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BOOK APPOINTMENT

The Other Side Of Domestic Harassment: Men Speak Out In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: "I didn't know men could also file cases," said Sameer (name changed), his voice heavy with disbelief. He recounted his descent into a nightmare: a once-happy marriage spiraling into a web of accusations, legal battles, and emotional turmoil. "Everything seemed fine when I got married in 2019," Sameer recalled with a trembling voice, "but soon, my wife

began exhibiting erratic behavior, psychiatric symptoms I never anticipated." He confessed that this was likely part of a calculated plan. He realized his wife's true intentions over time. "She had always lived with her mother," he said, "and marriage seemed to be primarily a means to have a child while remaining close to her family." After their son was born four years ago, things dramatically worsened. "They began manipulating me,



Despite his efforts to salvage the relationship, Sameer was blindsided when his wife filed a domestic violence case against him and his mother.

I JUST WANT TO BE A FATHER TO MY DAUGHTER, but it feels like I am being punished for wanting to keep my family together.

"I had no idea this could happen," he said. The legal battle spiraled out of control, tarnishing his family's reputation. "They even included my sister in the legal notice. The police, instead of offering assistance, unnecessarily shamed her," he alleged. The court proceedings further deepened his despair. "My in-laws presented a false witness, who later admitted to lying. Yet, the case drags on, and justice feels increasingly elusive. I feel disillusioned," [More on P10](#)

GOI Announces 8th Pay Commission

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a major decision, the government on Thursday decided to set up the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries of central government employees and allowances of pensioners. The chairman and two members of the Commission will be appointed soon, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here. "Prime Minister has approved the 8th Central Pay Commission for central government employees," the minister said.

The term of the 7th Pay Commission will end in 2026. Since 1947, seven Pay Commissions have been constituted, with the last one implemented in 2016.

As the 7th Pay Commission's term concludes in 2026, initiating the process in 2025 ensures sufficient time to receive and review recommendations before its completion, the minister added. He said the setting up of the new Pay Commission in 2025 will [More on P10](#)



Gaza: 'Machinery Of Death' Rolls On Despite Truce

Agencies

Cairo: Israel airstrikes killed at least 82 people in Gaza overnight on Thursday, residents and authorities in the enclave said, hours after a ceasefire and hostage release deal was announced to bring an end to 15 months of war between Israel and Hamas. The complex ceasefire accord emerged on Wednesday after mediation by Qatar, Egypt and the US to stop the war that has devastated the coastal territory and inflamed the Middle East. The deal, scheduled to be implemented from Sunday, outlines a six-week initial ceasefire with the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip, where tens of thousands have been killed. Hostages taken by militant group Hamas, which controls the enclave, would be freed in exchange for Palestinian prisoners detained in Israel. The deal also paves the way for a surge in humanitarian aid for Gaza, where the majority of the

population has been displaced and is facing acute food shortages, food security experts warned late last year.

Rows of aid trucks were lined up in the Egyptian border town of El-Arish waiting to cross into Gaza, once the border was reopened.

Israel's acceptance of the deal will not be official until it is approved by the country's security cabinet and government, and a vote was slated for Thursday, an Israeli official said.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has delayed the meeting, accusing Hamas of making last-minute demands and going back on agreements.

"The Israeli cabinet will not convene until the mediators notify Israel that Hamas has accepted all elements of the agreement," a statement from Netanyahu's office said.

Hamas senior official Izzat el-Reshiq said on Thursday the group is [More on P10](#)

MYSTERY DEATHS IN RAJOURI

Govt 'Serious' About Probe, Says FSL Results Awaited

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo on Thursday said the government is deeply committed to investigating the recent deaths in Rajouri.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Itoo said the matter involves precious lives. She urged that politicising the issue should be avoided.

"The government is taking the investigation very seriously, and every effort is being made to uncover the reasons behind these tragic deaths," she said.

Itoo dismissed claims of delayed action by the health department, saying the department had screened approximately 3,500 villagers in the affected areas.



"All necessary samples related to the investigation were collected by the health department, and I commend their efforts. The samples have all tested negative," she said.

