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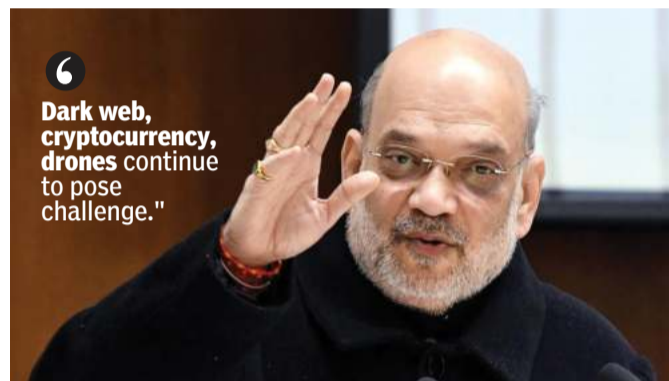
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**BOOK APPOINTMENT**

## Drugs Worth Rs 16,914 Cr Seized In 2024: HM

Calls For Ruthless War Against Drug Trafficking



Dark web, cryptocurrency, drones continue to pose challenge."

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that seven percent people in India use drugs illegally, he said the fight against drugs has gained a new strength under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

"In the last 10 years, there has been a seven-fold increase in the seizure of drugs, which is a major achievement. The Modi government has given a strong message of destroying the entire

ecosystem of drugs through strict action," he said.

The home minister said that in 2024, by seizing drugs worth Rs 16,914 crore, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and police across the country took the biggest action against drugs, which is a significant step in making a drug-free society.

"No country can move forward on the path of development with a young generation suffering from drug addiction. It is our responsibility that we all fight this | More on P6

## J&K Determined To Wipe-out Drug Syndicate: LG

Jammu and Kashmir is determined to completely dismantle drug syndicate and narco-terror nexus, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday. Participating virtually from Jammu in the regional conference on 'Drug trafficking and national security' chaired by home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, Sinha said in 2024 significant improvements were recorded | More on P6

## Minimum Temperatures Rise Across Kashmir Weather To Remain Mostly Dry Till Jan 18: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minimum temperatures rose across Kashmir due to cloud cover but remained below the freezing point, officials said on Saturday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 3.6 degrees Celsius on Friday night, up from the previous night's minus 4.3 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said.

North Kashmir's tourist resort of Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 8.1

degrees Celsius, it said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 7.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 10 degrees Celsius the night before.

Pahalgam was the coldest place in the valley.

The minimum temperature was minus 6.5 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 4.8 degrees Celsius in Konibal in Pampore town, minus 4.4 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and minus 4.7 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

After days of bright sunshine, overcast conditions prevailed in the valley on Saturday morning. The weather in | More on P6

## Z-Morh Tunnel Inauguration Eagerly Awaiting My Visit To Sonmarg: PM Modi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, said that he has been "eagerly awaiting" his visit to Sonmarg to inaugurate the Z-morh tunnel next week.

He was reacting to the post of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who had visited the site to review preparations ahead of the PM's visit. Prime Minister Modi also lauded CM Abdullah for pointing out benefits of the project for tourism and the local economy

"Visited Sonmarg today to review preparations for PM @narendramodi ji's visit on Monday. The inauguration of the Z-morh tunnel will open Sonmarg to tourism all year round. Sonmarg will now be developed as a great ski resort. The local population will not have to leave in winter, and the travel time to Kargil/Leh from Srinagar will also reduce," the J&K CM posted on X.



Reacting to his post, PM Modi said, "I am eagerly awaiting my visit to Sonmarg, Jammu and Kashmir for the tunnel inauguration. You rightly point out the benefits for tourism and the local economy. Also, loved the aerial pictures and videos!"

Two significant projects in Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled to be inaugurated in the beginning of 2025.

On Monday, January 13, PM Modi will officially open the vital Z Morh Tunnel. The rail connectivity project, which would connect Kashmir to the rest of the nation for the

first time ever, is also scheduled for later this month.

The Z-Morh tunnel will guarantee year-round connection between Kashmir and Sonamarg when it opens to the public on January 13. The construction of the 6.5-kilometre tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh highway in the Ganderbal district's Gagangir sector is worth Rs 24 billion.

The road to Sonamarg was rendered impassable during snowfall and severe winters due to the construction of the Z-morh tunnel in an avalanche-prone location. Because | More on P6

## Preparations Underway, 250 Buses Mobilized

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Sonamarg on January 13, the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has undertaken extensive logistical preparations. The corporation | More on P6

## Govt Offices In Ganderbal To Remain Open Today

In a bid to improve coordination and enhance information sharing among government departments, all offices within the jurisdiction of Ganderbal district will remain open on Sunday, January 12, 2025. | More on P6

## CM Omar Abdullah Visits Z-Morh, Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of the formal inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday conducted an extensive review of arrangements at the project site in Sonamarg, Ganderbal district.

Accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, the Chief Minister was briefed by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on the comprehensive preparations for the inauguration of the strategic 6.4 km tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh Highway.

The Chief Minister inspected the tunnel tubes and interacted with the engineers and workers involved in the construction of the project,



expressing his appreciation for their efforts in completing this vital infrastructure.

Sharing his thoughts on the social media platform X, Abdullah wrote, "Visited Sonmarg today to review preparations for PM Narendra Modi Ji's visit on Monday. The inauguration of the Z-Morh tunnel will open Sonmarg

to tourism all year round. Sonmarg will now be developed as a great ski resort. The local population will not have to leave in winter & the travel time to Kargil/Leh from Srinagar will also reduce."

He also visited the venue where Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to address a public gathering | More on P6

## Orientation To Help Understand House Rules: Rather

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather on Saturday urged legislators to participate in the house proceedings with complete understanding of the rules and procedures.

It is a vigilant legislature that can hold the executive accountable for its duties and responsibilities, he said.

Rather was addressing the valedictory session of the three day orientation program, jointly organised by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), Lok Sabha Secretariat and the legislative assembly from January 9, for newly elected MLAs at the assembly complex here.

The Speaker extended his gratitude to all members, especially the newly elected ones, for their active participation and for patiently listening to



the resource persons.

"This orientation program will help the newly elected members deeply understand the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House," he said.

Rather emphasised that newly elected members should behave in a dignified manner and follow parliamentary democracy in true letter and spirit.

He hoped that the newly elected members had benefited from the | More on P6

'70% of Population, 30% of Opportunities'

## J&K OM Students Take Reservation Protest Door-to-Door

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a dramatic turn of events, unreserved open merit students in Jammu & Kashmir have launched a door-to-door poster campaign to demand justice and equality in the wake of recent changes to the reservation policy. Posters have been pasted on public places, trees, and even cars, with images and messages shared widely on the social media platform X.

Dr. Saquib Jan, a vocal supporter of the movement, posted on X: "Unreserved open merit students have woken up—A door-to-door campaign, seeking justice and equality. It is



now imperative for the government to heed the voices of this significant majority, a politically orphaned section of society that constitutes more than 70% of the population."

One of the posters reads, "We call for a rational and equitable revision of this reservation system now..! To alleviate the struggles and sacrifices of these countless deserving individuals whose dreams and aspirations have been shattered...! Open Merit In J&K: Struggling for Justice! Fighting for Equality! 70% Of The Population But Only 30% Of Education And Job Opportunities? Is This Fair?"

"We Demand Rationalisation Now! No More Injustice. No More Silence. Together, We Will Ensure Equality And Fairness."

The movement has gained traction on social media, with many users | More on P6

## After A Decade, Budgam Still Waits For MANUU Campus

Aafaq Hussain

Budgam: The dream of a full-fledged Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) campus in Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir, remains elusive a decade after its foundation stone was laid by then-Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in 2013. Despite initial promises and a lack of land-related issues, the project has been plagued by delays, leaving students and locals disappointed.

The university currently operates out of a rented building in Humhama, offering courses in Urdu, English, Islamic studies, computer science, and engineering. While these programs have benefited some

students, the lack of a permanent campus has significantly limited access to higher education for many in the region.

Reports attribute the delay to a confluence of factors, including bureaucratic hurdles and financial constraints.

"We're functioning from a rented building in humhama and construction will start in April," an official said.

However, locals remain skeptical. "We are not having any issue related to land with the authority of the campus. Now it has been more than 11 years, and we have seen no work there," a local resident said.

"Only a boundary wall has been constructed, and we are not sure if any | More on P6

## MHA Appoints IFA In J&K's Home Deptt

Delegates Several Significant Powers

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a significant decision, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has appointed an Internal Financial Advisor in the Home Department of Jammu and Kashmir and delegated several financial powers including budget coordination and management, expenditure planning and monitoring and evaluation of projects and schemes.

Following the posting, the Home Department of Jammu and Kashmir has come out with a detailed set of guidelines explaining powers of the IFA and directing the Heads of Department (HoDs) falling

under administration control of the Home Department to strictly comply with them.

"All exercises of delegated financial powers must be carried out in consultations with the IFA, in consonance with the orders of delegation of financial powers issued by the MHA in favour of HoDs of the Home Department. The HoDs will submit budget proposals to the Home Department, J&K, which in turn shall be referred to the IFA for consultation/concurrence before submission to the MHA, with IFA having the Central coordination role," officials told the Excelsior.

They said the | More on P6



To place an advertisement

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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Aasim Bhat S/o Lateef Ahmad Bhat R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 18-06-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Adiel Beigh S/o Javed Ahmad Beigh R/o Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 24-07-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM

Application of Mohd Amin teli s/o Mohd Ashan Teli, Towfeeq Amin, Abid Amin, Masooda Amin, Humaira Amin S/D/o Mohd Amin teli R/o Chandraseer for obtaining OBC certificate in favour of self.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above applicant's OBC certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicant, s are residing in village Chandraseer and belongs to Teli caste. The monthly income of applicant family is 60085 rupees. The family members are as under.

