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BOOK APPOINTMENT

4 Soldiers Killed In Bandipora Vehicle Fall



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Four soldiers lost their lives and one was seriously injured after an Army vehicle fell into a 200-feet deep gorge in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, due to bad weather and poor visibility.

"On 04 Jan 24, while performing duty in Bandipora District, a vehicle of the Indian Army skidded and fell into the gorge due to inclement weather and poor visibility conditions. Injured soldiers were promptly evacuated

for medical care with assistance from Kashmiri locals, for which we express gratitude towards the citizens in providing immediate succour. Tragically three bravehearts lost their lives in the unfortunate accident. Indian Army extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," Army's Chinar Corps wrote on X.

An official said that the accident occurred due to poor visibility and adverse weather conditions. The vehicle was part of a convoy traveling from the Arin camp | [More on P6](#)

Yellow, Orange Warnings Issued For Kashmir

Moderate to Heavy Snowfall Predicted For Next 36 Hours

- JANUARY 5**
ORANGE ALERT (STAY PREPARED)
- Bandipora
 - Kupwara
 - Ganderbal
 - Shopian
 - Kulgam
 - Ramban

- JANUARY 6**
YELLOW ALERT (STAY CAUTIOUS)
- Baramulla
 - Kishtwar
 - Doda

- JANUARY 6**
YELLOW ALERT
- Anantnag
 - Kishtwar
 - Doda
 - Ramban
 - Kulgam
 - Shopian



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amidst the cloudy weather conditions, Jammu and Kashmir would likely receive a major

snowfall during the next two days with the weatherman predicting that an active Western Disturbance (WD) would affect the Union Territory from this evening or night. Under the influence of the WD, a moderate to heavy snowfall is expected for the next 36 hours over most parts | [More on P6](#)

Dense Fog Engulfs Valley

A thick layer of fog engulfed parts of Kashmir on Saturday as the valley braces for widespread snowfall, with the possibility

of heavy snow over the middle and the higher reaches, officials said. Dense fog engulfed several parts of Kashmir, including | [More on P6](#)

J&K Business Rules 9-member Panel To Meet On Jan 7

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Rules Committee constituted by the Speaker of J&K Legislative Assembly is set to hold its second meeting in Jammu on Tuesday (January 7) for framing Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business for the House.

According to the meeting notice issued by the Legislative Assembly secretariat, the panel of MLAs will hold its meeting under the chairmanship of the Speaker in his office chambers at legislature complex, Jammu on Tuesday at 11:30 AM.

The 9-member panel comprises seven members from the ruling alliance and two from BJP. No member from Kashmir-based opposition parties including PDP and PC is part of the panel.

The panel comprises Mubarak Gul, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, Saifullah Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Hasnain Masoodi, Ranbir Singh Pathania, and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

The panel held its first meeting on January 3, but its four members were absent due to their different engagements.

SKIMS Warns Of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

The critical care department at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura has issued a public advisory to prevent the carbon monoxide poisoning, advising people to install carbon monoxide detectors and ventilate their houses properly. "In light of a concerning increase in cases of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning recently reported within our community, we urge all residents to take immediate precautions to protect themselves and their families," the advisory reads. It added, "Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM Condole Deaths

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condoled the loss of lives of Indian Army personnel. "Deeply grieved by the loss of lives of Indian Army personnel due to a tragic road accident in Bandipora. The nation is deeply grateful for their service and commitment. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured" the Lieutenant Governor said in a condolence | [More on P6](#)

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, poor visibility caused accident, investigation is underway."

J&K Assembly Moots Proposal To Go Paperless

MLAs, MPs To Attend 3-day Session In Jammu

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Experts from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and senior Parliamentarians are expected to attend a three days orientation programme for the MLAs of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in Jammu which is scheduled to be held from January 9-11.

One session has been exclusively devoted to the National e-Vidhan Project (NeVA) aimed at making the Legislature paperless.

There are 51 newly elected MLAs among a total of 88 legislators in the House of 90 in the Union Territory.

Reportedly Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has taken up the issue with senior experts of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and sent letters to the Secretariat of both the Houses through the Assembly inviting them to the orientation course. Apart from the Parliament experts, some Members of Parliament | [More on P6](#)

Agriculture Loans Increased By 3.5 Times In 10 Yrs: PM Modi

Says Rural Poverty In India Dropped To Less Than 5% By 2024

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that through the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, farmers have received approximately Rs 3 lakh crore in financial assistance. Noting that over the past 10 years, the amount of agricultural loans has increased by 3.5 times, he mentioned that now livestock and fish farmers are being provided with Kisan Credit Cards.

In addition, more than 9,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the country are receiving financial assistance. He further underlined that the government has consistently increased the MSP for several crops over the past 10 years.

"When intentions are noble, the results are satisfying," Modi said and added that the country is now reaping the benefits of the hard work done over the past 10 years.

Inaugurating the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav, the Prime



Minister said his government has been focusing on rural development since 2014 and villages will play a key role in realising the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Modi attacked the Opposition for spreading venom in society in the name of caste and asked people to thwart such conspiracies with a view to strengthening the shared culture and heritage of villages.

In an oblique reference to Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders, Modi said some

people are trying to spread venom in society in the name of caste and weaken the social fabric.

"We have to thwart these conspiracies, and preserve and strengthen the common heritage of our villages," he stressed.

Opposition leaders including Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav have been continuously demanding caste census.

Modi said that since 2014, he has been constantly in the service of rural India.

"Ensuring a dignified life for the people of rural India is the priority of my government," the Prime Minister said and added that the vision of the government is to ensure an empowered rural India, provide ample opportunities for villagers, reduce migration and ensure ease of life to the people of villages.

Talking about the schemes to provide basic amenities in villages, Modi said toilets have been made as part of Swachh Bharat Mission, and crores of people in rural India have been given pucca | [More on P6](#)

Train Makes First Trial Run On Katra-Banihal Section



Observer News Service

Jammu: Meandering through the Himalayas and snow-capped mountains, the first trial train successfully ran on the Katra-Banihal section on Saturday, in a crucial step towards the final statutory safety inspection next week to determine the commencement of rail services to Kashmir.

The Railways has conducted six trials over the past month on various segments of the track, including major milestones such as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge, and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab at Kauri - the world's highest railway bridge.

"Under the safety trials, we conducted today's trial.

We were part of this run, and it was successful," Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) Sandeep Gupta told reporters.

He said that the Commissioner of Railway Safety would conduct statutory inspections and trials on January 7 and 8.

"After that, the commissioner will submit a report, which will guide further action on starting train services to Kashmir," he said.

"Everything has worked well so far. We will return to Katra at a speed of 75 kmph. When the Commissioner of Railway Safety conducts trials, they will be at 110 kmph. This trial is in preparation for that," Gupta added.

The first train run, conducted between Katra | [More on P6](#)

Finalize Sonamarg Master Plan By Aug: HC To Govt

Closes PIL, Passes Other Slew Of Directions For Protection Of Golden Meadow

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has closed a Public Interest Litigation regarding Sonamarg by passing a slew of directions including one which calls upon authorities to take all the requisite steps forthwith to finalise the Master Plan 2025-2045 for the golden meadow by August this year.

"Since the Master Plan in vogue is likely to expire in June, 2025, therefore, the respondents are directed to take all the requisite steps forthwith to finalise the Master Plan 2025-2045 and the same shall be completed by the end of August, 2025," said a bench of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice M. A. Chowdhary.



While formulating the Master Plan for the area, the Bench said, the authorities shall "take on board" all the stakeholders and also keep in mind the orders passed by Court from time to time as also the suggestions

put forth by the Amicus Curiae in this regard.

"The applications seeking constructions and repairs/renovation of the existing structures shall be dealt with by the BOCA as per the | [More on P6](#)

Display Rates Of All Diagnostic Tests In Hospitals: Itoo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday called upon all Medical Superintendents to display rates of all diagnostic tests at designated places in their respective hospitals for ease of common masses.

Itoo chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Civil Secretariat here regarding performance and functioning of Health and Medical Education (HME) department in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal and Pulwama districts.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed medical

infrastructure, human resources, medical supplies and equipment as well as emergency preparedness of each district. She also took detailed appraisal regarding functioning of PHCs, CHCs, SDHs and district hospitals of all these districts.

"Maximise accessibility of healthcare services in rural areas especially during winters," Itoo said, while addressing the officers in the meeting. She called upon them for posting of specialists and adequate staff in PHCs and CHCs so that people get best medical care in their vicinity without moving to tertiary care hospitals.

The Minister | [More on P6](#)

Illicit Drug Use Impacts Entire Criminal Justice System: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that drug problem is a serious threat to public health, safety and well-being of humanity, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said that the consequences of illicit drug use impact the entire criminal justice system, taxing resources at each stage of the arrest, adjudication, incarceration and post-release supervision process.

"The drug problem is a serious threat to public health, safety and well-being of humanity. Our global society is facing serious consequences of

drug abuse and it undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development," a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul said.

Besides, the court said, it also distorts the health and fabric of society and it is considered to be the originator for petty offences as well as heinous crimes, like smuggling of arms and ammunition and money laundering.

"Involvement of various terrorist groups and syndicates in drug trafficking leads to threat to the national security and sovereignty of States by way of Narco-terrorism," the court said, | [More on P6](#)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the name of Son from (old name) **Muhammad Arham Bilal** to New Name **Muhammad Arham Ibn Bilal**. In future he will be known as **Muhammad Arham Ibn Bilal**, If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the International Islamic School Peerbagh within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Dr Bilal Ahmad Tantray
F/o Muhammad Arham Ibn Bilal

Scholarships This Week

Scholarship Name 1: Omron Healthcare Scholarship 2024-25

Description: OMRON Healthcare India invites applications from girl students studying in Classes 9 to 12 at any school across India. Eligibility: Girl students studying in Classes 9 to 12 at any school across India are eligible to apply. Students must have received a minimum of 75% marks in their previous academic year. The annual family income of applicants should be less than INR 8,00,000. Prizes & Rewards: One-time scholarship of INR 20,000

Last Date to Apply: 10-01-2025
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/OMHS2
QR Code: https://d2w71p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/omron-health-care-scholarship-2024-251733746312.png

Scholarship Name 2: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2024-25

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for the Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2024-25 from meritorious girl students from

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

low-income families to empower them to pursue higher studies in professional education after Class 12. Eligibility: Open for meritorious girl students across India. Applicants must have scored 75% or more marks or equivalent CGPA in Class 12 board examinations. Applicant's annual family income must be less than INR 6,00,000. Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to the first year of graduation programs in the academic year 2024-25 in institutes of repute like NIRF/NAAC accredited for professional graduation degrees like Engineering, MBBS, BDS,

Integrated LLB (5 Years), B.Sc Nursing, B. Pharmacy, Integrated BS-MS/BS-Research in ISER, IISc (Bangalore), or other professional courses (Design, Architecture, etc.). Prizes & Rewards: INR 1.5 lakh* per year *Disclaimer: The renewal of the scholarship every year will be at the sole discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation Last Date to Apply: 12-01-2025 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KKGS3 QR Code: https://d2w71p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/kotak-kanya-scholarship-2024-251732860023.png

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Groom Up Kashmir Tour and Travels situated at Court Road Magam Budgam

Public Notice

Whereas I, Mr. Arif Majeed S/o Ab Majeed Parrey R/o Bun Makhama Magam Budgam KASHMIR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Groom Up Kashmir Tour and Travels situated at Court Road Magam Budgam KASHMIR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate (Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. / Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial Institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: dtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO: 10/SE/PMGSY/BlA/e-tendering of 2024-25 Dated 03-01-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. on JKPWDOMS With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Est. Earnest money (in Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1.	Providing temporary arrangements for the Celebration of the Republic Day 26th of January 2025 (w.e.f 23/01/2025 to 26/01/2025 AN) at Baramulla.	1.12	2240	600/-	04days	C&D	Administrative Expensive funds	Accorded	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website http://pmsgytendersjk.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-01-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-01-2025 from 4:30 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-01-2025, from 5:30 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-01-2025 up to 3.00 P.M.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09-01-2025 at 4.00P.M in the office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY circle Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://pmsgytendersjk.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 at the office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla.