The minister further said that food and water samples consumed by the affected persons were also tested, but no contaminants were found. "Samples were [More on P10](#)

Father Loses 5 Children, One Battles For Life

In the remote Badhaal village of Kotranka in Rajouri district, where life is already fraught with challenges, Mohammad Aslam mourns the devastating loss of his five children and a maternal uncle to a mysterious illness that struck his family like a relentless storm. Now left with his only surviving daughter, who is critically ill, Aslam and his wife live in despair. "I have lost three daughters and two sons" [More on P10](#)



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Kashmir Receives Fresh Snow, Mercury Plummet

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir parts on Thursday recorded fresh snowfall while the rains lashed some areas in Jammu as well as in Central Kashmir districts, bringing down the mercury in the Union Territory.

Moderate snowfall was recorded in Sinthan Top, Duksum, Kokernag, Kishtwar, Poonch areas and other places where up to six inches of snow accumulated this evening.

The fresh snowfall was experienced under the influence of a Western Disturbance (WD), which mostly affected the southern parts of Kashmir.

According to the details shared by the [More on P10](#)

Several Roads closed, Trains Cancelled

The fresh snowfall has led to the closure of some vital roads and highways in Kashmir Thursday. As per the details, Sinthan-Kishtwar, Mughal Road, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri, Baderwah-Chamba roads have been closed as a precautionary measure after the fresh snowfall in Kashmir. Meanwhile, train service along the Banihal-Budgam rail section was suspended [More on P10](#)

Dr Weather Till January 19: MeT

The Meteorological Department has forecasted generally cloudy weather till January 19, saying that the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches can't be ruled out. Director Meteorological department (MeT), [More on P10](#)

Govt Committed To Empowering Women: CM Says Lakhpati Didi Campaign Is Revolutionizing The Rural Economy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to the Umeed Programme, promising to take all necessary steps, provide the required funds and simplify procedures to ensure its continued growth and success.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while addressing the 'Lakhpati Didi Sammelan' organized by the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) working under the aegis of Department of Rural



Development & Panchayati Raj at the Convention Centre here. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said, "As I stand here, my heart is filled with pride. I want to assure all of you—our

UPSC To Clear 5-Yr Backlog Of Ladakh Cadre Posts

Domicile Blueprint To Be Ready Within Days

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A Sub Committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on the issues of Ladakh met Thursday in New Delhi and almost finalized the issues pertaining to both gazetted and non-gazetted recruitments in the Union Territory of Ladakh with Union Public Service

Commission (UPSC) finalized as the Authority for clearing all backlog recruitments of gazetted cadre followed by a decision on whether the UT will have own PSC or will be affiliated with JKPS or UPSC.

The Sub Committee will meet again on February 15. Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) [More on P10](#)

THIS HAS TO BE THE ONLY CHOICE THAT WE TAKE in order to continue surviving as a state and as a nation"

-Jerusalem resident Chava Treitel

ISRO Docks SpaDeX Satellites

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a major boost to India's ambitious future space missions, ISRO on Thursday successfully performed the docking of satellites as part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) and announced that post docking, control of

two satellites as a single object was also achieved.

"India docked its name in space history! Good Morning India ISRO's SpaDeX mission accomplishes historic docking success. Proud to witness this moment!", ISRO said in a post on 'X'.

With the successful docking of satellites --Chaser and Target-- India [More on P10](#)

PM, LG Congratulate Scientists

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a post on 'X' greeted the scientists for the achievement. He said: "Congratulations to our scientists at @isro and the entire space fraternity for the successful demonstration of space docking of satellites. It is a significant [More on P10](#)



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OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Ghulam Hassan Chopan S/o Ghulam Ahmad Chopan R/o Authoora Reshipora Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance Of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in favor of his daughters namely Qamarul Hassan and Janeefar Hassan .

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Authoora Reshipora and belongs to the Chopan Community having annual income of 90000/= (Ninety Thousands Only) the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name Of the Family Member, Relationship with the Applicant, Age, Occupation, Annual Income. Rows include Ghulam Hassan Chopan, Javeeda Begum, Qamarul Hassan, Janeefar Hassan, Shamasul Hassan.

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from the public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko Naib Tehsildar

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Irfan Ahmad Chopan S/o Ab Ahad Chopan R/o Authoora Reshipora Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance Of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Authoora Reshipora and belongs to the Chopan Community having annual income of 135000/= (One Lacs and thirty-five thousands Only) the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name Of the Family Member, Relationship with the Applicant, Age, Occupation, Annual Income. Rows include Ab Ahad Chopan, Mugli Begum, Irfan Ahmad Chopan, Nusrat Begum, Horain Jan.

