be instead. The sharing process can also support social connection, which has its own well-being benefits.

#### 5. Take action.

Start with small, manageable steps. Even small actions can build confidence and creativity, and move the needle of change.

#### Wrapping Up

In this season of transition, there may be many reasons to grieve, worry, rage, fear, and fight. To refuse reality as it currently is. And while this refusal may feel heavy, it's not a block to positive change. It's a core component of hope and imagination.

When we reframe challenging emotions as refusal, we recognize them as adaptive responses—signaling not just what we resist, but what we value and envision. This reframe doesn't erase suffering; instead, it places us at the beginning of a creative process that clarifies our vision and, in time, helps us move forward.

The world needs our refusal: our resistance to what is, and our collective vision for what could be instead. Creative change begins with a refusal to "take or leave the world as it was when [we] came in." Far from hindering our goals, refusal helps us shape and enact them. From works of art to collective growth to personal transformation, refusal has always been at the (broken) heart of leadership, of change, and of hope.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

# NIT Srinagar hosts grand reception to welcome All India Inter-NIT Cricket champions

Such accomplishments play a significant role in enhancing the institute's reputation: Director

Srinagar, Dec 19: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday organized a grand reception, including a high tea, to celebrate its cricket team's victory in the 'All-India Inter-NIT Faculty and Staff Cricket Tournament' played at Silchar Assam.

The tournament, hosted by NIT Silchar in Assam, concluded on Wednesday, where NIT Srinagar triumphed over NIT Hamirpur by 23 runs in a thrilling final. This year's competition saw participation from 21 NITs across India, making the victory a remarkable achievement for the Srinagar team.

The team was welcomed by Incharge Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Roohee Naaz Mir, Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, SAS Officer Ms. Kowsar Ali Mir and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Roohee Naaz, Incharge-Director NIT Srinagar, conveyed the message of Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, who praised the team for their hard work and commitment. The victory in the Inter-NIT Cricket Tournament is a moment of immense pride for NIT Srinagar.

This achievement reflects not only the sporting talent within our institution but also the determination and teamwork of our faculty and staff. I encourage the team to maintain this momentum. Such accomplishments play a significant role in enhancing the institute's reputation and fostering a culture of excellence," Prof. Kanaujia stated in his message.

The team also expressed



gratitude to the institute for its support, dedicating the win to the entire NIT Srinagar community. The felicitation ceremony was followed by a high tea, where the Director interacted with the team, appreciating their efforts and encouraging them to inspire others within the institute. On Tuesday, NIT Srinagar clinched the title by defeating NIT Hamirpur by 23 runs in a thrilling final match. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, the NIT Srinagar team, led by Captain Dr. Shakeel Waseem, posted a competitive total of 138/5 in allotted 15 overs.

Faisal Irshad played a pivotal role, scoring an unbeaten 52 runs with four boundaries and a six. Aaqib Jan provided strong support with a blistering 38 off just 16 balls, which included five boundaries and two sixes. Sohail Ahmad Baba contributed 27 runs, while Shahid Hamid added 8 runs to the total.

Chasing 139 for victory, NIT Hamirpur struggled against NIT Srinagar's disciplined bowling. Vivek Tiwari (15 off 15)

and Neeraj Dhiman (24 off 16) showed some resistance, but they could not form a substantial partnership. Captain Surender Soni added 10 runs, while Akash Sharma (15) and Aman Kumar (13) made modest contributions.

However, the mounting required run rate added pressure, leading to their eventual score of 115/6 in the allotted 15 overs. NIT Srinagar's bowling attack was led by Dr. Majid Hussain, who took 2 wickets for 22 runs, with Mustafa Zargar, Dr. Shakeel Waseem, and Dr. Janibul Bashir each taking a wicket.

Faisal Irshad was named Player of the Match for his crucial knock of 52 runs in 44 balls. Aaqib Jan emerged as NIT Srinagar's highest run-scorer in the tournament, while Mustafa Zargar earned the title of highest wicket-taker. Additionally, Dr. Mohsin Shabir was recognized as the most economical bowler for NIT Srinagar.

Every member of the team played a vital role in this victory, showcasing exemplary teamwork and dedication.

The 14-member team from NIT Srinagar included Dr. Tanveer Rasool, Dr. Malik Parveez, Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Waseem (Captain), Dr. Majid Hussain, Dr. Janibul Bashir, Mr. Faisal Irshad, Mr. Shahid Hamid, Dr. Syed Mohsin Shabir, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Zargar, Mr. Tanveer Hussain, Mr. Sohail Ahmad Baba (Wicketkeeper), Mr. Zubair Yousuf, and Aaqib Jan. Their united efforts culminated in a historic win, bringing pride to the institute.

Earlier in the league stages, NIT Srinagar dominated with remarkable performances. Against NIT Manipur, they secured a massive 209-run victory. Sohail Ahmad Baba was awarded Player of the Match for his explosive knock of 103 runs off just 26 balls. Mir Parvaiz contributed 63 runs, Aaqib Jan added 52, and Faisal Irshad chipped in with 28 runs. In the bowling department, both Dr. Mohsin and Dr. Shakeel took one wicket each. In another league match against NIT Nagaland, NIT Srinagar scored 169 runs in

15 overs and won by 53 runs. Shahid Hamid scored a blistering knock of 33 runs in 15 balls, while Tanveer Rasool contributed 29 runs in 25 balls. Dr. Janibul Bashir led the bowling effort with 3 wickets, supported by Dr. Mohsin and Mustafa Zargar, who each took a wicket.

In the quarterfinals, NIT Srinagar defeated NIT Silchar by 8 wickets. Malik Parveez scored 31 runs, while Faisal Irshad added 22. Dr. Mohsin and Mustafa Zargar took 2 wickets each, with Dr. Janibul Bashir claiming one. Dr. Mohsin was named Player of the Match.

In the semifinals, NIT Srinagar overcame MNIT Bhopal by 5 wickets. After MNIT Bhopal posted 157/5 in 15 overs, with Gurveer Singh scoring 68 and Gyan 36, NIT Srinagar chased the target in 12.5 overs.

Dr. Shakeel scored 40 runs in just 15 deliveries and played a captain's knock to ensure the team is through to the finals. Aaqib Jan contributed 39 runs in 13 balls, and Shahid Hamid added 31 runs in 14 deliveries. Dr. Shakeel was declared Player of the Match.