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

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website http://pmsgytendersjk.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. 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.
7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.

7.6. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Works executed/ under execution by the agency during the year 2023-24

7.7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

8. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
PMGSY Circle Baramulla
No: -SE/PMGSY/BlA/e-Tendering/2401-27
DIPK-10458/24 Dated: 04-01-2025

Srinagar MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsme@gmail.com
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIET NO: 31 e-Tendering/2024-25 Dated: 31-Dec-2024
For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Completion in Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
1.	Construction of lanes/drains near Masjid and Astan Wazi Sharief at Ghuz Khud Dabtal Ali Kdal (W-48)	Rs. 7.16/-	Rs. 350/-	Rs. 14320/-	12 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	197 Dt: 31/12/2024	AFA
2.	Construction of lane from H/o Gh Mohd Rather upto Pavaiz Ahmad Via Intiyaz Ahmad Dilwar Rashid and Firdous Ahmad at RATHERPORA Aushahi Bagah W-09	Rs. 6.18/-	Rs. 310/-	Rs. 12360/-	12 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	198 Dt: 31/12/2024	Internal Resources
3.	Development of lane viz from Masjid Abu Bakar to H/o Gh Nabi Ganai from H/o Mohammad Ramzan Ganai to H/o Nisar Ahmad Ganai near Graveyard at Gulshanabad Hyderabad W-15	Rs. 6.72/-	Rs. 320/-	Rs. 13440/-	12 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	199 Dt: 31/12/2024	
4.	Construction of Wazu Khana at Imambada Durbal W-17	Rs. 4.39/-	Rs. 220/-	Rs. 8780/-	7 Days Strictly	DEE	200 Dt: 31/12/2024	

• **Accord of Administrative Approval:**
Available

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	31-12-2024
2	Document download date	02-01-2025 04:00 PM To 07-01-2025 06:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	02-01-2025 04:00 PM To 07-01-2025 06:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	08-01-2025 11:00 AM
5	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	09-01-2025 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC. EMD 2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security.
- The Contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @ 5% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @ 5% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L1.
- In case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids, Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer /bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 08-01-2025 at 11:00 AM.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan, pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 021601020000097 payable at J&K Bank Branch. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found with any ambiguity or unattested, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.
DIPK-NB-3067/24
dated: 04-01-2025

No.SMC/EELRWD/1878-87 Dated: 31-Dec-2024.

Phone No: 01955295055 Government of Jammu & Kashmir Email id: cdpoicdsogam81@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT SOGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office has made advertisement for selection of Anganwadi Helpers (Sahayikas) vide this office Advertisement Notice No: 02 Of 2024 Dated: 06-12-2024 issued under endorsement No: CDPO/POSHAN/SGM/Adv/2024/1166-80 Dated: 06-12-2024, in this regard the merit list of the applied candidates which is annexed as Annexure "A" and "B" for inviting of objection if any from the general public within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Aggrieved applied candidates shall be entitled to file their objections, if any within 10 days in the office of Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Sogam in all working days from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. After the expiry of date, no objection shall be entertained by this office.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/SGM/25/1334-41
Dated: 03/01/2025

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer,
Poshan Project Sogam

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT SOGAM (ANNEXURE-A)

Merit Panel of Candidates applied for the post of Sahayikas (AW Helpers) for the Panchayat Halqa Tangcheck Ward No: 01 (Badibera-A Old)

S. No.	Index No.	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Residence	Name of Panchayat	Ward No.	Qualification	DOB	Marks obtained in 10th	%age	Relation if any with Retiree AW Helper	Additional Points	Total %age	Remarks
1	01	Zahida Banoo	W/o Altaf Hussain Bhat	Badibera-Old	Tangcheck	1	10th	01-05-1987	185/500	37.00%	Nil	0	37.00%	
2	02	Rifat Mohammad	W/o Mohammad Ishaq Bhat	Tangcheck	Tangcheck	1	10th	01-10-2003	228/500	45.60%	Nil	0	45.60%	
3	06	Saima Hassan	W/o Naseer Ahmad Bhat	Tangcheck	Tangcheck	1	10th	13-05-1989	204/500	40.80%	Nil	0	40.80%	

Note:- Serial No. 02 Rifat Mohammad has been found top meritorious candidate in the above merit panel.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/SGM/25/1332
Dated: 03/01/2025

(ANNEXURE-B)

Merit Panel of Candidates applied for the post of Sahayikas (AW Helpers) for the Panchayat Halqa Sogam-C Ward No: 09 (Herpora Old Sogam)

S. No.	Index No.	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Residence	Name of Panchayat	Ward No.	Qualification	DOB	Marks obtained in 10th	%age	Relation if any with Retiree AW Helper	Additional Points	Total %age	Remarks
1	03	Rifat Mohi U Din	W/O: Waeem Raja Dar	Herpora Sogam	Sogam-C	9	10th	01-04-1997	193/500	38.60%	Nil	0	38.60%	
2	04	Zahida Rustum	W/O: Tanveer Ahmad Bhat	Herpora Sogam	Sogam-C	9	10th	10-09-1991	209/500	41.80%	Nil	0	41.80%	
3	05	Rabia Akhtar	W/O: Ghulam Rasool Lone	Sogam	Sogam-C	9	10th	11-03-1990	266/500	53.20%	Nil	0	53.20%	

Note:- Serial No. 03 Rabia Akhtar has been found top meritorious candidate in the above merit panel.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/SGM/25/1333
Dated: 03/01/2025

DIPK-10455/24 dated: 04-01-2025 Sd/- Child Dev.Project Officer, Poshan Project Sogam

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
HANDWARA
Phone/Fax:- 01955262006
Website:- www.itihandwara.org Email:- govitihandwara@gmail.com

Admission Notice

Offline applications are invited from the desirous candidates with effect from 1st January, 2025 to 23rd of January, 2025, for seeking admission in Govt. ITI Handwara for the academic session Feb 2025 in the following trade.

S.No	Name of Trade	Duration	Minimum Qualification	NCVT/ SCVT	Scheme (Normal/PPP)
1	Data Entry Operator	06 months	10th	SCVT	Normal

Candidates having minimum age of 14 years, as on 1st January 2025, with no upper age bar can apply. The desirous candidates have to fill up the admission forms available at ITI Handwara along with the following documents.
Marks Certificate of Qualifying Examination.
Date of Birth Certificate.
Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex. Serviceman/ Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any Aadhar Card.

The candidates will be required to deposit application form fee of Rs100/- (One hundred only), against cash receipt in Govt. ITI Handwara
Important Note:
1. Selection will be made purely on the basis of academic merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination.
2. Candidates who have already undergone training in any of the trades can apply for admissions in another trade after two years after completion of previous training course. However, for the ensuing academic session, their admission can be considered in case of poor response.

NOTE:- For any query please contact: 9797215336, 9797194020, Sd/ Superintendent Industrial Training Institute, Handwara

DIPK-10452/24 dated: 04-01-2025

DIPK-10452/24 dated: 04-01-2025

DIPK-10452/24 dated: 04-01-2025

Private School Leaves Parents Aghast For Shifting To CBSE

Agencies

Srinagar: The parents of the wards studying in one of the top private schools in Srinagar Saturday said that the supervisory body has unilaterally decided to change the curriculum from NCERT to CBSE—thus posing a risk of creating gaps in learning process and disturbance of academics.

The parents said that their wards have been following the NCERT curriculum since their admission in the school. "A sudden change to the CBSE will pose a risk of creating gaps in the learning process and disruption of the academics of students."

Parents said, "Switching to a new curriculum midway through their academic journey will impose undue stress on students. They will face challenges adapting to a different syllabus structure, which could hamper their performance and overall confidence."

They further said that a large proportion of students in this school who are from lower-middle-class families. "A sudden change in curriculum requires parents to invest in new textbooks and study materials, adding an unforeseen financial burden.

They may find it difficult to arrange the extra resources or capacity to cope with the additional academic demands, study materials, and possible extra coaching required for transitioning to CBSE," the parents said.

"At the time of admissions, the school was affiliated with the JKBOSE, following the NCERT curriculum, and this was a decisive factor for many parents. We specifically chose this school over others offering the CBSE curriculum because of its alignment with JKBOSE," the parents said.

They added that the school was enforcing the CBSE curriculum on their children mid-way that was violating and breaching the trust placed in the institution. "If CBSE had been a preference, parents would have admitted their children to one of the many CBSE schools available in the region."

With regard to the revocation and implementing previous academic session, the parents further said, "A shift to CBSE, which follows summer sessions, would not only disregard the public sentiment but also create a misalignment with state policies affecting the schools credibility and compliance." (KNO)



Inclement Weather

Administration Sets Up Emergency Control Room

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the anticipation of inclement weather and snowfall, the district administration Srinagar has established a 24/7 District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) to ensure a prompt response to grievances during the winter season.

According to an advisory issued, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the control room will remain functional round-the-clock to address any emergency situations.

Citizens can reach out to various departments through the provided contact numbers.

The key emergency contact numbers include District Emergency Operation Centre: 0194-2483651, 0194-2457552; Winter Control Room: 0194-2457543; Mechanical Engineering Department: 0194-2497458; R&B De-

partment: 0194-2313751; Traffic Control: 0194-2450022. Also, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC): 0194-2470465, 0194-2474499; Fire & Emergency Services: 0194-2452222, 0194-2452155; Animal Husbandry: 0194-2956201; and Public Health Engineering (PHE): 0194-2452047.

Moreover, the nodal officers and contact numbers are: Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat (Supervisor, DEOC Srinagar): 9797370930; Er. Summit Razdan (Assistant Engineer, MH&ED): 9103658810; Er. Anil Ahmad (Junior Engineer, R&B): 9018586906; Mudasar Mushtaq (Junior Building Inspector, SMC): 7066786287; Tariq Rasool (Fireman, F&ES): 7051551379; Nahid Niyaz (HC, SDRF): 7780805144; and Adnan Ahmad (JA, KPDC): 7780938397.

Moreover, the administration urged the residents to use these contact numbers to report any emergencies related to snowfall or adverse weather conditions. The DEOC aims to provide quick solutions to public grievances during the winter months.

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Moreover, the administration urged the residents to use these contact numbers to report any emergencies related to snowfall or adverse weather conditions. The DEOC aims to provide quick solutions to public grievances during the winter months.