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from the public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko Naib Tehsildar

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Two-Way Tour & Travel Situated Sonpah Beerwah Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Umeer Farooq S/O Farooq Ahmad Sheikh R/o Sonpagh Beerwah Budgam intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Two-Way Tour & Travel Situated Sonpah Beerwah Budgam KASHMIR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 5 years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency, / Adventure Tour Operator

NOTICE

I Have Changed My Name From MUBASHIR AHSAN TO MUBASHIR AHSAN WANI. In Future I Will Be Known As MUBASHIR AHSAN WANI. If Anybody Is Having Any Objection He/she May Contact Passport Office, Srinagar Within 7 Days. After 7 Days No Objection Will Be Accepted.

NOTICE

I Khalida Guardian of Mohammad Zayem want to correct name of my Nephew in his School Record From Mohammad Zayem To Mohammad Zayem Mattoo Studying 10th class in R. P. School Alamdar Colony which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal R. P. School Alamdar Colony (Mala Bagh, Srinagar, KMR) within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NOTICE

I, have changed my name from Aleem Showkat Khan to Mohammad Aleem. In Future I will be known as Mohammad Aleem. If anybody having any objection may file to RPO Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

From:- Mohammad Aleem R/o:- Hamzah Colony Elahi Bagh Mobile:- 9541141449

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 Zoha Showkat D/o Showkat Ahmad Beigh R/o Turka Batpora Tehsil Kunzer District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 13-11--2020 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.

fko 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 Mahira Mushtaq D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Kanwaloo R/o Sher Colony Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 20-04-2020 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.

fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving licence bearing dl no: 2291. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the office of the concerned ARTO within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ah Sheikh S/o Mohd Sultan Sheikh R/o Aqilpora Magam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing dl no: JK042021000571 as Bilal Ahmad Parry S/o Ab Gani Parry R/o Kunzer Masjid Mohalla while my correct name as per adhaar is Bilal Gani S/o Ab Gani Parry R/o Dhooban Kunzer Baramulla which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the office of the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bilal Gani S/o Ab Gani Parry R/o Dhooban Kunzer Baramulla bmg

اڑنیابت کوارہامہ

عنوان :- درخواست بسدرائین و معرفت ائین و اربینڈائن ڈیٹرجمہارائن شاہسید بخاری ساکنڈ گنڈالوچھمبر اراجرائی RBA رقبہتکلیب

اشہتار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بوض حصول لیگل ہیر ٹریفکیشن پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنیادی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے سالانہ موضع گنڈالوچھمبر اور سالانہ دھبڈائیں پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے کے بسماندگان بذیل ہے۔

Table with 2 columns: Name, Age. Rows include محمد ائین شاہسید بخاری (40 سال مزدوری), شہبیزہ زوجہ محمد ائین (38 سال گھریلو کام), بسدرائین ڈیٹرجمہارائن (17 سال زیر تعلیم), معرفت ائین ڈیٹرجمہارائن (15 سال --), اربینڈائن ڈیٹرجمہارائن (13 سال --)

اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افرانگنہ نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکیشن زیر بحث اراجرائے کرنے میں اگر کسی گریڈ شخص کو کوئی مزید یا علاوہ ہتھیار اختیار کیا جاسا تو اس کے اندر اندازے سے مندرجہ اعتراض وادراست حد تک کوئی مزید یا علاوہ ہتھیار اختیار کیا جائے گا۔ بعدگزیر سے یہ عیاں ہوگا کہ کوئی مزید یا علاوہ ہتھیار اختیار کیا گیا ہے یا نہیں۔

تاجب تحصیلدار FKO

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER B.K.PORA Email: bdobkpora@gmail.com

Subject:- Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management in Block B.K.Pora District Budgam.

Expression of interest (EOI)Dasti Quoter are invited from Reputed Firms/A joint venture/ Individuals/SHG/Contractor of any class for Door-to-Door Collection, Transportation, Segregation and final Scientific Disposal of Solid Waste in 30 Halqa panchayats, comprising of 47 villages of Block B.K.PORA . The same should reach the office of the under sign within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice strictly as per the following terms and condition