- 1 Mohd Amin teli s/o Mohd Ashan Teli 47y Govt employ
2 Rafiq Begum w/o Mohd Amin teli 47y H/work
3 Masooda Amin D/o Mohd Amin teli 23y student
4 Humaira Amin d/o Mohd Amin teli 21y student
5 Towfeeq Amin s/o Mohd Amin teli 18y Student
6 Abid Amin s/o Mohd Amin teli 16y student
7 Farzi Begum w/o Mohd Ashan Teli 80y old aged

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD
Naib the Tilgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Bashir Ahmad Sofi S/O Ali Mohammad Sofi R/O Diveryakhmanpora tehsil singhpora Distt Baramulla deglare on oath as under that my date of birth is as per election card 16/07/1964 and aa per medical report my age is 60 years as on dated 24/12/2024 and now I want to obtain DOB. From BDO office singhpora if any body have objection he/she may contact to tehsil office within seven days and no objection will be accepted after seven days.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Death Certificate of my Father, Ghulam Rasool Kumar who died on 30-07-2002. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the BDO Wagoora Or Tehsil Office Wagoora within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ali Mohamad Kumar
S/o Ghulam Rasool Kumar
R/o Bandy Payeen Tehsil Wagoora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shiekh Zeeshan Ahmad, son of Shiekh Fayaz Ahmad, resident of TAWHEED ABAD, NOWHSERA SOURA, Srinagar, declare that my name was incorrectly recorded as Sheikh Zeeshan Ahmad on my Driving Licence. My correct name is Shiekh Zeeshan Ahmad, as per Aadhaar Card.

Objections, if any, may be raised within 7 days of this notice.

MFS

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that I, Qysar Rahman Lone, son of Ab. Rahman Lone, have noticed a spelling discrepancy in my name recorded in my official documents. In my Service Book, my name is recorded as: Qysar Rehman Lone, S/O Ab. Rehman Lone. While as in School Documents, my name is recorded as: Qysar Rahman Lone, S/O Ab. Rahman Lone.

I intend to update my Service Book to match the name recorded in my School Documents: Qysar Rahman Lone, S/O Ab. Rahman Lone.

jm

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Ganderbal (J&K) -191201 Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

ADMISSIONS - 2025

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR ANNOUNCES
ADMISSION TO POST-GRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to various Post-graduate programmes through Common University Entrance Test CUET (PG) - 2025 to be conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA). The eligibility/paper code(s) and other details for admission to PG programmes are available on our website: www.cukashmir.ac.in. The University is offering admission to the below mentioned PG programmes:-

Table with 2 columns: S.No, Name of the programme, S.No, Name of the programme. Lists various PG programs like M.Tech CS&E, M.A. English, M.A. Urdu, etc.

Activity Schedule for CUET (PG)-2025:

Table with 2 columns: Activity, Date/Time. Lists activities like Online Submission of Application Form, Last date of successful transaction of fee, etc.

Note: The Candidates are advised to select the course/s of their choice and corresponding course codes/s and test paper code/s carefully before submitting the application form. The University shall not be responsible for any error made by the candidates/s at the time of form submission.

In case any candidate faces difficulty in applying for CUET (PG)-2025, he/she may contact 011-407590000/011-69227700 or e-mail at helpdesk-cuetpg@nta.ac.in. The candidates are also advised to be in touch with the NTA website(s) www.nta.ac.in and https://exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-PG/ for the latest updates regarding exam. Further, for any assistance at University level, please call at 9469147277 - 7889593153 Office hours (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Rural Development
Department & Panchayati Raj
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B Division Tangdar

2nd Fresh E-TENDER NOTICE NO: 100 Endt No: 4656-65 OF 2024-25 DATED: 11.01.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt., CPWD, Railway and other U.T./Central Government works for the following works:-

Table with 7 columns: S. No, Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs), Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees), Earnest Money (In Rupees) @2% of the Adv. Cost, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor. Lists 6 construction works.

Position of AAA = Accorded.
Position of TS = Accorded.
The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Table with 3 columns: S.No., Particulars, Dated. Lists dates for tender notice, bidding documents, bid submission, etc.

- 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E Challan /Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar MH 0059-(tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR, APS in case of unbalanced bid pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar (Tender receiving authority). The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the defect liability period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.)

DIPK-10759/24 Dated: 11-01-2025
CC DM AAO TO Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN PATTAN

Subject:- Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in Anganwadi Center of POSHAN Project Pattan.

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

Applications on prescribed format annexed as (Annexure-A) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Worker) for the Anganwadi Centers of POSHAN Project Pattan on "Honorarium basis" as admissible under rules. The application along with required documents should reach to the office of Child Development Project Officer Pattan within 15 working days from the date of publication of the said notice upto 4:30 P.M. against proper receipt. The application forms shall be available free of cost at Project Headquarter Pattan.

02 Posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)

Table with 4 columns: S.No., Name of District, Name of the Poshan Project, Name of the Panchayat Halqa, Details of Vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers). Lists 2 posts in Baramulla and Pattan.

Criteria for selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers).

- 1) The candidate must be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
2) Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible. (Age calculated as on 1st January 2025).
3) The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AWC is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in voter list along with her parents, then she must be provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Wherever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.

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

- 1. Panch ward certificate issued by BDO concerned, as per format annexed with the application form.
2. Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
3. Date of Birth Certificate.
4. Academic Qualification Certificate. (10+2)
5. Self-addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs. 5/=
6. Unmarried certificate by concerned Tehsildar wherever required.
7. Panchayat/ Municipality VOTER list of the Panchayat/ Municipal Ward applied for.
8. Affidavit/undertaking as per format annexed with the application form.

NOTE:- NAME OF THE CANDIDATE MUST BE PRESENT IN THE PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPAL VOTER LIST, AND THE CANDIDATE MUST SUBMIT IT ALONGWITH OTHER REQUISITE DOCUMENTS. IN CASE OF DISPUTE WITH REGARDS TO THE RESIDENCE OF A CANDIDATE, SHE MUST PROVIDE A RESIDENCE PROOF CERTIFYING THE WARD DULY ATTESTED BY CONCERNED ACR/SDM. ONLY FORMS COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS WITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS SHALL BE ACCEPTED. FORMS INCOMPLETE IN ANY RESPECT SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

No:- CDPO/PTN/Estt/2023-24/ 906-12
Dated:- 11-01-2025
sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Pattan

ANNEXURE "A" ;
Application Form
Application form for the post of / Sanginis (Anganwadi Worker)
ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO:- \_\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 Name of the Poshan Project
2 Name of the Anganwadi Centre
3 Name of the Post applied for
4 Name of the Candidate
5 Father's Name
6 Husband's Name (if married)
7 Permanent Residence
8 Name of Panchayat Halqa
9 Name & Number of Panch Ward
10 Address for Correspondence
11 Contact / Mobile Number
12 Date of Birth
13 Age as on 01-01-2024

Table with 7 columns: S.No, Examination Passed, Board/University, Year of Passing, Marks Obtained, Total Marks, Percentage.

- 15. Does the Candidate belong to the Retiring AWW/AWH (Yes/No)\_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, Attach necessary proof.)
16.Details of Documents Attached ;
a. \_\_\_\_\_
b. \_\_\_\_\_
c. \_\_\_\_\_
d. \_\_\_\_\_
e. \_\_\_\_\_
Any other \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of the Candidate
Date:- \_\_\_\_\_

ANNEXURE "A" ; Format for Panch Ward Certificate
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
This is to certify that the candidate namely \_\_\_\_\_
D/O, W/O, \_\_\_\_\_ R/O, \_\_\_\_\_ is residing in Panch ward \_\_\_\_\_ of Panchayat Halqa \_\_\_\_\_,
It is further certified that her name is enlisted in Electoral /Voter list of the panch ward at Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_,
No: \_\_\_\_\_
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Seal & Signature of BDO concerned.

ANNEXURE "A" ; Affidavit
I \_\_\_\_\_ D/O, W/O, \_\_\_\_\_
R/O, \_\_\_\_\_ Aadhar No. \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby undertake as under ;
1. That all documents submitted are correct without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the engagement shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and also I shall be liable for any action under law.
2. That, if at any later stage, it is found that I am in possession of lower/higher than the prescribed qualification; my engagement shall be liable for cancellation as AWW/AWH. The onus of proving it to be true lies with the undersigned/deponent.
3. That I have gone through the H.R. Policy No. 222 - JK (SWD) of 2023, dated. 30-11-2022, and am well versed with all features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent, in case of selection as Anganwadi Worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

Verification
The averments mentioned herein above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.
DIPK-10768/24
dated: 11-01-2025
Deponent

## Thousands Of Cases Pending At Labour Court

### Agencies

Srinagar: Thousands of people in Srinagar City have been suffering as the cases they filed at the Labour Court in Batamloo, Srinagar, have been delayed for a long time.

A couple of people said the process of justice is being delayed as the cases are being moved from day to day and continuously rescheduled.

Sources in the Labour Court Batamloo said that the delay is being attributed to the overload and burden of work on the "regional deputy labour commissioner," who currently holds multiple additional responsibilities and charges.

They said the cases have been delayed for more than three months, and while people are not angry, the department is helpless as the Labour Commissioner couldn't manage such a load.

A local from Srinagar said he has been waiting

for justice for the last three to four months. "My case has been pending for many months, and every time I visit the court, I am told to come back later. This delay is affecting my family's livelihood," he said.

Another lady, wishing not to be named, said she has another case registered at the court, and that is also being delayed. "I have been visiting the court for the last four months, and I am continuously being asked to come next time," she said, adding that she had hoped the Labour Court would provide relief, but the never-ending delays are breaking her spirit.

When contacted, Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, J&K, said that the delay is attributed to the heavy workload, and the matter has already been taken up with JKGAD. "I will ensure that the delayed cases are resolved soon," he said—(KNO)



## Neonatal Mortality Rate At LD Hospital Below National Average

### Agencies

Srinagar: The neonatal mortality rate (NMR) at Lal Ded Hospital, an associated hospital of GMC Srinagar, is impressively lower than the national average.

An official at LD Hospital informed that the NMR for 2024 stands at 9.9 per 1,000 live births, a figure substantially lower than the current national average of 17-21 per 1,000 live births.

Acknowledging that the NMR at LD Hospital cannot be used as a comprehensive index for neonatal mortality in society, the official said the rate has not increased. Instead, it has been effectively managed through advanced treatment methods, showcasing the hospital's commitment to high-quality care.