Meanwhile NIT Srinagar Cricket squad expressed gratitude to NIT Silchar for their impeccable arrangements and hospitality, which ensured the success of the tournament, featuring 21 NITs from across India.

The cricket team of NIT Srinagar was accompanied by the chess team, which included Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Er Junaid Ul Islam, and Security Officer Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat.

# BSG plays key role in development of moral, ethical values of individuals: CUKashmir VC

Ganderbal, Dec 19: Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, Thursday said, that Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) play a pivotal role in the development of moral and ethical values of individuals, helping them grow into responsible citizens of the country.

"Its purpose lies not only in preparing youth for life's challenges, but also in nurturing their potential to contribute positively towards the society," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said, during an induction cum awareness programme of students of BBA, organised by the Department of Management Studies, for promoting good citizenship, on the foundation day of the JK Bharat Scouts and Guides.

Stating that "service to God comes through service of humanity," Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said, the Bharat Scouts and Guides movement is a platform that transcends boundaries of caste, creed, and religion. "By bringing together youth from diverse backgrounds, it fosters unity and social harmony," he added. CUKashmir Vice Chancellor apprised the participants that he too was a scout and has a lifetime membership. "BSG places a strong emphasis on cultivating honesty, kindness, and perseverance, ensuring that young minds grow into compassionate and ethical leaders."

Speaking on the occasion, Dean School of Business Studies and Senior State Vice-President, JK Bharat Scouts and Guides, Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Nikka, said, the Bharat Scouts

and Guides equips its members with a wide range of skills that are essential for overall personal and holistic professional growth. "The purpose of the Bharat Scouts and Guides extends far beyond recreational activities. It is a movement that shapes individuals into compassionate, capable, and conscientious citizens. By focusing on character development, leadership, service, environmental stewardship, and skill enhancement, BSG prepares youth to lead meaningful lives and contribute positively to society," he said.

In his address, Educationist, Prof. Javed Iqbal Kamili said, "The movement's structured programmes include training in first aid, public speaking, teamwork, and technical skills. These activities are designed to enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication abilities," he said.

State Headquarter Commissioner, JK Bharat Scouts and Guides, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Ganderbali, in his speech said, over the decades, the Bharat Scouts and Guides has played a pivotal role in shaping millions of young lives. "By teaching self-reliance, empathy, and civic responsibility, the organization continues to contribute to the nation's social and moral fabric," he added.

In his presentation, Joint District Secretary, BSGs, Ganderbal, Mr. Innayat Mushtaq gave an overview of the BSG functioning and said the movement provides opportunities for youth to take initiative, work collaboratively, and assume responsibilities.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Govt Undertakes

site at Gufkral, Tral, and the renovation of various temples, including the Shri Siddheshwar Temple and Shiv Temple at Drangbal, Pampore. Other projects include the construction of a temple at Midloora in Tehsil Awantipora, the development of the Pingala Devi Temple at Pinglena, the Breadmaji Temple at Murran, and the renovation of temples in Halqa Trichal and Tahab.

In Ganderbal, work is underway on the restoration of the Malshah Masjid Hamam and its allied structures at Malshahi Bagh. In Bandipora, the construction and development of Ziyarat Faqeer-Lasa Baba at Trigam and the development of Imambara Qadeem Hussaini Mohalla Shilvat in Sonawari, Sumbal, are key projects.

Kupwara features prominently on the list with the development and preservation of the Shiv Temple at Trehgam, the Ziyarat Zaiti Muqam-i-Shahwali at Drugmulla, the Shri Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tikker, and the Shri Mata Bhadrakali Temple at Wadipora, Handwara.

In Kulgam, the Sheikh Ul Aalam Shrine at Qaimoh is being developed on a heritage pattern, while in Anantnag, several sites are under restoration, including the Uma Bhagwati Asthan Temple at Brari Angan, the Mandir at Mattan, the Mamleshwar Temple at Pahalgam, and the shrine of Baba Naseer-ud-Din Gazir (RA) at Bijbehara. Other projects in the district include the upgradation of the Shiv Bhagwati Temple at Akinagam, the reconstruction of the temple at Brinty Batapora Dailgam, and the renovation of the Gauri Shankar Temple at Pahalgam.

Shopian is witnessing the development of Ziyarat Asaar Shareef Pinjoora on a heritage pattern, while Budgam is focused on the development of the Sheikh Noor Din Wali shrine premises and the Bada Talab. Additional projects include the retrofitting and restoration of the Markazi Imam Bara in Budgam, the Imam Bara at Khomeini Chowk Bemina, and the Dia Nag Mandir in Budgam.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Deputy Director of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums, Kashmir, Mushtaq Ahmad Beigh, emphasized the structured approach guiding these efforts. "In the Kashmir Division, work is ongoing on around 32 projects in Phase I. These efforts are based on recommendations brought forward by three key committees: the coordination-cum-implementation committee led by the concerned Deputy Commissioners, a committee headed by the Chief Secretary, and another chaired by the LG or CM. Once these committees provide recommendations, the projects are initiated under the government's scheme for reviving the architecture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir," he stated.

### Freezing Temp

previous night. In Gulmarg temperatures dipped to minus 5°C, while Konibal near Pampore became the coldest spot in the valley, registering an icy low of minus 8.4°C. Other areas also recorded sub-zero temperatures: The minimum temperature in Qazigund was minus 7 degrees Celsius, Kupwara in north Kashmir minus 6.2 degrees, and Kokernag in south Kashmir minus 5.3 degrees.

With the no forecast of a major weather activity till the end of this month, the deficit rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir has increased to 78 per cent during the last two and a half months with South Kashmir's Shopian topping the list with 96 per cent deficiency from October 01,

2024 to December 18, 2024.

According to the details, J&K is witnessing an increase in the deficit rainfall with each passing week as the prolonged dry spell has continued for the last two months at multiple places.

The deficit precipitation has gone further up to 75 per cent across Jammu and Kashmir from October 01, 2024 to December 19, 2024. Against the normal precipitation of 97.1mm, J&K has recorded a rainfall of 21 mm during the period.