GMC Srinagar Rolls Out QR Code Feedback System

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has introduced a QR-based feedback system across all its associated hospitals, including eight tertiary care hospitals and the Hazratbal Block.

This innovative system allows patients and their attendants to scan QR codes displayed at prominent hospital locations, redirecting them to a digital feedback form. The form enables users to share their experiences, rate services, and provide suggestions.

The QR-based feedback system is designed to be user-friendly, allowing patients and attendants to provide feedback easily. The feed-

back is instantly recorded and accessible to the administration for analysis and prompt action.

The QR-based feedback system aims to enhance patient experience, promote transparency, and drive operational efficiency. By leveraging feedback, the administration can identify areas for improvement and take prompt action to address concerns.

This initiative demonstrates GMC Srinagar's commitment to integrating technology into healthcare for efficient service delivery and patient satisfaction. By involving patients and their families, the administration aims to set a benchmark for quality healthcare services in the region.

The launch event was attended by Principal and Dean of GMC Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Administrator Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Medical Superintendents, Deputy Medical Superintendents, BMO Hazratbal, Casualty Medical Officers and Nodal officers.

Highlighting the importance of the new system, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan emphasized, "The QR-based feedback system is a transformative step in our pursuit of patient-centered care. It enables us to actively engage with patients, understand their needs, and address their concerns promptly, thereby ensuring continuous improvement in our service delivery."

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


AIRPORTS
SHEIK 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 - (Closed)
- Srinagar-Leh - (Open)



HIJRI CALENDAR
04 Rajab
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 08
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	3: 57
Magrib	5:39
ISHA	7: 04

This Day In History

- 1438- Pope Eugenius IV deallocated council of Basel to Ferrara
- 1463- French poet Francois Villon banished from Paris
- 1477 - Battle of Nancy, Burgundy vs Switzerland, 7,000 + killed including their leader Charles Duke of Burgundy
- 1809 - Treaty of Dardanelles concluded between Britain & France 1892 1st successful auroral photograph made
- 1861 - Alabama troops seize Forts Morgan & Gaines at Mobile Bay 1909 - Colombia recognizes Panama's independence
- 1916- Austria-Hungary offensive against Montenegro
- 1918- British premier Lloyd George demand for unified peace
- 1919- German Workers' Party forms, precursor to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi)
- 1919- Left-wing Spartacus organization instigates a revolt in Berlin; terrified by the spread of Bolshevism, German troops brutally suppress the uprising
- 1929- Coup by King Alexander in South Slavia
- 1930- Mao Zedong writes the essay "A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire" to criticize cadres not creating rural revolutionary base areas

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.
E-mail:-pwegwd@yahoo.com,
Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 4th.

Subject: 1. Repairs to tools & equipments by way of rewinding of 12.5hp Submersible Motor.
2. Repairs to the tools & equipments by way of rewinding of 10hp Submersible Motor.

Reference: This office e-NIT No.42-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./7887-96, dated: 23-11-2024. Bearing Tender ID No. 2024_PHE_267484_1 & 2.

Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 04-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	20-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	21-01-2025 11.00 AM

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

DIPK-10496/24
dated: 04-01-2025

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

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I have lost the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle bearing registration number **JK01W-4534**. I am in the process of applying for a duplicate RC. If any person or entity has any objection to the issuance of the duplicate RC, they are requested to file their objection in writing at the RTO Office, Srinagar, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections shall be entertained, and the process for issuing a duplicate RC will proceed.

Media Line Ads

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
J&K Pollution Control Committee
PCC Office of the Regional Directorate- Kashmir
Sheikh-ul-K-Alam Complex, Rajbagh, near Government Silk Factory, Srinagar-190008
www.ikspcb.in (Email: regionaldirector@pcc.km) (Tel 0194-2135911/telefax 2311842)

EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE

Due to poor response to the tender notice issued from this office vide No:PCC/RDK/Actt/2024-25/218,dated:-12/12/2024 published in the two daily newspapers (Kashmir Despatch & Srinagar News On 13/12/2024) the date for receipt of this tender is hereby extended for a period of 7 days from the date of its issue other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain same.

No:PCC/RDK/Actt/2024-25/250
Dated: 04/01/2025

Regional Director"
PCC Kashmir.

ANNEXURE "A"

S.No	Particulars	Make	Quantity
1.	Respirable Dust Sampler (PM10)	Envirotech Instruments Pvt Ltd	07
2.	Fine Particulate Sampler (PM 2.5)	Envirotech Instruments Pvt	05
3.	Respirable Dust Sampler (PM 10)	Greentech Instruments	16
4.	Fine Particulate Sampler (PM 2.5)	Greentech Instruments	15
5.	Respirable Dust Sampler (PM10)	Envirotech Instruments Pvt	05
6.	Fine Particulate Sampler (PM 2.5)	Ecotech Instruments Pvt. Ltd	05
7.	Sound Level Meter	Envirotech Instruments Pvt	02

Terms & Conditions
> All the bidders are required to submit GST Certificate with latest returns clearance.
> The bidder should have past experience of similar works.
> Calibration validity recommended for one year only. All procedures as per standard NABL guidelines shall be followed.
> Calibration Certificate with NABL Logo shall be issued.
> ISO Certificate Mandatory.
No:PCC/RDK/Actt/2024-25/250
DIPK-NB-3071/24 Dated: 04/01/2025

Regional Director"
PCC Kashmir.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAZR-SLR25-06	23.01.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 22486/F1, 14612/F1, 12014/F1, 12030/F1, 14634/F2, 14634/R1, 14633/F2, 14634/F1, 14633/F1 & 14633/R1.
EAZR-SLR25-07	24.01.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14654/F1, 12266/F1, 12470/F1, 14508/R1, 12752/F1, 19028/F1, 14508/F2, 14508/F1, 14654/R1 & 22430/F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in 38/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)
Mechanical Division (North) Sopore
Email: ohe.mdns2@gmail.com

Sub: Correction in rates.
Ref: This office E-NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-49 of 2024-25, S. No. 03 and 06.

The rate for item No. 86 of work No. 03 of above referred e-NIT shall be read as Rs 40,000.00 per Job instead of Rs 4,00,000.00 making the new total of estimate as Rs 99,73,181.00. Also, the rate for item No. 60 of work No. 06 of above referred e-NIT shall be read as Rs 10,462.00 per Job instead of Rs 1,04,621.00 per Job making the new total of estimate as Rs. 1,12,29,032.00.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/6778-80
Dated: 02-01-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

DIPK-10433/24
dated: 04-01-2025

The Escalating Issue of Drug Use in Kashmir's Colleges

A Growing Concern Among Female Students

Sayeem Abass

“**The high cost of opioids also puts women in danger as they end up putting themselves in vulnerable positions to acquire drugs. This has also pushed some women into drug trafficking, making women more susceptible to crime**”

Drug abuse among college students in Kashmir has emerged as a critical public health challenge. While substance abuse has historically been more prevalent among male students, recent years have witnessed a concerning rise in drug use among female students, signaling a shift in social and behavioral patterns. This alarming trend necessitates a closer examination of the factors driving this change and the implications for the region's future.

Overview of Drug Abuse in Colleges

Studies have indicated that drug abuse is not a new phenomenon in Kashmir's educational institutions. A recent survey highlighted a lifetime prevalence of substance abuse at 31.3% among college students in the region, with male students predominantly affected. However, the increasing involvement of female students in substance use highlights a worrying development that demands immediate attention.

The Surge in Drug Use Among Women

Recent reports from Jammu and Kashmir have revealed a significant rise in substance abuse among women. Estimates suggest that between 3,000 and 4,000 women in the valley are now struggling with drug addiction. These figures, while encompassing women from diverse backgrounds, underline a growing problem that is increasingly visible in college campuses.

Data from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the Lok Sabha states that in J&K, 36,000 women consume cannabis, 8,000 are addicted to opioids such as heroin, opium as well as pharmaceutical opioids like Codeine, Tramadol, Spasmodoxyvon and Tapentadol, and sedative addiction is prevalent among over 8,000 women.

Over the past three years, anecdotal evidence and limited studies suggest that drug use among female college students has increased substantially. The stigma traditionally associated with female drug abuse in conservative societies like Kashmir appears to be eroding, leading to a greater acceptance of risky behaviors among young women.

Why Women are Taking to Drug Abuse

The reasons behind this upward trend are multifaceted. Increased exposure to modern lifestyles, peer pressure, psychological stress, and socio-political instability are key contributors.

Many young women in Kashmir are reportedly turning to drugs as a coping mechanism to deal with mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and trauma. According to, 'Life in conflict: Characteristics of Depression in Kashmir', published by the International Journal of Health Services, the prevalence of depression in Kashmir is 55.72%. The highest is 66.67% in the 15 to 25 age



group, followed by 65.33% in the 26 to 35 age group. "In rural areas the prevalence of depression among females is higher (93.10 %) as compared to males (6.8%)."

The social implications of this rise in substance abuse are far-reaching. Not only does it jeopardize the educational and professional futures of these students, but it also places an additional burden on families and communities already grappling with the region's complex socio-political challenges.

Various news reports have also highlighted the difficulty for women to access de-addiction facilities due to stigma and lack of women-centric treatment with separate wards. This means that it is often difficult for women to get out of the cycle of addiction even if they wish to do so.

Very often, women are forced into drug addiction by their peers or male partners. Studies carried out by UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime), have time and again highlighted the close relationship between drug abuse and intimate partner violence as well. This means that even if women do or do not take drugs, if their partners or close male members are taking drugs, they become vulnerable to domestic and physical abuse.

The high cost of opioids also puts women in danger as they end up putting themselves in vulnerable positions to acquire drugs. This has also pushed some women into drug trafficking, making women more susceptible to crime.

Need for Targeted Action

Addressing the issue requires a multi-pronged approach. Comprehensive research into the extent and causes of drug use among female students is urgently needed. Awareness campaigns targeting students, parents, and educators can help destigmatize conversations around mental health and addiction. Furthermore, the establishment of counseling centers and rehabilitation programs tailored to young women is critical in mitigating this growing crisis.

Conclusion

The rise in drug abuse among female college students in Kashmir is a wake-up call for policymakers, educators, and community leaders. Without swift and targeted interventions, the future of many young individuals and the broader societal fabric may be at risk. A collective effort is essential to curb this troubling trend and ensure a healthier and more prosperous future for the region.

*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
Sayeemabass0@gmail.com*

The Man Who Relaunched India

Kaushik Basu

The passing of Manmohan Singh, India's prime minister from 2004 to 2014, has led to an unexpected eruption of nostalgia and appreciation. Singh's modesty and low-key style made it easy for many to overlook his achievements in boosting India's economic growth and elevating its global standing. His death, at 92, has thrown a spotlight on an impressive record.

Singh will be remembered as one of the world's most important – and most unlikely – political leaders. I first met him in the late 1980s in the East Delhi housing complex where my family lived at the time. Singh had finished his term as governor of the Reserve Bank of India and was looking to buy a simple apartment in our locality. A friend of mine called to ask if he could bring Singh to see ours.

Singh came and met us and chatted with my mother. But he never moved to the area, because soon thereafter he was appointed secretary-general of the South Commission in Geneva; and, after that, in 1991, he became India's finance minister. In 2004, my mother called me, excitedly informing me that the soft-spoken, unassuming Singh had just become India's Prime Minister.