In 2024, LD Hospital catered to a total of 221,163 outpatients (OPD), had 37,908 inpatient (IPD) admissions, and recorded 29,939

live births. There were 3,107 neonatal IPD admissions, with 297 neonatal deaths, resulting in an NMR of 9.9 per 1,000. The Millennium Development Goal aims to reduce the neonatal mortality rate to 12 per 1,000 live births.

"This remarkable achievement highlights the effectiveness of the advanced healthcare systems in place at the valley's only tertiary maternity care hospital," the official said, adding that the state-of-the-art medical infrastructure and skilled professionals at LD Hospital have been instrumental in achieving these positive outcomes.

It is important to note that the hospital also receives referrals for patients needing termination of pregnancies due to various maternal or fetal health concerns, which can contribute to both neonatal admissions and mortality. Nonetheless, the consistently low NMR underscores the effectiveness of the hospital's healthcare delivery.

Various measures have been implemented within the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to further reduce neonatal mortality. These measures include round-the-clock availability of doctors and paramedics, high-end medical equipment such as ventilators, CPAP machines, and warmers, as well as the provision of life-saving medications, like surfactants.

According to the officials, the hospital maintains a reliable oxygen supply, supported by an oxygen plant that ensures adequate pressure for all necessary ventilators and CPAP machines.

With 710 beds, the official said, LD Hospital serves not only the Kashmir Valley but also neighbouring districts such as Ramban, Doda, Rajouri and Kishtwar, as well as the Union Territory of Ladakh. "Its comprehensive approach to healthcare has established it as a vital resource for improving neonatal health across the region," he added—(KNO)

## Fire Breaks Out In Sonwar

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fire broke out at Palpoora, Sonwar area of Srinagar on Saturday evening, officials said.

An official said that a blaze broke out in Sonwar, Srinagar, this evening, in-

volving a residential house.

He said the Fire and Emergency department is on the scene and working to extinguish the flames. "The attic portion of a three-storeyed residential house is involved in the fire, and more details are awaited," he said.

## JKRTC Faces Heavy Losses As City Bus Ban Drags On

### Agencies

Srinagar: A ban on Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) buses entering Srinagar since November last year has disrupted public transportation and caused significant financial strain on the corporation. The daily losses, estimated at Rs 3 lakh, are compounded by the inconvenience faced by over 18,000 commuters relying on these buses across ten districts of the Valley.

The restriction was initially imposed to reduce congestion during the assembly session but remains in effect long after the session's con-

clusion. JKRTC officials expressed frustration at the ban, highlighting the corporation's dwindling daily revenue, which has dropped from Rs 8 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. "This was meant to be temporary, but it's now hurting both commuters and our operations," a senior JKRTC official told the news agency Kashmir News Trust.

A traffic police official, citing a High Court directive, defended the restrictions, explaining that the ban aligns with legal orders. However, public discontent continues to grow, with commuters questioning why private operators continue to operate freely within the city. [KNT]

## First Shelter Home Launched For Beggars In City

### Agencies

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin, discussed the city's efforts to address social challenges, urbanization, and infrastructure development.

He highlighted the administration's commitment to creating a welfare-driven city and shared key updates on initiatives such as the rehabilitation of beggars, traffic management, and preparations for national events.

Dr. Mohiuddin announced the launch of Srinagar's first shelter home for beggars in the Hawal area, established under the Smile Scheme by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Managed by the

NGO "Prayas," the shelter accommodates 50 people and offers food, basic living facilities, and rehabilitation services. The initiative includes skill training in trades such as tailoring, batik work, and bulb making, with special child care homes and schools for children involved in begging.

He elaborated on the historical context of the 1960 J&K Provincial Beggary Act, which criminalized begging but was later struck down by the High Court. The administration has since shifted focus from punitive measures to addressing the root causes of begging, aiming to empower marginalized individuals through education and livelihood opportunities.

## Srinagar Takes Lead In Implementation Of SMILE Scheme

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: With an aim to rehabilitate and facilitate beggars to join mainstream to live a dignified life under SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme in District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday visited newly established Rehabilitation Home for persons engaged in the act of Begging here at Hawal.

Notably, Srinagar has become the first District in Jammu and Kashmir to implement the SMILE scheme launched by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2022, to rehabilitate and reintegrate beggars into society.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning



Notably, Srinagar has become the first District in Jammu and Kashmir to implement the SMILE scheme launched by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2022, to rehabilitate and reintegrate beggars into society.

Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Eidgah, NGO members and other concerned.

On the occasion, the DC took a detailed round of the Rehabilitation Home and inspected the facilities and rehabilitation measures for the persons engaged in the act of Begging.

While interacting with the Officers and staff of the Rehabilitation Centre, the DC said that the initiative has been taken to address the issue of begging in the District under SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme.

The DC added that the SMILE scheme will provide beggars with vocational training and livelihood opportunities, aiming to empower them to become self-sufficient. He emphasized a holistic approach, focusing on social reintegration and the well-being of marginalized individuals.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

### RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
11 Rajab  
1446

### PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 08
ZUHR	12:39
ASR	4: 04
Magrib	5:45
ISHA	7: 10

## This Day In History

- 475 - Basiliscus becomes Byzantine Emperor, with a coronation ceremony in the Hebdomon palace in Constantinople.
- 1528 - Gustav I of Sweden "father of the nation" crowned King of Sweden. Rules 37 years.
- 1552 - Dutch west coast hit by heavy storm, 100s killed.
- 1806 - French evacuate Vienna.
- 1816 - France decrees Bonaparte family excluded from the country forever.
- 1836 - Battle of Wetumka, Fla.
- 1915 - US House of Representatives rejects proposal to give women right to vote.
- 1916 - Britain proclaims Gilbert & Ellice Islands as a colony in Pacific.
- 1940 - World War II: Soviets bombs cities in Finland.
- 1942 - National War Labor Board created
- 1944 - Churchill & de Gaulle begin a 2-day wartime conference in Marrakesh.
- 1945 - German forces in Belgium retreat in Battle of Bulge.
- 1945 - The Soviets begin a large offensive against the Nazis in Eastern Europe.
- 1948 - Mahatma Gandhi begins his final fast.
- 1950 - USSR re-introduces death penalty for treason, espionage & sabotage.
- 1959 - Rediscovery of the Caves of Nerja in Spain
- 1961 - UN genocide pact goes into effect.
- 1962 - Operation Chopper begins, America's first combat mission in the Vietnam War.
- 1970 - Biafran War ends, Biafra surrenders to Nigeria.
- 1970 - Boeing 747 makes its maiden voyage.
- 1971 - Negotiations over price of petroleum begin in Tehran between 6 OPEC Persian Gulf states and 22 oil companies.
- 1974 - Libya & Tunisia announces they are merging as "Islamic Arab Republic".
- 1976 - UN Security Council votes 11-1 to seat Palestine Liberation Organisation.
- 1977 - Anti-French demonstrations takes place in Israel after Paris released Abu Daoud, responsible 1972 -Munich massacre of Israeli athletes.
- 1986 - 24th space shuttle (61-C) mission-Columbia 7-launched.
- 1990 -Romania bans Communist party (1st Warsaw Pact member to do so).
- 1991 - US Congress gives George H. W. Bush authority to wage war against Iraq.
- 1992-Algeria's general elections canceled after strong gains by Islamic Salvation Front in the 1st round.
- 1992- A new constitution, providing for freedom to form political parties, is approved by a referendum in Mali.

## From KO Archives

## Mobile Phones In JK soon

### Observer News Service

**S**SRINAGAR: The Centre has agreed in principle to extend the mobile telephone service to Jammu and Kashmir. Announcing this at the inauguration of the state's first Software Technology Park (STP) here today, the Union Minister for Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan, dismissed the idea that security of the state would be adversely affected if the mobile services were allowed here. He said he was not convinced with the argument and had discussed this with the Prime Minister & Ministers of Home & Defence who have all agreed to his suggestion of extending the facility in J&K. He asserted that mobile telephone had nothing to do with the security of the country adding, nobody in the government of India is saying 'no' to it. He said contrary to the belief of risk to the security, the mobile facilities would help in tracking down the militants. (Kashmir Observer, 12 January, 2001)

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

**Public Notice**

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Fatima Adil D/o Adil Hussain Mir R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 17-08-2019 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

**Executive Magistrate 1st Class**  
Naib Tehsildar Pattan  
fko

**GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.**  
Ground Water Division Srinagar  
Baghi-Alli-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail: - pwegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

M/S Aspire Technologies, Prop: Managing Partner Mr. Jamsheed Ahmad, R/o: Latter Masjid safakadal Srinagar.. Reg. No: CE/PHE/JSD/KMR/PS/01/2021 Contact: (+91) 9006612767 e-mail: aspire.sgr@gmail.com NO:JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./10412-20 Dated: 10-01-2025

**Notice-III & Final**

Subject: - Construction of (01 No.) 200 mm Nominal dia Gravel Packed Production Well for Agriculture/Irrigation Purpose at Lalpora (A) Kunzar District Baramulla.

Reference: - 1. This office letter No: PHE/GWD/2024/TS-9877-79, Dated: 30-12-2024.  
2. This office letter No: PHE/GWD/2024/TS-7717-19, Dated: 20-11-2024.  
3. Asstt. Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Drilling Sub-Division 1st letter No: AEE/DS1 / 466-69, dated: 08-11-2024.  
4. This office Allotment order No. JS-PHE/GWDS/35 of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No. JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./3776-84, dated: 16.08.2024.

In continuation to the above referred subject & references, you are hereby finally asked to visit the alternate site and execute the work which has been identified by the Agriculture Department Baramulla for the above mentioned subject Production Tube Well with an intimation to this office within Seven (07) days positively, failing which it shall be presumed that you are not interested to execute the work and as such we may proceed the case for cancellation of the Allotment.

Furthermore, it is enjoined upon your Firm/ Agency:

01. That the works shall be executed strictly as per e-NIT conditions/specifications.  
02. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the e-NIT.