The highest deficit has been recorded in Shopian with 96 per cent followed by Poonch with 95 per cent while Kulgam and Budgam have recorded a deficit rainfall of 94 percent and 90 per cent respectively.

Srinagar has recorded a deficit rainfall of 87 per cent. However, Samba is the only place across J&K where above normal rainfall has been recorded as against the normal precipitation of 41.76 mm, the station has recorded a precipitation of 47 mm during the period.

Kupwara, has recorded a deficit rainfall of 41 per cent during the period, the data reads. The Meteorological Department predicts that the cold wave will intensify further in the coming days. While dry weather is expected till December 26, there is a likelihood of light snowfall in higher reaches on the night of December 21-22.

Additional light snowfall might occur between the night of December 27 and the morning of December 28, offering a brief respite to the valley's freezing conditions.

Residents have been advised to brace for colder nights as the minimum temperature is likely to drop further, intensifying the winter chill.

### HM Presence

Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF. Farooq Ahmad Bhat, who played a pivotal role in reviving terrorism in the region, was among those neutralized. With the elimination of these five terrorists, not only has Hizbul Mujahideen's presence in Shopian and Kulgam been wiped out, but terrorism in Kashmir has suffered a significant setback," he told reporters.

He further credited the success to the cooperation of local residents. "I would like to thank the people of Kulgam, who provided crucial information and extended their full support during the operation. The synergy of security forces and the commitment of the Indian Army to establish peace in Kashmir could be gauged by today's success," Brigadier Chauhan added.

During the encounter, two soldiers sustained gunshot injuries and were promptly evacuated to the 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar. Both are reported to be in stable condition and are expected to recover soon.

According to Javed Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir, the operation also led to the recovery of arms, ammunition, and important documents. "These items will be examined as part of the ongoing investigation and have been included in the FIR. The sustained surveillance and intelligence-sharing among security agencies proved effective in today's gun-battle," Matoo said during a press briefing.

By the security grid, elimination of these key figures is being hailed as a significant victory. "The killing of Farooq Ahmad Bhat and his associates has dealt a severe blow to Hizbul Mujahideen's capabilities in south Kashmir," Matoo said. He reiterated the security forces' resolve to root out terrorism from the valley.

### Implement Zero

of "Terror Free Jammu and Kashmir" at the earliest and all resources will be made available

for this. He said that the Modi Government, with the joint efforts of all security forces, is committed to establish complete dominance over terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amit Shah said that the unprecedented participation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections shows that they have full faith in the democracy of the country. He appreciated efforts of the security agencies for a significant decline in terrorist incidents, infiltration and recruitment of youth in terrorist organizations.

"Due to the sustained and coordinated efforts of the Modi Government, the ecosystem of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has almost ended. He directed all security agencies to continue working in a coordinated manner to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir," Shah said, emphasizing on the implementation of Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan in mission mode.

Sporadic terror incidents have been continuing in Jammu and Kashmir. On October 20, seven people were killed in a terror attack in central Kashmir. Before that, there were attacks on outsiders working in the Valley.

Shah's meeting is expected to take note of the recent terror incidents and the possible steps to be taken on how to stop such attacks in the coming days, the sources added.

According to official data, 142 terrorists were killed in J&K in 2019 and the number is around 45 so far this year.

Fifty civilians were killed in 2019 in the UT, while the figure stood at 14 by the first week of November this year.

### Omar Meets

in a "cordial manner". "We hope to always work in a better environment so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are benefited from this," he added.

After the meeting that lasted 30 minutes, the chief minister told reporters that he briefed the Union home minister about the situation in the Union territory and the experience of his government in the last two months.

"Yes, I raised the issue of early restoration of statehood with the home minister," Abdullah said, adding that "we hope that Jammu and Kashmir gets its statehood restored soon".

On whether the talks included the militancy situation in the Union territory, he said security and law and order are the responsibility of the lieutenant governor.

"I have always said and I told the home minister that 'you cannot fight militancy and terrorism in a vacuum, you will have to take the public of Jammu and Kashmir in confidence.... they will also have to be brought into this battle, and for that, you will have to take into confidence their elected representatives and their elected government,'" Abdullah said.

The chief minister said the talks did not include the framing of business rules for the division of powers between the elected government and the lieutenant governor's office and made it clear that the Centre had no role in it.

"Business rules have nothing to do with the government of India. We have to decide it and the Cabinet has to approve it. The Cabinet sub-committee will finalise it and then, we will send it to the LG for approval," he said.

Abdullah will be attending the Goods and Services Tax meeting in Rajasthan's Jaipur on December 20. To a question about the proposed hike of 28 per cent on handloom products, he said, "I have not seen such a proposal. If it comes, we will contest it. Not only us, other states will be affected too."

Immediately after Abdullah's meeting ended

and he left, Shah began his second meeting with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other senior officers to review the law-and-order situation in the Union territory.

Earlier, Abdullah met with Shah on October 23 during his first visit to the national capital after assuming office on October 16.

### Omar Defends

Mr Gandhi's entry into parliament. It apparently led to a brawl, in which, the BJP claimed, two of its MPs were injured and alleged that Rahul Gandhi was the instigator.

"Rahul Gandhi pushed an MP who fell on me after which I fell down," said BJP MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi. "I was standing near the stairs when Rahul Gandhi came and pushed an MP who then fell on me," added the leader, who was taken to the hospital for first aid.

"I know Rahul, he would not push anyone much less a member of parliament. It's simply not in his nature to be rude or nasty to anyone," posted Omar Abdullah on X after Sarangi's allegations were widely circulated on social media.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju was the loudest to condemn Gandhi, who holds a black belt in Aikido, a Japanese martial art.

"Under which law does he have the power to physically assault other MPs? Have you learnt karate, kung fu, to beat other MPs?" he said. Demanding an apology from the Congress leader, he said, "Parliament is not a wrestling arena".

The Congress has alleged that party chief Mallikarjun Kharge sustained injuries on his legs. The allegations against Rahul Gandhi, the party said, are an effort to mar his reputation and an effort to divert attention from Amit Shah's remarks to Ambekar.

A complaint has been filed with the police naming the Congress leader. The Congress has filed a complaint as well.