- 1)The initial Validity /Terms of the contract will be for 6 Months from the date of Allotment and shall be extended after satisfactory performance of the Allottee.
2)This office shall provide 06 No. Of Vehicles (Garbage Dumper/Hoppers) for Door-to-Door Waste Collection/Transportation. However, the Allottee shall Engage Drivers, having a valid Driving License, and Helpers, preferably from Block B.K.Pora.
3) The POL Charges/Timely Service/Maintenance Charges/Yearly Insurance of the Vehicle shall be solely borne by the Allottee.
4) This office shall provide the Infrastructure constructed for Solid Waste Management viz Segregation Sheds, Compost Sheds/pits and the Maintenance of said Infrastructure shall be borne by the Allottee.
5) This office shall provide other Sanitation equipment's viz Barrow Trolleys, shovels, spades, brush cutters etc. with the condition that these shall be provided once, at initial stage and the maintenance charges of issued Equipment shall be borne by the Allottee.
6)The Allottee shall engage all kind of work force preferably from the local area of block B.K.Pora.
8)The source of funding shall be Beneficiary Contribution only i-e the user charges collected from the Households/Commercial buildings/Shops/Govt. institutions etc. The rate of user charges is not uniform for the whole block, and it varies from panchayat to panchayat and is different for Residential and Commercial properties, to know the details of fixed user charges/Sanitation fee the bidder/ participants are requested to visit the office of undersign during Notice/invitation/publication period. Modus Operandi for collection of sanitation fee/user charges shall be decided in consultation with the RDD Officials only after receiving the EOI/Dasti Quotation.
9) This office shall have a minimum share of 25% of the user charges/Sanitation fee collected from households/commercial buildings/Shops/Govt. institutions.
10)This office shall have a minimum share of 20% of the Revenue Generated out of the Managed/Treated/Recycled/Solid waste.
11) Further the share of this office for the user charges and the Revenue Generated out of the Managed/Treated/Recycled/Sold waste shall be revised after 06 months of allotment, at the time of renewal of contract

- 12)Backtracking from the contract once signed shall involve penal Action and forfeiting of cdr.
13)No dumping/landfilling of solid waste shall be allowed in open fields/along road side/along water bodies etc.
14)The participants have to apply for entire block and EOI/Dasti Quotations shall be submitted along with a CDR of Rs. 100000/-pledged to BDO B.K.PORA.
15)All the disputes shall be settled as per the JK panchayat Raj Act/SBM 2.0 Guidelines/ terms and conditions of the contract within the jurisdiction of District Budgam.
16)The EOI/Dasti Quotation shall be opened after 02 working days of closing of Notice/ publication/Invitation period, at 11:30 am.
17)The undersign shall be competent to cancel the invitation at any point of time without prior notice.
18)The mode of contract shall be ppp (public private partnership) only and the Department of Rural Development shall act as Facilitator only.
19)The contract shall be allotted to the Bidder/Participant who will offer highest share of user charges/Sanitation fee collected and Revenue Generated out of the Managed/Treated on monthly basis.
20) The concerned agency/individual shall ensure disposal of waste at a Govt. notified dumping site only and should dump waste accordingly. (The allottee shall be wholly responsible for arranging the dumping site).
21) Previous experience in managing public utilities as PPP/outsourcing and knowledge of waste management, including running decentralized solid waste management processes, will be advantageous.
22) Additional experience in community mobilization and IEC activities will be preferred.

No:BDO/BKP/1467-72
Dated:-14-01-2025
Sd/- Block Development Officer, B.K.PORA
DIPK-10943/24 dated: 16-01-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Wildlife Protection Office of the, Wildlife Warden, Wetland Division, Kashmir. Hokersar, Srinagar.

STAGE CONTRACT FOR HIRING OF VEHICLES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25 E-NIT No. 11 of 2024-25 Dated:15/01/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory, The Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, Kashmir, Hokersar, Srinagar is pleased to invite Stage Contract, quotations/rate list (not exceeding the approved rates) for hiring of vehicles as detailed below from Registered Firms / Tour operators / Taxi owners having valid Permit and Licenses for services listed below and when and where ever required by this Division for the financial year 2024-25 upto ending March, 2025 in and around locations viz Hokersar, Hygam, Shalabagh, Mirgund or Pamphore Wetland Reserves (Chattlum, Fashkooi, Kranchoo&Manibugh) and MAC Budgam Contract Carriages like Sumo, Tavera, Bolero, Tata Winger, Tempo Traveler etc

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Particulars, Unit, Rate to be given /quoted by Firm / bidder. Rows include Passenger Vehicle, Carriage Vehicle, and a note on quoted rates.