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

DIPK-10750/24 dated: 11-01-2025

# The Scholar's Sob Saga

Dr. Mushtaq Rather

“  
**Many doctorate holders who have worked as college contract staff for a decade are now in despair, having crossed the age limit to apply. Their situation is particularly painful as they have devoted their youth to the education sector, and there should have been some degree of consideration for their continued service—whether through age relaxation or a certain percentage of positions reserved for them**

The twin objectives of acquiring education in the current circumstances are to transform the life of the individual so that they can constructively and meaningfully contribute to society, and to secure a reasonable means of livelihood to support their family and remain content with their life. But how is it possible for public sector enterprises to absorb all the educated people? This issue is exacerbated by the fragile private sector in our region, which employs only a small section of the educated population. The scant remuneration it offers further adds to the woes and sufferings of the unemployed educated class.

The educated youth pursue academic courses of the highest order, whether it be a PhD or a PDF, with the hope of acquiring a reasonable livelihood to safeguard their families and become a source of inspiration for future generations. However, the dejection, despair, and hopelessness experienced by the unemployed youth in the current era might demotivate the current and upcoming generations in the years to come.

## Rising Unemployment Among Educated Masses

The government sector can only accommodate a handful of people. Even for limited vacancies, the competition is fierce, and candidates are directly involved in cutthroat competition where the margin for error is extremely narrow. Jammu and Kashmir (UT) ranks at the top of the list in terms of the highest unemployment rate in the country. A key issue for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir is their tendency to pursue limited career options, sticking to courses that are already saturated, which only worsens the situation. Many courses that were once progressive and relevant two decades ago have lost their relevance in the current, evolving job market. Unfortunately, these courses are still considered viable career options, leading to a large number of aspirants pursuing them without considering whether they will lead to meaningful employment.

Our colleges and universities are still offering courses with outdated curricula that have not been updated or redesigned to align with the demands of the current job market. This traditional curriculum results in graduates and postgraduates who struggle to secure respectable jobs, thereby adding to the unemployment figures in Jammu and Kashmir. Colleges and universities in the region need to redesign the learning ecosystem by introducing 21st-century-driven courses that will enhance job prospects for graduates. These institutions cannot exist in isolation; they need



to keep pace with the best-performing institutions across the country, adapting to job market and industry demands while achieving a strong track record of job placements.

Furthermore, educational institutions should tailor courses to the local context to nurture and support the spirit of the startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. India is currently a hub for startups, with a record number of youth-driven ventures, incentivized by government initiatives such as 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local', which are dream projects of our Honorable Prime Minister. However, Jammu and Kashmir still has a long way to go in ensuring that the startup ecosystem becomes a viable career option for our youth, allowing them to transition from job seekers to job providers through their own ventures. But who will sow the seeds of the startup ecosystem in the minds of young people and motivate them to pursue this path? Motivating the youth to abandon traditional career paths and explore less-traveled avenues is no easy task, and this is where the role of educational institutions becomes crucial—by nurturing future innovators and entrepreneurs. This shift would reduce dependency on the public sector. Additionally, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir need to look for career options beyond

the region to ensure a better future.

## The Struggles of PhD Scholars and the Impact on Education

The recent incidents of PhD scholars that went viral on social media and became widely discussed have severely impacted students' perceptions of pursuing higher studies like PhDs and PDFs. This has cast doubt on the relevance of our educational institutions, as aspirants—despite completing their PhDs or PDFs—are unable to secure meaningful jobs. The situation became even more alarming when it was revealed that some PhD holders are doing menial jobs to sustain their families. Unfortunately, these are not isolated cases; there are many instances where highly qualified youth are forced to accept low-wage, odd jobs. The mental agony they must experience is unimaginable. Instead of inspiring others to aim higher, they are subjected to harsh criticism from a materialistic society. This has significantly dented the morale of fellow scholars who are still struggling to establish themselves.

I have seen public personalities openly discourage the youth from pursuing a PhD following the troubling experiences of these scholars. However, pur-

suing a PhD should not be condemned or blamed for contributing to unemployment. The inherited and traditional education system needs to be overhauled. Unfortunately, our recruitment system treats every job seeker—whether they are a graduate, post-graduate, or PhD holder—using a one-size-fits-all approach, asking the same set of questions from diverse subject areas. How can a PhD or PDF holder, who has specialized in a particular subject, be expected to answer questions from unrelated fields such as history, politics, economics, reasoning, and general knowledge? This mismatch needs immediate rectification. It requires grit and determination to successfully navigate the various phases of PhD research, and the system should acknowledge this in its evaluation process.

## Ad Hocism and Concerns of Educated Youth

The academic arrangements in colleges and high schools (including higher secondary schools) provide temporary relief for qualified youth, such as those with NET/SET/PhD degrees, who are hired on a contract basis for a particular academic session. However, this contract ends as soon as the academic session concludes, leaving these highly qualified individuals vulnerable, anxious, and frustrated. There is no guarantee that they will be selected for the next session, as the hiring process is open to anyone with the required qualifications, and the number of applicants keeps increasing with each passing year. New graduates with higher marks are continually added to the pool of candidates, making the competition even fiercer. This uncertainty creates frustration, especially for those who have surpassed the age limit to apply for permanent or contractual positions.

Many doctorate holders who have worked as college contract staff for a decade are now in despair, having crossed the age limit to apply. Their situation is particularly painful as they have devoted their youth to the education sector, and there should have been some degree of consideration for their continued service—whether through age relaxation or a certain percentage of positions reserved for them. The system needs to offer these individuals some degree of protection for their long-term contribution to education.

*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 for feedback at aroushfatimamar15@gmail.com*

## 90 Hours Of Work A Week

### What Does The Rulebook Say On The Raging Debate On Work-Life Balance?

The 70-hour debate, a 'theory' which expects Indians to work 70 hours in a week was primarily chartered by Infosys co-founder and business tycoon Narayan Murthy.

The 90 Hour Debate  
This debate has continued to rage on for years, and now, as though adding fuel to the fire, L&T SN Subrahmanyan has said that he regrets that he cannot make people work on Sundays, and he also added to that and said that like Chinese workers, to attain growth, Indians should also work for 90 hours in a week. Which would amount to 15 hours in a day.

As the debate divides professional paradigms once again, we take a look at the legality of these aspirations to overwork employees.

Primarily, India has been a member of the International Labour Organisation or ILO since its inclusion on 28 June 1919.

When it comes to labour laws and hours of working specifically, C001 - Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1) states Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the "application of the principle of the 8-hours day or of the 48-hours week", which is the first item in the agenda for the Washington meeting of the Conference, and

It further states, the working hours of persons employed in any public or private industrial undertaking or in any branch thereof, other than an undertaking in which only members of the same family are employed, shall not exceed eight in the day and forty-eight in the week.

It also states, "where persons are employed in shifts it shall be permissible to employ

persons in excess of eight hours in any one day and forty-eight hours in any one week, if the average number of hours over a period of three weeks or less does not exceed eight per day and forty-eight per week."

## The agreement also states exceptions to the conventions.

It states that the Convention shall not apply to persons holding positions of supervision or management, nor to persons employed in a confidential capacity.

India like 187 other countries, is signatory to the convention. The convention came to force on 14 July 1921.

Article 6 of the convention further states that regulations made by public authority shall determine for industrial undertakings. In this, it further states. Article 7 states that Each Government shall communicate to the International Labour Office.

Taking a cue from that, when we specifically look at India, and Indian laws governing labour laws.

As per the Statutory employment protection rights, the permissible working hours range from 8 to 12 hours including mandatory rest time.

In addition to that, Most S&E laws also prescribe overtime limits and payment of twice the ordinary rate of wages for overtime worked.

The S&E Laws also prescribe mandatory sick leave, casual leave and earned/privilege leave, in addition to national/local holidays

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**However, an to International Labour Organisation (ILO) data at the said average of 48 hours a week, Indians are deemed to the 6th most hardworking country in the world. Bangladesh tops this list with about 49 hours in a week, India, with about 47.7 hours, is ahead or at least works for more hours than China, with 46.1 hours, a country that all of these opinion leaders have cited**

totalling approximately about 25 to 30 days of leave a year.

As according to the Factories Act, of 1948 and the Shops and Establishment Acts (SEA), employers are not expected to make their employees work for more than not more than 9 hours per day or 48 hours per week.

With some exceptions, that may take the total working hours to close to 54 hours in some cases, most regions have 48 hours as the median time of work.

## India Works More Than China

However, what is eventually implemented at companies and how they are regulated, is not accurately tabulated in India. There is no known or publicised mechanism to gauge the average working hours in India.

However, an to International Labour Organisation (ILO) data at the said average of 48 hours a week, Indians are deemed to the 6th most hardworking country in the world.

Bangladesh tops this list with about 49 hours in a week, India, with about 47.7 hours, is ahead or at least works for more hours than China, with 46.1 hours, a country that all of these opinion leaders have cited. India also works more than Vietnam with 41.5 hours. In addition, Japan, according to this ILO works for more than 36.6 hours, with the United States at 36.4 hours.