### Removal Of

our rich cultural and Sufi heritage," he added. People's Conference chief Sajjad Lone said that the BOSE had removed a chapter based on the life of the revered saint of Kashmir from the Class 9 textbooks and called it "an assault on our culture and ethos."

"We have all revered him, and people, irrespective of religion, hold him in the highest esteem. This is pure cultural terrorism. It is an assault on our culture and ethos. I, as a Kashmiri, strongly condemn it," Lone posted on X.

The former minister said that the teachings of the great saint are a beacon of hope in these troubled times filled with "violence, greed and hatred."

"More than ever, the current times are smudged with violence, greed, and hatred. In these times, our great saint is a beacon of hope and a role model for emulation," he said. "And for those who removed the chapter from BOSE - our great saint and his saintly ways were etched in our hearts and minds long before BOSE came into existence," he added.

### Human-Wildlife

While the South division and Shopian saw a slight decrease in injuries, the Wetlands witnessed two fatalities and one injury, marking a dangerous trend in these ecologically fragile zones.

Up until December 2024, the situation remains critical, with 2,094 reported cases so far, leading to 9 deaths and 79 injuries. Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora in the north, along with Anantnag and Kulgam in the south, have been identified as the most conflict-prone

areas.

Despite these alarming figures, the local government's response has been deemed insufficient. Critics argue that the Wildlife Department has not been adequately staffed to handle the growing crisis. This shortage of personnel has left the local population exposed to the dangers posed by leopards, bears, and other wildlife year-round.

A senior wildlife official cited several factors contributing to the rise in human-wildlife conflicts. These include a growing human population encroaching on animal habitats, the increasing number of dogs (which attract leopards), and the tendency of leopards to breed closer to human settlements.

In one recent incident in north Kashmir, a wildlife official was injured when he attempted to capture a bear using a stick. The bear attacked, biting the official, but a group of locals intervened, using sticks to fend off the bear, enabling wildlife officials to eventually tranquilise and capture the animal.

Another incident in south Kashmir's Shopian involved a leopard being tranquilised after on-lookers threw stones and created noise, turning the situation into a spectacle. This led to four injuries among bystanders. These events highlight the urgent need for improved training and preparedness among wildlife department personnel.

However, the department's severe lack of modern equipment and safety gear, which are critical for managing human-wildlife conflicts effectively. "The staff capacity must be significantly increased, and there is an urgent need to establish rapid response teams composed of well-trained and properly equipped personnel who can swiftly address any emerging threats," the official said.

The growing human-wildlife conflict in Kashmir demands immediate attention. Without substantial investment in infrastructure, manpower and training, the safety of residents and the conservation of wildlife in the region remain at risk.(KNO)

### SIA Files Chargesheet

Mian Qayoom on 25.06.2024 as the principal conspirator behind the deceased's killing.

"It was revealed during the in-depth investigation conducted by SIA SIT that Mian Qayoom, who had an inimical relation with the deceased, got Babar Qadri eliminated through terrorists of TRF and their handlers in Pakistan by hatching a criminal conspiracy," it reads.

It added that though Babar Qadri was very active on social and electronic media which he also used to criticize Mian Qayoom, he had a premonition on the fateful day itself. "Interestingly he went live on Facebook on 24.09.2020 afternoon, and while denouncing Mian Qayoom for his policies, also expressed his fears of being eliminated at the hands of Mian Qayoom and his coterie. Ironically, a few hours later he was killed in cold blood at his own residence," it reads.

As per the statement, the SIA today presented a 340-page supplementary chargesheet against Mian Qayoom for offences U/S 302/120-B/109 IPC 13/18/18-B/38/39 UAPA. "Further investigation in the case U/S 173 (8) shall continue."

It reads that the initial chargesheet in the case had been filed before the Special NIA Court Srinagar, however, in December 2023 the High Court had transferred the trial to Jammu taking a serious view of the interference in judicial process by Mian Qayoom as well as threat and intimidation to the deceased's family. "Mian Qayoom is since then lodged in District Jail Amphalla, Jammu," it added.

## For Years, Power Purchase 'Hollows JK's Exchequer'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In Jammu and Kashmir, the expenditure trend over the years reveal that a huge part of total expenditure is on purchase of power.

The official documents reveal authorities have said that "Analysis of expenditure trends over the years reveals that the UT of JK faces hard budget constraints on account of the sizeable committed nature of its expenditure."

"They include interest payments, salaries and pensions. Cumulatively, they constituted nearly 73 percent of its total expenditure in FY 2023-24. A significant part of the total expenditure of the UT is on purchase of power," it reads.

The document however does not delve into details but mentions that a significant amount of the overall expenditure is being executed on purchase of power.

It further said that although power purchase expenditure cannot be classified as committed expenditure. "Yet in the case of the UT it has assumed the nature of committed expenditure because of historical practice of huge under-recoveries from the sale of power sector."

"In recent years, there has

been some increase in the power receipts with improvement in metering. However, despite this, the gap between cost of power purchase bill and receipts is substantial," reads the document.

It also states, "This has been in part financed from the UT's Budget and remains a cause of stress to the public finances."

Besides, the official documents reveal that the hydel power generation capacity is being doubled to 6647 MWs by 2026

"The estimated hydro power potential of the UT of JK is 18,000 MW, of which about 14867 MW has been identified. Out of the identified potential, only 3526.65 MW that is 23.72 percent of identified potential has been harnessed so far which consists of 1197.4 MW in State Sector, 2250 MW in Central Sector and 79.2 MW in IPP (Independent Power Producers) mode," it reads.

The documents further reveal that JK is in the process of doubling the hydel power generation capacity by 2026 by developing 4 power projects having power generation capacity of 3014 MWs (1000 MW Pakal-Dul, 850 MW Rattle, 624 MW Kiru and 540 MW Kwar).—(KNO)

## J&K Bank Commissions New Branch At Ramnagri, Shopian



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Expanding its reach and facilitating modern banking services in rural areas, J&K Bank commissioned a new branch at Ramnagri in Shopian district.

Deputy Commissioner (Shopian) Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar inaugurated the branch in presence of the Bank's General Manager and Divisional Head (Kashmir) Shabir Ahmad, Zonal Head (Pulwama) Shaista Manzoor and both Cluster Heads. The opening witnessed the participation of a good gathering of valuable customers, prominent citizens and local residents.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Shopian commended J&K Bank for its commitment to the financial empowerment of the people, particularly in the remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed gratitude to the Bank for extending state-of-the-art banking facilities to the residents of Ramnagri, enabling them to access modern financial

services conveniently.