In 2009, when I was chair of the economics department at Cornell, Singh invited me – quite out of the blue – to join his government as chief economic adviser. I agreed, but only if he assured me regular, direct access to him. He said he would, and he did. I met with him about once a month and got to know him well during nearly three years in his government.

By that point, Singh had already laid the groundwork of India's economic liberalization, with the most important reforms carried out between 1991 to 1993, when he was finance minister. The transformative effect was evident from the subsequent acceleration in India's economic growth. India's early investment in the sciences and engineering during this period nurtured talent not only in research and development but also in corporate leadership and policymaking.

In 2005, when he visited Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, well-known for left-wing activism, students with black flags turned out to protest. The university authorities were embarrassed and furious, and offered to take strong action against the students. Show-cause orders were sent to some students, and the Delhi police also detained some.

It was Singh who intervened on the students' behalf, arguing that they were exercising their "democratic rights." Later, in a speech at the university, he quoted the famous aphorism attributed to Voltaire: "Every member of a university community, if he or she wishes to aspire to be worthy of the university, must accept the truth of Voltaire's classic statement: 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.' That idea must be the cornerstone of a liberal institution."

It was also a cornerstone of Singh's own political career. Because he took ethics seriously, he insisted on the highest standard of honesty. When, in 2010, inflation was raging and some bureaucrats suggested that it might be best not to hurt his political standing by releasing so much price data, he put his foot down, insisting there should be no compromise on statistical transpar-



“**Singh will be remembered as one of the world's most important – and most unlikely – political leaders. I first met him in the late 1980s in the East Delhi housing complex where my family lived at the time**”

ency, even if it dented his poll numbers.

This raises a puzzling question. In a world where political success seems to depend so much on intrigue, dissimulation, and subterfuge, how did such a person make it to the top?

My belief is that he would not have made it on his own. It was the political leadership of the time that recognized the need for a person of his talents to have the space to craft and implement seemingly unpopular economic policies. This space was provided by then-Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's appointment of Singh as finance minister in 1991, by Congress party leader Sonia Gandhi appointing him as prime minister in 2004, and Singh's finance minister, Pranab Mukherjee, who worked closely with him from 2004 to 2014 and managed much of the politics.

This enabled him not only to design necessary economic reforms, but also to implement reforms which bolstered India's democracy, such as the Right to Information Act and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of 2005, which gave ordinary citizens some potential levers to hold the newly liberalizing state accountable.

It was this pairing of politics and professional acumen that put India on its upward economic trajectory, and it was Singh who embodied it. Indians today are far better off as a result and, recognizing this, are bestowing well-deserved praise on him and his legacy.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate

From Kashmir to The Emerald Isle

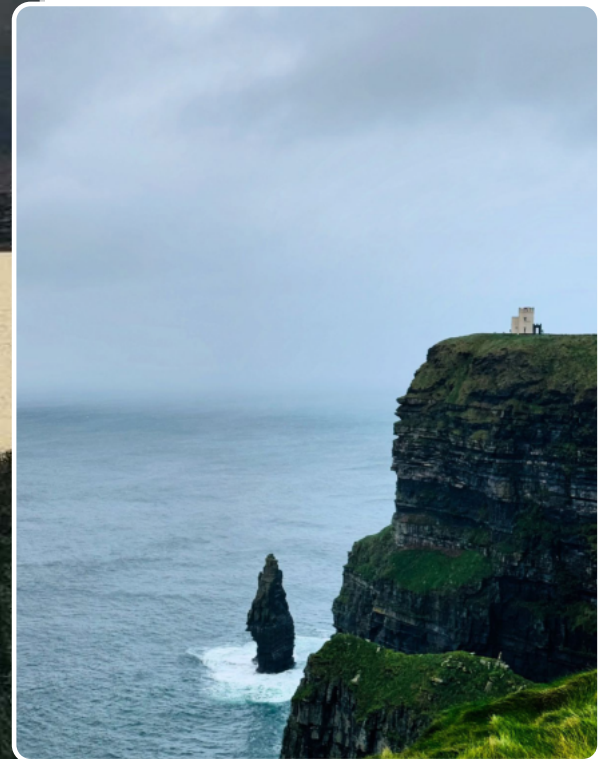
Noorain Ansari

On a frigid November morning in 2024, I arrived in Ireland, prepared to spend my time in a location that, while new, was not wholly foreign. Coming from Kashmir, where winters are defined by snow-covered landscapes and misty mornings, Ireland's environment felt strangely familiar. The crisp air, mild drizzle, and chill that crept into my bones reminded me of home—as if the seasons had accompanied me.

The journey from Delhi to Abu Dhabi and then Dublin was long but smooth.



THE CRISP AIR, MILD DRIZZLE, and chill that crept into my bones reminded me of home—as if the seasons had accompanied me



beautifully everything seems to fit together. The rain-slicked streets were lined by neat rows of buildings, and despite the traffic, there was a sense of calm.

After a lengthy drive, we finally arrived at our home in Quinn, and the reality of my journey hit me. This was more than just a physical relocation; it was also a spiritual transformation. From the bright slopes of Kashmir to the foggy hills of Ireland, I had traveled not only kilometers but also emotions and experiences, bringing with me the spirit of one home while entering another.

So my narrative continues on the Emerald Isle, where every day feels like an adventure, a discovery of beauty, and a celebration of life's unexpected turns.

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

THE PRISTINE ROADS AND BOUNDLESS EXPANSES OF GREENERY were a far cry from India's crowded cities, and I was impressed by the tranquility that surrounded me

Raindrops on the windows of my jet mimicked those I had seen so many times in Kashmir.

Upon entering the Dublin airport, as I went through immigration, I couldn't help but notice the officer's perplexed expression as he inspected my passport. A long gap ensued, causing my heart to rush. But then, with a polite "Welcome and have a good day," he handed it back to me, and I felt relieved.

When I finished collecting my luggage, I stepped outdoors and was greeted by a cold breeze that sent chills down my spine. I felt both the weight of my travel and the joy of

the new beginning ahead.

After four or five months of separation, I was eventually reunited with my husband. His relief reflected mine as we loaded the baggage into the car and headed to Quinn. The long journey from Dublin to Quinn was a revelation in itself. As we drove our way through the Irish countryside, I couldn't take my eyes off the vast landscapes, the fog-laden trees, and the misty windows of the car from the early morning cold.

The pristine roads and boundless expanses of greenery were a far cry from India's crowded cities, and I was impressed

by the tranquility that surrounded me.

The first thing I noticed when I arrived in Dublin was how similar it felt more than how different it looked. The cool breeze felt familiar, and the moist streets glistened in the early morning light, much like the roads back home during the winter. However, there was a significant difference in how life evolved here. Despite the constant flow of traffic, there was an unsettling calm—no honking, no urgency, just an orderly rhythm. The roads were immaculate, the streets were quiet, and discipline was visible everywhere.

Driving around the city, I noted how

The Supremacy of Human Beings on Earth

NARAYANAN KIZHUMUNDAYUR

The Earth is a vibrant and diverse ecosystem, teeming with life in countless forms. From microscopic organisms to towering trees and powerful predators, the planet hosts an array of species, each contributing to the delicate balance of nature. Amid this incredible diversity, human beings have emerged as the dominant species, exerting unparalleled control over the planet. This supremacy is not a mere coincidence but the result of a combination of unique attributes and abilities that set humans apart from other creatures. Understanding these factors provides insight into humanity's exceptional position and its responsibilities as stewards of the Earth.

Unique Intellectual Abilities

The primary reason for human supremacy lies in the extraordinary intellectual abilities of our species. Unlike other animals, humans possess highly developed brains capable of abstract thought, complex reasoning, and advanced problem-solving. The ability to think critically and imagine possibilities has allowed humans to devise tools, build civilizations, and innovate continuously. For instance, the invention of the wheel, the mastery of fire, and the development of agriculture were all milestones that dramatically enhanced human capabilities and set the stage for societal progress.

Language is another significant aspect of human cognition. The ability to communicate using complex languages has enabled humans to share knowledge across generations, collaborate effectively, and build cultures and

societies. This linguistic capability is unparalleled in the animal kingdom and forms the foundation of human advancement.

Mastery over Tools and Technology

Humans are unique in their ability to create and use tools to manipulate their environment. From the rudimentary stone tools of early humans to the sophisticated technologies of the modern age, this capacity for innovation has allowed humans to adapt to a wide range of environments. The Industrial Revolution, for example, marked a turning point in human history, ushering in an era of unprecedented growth and development.

Technological advancements have also enabled humans to extend their influence beyond the Earth, exploring outer space and seeking answers to fundamental questions about existence. These achievements underscore the unique intellectual and creative capabilities of humans. The digital revolution, with the advent of computers, the internet, and artificial intelligence, has further expanded human potential and reshaped the world.

Social Structures and Cooperation

Another critical factor contributing to human dominance is the ability to form complex social structures. Humans are inherently social creatures who thrive on cooperation and collaboration. Societies are built on shared values, norms, and laws that provide stability and order, enabling large groups of people to work together toward common goals. This collective effort has resulted in remarkable achieve-

ments, from the construction of monumental architecture to the establishment of global trade networks.

Humans also exhibit empathy and altruism, which fos-



ter strong bonds and mutual support within communities. These qualities have been crucial for survival and have helped humanity address challenges such as natural disasters, pandemics, and conflicts. Furthermore, the development of governance systems, economic models, and cultural institutions has allowed humans to maintain large-scale cooperation over extended periods.

Adaptability and Learning

Adaptability is another hallmark of human supremacy. Unlike most animals, which are limited by their genetic predis-

positions and environmental conditions, humans have the ability to learn, innovate, and adapt to changing circumstances. This flexibility has allowed humans to inhabit virtually ev-

ery corner of the planet, from arid deserts to icy tundras, and to create solutions to overcome environmental challenges. Education and the accumulation of knowledge have played a significant role in this adaptability. The systematic transmission of information through schools, books, and digital media ensures that each generation builds upon the achievements of the previous one, accelerating progress and innovation. Moreover, the human capacity for lifelong learning enables individuals to continually adapt to new technologies and societal changes.

Exploration and Curiosity One of the defining characteristics of humanity is an insatiable curiosity about the world and the universe. This drive to explore and understand has led to ground-breaking discoveries in fields such as science, medicine, and astronomy. From mapping the human genome to landing spacecraft on distant planets, human curiosity has propelled us into realms previously thought impossible. Exploration is not limited to the physical realm; humans have also delved deeply into the metaphysical and philosophical aspects of existence. This quest for knowledge and understanding has enriched human culture and provided profound insights into our place in the cosmos.

Ethical and Philosophical Awareness

Humans possess a unique capacity for ethical and philosophical reflection. Unlike other species, humans can question their purpose, explore the nature of existence, and develop moral frameworks to guide their actions. This awareness has led to the establishment of religions, philosophies, and ethical systems that provide meaning and direction to human life.

With this ethical consciousness comes responsibility. As the dominant species, humans have the power to shape the destiny of the planet. This power must be exercised with care, balancing progress with sustainability to ensure the well-being of all life forms. Moreover, the ability to envision a better future and work toward it has enabled humans to address social injustices, environmental concerns, and global inequalities.