*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 MSN.com*

# Ghosting: The Exit Strategy No One Wants to Talk About

How Digital Silence Has Redefined Relationships and Rejection

MAHOOR HAYA SHAH

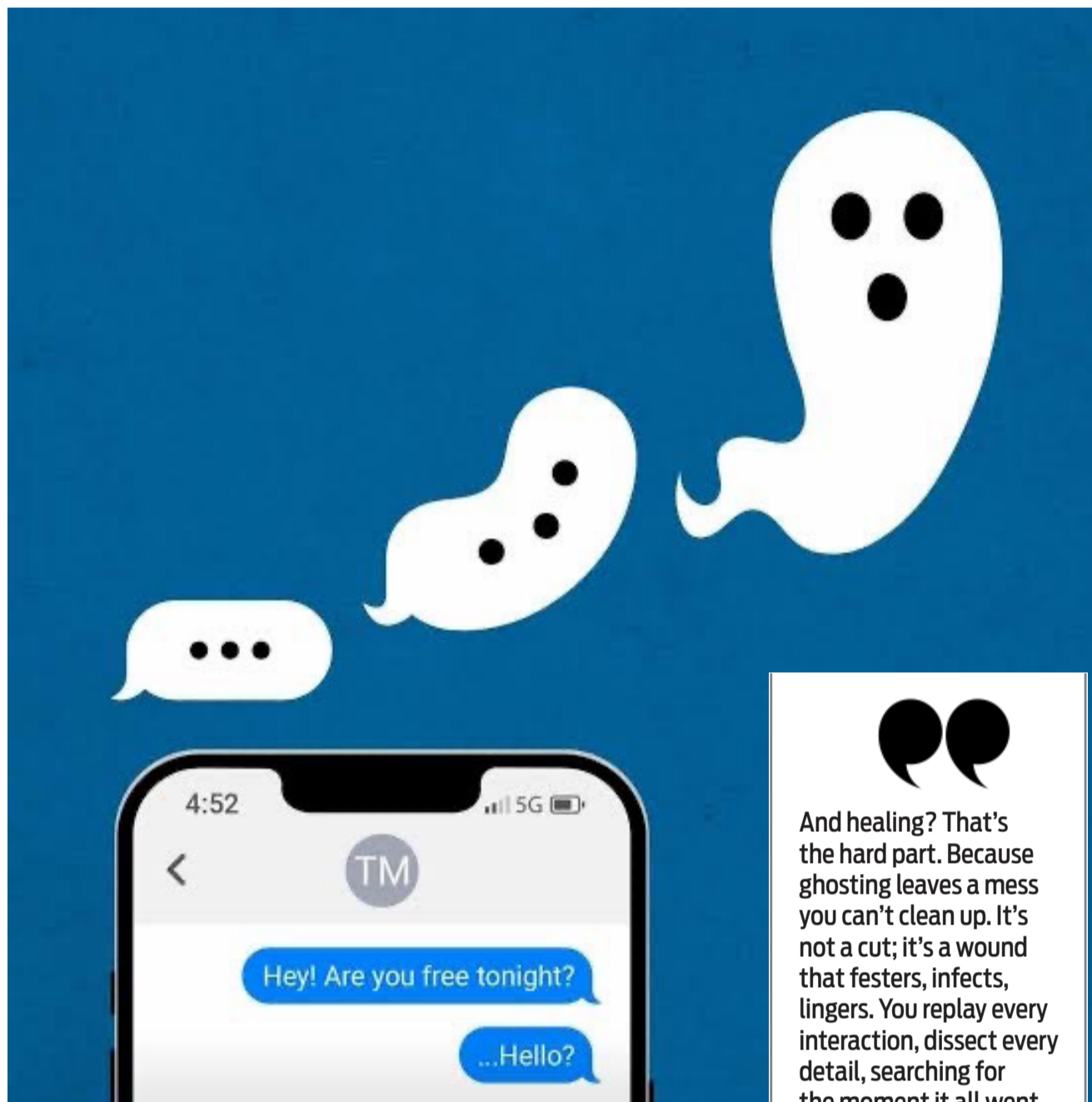
(The Midnight Vanish): In the neon glow of midnight streets, where shadows dance to forgotten beats, they come like whispers on a restless breeze, promising solace, a moment's ease. With eyes that mirror the twilight sky, and words that drift like smoke up high, they weave their tales in cigarette haze, leaving hearts tangled in their maze. But morning breaks with a silent cry, no farewell kiss, no last goodbye, just empty echoes where laughter played, and dreams dissolve in the masquerade. Ghosts in the alleys, spirits in the rain, dissolving love into endless pain, they vanish like the setting sun, leaving you to wander, all alone. So here's to the souls who slip away, like verses lost in yesterday, may we find the strength to stand and say, "Enough of ghosts, it's time to stay"

They don't teach you about ghosting in school. Nobody pulls you aside to say, "One day, someone will disappear on you, and it'll feel like dying by a thousand unanswered texts." No warnings. No sirens. Just silence - loud, screaming silence. It's the kind of thing that sneaks up on you, hits you in the chest and leaves you there, stranded in your own questions.

Ghosting. The coward's exit. The vanishing act of the modern age. They leave you hanging on a conversation like an unfinished sentence, mid-air, mid-thought, mid-everything. No explanation. No goodbye. Just... gone!

It's everywhere now, like a virus you can't escape. Friendships. Relationships. Even job interviews. It doesn't matter if you're perfect or messy or halfway in between; the moment they decide you're too much or not enough, poof- you're talking to a wall.

But if we see ghosting isn't new. Humans have always had a flair for avoiding hard conversations. A coward with Wi-Fi and an aversion to confrontation. But let's not romanticize the ghost. They're not mysterious, not enigmatic. They're just afraid. Afraid of the raw,



leaving 'on seen' or simply ignoring and stopping communication. A coward with Wi-Fi and an aversion to confrontation.

But let's not romanticize the ghost. They're not mysterious, not enigmatic. They're just afraid. Afraid of the raw,

messy truth that comes with being human. Afraid of admitting they don't want you, need you, or care enough to try. Ghosting isn't an act of power; it's an act of retreat.

And yet, we're complicit, aren't we?

And healing? That's the hard part. Because ghosting leaves a mess you can't clean up. It's not a cut; it's a wound that festers, infects, lingers. You replay every interaction, dissect every detail, searching for the moment it all went wrong. But there's no answer, only silence. And silence is the loudest lie of all

We've built a world that makes it easy. Easy to disconnect, easy to avoid, easy to pretend the people we hurt aren't real. A world where vulnerability is a weakness and "seen" is the ultimate cruelty. We've traded depth for convenience, connection for control. And now, we're left with this hollow, aching void.

But the truth about ghosts is that they haunt. You might think you've erased someone, but the unvarnished reality is, they'll linger in your head, a flicker of guilt you can't quite shake. And if you're the one being ghosted? You haunt yourself. The unanswered questions, the overthinking, the desperate need for closure that never comes.

Maybe that's why ghosting stings so much. It isn't just rejection...it's erasure! It's the casual dismissal of everything you shared, every laugh, every story, every small, stupid moment that felt like it mattered. Ghosting doesn't just end something; it denies it ever existed. And what's more human than the need to matter?

We crave acknowledgement, even in endings! The truth doesn't have to be gentle, but it does have to be real. "I don't feel the same." "I'm not ready for this." "I don't think we're right for each other." "Let us part ways". These words are not easy, but they are necessary. Because when you ghost, you strip someone of their right to feel, to process, to heal.

And healing? That's the hard part. Because ghosting leaves a mess you can't clean up. It's not a cut; it's a wound that festers, infects, lingers. You replay every interaction, dissect every detail, searching for the moment it all went wrong. But there's no answer, only silence. And silence is the loudest lie of all.

So, what's the answer? Maybe it's this: next time, don't disappear. Don't let fear guide you. If you're done, say it. If you're confused, admit it. If you care - even a little then offer the dignity of your honesty. Ghosting may be common, but it shouldn't be normal.

Because at the end of the day, we all deserve to be seen, even if it's just long enough to say goodbye. We're not ghosts, after all. We're human. Messy, scared, fragile, real. Let's start acting like it.

The author is a columnist

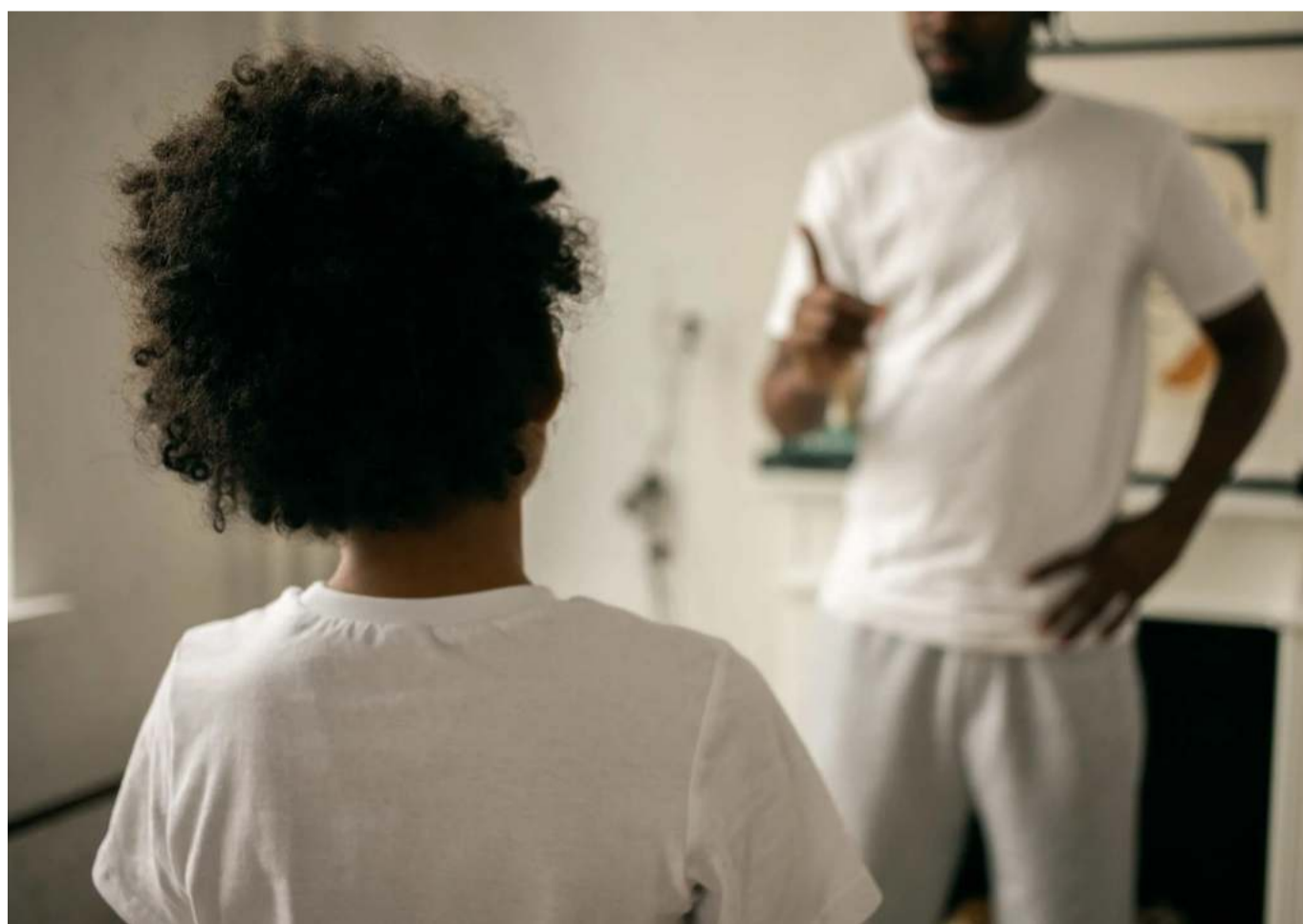
# How Emotional Maturity Is Affected By Narcissistic Parenting

Mariette Jansen

In the past 10 years I have been working predominantly with clients who have experienced narcissistic abuse. When the abuser happened to be a parent, it was clear to me (and to my client) that they had missed out on some natural developmental stages. Instead of growing up as an individual with freedom of thought, creativity, dreams and fantasies, becoming their own person, victims of emotional abuse are too pre-occupied with surviving, pleasing their narcissist and keeping themselves as safe as possible. There was no emotional and mental space left to tune into themselves.