Addressing the gathering, Divisional Head (Kashmir) Shabir Ahmad reaffirmed the Bank's mission to promote financial inclusion and economic growth across all regions. "We are committed to serve the people of J&K by bringing modern banking services to their doorsteps, even in the most far-flung areas. This new branch is another step in our journey to empower people and support their economic aspirations," he said.

He urged the participants to avail all the products and services tailored to meet their financial requirements.

The newly inaugurated branch is equipped with advanced banking infrastructure to cater to the diverse financial needs of the local population including deposit and loan facilities and all other digital banking services.

## Despite Reforms J&K's Health Sector Continues To Face Challenges

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir witnessed crucial reforms and new developments in the health sector in 2024, with AIIMS Jammu becoming functional and AIIMS Awantipora nearing completion.

AIIMS Jammu, which started its operations in August this year, is expected to become fully operational in the coming year, while AIIMS Awantipora in Kashmir is projected to be completed by June 2025, with operations starting shortly thereafter.

The government has added 2,000 medical seats across Jammu and Kashmir to address the shortage of doctors and has upgraded health facilities. Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been elevated to Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) to meet Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

The objective of these upgrades is to provide quality and affordable healthcare services at people's doorsteps by optimising existing facilities and creating new ones.

The initiation of dialysis centres at district and sub-district hospitals has been a commendable step, directly benefiting the public. Separate geriatric wards have also been introduced to ensure better care for elderly patients.

J&K has made notable progress in the elimination of tuberculosis, and the region is expected to be declared TB-free next year.

The much-anticipated Cancer Institute in Jammu became fully operational this year, providing critical services to patients in the Jammu division. Certain procedures were also conducted for the first time in J&K hospitals this year.

A 300-bedded, high-tech Bone and Joint (B&J) Hospital was made functional in Jammu, while the new building at Srinagar's B&J Hospital is expected to be completed within the next 2-3 months. Construction on a new block at LD Hospital is set to begin soon.

Chemotherapy units have been established in all district hospitals, benefiting hundreds of patients. Digital payment and "scan and share" facilities have also been extended to all hospitals in J&K, which have improved efficiency across the region.

The government plans to start a medical university at SKIMS, under which all medical colleges will operate. This initiative is expected to be a major milestone in the health sector.

CHALLENGES

Despite infrastructure-focused reforms, Jammu and Kashmir continues to face health challenges. The population is grappling with the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Emerging communicable diseases, such as Ebola, bird flu, swine flu, Zika virus, and dengue pose persistent threats. Dengue, in particular, has become a major challenge, with thousands of cases reported annually, especially in Jammu.

Non-communicable diseases such as anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, obesity and mental health disorders are also on the rise.

At least 7.8% of the population in J&K and Ladakh currently suffers from diabetes, while over 10.5% are in the prediabetic stage. Experts said the rise in such cases is due to lifestyle changes and the

adoption of Western diets.

Doctors called for adopting a healthy lifestyle, including regular physical activity, a balanced diet and avoiding smoking. Addressing environmental pollution and ensuring access to clean water are also critical, according to them.

Anaemia continues to be a challenge, particularly among women and children, primarily due to nutritional deficiencies and a lack of awareness about menstrual health.

DRUG ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Drug abuse continues to plague the region, with an estimated 13.5 lakh people consuming drugs, including over 5 lakh opioid addicts, according to a parliamentary report.

Intravenous drug use has increased, which exposes a person to severe health risks. However, emerging addiction treatment facilities are proving to be a beacon of hope for those seeking recovery.

Mental health issues are also on the rise, with thousands of calls received on helplines over the past two years. Virtual autism has become a growing concern among children who spend excessive time on screens.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

J&K Health Minister Sakina Itoo acknowledged the region's lagging health infrastructure and has called for urgent upgrades.

The region has just two PET scan machines (one each at SKIMS and GMC Jammu), which is insufficient given the increasing number of cancer cases. No MRI or radiotherapy facilities are available at the new medical colleges or district hospitals.—(KNO)

## Alarming Rise In Heart Attacks Due To Stress, Pollution, Say Cardiologists

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Stress and pollution are significant contributors to heart attacks worldwide, though often overlooked, according to cardiologists.

Dr Irfan, a cardiologist at Government Medical College Srinagar, said that chronic stress can lead to increased blood pressure, elevated heart rates, and the release of stress hormones like cortisol, all of which strain the cardiovascular system.

He said that during winters in Kashmir, people struggle to earn a livelihood due to a lack of work opportunities, which leads to stress and increases the risk of heart attacks.

Dr Irfan said air pollution is another major contributor to heart attacks, adding that around 20 per cent of all cardiovascular deaths are due to air pollution.

"Apart from fine particulate matter, exposure to pollut-

ants like nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide can exacerbate heart conditions," he said, adding that implementing flexible work hours and reducing workloads can help alleviate job-related stress, while regular exercise improves mood and reduces stress levels.

Dr Murtaza, another cardiologist, advised people to use air purifiers and ensure proper ventilation to reduce indoor pollutants. He said that urban areas are more polluted, and people should limit outdoor activities while adopting a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Doctors called for keeping blood pressure and cholesterol levels under control. They advised people with underlying health conditions to adhere to prescribed medications. Avoiding smoking and staying physically active were also stressed as measures to reduce the risk of heart attacks.—(KNO)

## Health Experts Ask Elderly, Diabetic Patients To Take Extra Precautions

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The elderly and patients suffering from diabetes need to take extra precautions as hip and pelvic fractures become significantly more common during the winter months.

Noted Orthopedics Dr Younis Kamal said that the hip and pelvic fractures are common in winters due to the slippery surfaces, reduced mobility and vitamin c deficiency.

He said that Osteoporosis is a common condition in older adults, particularly women post-menopause, it reduces bone density, making fractures more likely even from minor falls and elderly people and pa-

tients suffering from diabetes are more prone to it.