Exploration and Curiosity

Exploration and Curiosity One of the defining characteristics of humanity is an insatiable curiosity about the world and the universe. This drive to explore and understand has led to ground-breaking discoveries in fields such as science, medicine, and astronomy. From mapping the human genome to landing spacecraft on distant planets, human curiosity has propelled us into realms previously thought impossible.

Exploration is not limited to the physical realm; humans have also delved deeply into the metaphysical and philosophical aspects of existence. This quest for knowledge and understanding has enriched human culture and provided profound insights into our place in the cosmos.

Impact on the Environment

Human supremacy has also been marked by a profound impact on the environment. Through agriculture, industry, and urbanization, humans have transformed vast landscapes and altered ecosystems.

While these changes have facilitated human growth and development, they have also led to significant environmental challenges, including climate change, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of all life on Earth, humans have begun to address these challenges through conservation efforts, renewable energy initiatives, and sustainable practices. The growing awareness of environmental stewardship underscores the importance of balancing human needs with the health of the planet.

Conclusion

The supremacy of human beings on Earth is the result of a confluence of factors, including advanced intellectual abilities, technological innovation, social cooperation, adaptability, ethical awareness, and an innate drive for exploration. These attributes have enabled humans to transform the planet and achieve remarkable feats. However, with great power comes great responsibility. Humanity must use its unique capabilities to foster harmony with nature and ensure the sustainable development of the Earth. By recognizing and embracing this responsibility, humans can truly justify their position as stewards of the planet and secure a brighter future for all living beings.

The author is an Accountant and a Freelance Writer in English and Malayalam

FCIK Mourns Passing Of Industrialist Showkat Hussain Ahangar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has expressed profound sorrow and deep sadness over the passing of Showkat Hussain Ahangar, a distinguished industrialist and the owner of Kashmir Rolling Mills. Showkat Hussain had been battling a dreaded illness and sadly passed away on Saturday. He was also the brother of Mohammad Altaf Ahangar, Secretary Finance of FCIK.

A large number of people from

various walks of life, including a significant number of entrepreneurs, attended his funeral prayers in Rawalpura after Magrib prayers on Saturday. His early demise has left an irreplaceable void in the industrial fraternity.

In a joint condolence message, members of the FCIK Advisory Committee—Shahid Kamili, Meraj Qureshi, Shakeel Qalander, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and Mohammed Ashraf Mir besides Oveys Jami have expressed their heartfelt grief, describing the loss of Showkat Hussain as immense loss to the

industrial sector. They conveyed their deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of his soul.

Condolences have also poured in from the presidents of various industrial associations, spanning both the organised and unorganised sectors across the Kashmir Valley. These heartfelt tributes from the business community serve as a testament to the lasting impact of Showkat Hussain Ahangar, whose significant contributions to the region's industrial landscape will never be forgotten.

Gulmarg to host 5th edition of Khelo India winter games CS for using such opportunities to promote J&K internationally

JAMMU, JANUARY 4: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today emphasised the need for optimally utilising the events like 'Khelo India Winter Games' for Jammu and Kashmir at global level. The Chief Secretary was addressing at a meeting held here to take stock of the preparations being made for successful conduct of 5th edition of 'Khelo India Winter Games' at Gulmarg.

Besides the Secretary, YS&S and Dy DG, SAI the meeting was

attended by Principal Secretary, Culture Department, ADGP, L&O, DG, F&ES, Commissioner Secretary, GAD, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Secretary, PWD Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla/Budgam, Director, Information and PR besides other concerned officers while out station officers participated online.

Dulloo highlighted the significance of such national level events in promoting brand J&K as one of the prominent

tourist destinations. He maintained that Gulmarg being one of the biggest ski destination in whole of the country should be utilised to attract the international skiers by holding exclusive competitions for them. He asked for exploring the possibility of holding Heliskiing competitions for its professional players at the venue.

Regarding successful commencement of winter games, the Chief Secretary asked the divisional administration to

coordinate with other departments so that the games are held in a befitting manner. He asked each of the concerned department to extend best of the services to the participants and play their role effectively in making this edition successful.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the Youth Services & Sports Department to start their promotional campaigns on their social media handles in order to create necessary buzz about this event.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

4 Soldiers Killed

towards Bandipora. A Quick Response Team (QRT) of the Army, police, and locals conducted rescue operations immediately after the accident. Three injured soldiers were taken to Bandipora hospital, and another to Sonawari hospital.

Dr. Masrat Iqbal, the Medical Superintendent at District Hospital Bandipora, confirmed that two soldiers were brought dead to the hospital, and the injured soldier referred to Sumbal also passed away.

The latest reports suggested that 4 soldiers died in the accident while the condition of a soldier is critical.

LG, CM Condole

message. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic death of three army soldiers who lost their lives in a road accident in Bandipora district.

The unfortunate incident occurred when the vehicle they were traveling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge near SK Payeen in Bandipora district of north Kashmir.

In his condolence message, the Chief Minister extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, offering his prayers for strength and solace during this difficult time.

He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and wished a speedy recovery to the soldiers injured in the accident.

Deeply pained to hear about the terrible tragedy in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora, where Indian Army soldiers have lost their lives due to a vehicle accident.

"We salute their selfless service to the nation. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of our bravehearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured soldiers and we wish them a complete and speedy recovery," Kharge said in a post on X.

The leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said last week, a similar incident took place in Poonch where five soldiers were martyred.

"We urge the authorities to take appropriate measures to avoid such accidents due to inclement weather conditions and take adequate safety measures in the future," he said.

Rahul Gandhi, who is the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, said the news of the "martyrdom of many of our soldiers" is very sad.

"I pay tributes to the martyred soldiers and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured. My deep condolences for the bereaved families," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed her condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured soldiers.

Yellow, Orange Warnings

of Jammu and Kashmir while moderate rainfall is expected over plains of Jammu during the same period.

"Heavy to very heavy snowfall is also possible over higher reaches of Kashmir. Good snowfall is expected over plains of Kashmir including Srinagar City during the next 36 hours," an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, said.

Meanwhile, the local Meteorological department (MeT) has stated that there is a possibility of heavy snow over middle and higher reaches of Kashmir & Chenab valley during tonight to January 5th late night or 6th morning.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather could remain generally cloudy while there is a possibility of light to moderate rain in plains of Jammu and snow at most places of J&K with peak activity during tonight to 5th late night or January 6th morning.

He added that the weather conditions would improve from January 6th afternoon.

According to him, the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of dry weather from January 7 to 10 while from January 11 & 12, there is a possibility of light snow at isolated to scattered places.

Ahmad said the weather would remain generally dry from January 13-15.

According to the details shared by MeT, the yellow and orange warnings have been issued for tomorrow (January 05). The orange warning has been issued for the areas including Bandipora, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam and Ramban while the yellow alert has been issued Baramulla, Kishtwar and Doda.

For January 6, the MeT has issued yellow warning for Anantnag, Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Kulgam and Shopian.

As per the details, the yellow warning signals to be aware while the orange warning signals to be prepared and updated.

There could be temporary disruption of surface and air transportation, particularly on Sunday, it warned.

In wake of the Met forecast of moderate to heavy snowfall, the authorities asked people to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel during adverse weather conditions to ensure safety and minimise disruptions.

District administrations have set up control rooms to assist the public, the officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had on Friday said the government was ready to deal with the snowfall.

"We will deal with it. We are prepared, we have had several meetings and we also have experience after the last snowfall. If there were any lacunae last time, we will correct that this time," he had told reporters. (inputs from KNO)

Dense Fog Engulfs

Srinagar, in the morning, they said. The fog affected air traffic to and from the valley as poor visibility hit flight operations at the Srinagar airport. Several flights were delayed but operations resumed with the visibility improving and the first flight landed at 11:13 am, the officials said.

The Met office said a moderate to strong western disturbance was likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir and light to moderate snow at most places was possible, with the peak activity from Saturday night to Monday morning.

There is a possibility of heavy snow over the middle and the higher reaches of Kashmir and the Chenab valley from Saturday night to Sunday late night or Monday morning.

The Met has issued a 'yellow' alert for Saturday. An 'orange' warning has been issued for Sunday when there is a possibility of widespread snowfall with heavy snow at isolated places.

Meanwhile, the night temperature rose at most places in Kashmir.

In Srinagar, the mercury settled at a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 2.2 degrees, the Met said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 4.5 degrees.

Pahalgam registered a minimum of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund logged a minimum temperature of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius and was the coldest place in the valley, while Konibal in Pampore town recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered minus 2.2 degrees Celsius while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded minus 5.8 degrees.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the harshest period of winter -- that began on December 21. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30. It is followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurud (small cold)' and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha (baby cold)'.
SKIMS Warns Of

and tasteless gas that can be deadly if inhaled in large amounts. The number of individuals treated for CO poisoning in our critical care units has risen drastically, with many patients requiring emergency intervention."

Who is at risk?
Households using gas heaters, stoves or fireplaces, vehicles running in closed garages and use of generators or grills indoors and workplaces with poor ventilation, especially in confined spaces.

Signs and symptoms
Headaches, dizziness or light-headedness, nausea and vomiting, fatigue or weakness, shortness of breath, confusion or mental disorientation and chest pain (in severe cases).

If you experience any of these symptoms, leave the area immediately and seek medical attention.

Key safety tips:
Install carbon monoxide detectors: Place detectors in key areas of your home, especially near sleeping areas. Ensure they are in working order with fresh batteries.

Never use generators outdoors: Always operate generators outdoors, away from windows, doors, and vents.

Avoid using charcoal or gas geysers and heaters indoors: These can quickly build up dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Ventilate Your Home Properly: Ensure adequate airflow in areas with fuel-burning appliances, like gas heaters or stoves.

Check chimneys and vents: Ensure that chimneys, fireplaces, and vents are unobstructed to allow for the proper expulsion of gases.

Never leave your car running in a closed garage: Always ensure the garage door is open when operating a vehicle indoors, or better yet, avoid running a car inside a garage entirely.

Regular maintenance: Have your heating systems, water heaters, and other fuel-burning appliances regularly serviced by a professional.

What to do in case of suspected poisoning?
Evacuate immediately: Leave the area and get fresh air.

Call emergency services: Seek medical help immediately. Time is critical in cases of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Avoid re-entering the affected area until professional help has deemed it safe. KNO

J&K Assembly

from different political parties have also been approached to deliver the lectures to newly elected MLAs, Daily Excelsior reported.

"The experts as well as the MPs have agreed to visit Jammu and address the MLAs," the sources said, adding the programme has been scheduled for three days from January 9-11.

The Assembly Secretariat has also written to the Secretary Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for deputing resource

persons for the purpose

Project NeVA is aimed at digitization and making the Legislature paperless. It is part of the Digital India Initiative and is led by the Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Several Legislatures across the country have already gone paperless. However, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly also planned to implement the project. Worthwhile to mention here that there was no Legislature from the middle of 2018 to 2024 till Assembly elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir in September-October and the first session of the House was held from November 4-8.

"Project NeVA is of paramount importance to enable transparent, efficient and technologically advanced legislative process in both the Legislative Assembly complexes at Jammu and Srinagar for which a training/introductory session is required to be held. For the purpose, an expert Resource Person is required to be deputed," the Legislative Assembly communiqué addressed to the Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, read.