Growing up with a narcissistic mother, I recognise I stopped thinking for myself around the age of 6. Whatever idea I had, it was always dismissed in a nasty manner. Friends I choose were commented on negatively and I only got positive feedback when I agreed with my mother. I also stopped me feeling. I remember feeling a lot of pain, a sense of not belonging and sadness, but I wasn't allowed to show or mention any of that. No wonder I developed an eating disorder, aiming to fill the void in my head and my heart.

Even though the foundation of natural development is missing, victims present themselves as very capable and mature. That is due to the necessity to survive. By ignor-



ing their natural needs, they jumped to behaviour that kept them safe. And often it is only later in life or when they start to understand the emotional abuse, the realisation of 'lost childhood' kicks in.

When I work with clients, I tentatively ask them

if it makes sense that they have missed out on a natural healthy development. If they recognise that, I ask them what age they feel they are... Usually it is between 5 and 7.

**What could we all have in common?**

Erikson's psychosocial developmental model explains the important attachment styles that a human develops during different stages in life.

The infant years are crucial for building trust and healthy attachments. If an infant needs

of closeness, food and care are not met, they will have trust issues and difficulties relying on others.

The following toddler years are about becoming independent, doing your own things and being allowed to do that. In a narcissistic abusive en-

vironment, a child is there to play the role the narcissist wants them to play: the perfect child to show them off as the perfect parent and family. If not, 'punishment' is received and the child starts to develop self-doubt and shame.

The pre-school years are about taking initiative and starting to have a voice and an opinion. Which means the parent is less in control, which is what a narc parent hates and will avoid at all cost. Initiative is killed off and being presented as doing something wrong. Which will lead to the development of guilt. I haven't met a single victim of narcissistic abuse who didn't suffer from 'unhealthy guilt syndrome'.

During early school years, a new element is introduced in life: that of achievements and comparison. Depending on the achievements, a child can easily develop feelings of confidence or inferiority. Children of narcissists are used to working hard to please their parents and that is no different in school, so they usually are good achievers. However, instead of developing a confidence in their abilities, their achievements won't be praised at home, as praise isn't part of the parental attitude. A child becomes very confused, as it knows it did well, but won't get the deserved acknowledgment. Only when in public, their parent might brag about them.

Adolescents start to develop a sense of self, not without challenges and difficulties, but there is more freedom to experiment with different life situations and that will lead to more clarity about who they are. A child with a narcissistic parent won't have that freedom and as they are only accepted in the role their parent has set out for them, they don't come into their own.

For me, it meant I didn't have real friends, my opinions were copies of my parents, I felt very insecure and found solace in bulimia.

What I have experienced personally is what I also see reflected in most of my clients who are facing the challenges of an upbringing in a narcissistic dysfunctional family:

- Difficulty trusting others
- Feeling guilt
- Working hard
- Low self-esteem, self-belief
- Low level of self-awareness
- Looking for external validation
- Mature external presentation
- Anxiety and stress / PTSD

A huge part of the healing work is about 'growing up' and taking the space to step into your own person and personality and leaving behind what is not serving you.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

## Polls Within 90 Days Or Agitation: AJKPC Warns J&K Govt

### Agencies

Jammu: Expressing concern over the delay in conducting panchayat elections, the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) on Saturday asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to hold the polls within 90 days or face an agitation.

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha assured people in November last year that the elections to the panchayats and urban local bodies (ULB) would be held soon. These elections were last held in 2018.

The panchayats and ULBs completed their term more than a year ago. The elections could not be held on time due to various reasons, including

the delimitation exercise and reservation of wards for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

"The issue (of holding panchayat polls) is urgent because panchayats play a vital role in local governance. Their prolonged inactivity has hindered development and left rural residents without proper representation or an avenue to voice their concerns," AJKPC president Anil Sharma said.

He said holding elections on time and redefining boundaries is essential for reviving democracy and improving governance in the region.

"The term of panchayats... in J&K expired on January 9, 2024, and the J&K government, through an order, appointed block development officers as

administrators of panchayats.

"For over a year now, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been defunct and there seems to be no sincere effort by the government to hold these elections. Even the State Election Commission appears to be silent on the matter," Sharma said.

Cautioning the government and the poll body, Sharma said, "If elections to panchayats are not held within 90 days, the AJKPC will launch a mass agitation."

He also said that AJKPC functionaries would soon be meeting LG Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and the state election commissioner to press their demand for immediate action.

## DIPR Pulwama organizes Mehfil-e-Mushaira to celebrate literary heritage

PULWAMA, JANUARY 11: The District Information Centre (DIC) Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Cultural Society, Pulwama Saturday organized Mehfil-e-Mushaira to promote the Kashmiri language and develop literary taste among participants besides celebrating literary heritage of the district.

The event witnessed active participation from distinguished poets and literary enthusiasts.

District Information Officer, Wajeza Mushtaq, graced the occasion while prominent literary figures, including the President of the District Cultural Society Pulwama, Shamas Siddique, General Secretary of the District Cultural Society, GM Dilshad and the Editor of Nida e

Kashmir, Mehraj-ud-Din Faraz, presided over the event.

The program commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, creating a reverent and reflective atmosphere. Poets from across the district presented their literary compositions in Kashmiri, captivating the audience with their poetic renditions that covered a wide array of themes, reflections on drug addiction, as well as mystical and spiritual poetry.

Addressing the gathering, the District Information Officer highlighted the significance of Pulwama's rich cultural and literary heritage, emphasizing the need to preserve and promote these traditions for future generations.

She noted, Pulwama has produced poetic luminaries such as Ghulam Ahmad

Mehjoor, Soch Kral, Wahab Khar and Habba Khatoon, whose contributions continue to inspire us. She also reiterated the commitment of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to providing platforms that uphold and sustain the district's cultural identity.

General Secretary of the District Cultural Society, GM Dilshad, commended the efforts of the DIPR in organizing such literary and cultural activities. He urged the talented and culturally aware youth of the district to actively participate in artistic and literary pursuits to ensure the continuity of Pulwama's vibrant cultural ethos.

The event showcased an impressive lineup of poets, including Abdul Rahman

Fida, Fatima Ji, Tajul Nisa, Sehresh Noor, Sikander Irshad, Shahmes Saleem, Rouf Jan, Bilal Kashmiri, Idrees Malik, Ab. Rashid Siddiqui, Shakir Farooq, Ab. Rashid Dilber, Zargar Azim, Gh. Hassan Shabnam, Gh. Mohammad Jangalnari, Gangeem Majeed, Mohd Akbar Dardbaz, Shah Ajaz, Mohammad Akram Siddique, Mohammad Yousuf Dildaar, Sheikh Gulzar, Mohammad Ashraf and Mohammad Yousuf, among others. Their evocative and thought-provoking poetry left a lasting impression on the audience, celebrating the district's rich literary and cultural heritage.

The event was attended by officials of DIC Pulwama along with a host of renowned poets and academicians affiliated with the cultural society.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Drugs Worth

challenge together and make all efforts to win this battle," he said.

Shah said that during 2004-14, a total of 3.63 kg of drugs were seized while during 2014-24, altogether 24 lakh kg of drugs were seized - a seven-fold increase as compared to the previous decade.

He said drugs worth Rs 8,150 crore were disposed off in 2004-14 but in 2014-24, drugs worth Rs 54,851 crore were destroyed - eight times more than the previous decade.

Chairing a regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' here, Shah also asserted that the country will not allow even a single kg of drugs to be smuggled in or out of the country.

He said the government has not only been successful in eliminating many networks of drugs, but the terrorism linked with them too was also destroyed.

He said many cases of narco-terrorism were busted in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh and these were major achievements.

"The use of dark web, cryptocurrency, online marketplace, drones continue to pose a challenge for us even today," he said.

Shah said a technical solution to these problems have to be found through joint efforts by the states and the central government and technocrats for the country's security and development.

All agencies should strengthen the resolve for a drug-free India by stopping drug smuggling through the dark web, cryptocurrency and drones, he said.

The conference, organised by the NCB, aims to address the growing concern of drug trafficking and its impact on national security, with a special focus on eight states and Union Territories of northern India.

Shah also launched the drug disposal fortnight starting from Saturday to January 25.

He said that during this period, one lakh kg of narcotics worth Rs 8,600 crore will be destroyed.

Shah stressed the importance of timely policies, enhanced intensity, meticulous micro-planning, and consistent monitoring to address the challenges ahead.

He said the Modi government has worked at a rapid pace to destroy drugs, uncover the networks, and bring the entire ecosystem under the grip of the law.

The home minister said for the success of the drugs-free India campaign, technical solutions to these challenges must be found by the law enforcement agencies, state governments, and the youth involved in this field; only then this fight could be result-oriented.

He urged all states to destroy illegal clandestine labs with rigour and take legal action against them with a ruthless approach.