Dr Younis said that common causes of osteoporosis is age as with age the bone density decreases, family history of osteoporosis increases the risk, sedentary lifestyle, smoking and poor nutrition can weaken bones and conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, thyroid disorders, and long-term steroid use can lead to bone loss.

Another orthopaedic doctor said that osteoporosis can lead to fractures, disability and reduced quality of life. He said that osteoporosis can be prevented through proper diet, exercise, quitting smoking, tests and adhering to medications prescribed by doctors.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION ANANTNAG**  
Phone Fax: 01932 225119. Email: floodcontrolang@gmail.com

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Subject :- This office ENIT No. 20 of 2024-25 issued under endorsement No.FCD/Ang/24/4270- 92 Dated 19.12.2024.

Please read Class of Contract as "BEE/CEE" instead of "AAY" for the eNIT No. 20 of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No. FCD/Ang/24/4270-92 Dated 19.12.2024.

All other Terms and Conditions shall remain same as laid down in the above mentioned eNIT No. 20 of 2024-25  
NO.FCD/Ang/24/ 4293-4315  
Dated:- 19.12.2024  
DIPK-9797-24  
Executive Engineer,  
Flood Control Division Anantnag

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T)**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MACHINERY DIVISION SRINAGAR, M&HE DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.**  
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org

**Corrigendum 01 For Date Extension**

Name of work: - 1. SITC/ITC of Sprinkler Irrigation System including HDPE Pipe/LLDPE pipeline including allied fittings for Bore Well No. 116 (26.88 Hac) under Implementation of National Mission on Saffron. Site: Gundbal Pampore District: Pulwama

Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS / 2024-25/76 Date:06.12.2024 (Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_267227J)

Du to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT issued for the subject work is hereby extended as under :-

S.No.	Description	Previous dates	New extended dates
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	17-12-2024(18:55hrs)	23-12-2024(18:55hrs)
02.	Date of opening of bids online	18-12-2024(14:00 hrs)	24-12-2024(14:00 hrs)

All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NIT shall remain unchanged.  
No: MDSK/TS-210/5060-64  
Date: 18.12.2024.  
DIPK-9723-24  
DT: 19/12/2024  
Executive Engineer  
Machinery Division Srinagar

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
**CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.**

**Subject: Appointment of Assistant Professor, Political Science in the Higher Education Department.**  
**Rece : Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP-Pol. Science/2023 dated 27-03-2024 (recommendation) from J&K Public Service Commission, J&K.**

**GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. 571-JK(HE) OF 2024**  
**DATED: 19-12-2024**

In continuation to the Government Order No.355-JK(HE) of 2024 dated 01-07-2024 and as recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Suhail Qamar s/o Qamar Din Hakeem R/o A Ghat Doda under SLC category as Assistant Professor (Political Science) on regular temporary basis in the pay band of Rs. 15600-39100 with AGP Rs.6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 with pay structure of Rs.57700/- in the Higher Education Department notionally w.e.f 01-07-2024 and monetarily with immediate effect:-

The Above mentioned appointee shall report to the Nodal Principal, Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order failing which his appointment shall be deemed to have cancelled without any notice.

The appointment of candidate shall be subject to the following Conditions :-

- The appointee will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.
- The appointment of the above candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
- The appointee shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principal.
  - Domicile Certificate.
  - Date of Birth Certificate.
  - Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and marks cards/degrees.
  - Category certificate as may be applicable to the appointee.
  - Health and Medical Certificate.
  - Any other certificate as required under law.

The salary of the appointee shall be drawn and disbursed only after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and subject to production of an affidavit (as per Annexure-A) to this order. The inter-se-seniority of the candidate shall be determined in terms of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The appointment of the candidate shall remain provisional till such time the certificates are got verified by the concerned Principal and are found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with the eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidate shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

The appointment of the candidate shall be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of law.

**By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.**

No. HED-GAZ/179/2024-04 (7462137)  
Dated: -12-2024  
DIPK-9793-24  
DT: 19/12/2024  
Sd/-  
(Dr. Rashmi Singh), IAS  
Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government

**GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE/HOSPITAL**  
**BEMINA, SRINAGAR 0194-2493226**

**DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

Sub:- 4th extension of e-tender for refueling of Transport fleet/Vehicles of SKIMS Medical College Hospital Bemina on Rate Contract basis.

Ref:

- SKIMS MCH 10 Tender of 2024 dated: 23/10/2024.
- Extension notice No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/23/3512-18 Dated: 16/11/2024.
- 2nd extension notice No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/23/3601-07 Dated: 26/11/2024.
- 3rd extension notice No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/23/3732-38 Dated: 07/12/2024

E-tenders for Refueling of Transport fleet/Vehicles of SKIMS Medical College Bemina Srinagar on Rate Contract basis, invited vide above referred NIT No., extended vide above referred No at 2, 3 & 4, is hereby further extended up to 27/12/2024 as per following schedule.

- The last date for depositing the bids in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in 27/12/2024 upto 02:30 P.M.
- The date of opening of e-tenders will be on 30/12/2024 at 02:00 PM.
- Other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

No:SKIMS/MCH/MMD/23/3857-63  
Dated: 18/12/2024  
DIPK-NB-2876-24  
DT: 19/12/2024  
Material Management Officer  
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

**IN THE COURT OF COLLECTOR/ ADDL. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BUDGAM**  
No: DCB/ADC/Reader/24/F-483/286 Dated: 16 / 12/2024

In the case of:  
Ali Mohammad Rather S/o Mohammad Qasim Rather R/o Bemina Tehsil A District Budgam. (Appellant)  
Vs  
Ghulam Hussain Malik S/o Moosa Malik R/o Bemina Tehsil A District Budgam. (Respondents)

In the matter of:  
Appeal against mutation order No 1289/1 dated 17-08-2015 in respect of land measuring 14 Marlas falling under survey No 2789 situated at estate Bemina Tehsil Budgam.

**NOTICE**

The above titled appeal cases are under adjudication before this court, the respondent has been summoned a number of times, but he failed to appear before this court on the scheduled date of hearings. Now through the medium of this public notice, the respondent is hereby informed to attend this court on the 28-12-2024 at 10:30 am, failing which ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against him.