It said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather are very keen to implement Project NeVA in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly at the earliest.

Besides Project NeVA, the orientation course is aimed at briefing the new MLAs on functioning of the Legislature and how to take up the business in the Legislature including raising questions, issues of public importance, bills, resolutions etc. Focus will be on 51 new MLAs belonging to different political parties in the Legislature.

The orientation course comes ahead of budget session of the Legislature scheduled to be held in the middle of February.

There are 24 first-time MLAs of the National Conference followed by 15 from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), six Independents, three of People's Democratic Party (PDP), two from Congress and one of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

In 2015 when a large number of new MLAs won the Assembly elections, the then Chief Minister late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had held similar session in which Abdul Rahim Rather, presently Legislative Assembly Speaker and then not an MLA was invited to lecture the new comers on Rules and Procedures of the House.

Sources said the new MLAs need to be aware of working of the Legislative Assembly. Many States hold similar sessions for first-time MLAs from the experts to ensure that the legislators are well aware of Rules and Procedures of the House and every time the Speaker or the Chairperson is not required to lecture them.

Describing the decision for holding training sessions of new MLAs as "good move", the experts told Daily Excelsior that this will be in the interest of the legislators as they will get to take advice from the experts and improve their working inside the House.

The National Conference (NC), which has emerged as the single-largest party in the election with 41 seats, has the highest number of debutant MLAs at 24.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which swept the polls in the Jammu winning 29 seats, is second in terms of seats won as well as the number of first-time MLAs. The saffron party has 15 first-time MLAs, accounting for more than half of its tally.

The Congress has two debutant MLAs while six of the seven Independent candidates who won the polls have become members of the elite House for the first time.

All three elected members of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the lone Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA are first timers in the Assembly.

Agriculture Loans

houses as part of PM Awaas Yojana. He said safe and clean drinking water is also being provided through the Jal Jeevan Mission.

"Today, healthcare facilities are being provided in more than 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs to the people," said the Prime Minister.

He added that telemedicine, assisted by digital technologies, has ensured the option of best doctors and hospitals to villages. Crores of people in rural areas have benefited from the telemedicine through e-Sanjeevani, he further added.

The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of creating economic policies to strengthen the rural economy.

He said the vision of his government is to empower rural India by transforming villages into vibrant centres of growth and opportunity.

"Our government's intentions, policies and decisions are empowering rural India with new energy," he said.

He pointed out that the majority of SC, ST, and OBC populations reside in villages and were neglected by previous governments. This led to migration from villages, increased poverty, and a widening gap between rural and urban areas.

In his speech, Modi also mentioned a recent study by the State Bank of India, which revealed that rural poverty in India has decreased from approximately 26 per cent in 2012 to less than 5 per cent in 2024.

In an apparent jibe at opposition parties, Modi said that while some people have been

chanting slogans to eradicate poverty for decades, the country is now witnessing a real reduction in poverty.

Speaking at the occasion, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said banks have undertaken saturation drives for 16 government schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Mudra and PM SVANidhi.

Train Makes First

and Banihal, thrilled passengers as it passed through snow-covered mountains, where nature's beauty met engineering marvels.

The train reached Banihal railway station around 1:30 pm, officials said.

Gupta, along with officials from USBRL, Northern Railway, and construction companies, was onboard.

The USBRL project aims to provide rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country.

The Anji Khad Bridge, featuring a single pylon rising 331 m above the riverbed, is another engineering milestone achieved under the USBRL project.

Described as a "true engineering marvel", the bridge has 48 cables on its lateral and central spans. Construction of the pylon began in 2017, with the structure now standing 191 m above its foundation level.

It is the second-highest railway bridge after the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab at Kauri, which is the world's highest railway bridge at 359 metres above the riverbed - 35 m taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The Anji Khad Bridge has a total length of 473.25 m, with the viaduct spanning 120 m and the central embankment measuring 94.25 m.

In November, Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the Vande Bharat train connecting Kashmir to New Delhi on the USBRL project in January.

With the expected commissioning of train services in phases, the Railways will complete 255 km of the 272-kilometre USBRL project, leaving only a small stretch between Katra and Reasi to be finished by December.

Finalize Sonamarg

statutory requirements provided under the BOCA Act, while keeping in view the directions issued by this Court from time to time" the court said, adding, "In case of any violation, the same shall be dealt with by the concerned authorities in terms of the applicable rules."

In another direction, the court ordered that encroachments and illegal constructions in the area shall be removed in due course of law.

"Since the Solid Waste Management Bye-Laws had been adopted and notified by notification dated 21 November, 2019, the respondents (authorities) are directed to ensure that all the measures are taken for implementation of the said Bye-Laws in the area."

Lastly, the court said the commercial establishments in the area be asked to install the solid waste management treatment plants as per the norms in their premises so that all non-biodegradable waste is disposed of.

The PIL was initiated in 2011 wherein it was contended that instead of discharging the fundamental duties by the citizens and the corresponding duties cast upon the State authorities to make endeavours for protection of environment and save it from pollution, the river Sindh and its water is subjected to worst kind of pollution by raising hotels, tourist huts and restaurants, for deriving natural pleasure, at various places on the river beds and at some places on the river itself.

It further contended that these constructions were being raised in violation of the various Statutes and in the process the water was getting polluted and in case immediate steps for retrieving the river and removing the constructions already raised are not taken, the water will get continuously polluted.

Later the scope of the petition was extended in terms of various orders passed from time to time including the order dated 11 September 2017 in which the court observed that the Sonamarg area has suffered serious environmental degradation because of apathy on the part of stakeholders. Essentially, the court said, there are four aspects to the Sonamarg area. The first is the attraction of the meadows in the Sonamarg. "The very name, Sonamarg, reflects its actual nature, in the sense that it means "golden meadow ."

The second aspect which needs immediate attention is the Thajiwas Glacier, the court had said.

The third aspect which also requires immediate concern is the Thajiwas Wildlife Sanctuary and the associated forest areas, the court had further said. Lastly, the court had said that the fourth area of concern, which is often neglected, is the Sindh River which passes through Sonamarg.

Display Rates

also stressed upon the officers for enhancing the existing mobile health services for reaching out to remote areas more effectively.

While reviewing progress on ongoing projects in these districts, Sakeena Itoo impressed upon the officers for timely completion of these

projects as they are vital for filling the gaps of progressive health care services for people. She further encouraged the officers to prioritise establishment of more diagnostic centers and specialty services at district hospitals in order to cater to the increasing health needs of the people and reduce burden on tertiary care hospitals.

While reviewing the status of Human Resource in health institutions of these districts, the Minister called upon the officers for timely filling of vacant posts to concerned recruiting agencies. She also directed for cancellation of attachments of all doctors and specialists for better health care services in these facilities.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of transparency, accountability and efficient management of resources in ensuring smooth operation of healthcare facilities in these districts.

Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, ADC Srinagar, Director Health Services Kashmir, Principal GMC Srinagar, Principal Government Dental College Srinagar, Mission Director, NHM, CEO SHA, Director Coordination New GMCs, MD, JKMSCL, Project Director, AIDS Control Society, Medical Superintendents, CMOs of concerned district and other senior officers of health and medical education department attended the meeting
Illicit Drug Use

adding, "Drug trafficking and abuse has continued its significant toll on valuable human lives and productive years of many persons around the globe."

With the growth and development of the world economy, the court said the drug traffickers are also seamlessly trafficking various type of drugs from one corner to other ensuring availability of contrabands for vulnerable segment of society who fall into trap of drug peddlers and traffickers. "Due to India's close proximity with major opium growing areas of the region, India is facing serious menace of drug trafficking and as a spill-over effect, drug abuse especially among the youth is a matter of concern for us," the court said.

The Constitution framers, the court said, had visualised danger of misuse of such type of substances and, thus, made it part of directives issued to the State.

"The Directive Principles, which are part of our Constitution, lay down that the State shall make endeavours to bring about the prohibition of substances injurious for health except for medicinal and scientific purposes. In recent years, India has been facing a problem of transit traffic in illicit drugs," the court said, adding, "The spill over from such traffic has caused tribulations of abuse and addiction."

This trend has created an illicit demand for drugs within the country, the court said.

"The illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances poses a serious threat to the health and welfare of the people and activities of persons engaged in such illicit traffic have a deleterious effect on the national economy as well," the court said, adding, "Having regard to the persons by whom and the manner in which such activities are organised and carried on, and having regard to the fact that in certain areas which are highly vulnerable to the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, such activities of a considerable magnitude are clandestinely organised and carried on, it is necessary for the effective prevention of such activities to provide for detention of persons concerned in any manner therewith."

The consequences of drug use, the court said, usually are not limited to user and often extend to the user's family and the greater community.

"The consequences of illicit drug use impact the entire criminal justice system, taxing resources at each stage of the arrest, adjudication, incarceration and post release supervision process," the court said, adding, "It impacts productivity. It causes premature mortality, illness, injury leading to incapacitation and imprisonment all serve to directly reduce national productivity. Public financial resources expended in the areas of health care and criminal justice as a result of illegal drug trafficking and use are resources which could otherwise be available for other policy initiatives."

The global drug problem presents a multifaceted challenge that touches the lives of millions worldwide, the court said. "From individuals struggling with substance use disorders to communities grappling with the consequences of drug trafficking and organized crime, the impact of drugs is far reaching and complex."

There is a great loss of productivity associated with drug-related premature mortality, the court underlined.

"Although it is difficult to place a dollar value on a human life, a rough calculation of lost productivity can be made based on the present discounted value of a person's lifetime earnings," the court said, adding, "There are also health-related productivity losses. An individual who enters a residential drug treatment program or is admitted to a hospital for drug treatment becomes incapacitated and is removed from the labor force." The court made the observations while upholding the PSA detention of an alleged drug peddler Hilal Ahmad Dar of Kupwara.

Diet Plays Vital Role In Fertility For Both Men, Women: Doctors

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Medical experts have said diet impacts fertility in both men and women by influencing overall reproductive health, hormonal balance and the quality of sperm and eggs.

Dr Tabasum, a gynaecologist at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said nutrition plays a crucial role in fertility. "Diet directly affects hormonal balance, sperm quality, egg health, and the overall reproductive system in both men and women," she said.

She highlighted the importance of omega-3 fatty acids, found in foods like fish, nuts and seeds, which help regulate hormones. "However, excessive sugar and high-glycemic-index carbohydrates can lead to insulin resistance, disrupting ovulation and hormonal balance," she added.

Dr Tabasum said there is a link between body weight and reproductive health. She explained that maintaining a healthy weight through a balanced diet is crucial, as both obesity and being underweight can interfere with ovulation and sperm production.

"Fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins C and E, zinc and selenium can reduce oxidative stress, which may harm sperm and egg cells," she said, adding that iron is vital for ovulation and reducing

the risk of ovulatory infertility, while vitamin D supports reproductive hormone production, with its deficiency potentially leading to infertility.

Dr Tajamul, another gynaecologist, said that lifestyle choices play a critical role in fertility. "Excessive alcohol and caffeine consumption can negatively impact fertility, while trans fats found in processed foods impair insulin sensitivity and ovulation," he said.