Shah said the Modi government is moving forward with a ruthless approach against the drug supply chain, a strategic approach for demand reduction, and a humane approach for the victims.

He emphasised the need to strategically and cautiously expand the use of legal provisions for asset confiscation.

The home minister stressed the importance of devising district-level strategies and establishing mechanisms to escalate cases systematically, which would enhance the effectiveness of the campaign.

He also highlighted the central government's efforts to develop an anti-drone system, urging the police forces of all border states to support this initiative by organising hackathons and actively contributing to advancements in this area.

"The time has come now when we can all contribute to this fight and succeed in winning it," he said.

The conference is being attended by governors, lieutenant governors, chief ministers and senior officers from the eight participating states and UTs and the Centre.

### J&K Determined

over previous years and 210 convictions were secured which is the highest ever in the Union Territory.

"Concerted efforts were made in the year 2024 to target the illicit proceeds of narcotics trafficking and 188 properties of traffickers have been identified for attachment under Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators Act (SAFEMA). 274 repeat offenders were detained under PIT-NDPS Act," he said.

In 2024, around 1,514 cases under the NDPS Act were also registered and 2,260 arrests were made.

"The government is determined to completely dismantle the entire drug syndicate which is posing a serious and direct threat to the nation's sovereignty and security. Five special NDPS courts have been established for speedy trial of cases," he said, addressing the conference.

He said financial investigations are now being carried out in all cases to work out forward and backward linkages so that the entire network is neutralised in every NDPS case.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, J-K has adopted a whole of government approach to deal with drug trafficking and drug abuse, he said.

The LG said Inter-departmental coordination on various aspects and challenges is ensured and regular Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meetings have been held in the last two years.

Sinha said the forensic labs have been strengthened and modern equipment as well as manpower has been ensured.

"This has resulted in effective functioning of labs and strengthening of the entire legal justice framework through filing early charge-sheets and effective trial of cases," he said.

### Weather To Remain

the valley will be mostly cloudy but dry from January 12 to 18 with a possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches on January 15 and 16, it said.

### Eagerly Awaiting

Sonamarg used to be closed during periods of severe snowfall, the tunnel is key to the region's tourism industry.

The tunnel will enhance connectivity from Srinagar to Sonamarg and, eventually, to Ladakh. It is also strategically crucial to the military forces. Located at an elevation of more than 8,500 feet, this road segment is especially susceptible to winter weather.

The tunnel work was commenced by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in 2012, with the project being awarded to Tunnelways Limited. However, the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) later took over the project and reissued the tender for the project.

### PM's 12th Visit

floods, the PM visited to assess the damage and announced a relief package of Rs 1,000 crore for rescue and rehabilitation.

In 2015, the PM, besides inaugurating the second phase of Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (450 MW) in Ramban, launched a comprehensive economic package of Rs 80,000 crore for Jammu and Kashmir.

On November 7, 2015, the PM inaugurated the second phase of the Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (450 MW) in Ramban and laid the foundation for national highway projects (Udhampur-Ramban and Ramban-Banihal sections of NH 44). He also launched a comprehensive economic package of Rs 80,000 crore for Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, on April 19, 2016, he inaugurated the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, delivered a convocation address at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, and inaugurated a sports complex in Katra.

On April 2, 2017, the PM inaugurated the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, India's longest road tunnel at the time, improving Jammu-Srinagar connectivity while on October 19, 2017, the PM celebrated Diwali with soldiers in Gurez, acknowledging their contributions.

On May 19, 2018, PM Modi inaugurated the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project and laid the foundation for the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar. He also inaugurated 16 model degree colleges and 66 entrepreneurship hubs across Jammu and Kashmir.

On February 3, 2019, he inaugurated the University of Ladakh, laid the foundation for AIIMS Jammu, and launched the Srinagar Ring Road Project and also launched rural BPOs in Bandipora and Ganderbal.

However, there were no direct visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021 also, there were no public visits by PM Modi in the year, but he chaired an all-party meeting with leaders from Jammu and Kashmir in June and continued emphasizing political engagement.

On June 20, 2023, PM Modi visited Jammu and Kashmir for a two-day trip, inaugurating and laying the foundation for several development projects.

On September 19, 2023, he visited Srinagar for an election rally in the region, his first visit post the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's

special status in 2019.

On February 20, 2024, projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore were launched.

PM Modi launched multiple development projects in education, railway, aviation, and road sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

Railway Initiatives: He inaugurated the 48 km railway line between Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan and the newly electrified 185.66 km Baramulla-Srinagar-Banihal-Sangaldan section. The Prime Minister also flagged off the first electric train in the Valley, enhancing connectivity and promoting environmental sustainability.

Educational Institutions: The Prime Minister inaugurated permanent campuses for IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu, aiming to boost higher education infrastructure in the region.

Healthcare Facilities: He inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu, established at a cost of over 1,660 crore, equipped with 720 beds, and associated medical colleges.

Aviation Infrastructure: PM Modi laid the foundation stone for a new terminal building at Jammu Airport, designed to handle about 2,000 passengers during peak hours, enhancing the region's connectivity.

Road Projects: He initiated important road projects, including two stretches (44.22 km) of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway connecting Jammu to Katra and phase two of the four-laning of the Srinagar Ring Road, aimed at improving intra-region connectivity.

Besides these visits, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the New Jammu Railway Division on January 6, 2025, marking a transformative step in the region's connectivity and rail infrastructure. (KNO)

### J&K Implements

30% of budget allocation and in the month of March, it should be limited to 15% of such allocation. "In the last month of the current financial year, payments may be made only for the works duly executed, and the goods and services already procured," the order states. The order further directs departments that no amount should be released in advance in the last month with the exception of the loans or advances to government servants as per service conditions or on compassionate grounds or to disaster victims as a measure of relief and rehabilitation.

The government has also ordered that a rush of expenditure on procurement of goods and services should be avoided during the last month of the current financial year to ensure that codal procedures are complied with and there is no infructuous expenditure. "Director(s) Finance / Financial Advisor(s) are advised to specially monitor this aspect in their respective departments," it said. The government also imposed a 10 percent economy cut on the budget allocation for OE, LTC, telephone / POL, advertisements, publicity, hospitality & sumptuary.

"Utmost economy shall be observed in organising conferences/ seminars/workshops. Holding of exhibitions/fairs/seminars/conferences outside J&K is strongly discouraged," the order said, adding that there shall be complete ban on holding of meetings and conferences at private hotels," the order states. According to the order, government buildings/halls should be utilised for holding meetings and conferences instead. It also imposed a 10 percent economic cut on the budget allocation for conduct of camps, conferences and seminars.

It also said that purchase of new vehicles is strictly discouraged. "Exceptional cases for meeting critical operational requirements shall be permitted with 20% reduction against condemnation as a replacement measure and with the concurrence of the Finance Department. The already condemned vehicles must be auctioned and auction proceeds deposited as miscellaneous Revenue before submitting such a proposal," the order said. It also directed administrative secretaries that travel expenditure should be regulated so as to ensure that each department remains within the allocated budget. "Re-appropriation/augmentation proposals on this account will not be entertained," it said, adding that international travel shall not be allowed until specific permission is granted by the Finance Department.

"Within the country, the officers should travel only by economy class regardless of entitlement," the order said. It said that there shall be a complete ban on holding of official dinners and lunches, except those hosted by the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister or with specific approval of the Chief Minister. It said that no new post shall be created and filling of regular posts may be undertaken only

through JKSSB/JKPCS routes and with concurrence of the Finance Department. "Posts that have remained vacant for more than two year should be identified for surrender. Such posts should not be revived except under rare and unavoidable circumstances and after seeking clearance from the Finance Department," it said.

It said that local funds available with various Departments, Universities, Authorities and Agencies will be subject to these austerity measures. According to the order, no fresh financial commitments will be made on items and proposals which are not provided for in the approved budget of 2024-25. "Any exceptional case should be dealt with only with the approval of the Finance Department."

The government directed that administrative secretaries shall be responsible for ensuring compliance of the measures unveiled by it. "Director(s) Finance / Financial Advisor(s) shall scrupulously assist the respective departments in securing compliance with these measures and also submit an overall report to the Finance Department," the order states

### Preparations Underway,

has deployed 250 buses to ensure the smooth transportation of attendees to the rally venue.

A wide spectrum of participants, including political leaders and workers, government officials, former Panchs, Sarpanchs, District Development Council (DDC) members, and Block Development Council (BDC) members, are attending the event. Designated assembly points have been established for attendees to board the buses early in the morning.

A senior JKRTC official commended the meticulous planning and coordination involved, particularly in managing operations under challenging cold weather conditions. The corporation's drivers and ground staff have been lauded for their dedication to ensuring the operation's success.

He said 200 buses will be stationed in Ganderbal and the remaining buses will carry people from different parts to the venue. Over 12,000 people are expected to reach the venue by using RTC bus services.

The logistical efforts are being led by Showkat Ahmad Ahangar, General Manager of Operations Kashmir, who has optimized the JKRTC's resources. A dedicated control room has been set up at the Srinagar Headquarters for real-time monitoring and coordination.

During his visit, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel, a key infrastructure project to enhance connectivity and foster development in the region. (CNS)

### Govt Offices

An official order, issued by the Office of the District Magistrate Ganderbal on January 10, directs that District, Sectoral, Tehsil, and Block level officers shall also be available to provide necessary information when required.

The order emphasizes the importance of ensuring smooth communication and efficient functioning of offices during this period.

The District Magistrate's office has asked all concerned authorities to comply with the directive.

### CM Omar Abdullah

and formally dedicate the project to the nation. Reflecting on the region's tourism potential, CM Abdullah reiterated his vision of positioning Ganderbal as a premier winter sports destination. He emphasized that the Sonamarg Tunnel would not only ensure all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg but also supplement Gulmarg as another skiing and winter sports destination, unlocking new avenues for tourism and economic growth.

The Sonamarg Tunnel is a significant milestone in improving connectivity between Srinagar and Leh, ensuring all-weather access to Sonamarg and enhancing the region's economic and tourism prospects.

### Orientation To Help

program and it would ensure their effective role in the assembly.