DIPK-9713-24  
DT: 19/12/2024  
Collector  
Addl. Deputy Commissioner  
Budgam

# Champions Trophy Deadlock Ends: ICC Announces Arrangement

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** The deadlock over the hosting of next year's Champions Trophy finally ended on Thursday when the ICC announced that India will play their matches of the 50-over event at a neutral venue instead of host country Pakistan, which will get a similar arrangement for tournaments to be held in India till 2027.

The agreement will also extend to the 2028 women's T20 World Cup, which will be held in Pakistan. Although no formal announcement has been made, but India's Champions Trophy matches are likely to be held in the UAE.

"The ICC Board has approved that all matches between India and Pakistan played at ICC Events during the current rights cycle from 2024 to 2027 (which are to be hosted in India or Pakistan) will be played at a neutral venue proposed by the tournament host," said the ICC in a statement, confirming what PTI reported on December 5.

The arrangement will also



cover next year's women's World Cup in India and the T20 World Cup in 2026, to be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

"India's Champions Trophy games will most likely be played in the UAE. As far as the Women's ODI World Cup in In-

dia is concerned, the India-Pakistan game could be held in Sri Lanka," said a source.

India had refused to travel to Pakistan for the event scheduled in February-March due to security concerns. The Indians have not played in Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror

attacks in which 150 people were killed. The two countries' last bilateral engagement was back in 2012.

Travelling to Pakistan also requires Indian government's clearance which has remained firm on the status quo.

"The schedule for the ICC

Champions Trophy 2025 is set to be confirmed soon," the ICC added.

The decision, that came after a series of back-channel talks, was on expected lines after the sport's governing body maintained prolonged silence on the contentious matter during the previous set-up led by chairman Greg Barclay.

His successor Jay Shah took charge on December 1 and all stakeholders, including the Pakistan Cricket Board, the BCCI and the broadcasters, were running out of time to organise the 50-over event that was last played in the UK in 2017.

Thursday's announcement meant it was the first major decision taken in Shah's tenure.

PCB, which had sent its team to India for the ODI World Cup last year, had categorically opposed the hybrid model but eventually agreed to it on reciprocal grounds.

The tournament will feature eight teams, divided into two groups. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals.

## Kashmir University Shines In Inter-University Football Tournery

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir University Football Team has shined in the North Zone Inter-University Football Tournament, being played at GNA University in Phagwara, Punjab.

The KU team, coached by AFC Pro Licence coach Sajid Yousuf Dar, defeated DAV Jalandhar 3-0 on Monday to reach the pre-quarterfinals stage. Mubashir scored the opener in 20th minute, before Nayeem doubled the tally in 42nd minute. Huzaiifa sealed the game in the 60th minute to take Kashmir University



deep into the tournament.

However, the team lost to HPU Shimla on Tuesday and was knocked out of the tournament.

The J&K Football Association praised coach Sajid Dar and Kashmir University Director of Physical Education

& Sports Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chisti for their efforts.

"The leadership and support from Coach Sajid Yousuf Dar and Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chisti have been instrumental in the team's success," the FA said.

## National School Games Medallists Felicitated In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The District Youth Services & Sports Office (DYSSO) Srinagar hosted a felicitation ceremony on Thursday to celebrate the achievements of medallists in the 68th National School Games 2024.

Held at the District Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar, the event was a tribute to the extraordinary accomplishments of young student players who have brought pride to the Srinagar district, the DYSSO said in a statement.

Among the celebrated athletes were Kaifa Shah, who clinched a Gold medal in Wushu (U-19), Aliza Shah for winning Gold in Wushu (U-17), Mohammad Hadi for getting Silver medal in Judo (U-19), Nazia Fatima for earning Bronze medal in Judo (U-19) and Syed Azaan for clinching Bronze medal in Judo (U-17)

While appreciating the sports talent of the



budding sports players, DYSSO Srinagar hoped that the current year's medal tally would break all the previous records.

## Father Says Ashwin Was Being Humiliated; Off-Spinner Plays It Down



Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Just-retired R Ashwin's father Ravichandran kicked up a controversy on Thursday by claiming that "humiliation" could have been a reason for his son's decision to call it quits but the veteran off-spinner made light of the "dad comment", blaming it on lack of media training.

Ashwin dropped a bombshell on Wednesday when he announced his retirement from top-flight cricket at the end of the drawn third Test against Australia in Brisbane. He flew back to Chennai the same evening and was welcomed warmly by his family and friends here on Thursday morning.

Although Ashwin described his decision as an "instinctive" call that was on his mind for a while, his father raised eyebrows by hinting at other factors, including humiliation.

"I too came to know at the last minute. The way in which he gave that (retirement), there could be many reasons. Only Ashwin knows, maybe humiliation," Ravichandran told CNN News18.

However, Ashwin later tried to douse the fire, saying his father was not "media trained" and his comment should not be taken seriously. "My father isn't media trained,

dey father inneda ithelaam (what's all this, father). I never thought you will follow this rich tradition of 'dad statements'," he quipped after the comment became a viral social media trend.

"Request you all to forgive him and leave him alone," Ashwin wrote on X. Earlier, Ravichandran said the family was expecting Ashwin's retirement for some time because "humiliation was going on", though he didn't reveal the exact nature of it.

"The sudden change - retirement - gave us a shock. We were expecting it because humiliation was going on. How long he can tolerate all those things? Probably, he would have decided on his own," he said.

"It's his wish and desire, I cannot interfere in that. The way he gave his retirement, one part I was very happy, another part not happy because he should have continued," he added. Ashwin had told the media in Brisbane that he has a "bit of punch left" in him, hinting at reasons more than mere cricketing.

Washington Sundar was picked ahead of the seasoned off-spinner, who has 537 Test wickets, for the first game in Perth. The 38-year-old found a place in the eleven for the Pink Ball Test at Adelaide.

## Short TAKES

### Virat Kohli In Heated Argument At Melbourne Airport

Virat Kohli was reportedly involved in a heated exchange with Australian media on arrival at Melbourne airport on Thursday.

The Indian batting star and former captain was upset as he felt he and his children were being filmed without his consent. He lost his cool and got into an altercation with an Australian journalist.

According to a Channel 7 report, Kohli, who got to Melbourne for next week's Boxing Day Test at the MCG, had a heated argument with the journalist after seeing video cameras pointed towards his kids.