For men, Dr Tajamul said a diet rich in antioxidants and zinc are rich in antioxidants and can improve sperm quality. He advised avoiding processed meats and excessive soy products, which can disrupt testosterone levels. "A low-glycemic-index diet can help manage insulin levels and improve ovulation in women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)," he added.

Both doctors stressed the importance of a diet that includes a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and healthy fats. They recommended limiting processed foods, sugary drinks, and trans fats while incorporating fertility-boosting foods into daily meals.

"For better reproductive health and to avoid infertility, people must adopt a nutrient-rich diet and avoid unhealthy eating habits that disrupt the body's natural balance," the doctors said—(KNO)

Prompt Action For Forcing Parents To Purchase Non-Recommended Textbooks: Sakina Itoo

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Following the hue and cry regarding purchase of textbooks other than those prescribed by JKBOSE, the Minister of Education, Sakina Itoo Saturday said that the government will take prompt action against the private schools who are found guilty.

The minister said, "The complaint of the parents will have a prompt action. If any school is found guilty, we will make sure that action is taken on the very next day."

"We have already constituted a zonal and district level committee who will monitor the violations done by the private schools," she said.



About the selling of textbooks by private schools within the institute, the education minister a day before said that the government has constituted a district and zonal level committee. "They have been asked to monitor the violation so that appropriate action is taken against those private schools." In the meantime, the gov-

ernment is mulling to cancel the recognition of those private schools immediately after the complaint if found guilty.

"If any private school is found guilty in sale and purchase of non-recommended textbooks will face the de-recognition very next day," sources said.

Pertinently, Netizens took to different social media platforms to raise their concern regarding sale and purchase of non-recommended textbooks within the educational institutions.

The Netizens have also expressed their concerns regarding the soaring prices of the unnecessary textbooks—(KNO)

As USBRL Nears Completion, Engineers Share Tales Of Ordeal



Agencies

SRINAGAR: With an investment of Rs 30,139 crore, the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is all set to redefine connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of India.

Spanning 272 kilometers through the challenging Himalayan terrain, the project has been in development for several years and is now nearing its much-anticipated completion.

Senior engineers and technical staff associated with USBRL said that the project is recognized as of national importance and will foster economic growth and integration.

"One of the most remarkable feats of this initiative is its traversal through rugged and mountainous landscapes, which posed unique engineering challenges. Despite these obstacles, the project boasts several engineering marvels, including the Chenab Bridge. Towering at 359 meters above the river bed, it holds the distinction of being the world's highest railway bridge," says a senior railway official who has been working with the project for the past three years.

The construction of this rail

link, he said, has not only connected communities but also generated substantial employment opportunities for thousands in the region. "Its impact on the local economy is already being felt. Improved connectivity is expected to attract tourists in greater numbers, offering easier access to the scenic beauty of the Kashmir Valley and boosting the region's tourism industry."

The USBRL project, as per a senior engineer, has incorporated state-of-the-art safety measures, such as earthquake-resistant structures, ensuring the safety and reliability of the railway network. "Environmental considerations have also been a priority, with efforts made to minimize ecological impact and protect the region's natural heritage during construction."

With the final stages of the project underway, regular train services to Srinagar are expected to begin soon. "Once operational, the USBRL will not only facilitate the seamless movement of goods and people but also transform the socio-economic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. The project is a crucial step toward integrating the region more closely with the rest of India."—(KNO)

Son Dies Of Asphyxiation, Mother Hospitalized In Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: A young man died and his mother is in critical condition after they were found unconscious due to inhaling toxic fumes from a charcoal fire used for heating in Guddar village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said on Saturday.

An official said that the deceased, identified as Danish Ahmad Khan, and his mother, Famedda Akhter, residents of Guddar village, were found unconscious on Thursday. They had inhaled toxic fumes emitted from a charcoal fire used for heating.

The duo was rushed to GMC Anantnag and later referred to

SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment. Despite medical attention, Danish succumbed to the effects of asphyxiation on Saturday morning, while his mother remains in critical condition and is undergoing intensive care at the hospital.

This is the second such incident reported in Kulgam district within a week. Earlier, a two-year-old girl lost her life, and three family members were hospitalized at District Hospital Kulgam due to suffocation. In another incident, three people died in Baderwah under similar circumstances.

Singers Rock Winter Carnival In Pahalgam

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Winter Carnival at Pahalgam turned into a mesmerizing musical affair as celebrated folk singers from India and Kashmir valley took the stage, performing a fascinating set of folk and Sufi melodies against the scenic beauty of Kashmir, with its snow-capped mountains.

The crowd witnessed a great energetic performance of the popular "Bumbroo Bumbroo" song by Hanjura. The song did add an electric feel to the whole atmosphere.

It also said Hanjura, Noor Mohammad Sufi singer, Ish-

faq Kawa and others also performed, making the atmosphere electric.

The concert was part of the Kashmir Winter Carnival, which beautifully combined traditional sounds with modern flavor, attracting all the music enthusiasts from the entire region.

Sharing her experience, Hanjura described her excitement for the New Year, "Fantabulous beginning to 2025 with this power-packed concert in Kashmir! We played all folk and Sufi melodious tunes and how magical it sounded!"

Notably, the event, which

was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism, did not only showcase the rich cultural heritage of the region but also gave a platform to local talent. It must be mentioned that during winter, the carnival keeps on attracting tourists to the beautiful town of Pahalgam, which is further boosting tourism and giving a glimpse of the vibrant cultural scene of Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism department also wrote, brilliant performances and absolutely fantastic music! Glimpses from the Pahalgam Winter Carnival 2025 that was held on 02 Jan—(KNO)

NOTICE

It is informed to general public that in my previous passport bearing passport No L5706039 my name and DOB was wrongly entard as Mukhti and DOB as 10-10-1938 instead of Mukhti Begum and DOB instead of 11-06-1951 it is expired now I have applied for the reissue of passport now they needed to be corrected So, in this regard have anybody any objection he/she may file his /her objection at Reginal passport office Srinagar within the period of one week after the publication of this notice after due date no objection will/shall be accepted or entertained.

Name: Mukhti Begum.
W/O: Habib ullah Najar.
R/O: Androosa Khrew Pulwama.

FHO

NOTICE

It is informed to general public that in my previous passport bearing passport No L3239206 my name and DOB was wrongly entard as Hajra Begum and DOB as 10-10-1958 instead of Hajira Banu and DOB instead of 16-01-1961 it is expired. Now I have applied for the reissue of the passport now they needed to be corrected So, in this regard have anybody any objection he/she may file his /her objection at Reginal passport office Srinagar within the period of one week after the publication of this notice after due date no objection will/shall be accepted or entertained.

Name: Hajira Banu.
W/O: Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Najar.
R/O: Androosa Khrew Pulwama.

FHO

NOTICE

It is informed to general public that in my previous passport bearing passport No L5709876 my name and DOB was wrongly entard as Habib ullah Najar and DOB as 10-10-1940 instead of Habib ulha Najar and DOB instead of 16-09-1950 now they are expired and now I have applied for the reissue of passport So, they needed to be corrected So, in this regard have anybody any objection he/she may file his /her objection at Reginal passport office Srinagar within the period of one week after the publication of this notice after due date no objection will/shall be accepted or entertained.

Name: Habib ulha Najar.
S/O: Mohammad Sidiq Najar.
R/O: Androosa Khrew Pulwama.

FHO

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. ANMT SCHOOL ANANTNAG
NEAR POWER RECEIVING STATION AKURA MALTAN ANANTNAG, (192125)
govtantschoolanantnagofficial@gmail.com

ADMISSION NOTICE

Subject: Admission to Left Over seats in Various 10th based (FMPHW) Paramedical Diploma Course at Government ANMT School Anantnag
Ref. No: S.O 333 of 2024 Dated: 13/06/2024 & JKNC-24/157/1256-60 Dated:02/01/2025.
Pursuant to the notification issued by J&K Nursing Council, GMC Jammu/Srinagar vide No: JKNC-24/157/1256-60 Dated:02/01/2025 & with reference to S.O 333 of 2024 Dated: 13/06/2024, applications are invited from eligible/desirous female candidates only for admission to left over seats in the following 10th based (FMPHW) Paramedical Diploma Course at Govt. ANMT School Anantnag:

S No.	Name of the Course	Leftover seats
01.	Female Multipurpose Health Worker (FMPHW)	12

The selection of the candidates to such courses shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by J & K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations and J & K Paramedical Council

Eligibility Criteria

A candidate must:

- Be a domicile of UT J&K only,
- Have passed 10th or equivalent examination from recognized board.

Important Information:

- Attach self attested Photo copies of D.O.B certificate, 10th marks Sheet, domicile certificate, valid Category certificate by competent authority & Two recent Passport size photographs with application form.
- Offline Application forms will be available at establishment section of Govt. ANMT School Akura Anantnag from 04/01/2025.
- The application forms complete in all respects along with requisite documents are to be submitted in the Establishment Section of undersigned.
- Last date for submission of duly filled application forms shall be 10/01/2025 till 4pm.
- Incomplete/deficient forms will be readily rejected.

No:EST/ANMTS/Ang/779-85
Dated: 03/01/2025.

Principal
Govt ANMT School
Anantnag

GOVT. ANMT SCHOOL ANANTNAG

Application Form 10th based (FMPHW) Paramedical Diploma Course

TO BE FILLED BY THE CANDIDATE

Applying for training Course

Name of the Candidate (as per D.O.B certificate):

Parentage (as per D.O.B certificate):

Date of Birth (in Figures)

Age (in years) as on 01-01-2024

Permanent Address:

Gender

Category

Contact NO:

Email Id:

Academic Qualification:

Class	Subjects	Year of Passing	Maximum marks	Marks Obtnd.	Percentage(%)	Board/Institute/University

Dated:

DIPK-10421-24
DT: 04/01/2025

Signature of Candidate

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, WETLANDS DIVISION, KASHMIR SRINAGAR
e-mail: hokersarwetland@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that illegal hunting of migratory birds in and around the wetlands is a serious offense under Section 9 of the Wildlife Protection Act. Strict action will be taken against violators under Sections 50 and 51 of the Act.

Additionally, individuals carrying firearms within a 10-kilometer radius of a Wildlife Sanctuary or National Park are required to register their fire arms with the Department of Wildlife Protection, as mandated by Section 34 of the Wildlife Protection Act.

It has been observed that many offenders claim ignorance of these regulations. Please note that illegal hunting of migratory birds is punishable by:

Imprisonment of up to three years, or fine upto one Rupees one lakh, or Both penalties, depending on the severity of the offense.

By virtue of this notice, the public is strongly advised to refrain from engaging in any form of illegal hunting of migratory birds. Violators will face strict legal action without exception.

The media is requested to widely publicize this notice to ensure maximum awareness among the public about the serious consequences of illegal hunting and the importance of complying with firearms registration requirements.

Let us prove to be great hosts for these migratory wonders and excellent law-abiding citizens.