Rather also thanked the MPs and the PRIDE team for conducting the orientation program.

Earlier, former Minister of State Dr Satya Pal Singh delivered lectures on parliamentary privileges, customs, conventions and etiquettes.

P K Mallick, Director of PRIDE, Lok Sabha Secretariat, also delivered lectures, providing details on the literal meaning of privileges and their role in safeguarding the status and protocol of MLAs.

Dr Satya Prakash, Additional Secretary of the Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, gave a

lecture on the National E-Vidhan Application (NEVA) under the One Nation One Application initiative and also highlighted the objectives of the program.

During the session, legislators raised queries regarding privileges and other related issues.

### J&K OM Students

rallying behind the cause. Rafiq Makhdoomi, supporter of the cause, wrote on X: "Open merit has to be saved at any cost. We are at risk of making upcoming 100 generations employment-less if this continues. Save open merit. Save the future."

Pertinently, the campaign comes in response to the Jammu & Kashmir administration's approval on March 15, 2024 of a 10% reservation for newly-included tribes, including Paharis, under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. Additionally, the government approved the addition of 15 new castes to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and increased OBC reservation to 8%.

The decision, which followed clearance in the Lok Sabha on March 6, was aimed at empowering historically disadvantaged communities, including the Pahari Ethnic Group, Padari Tribes, Koli, and Gadda Brahmins. Previously, reservation in J&K included 8% for Scheduled Castes (SC), 10% for STs, 4% for OBCs, and 10% each for Residents of Backward Areas (RBA) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

While the new reservation policy aims to address long-standing demands of various communities, it has sparked widespread anger among students in the open merit category. They argue that their opportunities for government jobs, promotions, and access to educational institutions have been disproportionately reduced.

"This policy not only neglects meritocracy but also jeopardizes the aspirations of countless deserving individuals," said one student who participated in the poster campaign. "We are not against reservation, but there needs to be a fair balance."

### After A Decade,

work will take place this year too."

"If the campus would have been functioning today, it would have been beneficial for us, and it will lead to the overall development of the region," another local said.

Locals said that the funds for the construction of the campus have also lapsed, adding another layer of complexity to the project. They emphasized that the community had willingly donated land for the campus with the hope of improving access to higher education and addressing the literacy rate in Budgam.

"We urge the government to intervene and expedite the construction process."

Attempts to reach Education Minister Sakina Itoo for comment on the stalled MANUU campus project in Budgam were unsuccessful.

### MHA Appoints IFA

IFA will play an active role in appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of projects and schemes in consultations with the Home Department. The IFA will serve as the Member Secretary of the Standing Finance Committee and Investment Boards.

According to Daily Excelsior, the Home Department has directed the departments to avoid idle cash build-up by adhering to the monthly/quarterly expenditure plans prepared by the IFA. It also asked the departments to ensure that any financial proposal requiring reference to the MHA, must receive concurrence of the IFA, who will provide financial compliance views and record specific opinions.

"The Departments must maintain updated Asset Registers and ensure proper stock-taking as per the IFA's oversight. Sanction of procurement of items specified in delegation of financial powers including acceptance of necessity for such procurement must be invariably issued in consultations with the IFA and head of finance wing at the HoD level. The IFA posted in the department may be appropriately involved in subsequent stages of procurement having financial bearing," the Home Department order read.

It said proposals exceeding the delegated powers of the HoDs must be referred to the Home Department with the IFA's concurrence and recommendations. The HoDs may provide relevant records, reports and the files as and when required by the IFA.

"The proposals which require reference to the Finance Department, General Administration Department and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs shall continue to be processed as per the existing procedure in vogue," the order said.



## Coach Gambhir, BCCI Officials To Meet To Review Australia Tour

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** The future of leading batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be discussed threadbare in a meeting that head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar is scheduled to hold with BCCI officials to review the recent tour to Australia here on Saturday.

The back-to-back series defeats against New Zealand (home) and Australia (away) and the diminishing returns with the bat have put Kohli and Rohit under scanner.

The PTI has learned that the powers that be will discuss in detail the future plan — whether to activate the transition switch from next month's Champions Trophy or wait for the cycle to end with the ICC



marquee event.

Though it's likely that the senior batters will get another

chance to redeem themselves at the ODI Champions Trophy, a format in which they have al-

ways excelled.

They may also take into consideration the fact that both Kohli and Rohit have played just three ODIs in 2024 after the 2023 World Cup at home, and that could be too light a sample size to make a final call on their 50-over career.

Both Kohli and Rohit endured different fortunes too in the series against Sri Lanka.

While Kohli amassed 24, 14 and 20 in Colombo, Rohit walked away with scores of 58, 64 and 35 against the Lankans.

But overall, Kohli has been a champion performer in 50-overs, his staple format and a good outing in the Champions Trophy could bring him, and Rohit too, back into a good frame of mind.

However, their Test future is different. The next assignment

is an away five-match series against England, and the mandarins will certainly assess the drying runs from Kohli and Rohit in the traditional format.

In the most recent outing against Australia, Kohli, despite a hundred at Perth, could garner only 190 runs at an average of 23.75 while

Rohit, who skipped the first Test and opted out of the fifth match, made 31 runs at 6.2.

Those performances will certainly be mooted thoroughly while seeking Gambhir's views on their desire to continue playing the longest version of the sport.

Similarly, it is possible that the performance of the Gambhir-led coaching staff too could be assessed, and asked about their vision to handle the transition period without any more hiccups.

### Short TAKES

#### J&K Bank Football Academy Open Trials On January 27

J&K Bank Football Academy is set to hold open selection trials in Srinagar and Jammu. Footballers between the ages of 01.01.2009 and 31.12.2010 are eligible to participate in the selection process.

In Srinagar, the trials are set to take place from January 27 to 29 at Synthetic Football Ground, TRC. The trials will be held between 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Similarly, in Jammu, the trials will take place from January 20 to 22 at Parade Ground. The timing will be 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

All participants have been advised to carry their original Date of Birth certificate for verification.

"This is your opportunity to be part of the prestigious J&K Bank Football Academy! Show your skills, chase your dreams, and take a step closer to a bright football future," the J&K Football Association said in a statement.

#### Mohammed Shami Returns To Indian Team After 14 Months

Nearly 14 months after he last played an international match, veteran seamer Mohammed Shami on Saturday returned to the Indian team for the upcoming five-match T20I series against visiting England.

The 34-year-old Shami's last outing for India was the 2023 ODI World Cup final against Australia at Ahmedabad on November 19, after which he was out of the team for a long time due to an ankle injury for which he underwent surgery last year.

A swelling on his knee then prevented Shami from joining the Indian team for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, leaving Jasprit Bumrah to shoulder the bulk of the pace bowling load.

Suryakumar Yadav will lead the 15-member team in the series starting in Kolkata on January 22.

Team: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel (vc), Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammad Shami, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel (wk).

#### Saikia, Bhatia To Be Named BCCI Secretary & Treasurer

Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia will be officially elected as the BCCI secretary and treasurer respectively during the Special General Meeting (SGM) here on Sunday.

Saikia and Prabhtej were the only candidates in the fray for the vacant posts once BCCI electoral officer and former CEC of India, Achal Kumar Joti finalised the list on Tuesday.

Saikia has been working as the BCCI interim secretary since Jay Shah took over as the ICC chairman on December 1.

The BCCI constitution stipulates that any post lying vacant should be filled within 45 days by calling a SGM, and Sunday's meeting is well within that period, holding on the 43rd day.

#### Baramulla's Young Karate Stars Felicitated For National Feats

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** Baramulla's young karate champions, aged 7-10 years, were honoured by DC Baramulla Minga Sherpa at his office here on Saturday. The felicitation followed their stellar performance in the JKS South Asia Karate Championship 2025 held in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

These budding athletes brought pride to the district by winning three gold medals and a bronze medal, showcasing their exceptional



talent and dedication.

Their journey to success began in 2024 when they participated in the 1st North India Karate Championship in Jammu, securing four gold medals and the prestigious

Best Discipline Award for their exemplary sportsmanship and commitment.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC expressed pride in their achievements, stating it is a proud moment for the district.

#### ICC Looking To Give Leeway To Bowlers On Wides: Pollock

Press Trust of India

**DURBAN:** South African legend Shaun Pollock says the ICC Cricket Committee is working towards giving bowlers "bit more leeway on wides" as the current rule is "very strict on them", particularly when batters make last minute movement.

Across ODIs and T20Is, batters make late movements across the crease to disturb bowlers' line and lengths and they end up giving wides.

"I'm working on something. I'm obviously part of the ICC Cricket Committee and we're looking to come up with a bit more leeway for the bowlers on wides. I think it's very strict on them," Pollock told PTI on the sidelines of SA20.

"If a batter jumps across (at the) last minute, it doesn't really work out for me. I think a bowler, at the start of his run-up, needs to know where he can bowl it.

"The current rule tends to suggest that if he moves and it's that point of delivery where the batter is, and that's according to where the wide will be called, I want a little bit of a change," added Pollock.

The 51-year-old said bowlers must know where they have to bowl while



on top of their run-up.

"I want them to know exactly when they're running up why or how. How can a bowler be expected to change his game plan at the last second when he's bowling? He needs to have a clear idea where he can go," he said.

"So it's in the pipeline, we're all discussing. We need to give a little bit back to the bowlers," he added.

Pollock said the SA20 has gone from "strength to strength" like IPL has over the years.

"It's just gone from strength to strength. Some of the activities at the ground as well, the Catch 2 Million competition this year has been added," he said.

#### Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League: Lamos Enter Women's Final

Observer News Service

**LEH:** Changla Lamos stormed into the women's final of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2 on Saturday, defeating Sham Eagles 6-3, powered by a brilliant hat-trick from national team star Tsewang Chuskit. They will face reigning champions Maryul Spamo in tomorrow's much-anticipated title clash.



In the men's category, defending champions Kang Sings

edged out Purig Warriors 2-0, while Changthang Shans secured a dominant 3-0 win over Humas Warriors, setting the stage for an exciting final showdown on Monday.

The Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2 is being organised in partnership with the UT Administration of Ladakh and Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Stadium in Leh.

28<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

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