"It was upon seeing the waiting cameras that Kohli became a little heated over what is largely a misunderstanding when he thought the media was filming him with his children," Channel 7 reporter Theo Doropoulos said.

The report said Kohli later cleared the air, saying: "With my kids I need some privacy; you just can't film without asking me."

### BCCI's Earnings Hit Record Highs Per Latest Reports

BCCI's healthy bank balance got healthier this year with an approximate increase of Rs 4200 crore, taking the overall earnings to a whopping Rs 20,686 crore.

A major chunk of BCCI's revenue comes from the IPL media rights and bilateral cricket rights.

With India being the biggest cricket market in the world, the powerful board also gets a lion's share of revenue generated by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Back in June 2022, the IPL media rights were sold for an astronomical Rs 48,390 crore for a five-year period.

"The cash and bank balance of BCCI has increased from Rs 16,493 crores in FY2023 to INR 20,686 crores in FY 2024. This is an increase of approximately INR 4,200 crore," read a BCCI document in possession of PTI.

The board was projected to earn Rs 7,476 crore in FY23-24 but the actual income stands at Rs 8,995 crore. The general fund also increased from Rs 6,365 crore to 7,988 crore.

In the FY24-25, the BCCI is expected to earn Rs 10,054 crore with the total budgeted expenditure set at Rs 2,348 crore.

### Hazlewood Left Frustrated After Injury Setback

Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood is "frustrated" by the timing of his injury after being ruled out of the remaining two Tests against India due to a right calf strain, sustained during the drawn third match at the Gabba.

Hazlewood, who also missed the second Test (pink-ball) in Adelaide -- which Australia won by 10 wickets -- due to a side strain, described the latest injury as "random".

"Just frustrating really. Ticked every box heading into the (third) Test; I could understand if it was my side again, but it was just a random calf strain," he told 7NEWS.

"It's just the timing again; they are only little 2-3 week injuries, it's just the timing of it and missing big games is the frustrating thing."

### Argentina Still Best In The World, Says FIFA

Reigning world champions Argentina have kept top spot in the final FIFA men's world ranking of 2024 for a second consecutive year, with no changes in the top 10 of the latest list published on Thursday.

Lionel Scaloni's Argentina, who were crowned Copa America champions for a record 16th time after they beat Colombia in July, continue to lead the way ahead of second-placed France and Euro 2024 winners Spain in third.

Euro runners-up England, Brazil, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Germany were next in the top 10.

Angola were the biggest mover of the year, climbing 32 places to finish 85th.

## Barcelona Host Red-Hot Atletico In Bid To Maintain LaLiga Lead

Agencies

**MADRID:** Barcelona are set to host a sizzling Atletico Madrid on Saturday in a highly-anticipated LaLiga clash that will see top spot in play between two sides with completely different momentum.

Diego Simeone's red-hot Atletico are one of the most in-form teams in Europe on an 11-game winning streak in all competitions and looking like a well-oiled machine with Antoine Griezmann, Julian Alvarez and Rodrigo de Paul firing on all cylinders.

While Atletico have won all their games since late October, LaLiga leaders Barca have stumbled in the last few weeks with a series of poor performances that have seen a comfortable nine points lead completely eroded by Saturday's opponents.

They suffered a 1-0 defeat by lowly Leganes on Sunday, their second consecutive home loss,



and have only one win in their last six league matches.

Atletico are now level with Barcelona on 38 points after a hard-fought 1-0 home win over Getafe while third-placed Real Madrid are only one point behind.

To make things worse for Hansi Flick's Barca, Atleti and Real have a game in hand, putting even more pressure on the Catalan giants to step up in front of their fans on Saturday. They will have to do it with-

out talisman Lamine Yamal, who will be out for at least three more weeks with an ankle injury sustained against Leganes.

Barcelona have struggled without their teenage winger, who has won multiple awards as the world's best young player to cap a year in which he helped Spain win Euro 2024 aged only 17.

The challenge is to control a ball they cannot see.

They won only one of the three games he missed last

month due to another ankle injury.

### WATCHING BRIEF

Real will be closely watching their rivals clash as they could move top with a win over struggling visitors Sevilla on Sunday if Atletico and Barca draw.

After a 3-3 stalemate at lowly local rivals Rayo Vallecano last weekend, Real got a boost by lifting the Intercontinental Cup with a 3-0 win over Mexico's Pachuca on Wednesday.

Their latest triumph made Carlo Ancelotti the manager with the most titles in the club's history with 15 trophies, surpassing the late Miguel Muñoz, who he equalled in August by winning the European Super Cup against Atalanta.

On Tuesday, Real's Brazil forward Vinicius Jr was named FIFA's player of 2024, which was another accolade for the club in a year when they won a LaLiga-Champions League double.

## Maresca's Chelsea No Longer Title Outsiders With Top Spot In Reach

Agencies

**LONDON:** Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca has been at pains to play down the club's chances of winning the Premier League in his first season in charge but if they beat Everton away on Sunday then, for a few hours at least, his side will top the table.

The Italian's insistence that Chelsea are not ready to win their first title since 2016-17 is understandable given that few predicted a realistic challenge by the London outfit this term.

But the evidence so far suggests that what the Italian says in public and what he actually believes are not aligned.

With a deep and richly-talented squad, which according to website transfermarkt has a combined market value of more than 1 billion euros (\$1.04 billion), at his disposal, Chelsea look more than capable of taking the fight to leaders Liverpool.

Ahead of the Goodison Park trip, Chelsea are the Premier



League form team. They have won six and drawn two of their last eight games and are top scorers with 37 goals from 16 games.

Victory would lift Maresca's side to 37 points, one more than Liverpool who have a testing trip to Tottenham Hotspur later on Sunday.

### 'REAL DEAL'

Chelsea's form is no flash in the pan. Even before Maresca arrived to replace Mauricio Pochettino, the signs were there that this expensively-assembled squad were begin-

ning to gel.

Since mid-March, Chelsea have won more Premier League games than any other team, picking up 61 points, six more than Manchester City and Arsenal and five more than Liverpool.

"They are the real deal," Sky Sports pundit Jamie Carragher said. "When you listen to the manager speak, and he said it at the start of the season in his job interview, he said this team can be really successful in the next two, three or four years because of the age profile of the squad."