Issued by:
Sd/-
Wildlife Warden, Wetlands
Department of Wildlife Protection

DIPK-10416-24
DT: 04/01/2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (U.T)
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, ANANTNAG
(Near Head Post Office, Anantnag)
Email Id: diclananantnag@gmail.com Contact No.: 01932-354422

NOTICE

This is to notify that multiple applications have been received online for registration under the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir. However, these applications were found incomplete due to non submission of requisite documents, required clarifications for unresolved queries etc. The applicants have been repeatedly advised to address these deficiencies and complete the requisite formalities. Despite several reminders, the applicants have failed to complete the requisite formalities/ documentation. By medium of this notice, the Promoters of below mentioned units are hereby directed to resubmit their complete applications along with all requisite documents within seven (5) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing, your applications will be recommended for rejection.

S.NO	Reference No.	Unit Name	S.NO	Reference No.	Unit Name
1	JKNIS/2024/01080	The White Rose	19	JKNIS/2024/00420	M/S Basit Engineering works
2	JKNIS/2024/00956	Hotel The River Resort	20	JKNIS/2024/00416	Imtiyaz Enterprises
3	JKNIS/2024/00415	Global Enterprises	21	JKNIS/2024/00445	Dreams Interiors
4	JKNIS/2024/00886	Adnan Steel Industries	22	JKNIS/2024/00444	Malik Soaf and Detergent
5	JKNIS/2024/00981	M/S Jan Digital Printing Press	23	JKNIS/2024/00261	Ayat Scrap Industries
6	JKNIS/2024/00929	Kahkashan Estates Private Limited	24	JKNIS/2024/00283	Mumtaz Biodegradables
7	JKNIS/2024/01086	M/S Sinthan Resorts	25	JKNIS/2024/00170	Mir Oil Mills
8	JKNIS/2024/01085	M/S Namrose Golf View Resorts	26	JKNIS/2024/00941	Kolahai Resorts
9	JKNIS/2024/01060	Maa Hospitality	27	JKNIS/2024/00418	Rumsa Joinery And Furniture
10	JKNIS/2024/00896	M/S Sigma Scan Imaging and Diagnostic Centre	28	JKNIS/2024/00898	Wanis Nursing Home
11	JKNIS/2024/00900	M/S Peerzada Imaging	29	JKNIS/2024/00904	M/S Prime Valley Hospitality LLP
12	JKNIS/2023/00068	Kashmir Walnuts	30	JKNIS/2024/00893	Dar Enterprises
13	JKNIS/2024/00829	Habiz Bottling Industries	31	JKNIS/2024/00872	R K Agrovet
14	JKNIS/2024/00989	Hotel The Elegancia By Arjumand	32	JKNIS/2024/00417	Anzar Fruit And Nut Company
15	JKNIS/2024/00259	SB Enterprises	33	JKNIS/2024/00846	M/S GOUSIA ELECTRICAL
16	JKNIS/2024/00257	A R Engineering Works	34	JKNIS/2024/00830	M/S SANKAR ENTERPRISES
17	JKNIS/2024/00442	ShehjarMultispeciality Hospital	35	JKNIS/2024/00836	M ITOO ENTERPRISES
18	JKNIS/2024/00256	Bin Rashid Industries			

Note: For further assistance or queries, applicants may contact to the office of the General Manager, DIC Anantnag, during official working hours.

DIPK-10500-24
DT: 04/01/2025

Sd/-
General Manager
DIC, Anantnag

If Bumrah Is Not Fit Then 200 Also Might Not Be Enough, Says Gavaskar

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Batting great Sunil Gavaskar feels India will struggle to defend even 200 in case premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah is unable to bowl at full throttle on the third day of the fifth and final Test against Australia here on Sunday.

Bumrah had left the field for scans during the second day's post-lunch session after bowling just one over, having experienced some discomfort. However, he returned to the dressing room after undergoing precautionary scans for an unspecified niggle.

India pacer Prasidh Krishna said his skipper had suffered back spasm.

The medical team was monitoring him as India ended the day 145 runs in front with four second innings wickets left on a SCG track which is aiding the bowlers.

"Look, if India scores 40 more runs or they put 185 on the board then they have a great chance but it all depends



on Jasprit Bumrah's fitness. If Jasprit Bumrah is fit then 145-150 might be enough. But if Bumrah is not fit then a score of around 200 also might not be enough," said Gavaskar on

Star Sports on Saturday. Gavaskar also said maintaining secrecy around Bumrah's status is not going to help the Australians, who have so far struggled to counter the threat posed by

shape and his body language was such that there was no indication of the Australian team and it is very important to maintain the secrecy.

"Because, tactically you do not want to announce whether Bumrah will be available for bowling or not, and even if he is not available and this news goes across the opposition dressing room because till now Australian batsmen haven't found out a way to counter him, they don't know whether they should attack, defend, or whether they should play on front-foot.

"So to execute this plan it is important to maintain secrecy, so Bumrah and the Indian team management managed it quite well," Gavaskar said.

The pacer has already taken 32 wickets in the series, and had figures of 2/33 in 10 overs before leaving the field, having removed Marnus Labuschagne in the morning session and Usman Khawaja on the last ball of the first evening.

Short TAKES

India 141-6 At Stumps, Lead Australia By 145 Runs

Rishabh Pant smashed a whirlwind 32-ball 61 as India reached 141 for six at stumps after dismissing Australia for 181 on the second day of the final Test here on Saturday.

Ravindra Jadeja (8) and Washington Sundar (6) were at the crease with India leading by 145 runs.

Pant hit the second-fastest fifty for India in Test cricket, reaching the landmark off just 29 balls as the visitors opted for an attacking strategy in their second innings.

Earlier, India dominated the post-lunch session with Mohammed Siraj (3/51), Prasidh Krishna (3/42), and Nitish Reddy (2/32) stepping up in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah (2/33), who had left the field for scans due to an unspecified injury, to dismiss Australia for 181.

For Australia, Beau Webster (57) scored a half-century on debut, adding a quick 57 with Steve Smith (33) but once he was dismissed, India swiftly dismantled the tail.

Resuming the day at 9/1, Australia lost Marnus Labuschagne (2) early. Siraj then removed Sam Konstas (23) and Travis Head (4) in one over.

Brief Score:

India 1st innings: 185 all out
Australia 1st innings: 181 all out in 51 overs (Beau Webster 57, Steve Smith 33; Prasidh Krishna 3/42, Mohammed Siraj 3/51, Nitish Reddy 2/32).

India 2nd innings: 141 for six in 32 overs (Rishabh Pant 61, Scott Boland 4/42).

Pakistan Opener Saim Ayub Ruled Out For Six Weeks

Pakistan's young all-format opener, Saim Ayub could miss next month's ICC Champions Trophy after being ruled out of competitive cricket for six weeks because of an ankle injury that he sustained during the ongoing second Test against South Africa.

He will take no further part in the Test against the Proteas at Cape Town.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said on Saturday that MRIs and other tests were carried out on him and the doctors have advised Saim six weeks rest.

Saim had hurt his ankle while fielding on the boundary on the first day of the second Test against South Africa on Friday.

Saim's fractured ankle has been put in an Ankle Medical Moon Boot as part of his rehabilitation process.

Hence, He is also certain to miss the two-Test series at home against the West Indies later this month and also the tri-series with South Africa and New Zealand in February before the Champions Trophy, starting across Pakistan and Dubai from February 19.

Saim could be replaced by discarded opener Imam-ul-Haq for the Tests and Fakhar Zaman for the ODIs.

LaLiga Again Denies Barcelona's Request To Register Olmo

The Spanish league and Spain's soccer federation on Saturday again denied Barcelona's request to register Dani Olmo and Pau Victor for the rest of the season.

The players were only registered through the end of 2024 and Barcelona failed to meet the league's financial fair-play rules by the end-of-the-year deadline.

The league and the federation said in a joint statement that even though Barcelona eventually was able to meet the salary-cap rules, the players can't be registered again after already having been dropped because of the missed deadline.

Coach Hansi Flick said Friday he was "not happy" with the situation but had expressed confidence in the club to have the players registered. He spoke ahead of the team's Copa del Rey match against fourth-division club Barbastro on Saturday.

Srinagar's Minha Ayaz Breaks Chess Records With Incredible Feats

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chess prodigy Minha Ayaz was the only female chess player to represent J&K at the National Chess Championship. The 17-year-old from Khanjar area of Srinagar has already displayed her skills and talent at national and state level.

She has won three state-level gold medals, six inter-district golds and three district-level gold medals. Minha, daughter of Ayaz Ahmad Wani, has also represented J&K at the national level twice, making her the only female chess player from Kashmir to achieve this feat.

Her performance at the National Chess Championship in Kolkata earned her widespread recognition after she won several matches.



Rickelton Double Ton Takes SA To 429-5 v Pakistan

Agencies

CAPE TOWN: Ryan Rickelton smashed his maiden double hundred and Kyle Verreynne made an aggressive half-century as World Test Championship finalist South Africa cruised to 429-5 on Day 2 of the second and final test against Pakistan on Saturday.

At lunch, Rickelton was unbeaten on 213 and Verreynne smacked eight fours and four sixes in his 74 not out off 88 balls as they guided South Africa to a strong first innings total by sharing 106-run sixth-wicket unbroken stand.

Mohammad Abbas (2-70) got the sole wicket of the session when David Bedingham edged the seamer in Pakistan's fourth over of the morning with the second new ball, giving wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan his fifth catch of the innings.

Pakistan twice went for unsuccessful lbw television reviews against Verreynne, who was not only aggressive against the pace but also didn't allow Salman Ali Agha (2-77) to settle down by reverse sweeping the off-spinner.

Rickelton, resuming on 176, quietly reached his double century off 265 balls when he tapped left-arm fast bowler Mir Hamza in the covers for a single. Rickelton celebrated his highest first-class score by raising his both arms to acknowledge the ap-



plause of his teammates. Rickelton's authoritative 295-ball knock is laced with 25 fours and a six.

Rickelton had laid a solid foundation of a strong South Africa total after he shared 235-run stand with captain Temba Bavuma, who scored 106, and had anchored the home team to 316-4 on Day 1.

Pakistan's four-pronged seam attack has lacked pace to trouble South Africa batters on dry wicket after visitors rested key fast bowler Naseem Shah for the second test.

Verreynne came down hard on Aamer Jamal just before lunch when he pulled the fast bowler for two successive sixes over square leg and then played an exquisite straight drive off the next ball for a boundary.

South Africa had sealed its place in this June's WTC final at Lord's with a tense two-wicket win over Pakistan in the first test at Centurion.

Devajit Saikia Set To Take Over As BCCI Secretary

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Devajit Saikia on Saturday filed his nomination for the post of the BCCI secretary whereas Prabhjot Bhatia applied for the post of the treasurer, with both officials being the only applicants for the two roles.

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh's Bhatia has applied

for the treasurer's position after the post was left vacant by the exit of Ashish Shelar, who recently took oath as a cabinet minister in the Maharashtra government.

On the other hand, Saikia has been working as the interim secretary of the Indian cricket board since Jay Shah took over as the ICC chairman on December 1.

Saikia was nominated as the interim secretary by the BCCI president Roger Bonny after Shah had left the role.

As per the election schedule on the board's website, the window to file the nomination application was open till 4:00pm on Saturday afternoon and according to sources, only Saikia and Bhatia have put forth their nominations.

KASHMIR'S HARASSED HUSBANDS

SCAN TO WATCH THIS ON KASHMIR OBSERVER