Table with 2 columns: S.No, Particulars, Date. Rows include Date of publishing of Tender Notice, Period of downloading of bidding documents, Bid submission start date, Bid submission End date, Date & time of opening of technical bids (online), Date & time of opening of financial bids (online), Last Date for Submission of Original Challan and CDR/ FDR and other documents (Hard Copy).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
1. All the terms and conditions of Transport & Tourism, Government of J&K, UT shall strictly apply.
2. All other terms and conditions amended till date, applicable in such cases / services shall be binding.
3. The Bids must be accompanied by the tender documents fee of Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt from Government Treasury remitted under Major Head: 0406-Forestry and Wildlife in favour of Wildlife Warden Wetland Division, Srinagar and Earnest Money (EMD) of Rs 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) pledged to Wildlife Warden Wetland Division, Srinagar (remitted and pledged between tender inviting date and tender closing date) and affidavit (as per Annexure "A") on judicial paper with e-stamp addressed to Wildlife Warden, Wetland Division, Srinagar.
4. The bidder applying for this tender should provide certificates about the payment of GST, Income Tax, TDS and any other tax applicable for the previous year.
5. Rates quoted should be inclusive of all applicable taxes for any place in and around locations viz Hokersar, Hygam, Shalabagh, Mirgund or Pamphore Wetland Reserves (Chattlum, Fashkooi, Kranchoo & Manibugh), besides District Budgam.
6. The starting mileage and start time shall be noted and authenticated by the accompanying Officer / Official from the starting location viz Hokersar, Hygam, Shalabagh, Mirgund or Pamphore Wetland Reserves (Chattlum, Fashkooi, Kranchoo & Manibugh) and MAC Budgam.
7. The successful quotation/bidder is bound to provide the vehicle on demand as and when and wherever required by this Division upto ending financial year 2024-25 on the given bid rates.
8. Penalty upto 10% or more shall be imposed upon the provider/supplier in case of delay or refusal of provide / supply/ the required number of vehicles as per demand.
9. In case the vehicles are not found upto the required fitness, the suppliers shall have to provide an alternate vehicle at hisown risk, cost and responsibility.
10. The payment will be made only after funds are available with the Department / Division.
11. Taxes, Toll taxes and Parking charge etc. if any, shall be borne by the bidder.
12. All applicable taxes shall be deducted from the bill at the time of payment.
13. All requirements under various statutory laws including Contract Labour Act, Income Tax, GST, etc. must be complied with.
14. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation or a part thereof without assigning any reason.
15. The bidder / contractor should arrange to verify the character and antecedents of the driver with the concerned local Police Station authorities before they are deployed for duty and obtain a certificate to that effect from the Police Station in respect of each of the driver and on demand provide the same. Any unforeseen incidents in this connection will be the responsibility of contractor only.
16. The bidder / transport contractor should comply and maintain all registers and records applicable under Motor Transport Workers' Act, and rules made there under including other statutory obligations applicable to him/ them as Transport Contractor.
17. The driver deployed must be in good health, well mannered, well behaved and should perform the duties entrusted to him properly. He must possess a valid driving license and also carrying a cell phone.
18. The driver must always wear Uniform with badge at all time while on duty, and should adhere to all traffic regulations while driving the vehicle.
19. In case of any disturbances, the bidder / contractor shall make earnest efforts to ply the vehicle as usual and if any problem arises, the same should be intimated.
20. The contract can be terminated by giving one month notice in writing by either party. In case of breach of terms and conditions.
21. Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division reserves the right to terminate the contract without giving any terms.
22. In case of any accident etc., Wildlife Protection Department shall have no responsibility whatsoever towards Police/ RTO authorities, court of law, injured parties, damage to the vehicle or property etc., all these are entirely the bidders / contractor's responsibility.
23. Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division or his/her authorized representatives are only authorized to contract the contractor to hire the vehicles as & when, wherever required. The vehicle has to be provided within three hours of intimation.
24. At the time of submission of tender documents the bidder / contractor/agency has to submit a declaration stating that "no near relative of contractor/agency is working in Wildlife Protection Department in any capacity".
25. Payment will be made on monthly basis on submission of bills in duplicate. The bills are to be submitted on or before 5th of every succeeding month and the payment will be released within one month, Income Tax/TDS/Surcharge and other taxes will be recovered as per the rules in force.
26. Any statutory Certificate/Permission/License required for the contract has to be procured by the firm at their own cost.
27. Duration of the Contract: Time shall be the essence of the Bidder and the duration of this contract shall be for the current financial year 2024-25 ending March, 2025, which is extendable for a further period of two years at the discretion of the Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, except in the event of earlier termination under the terms and conditions. The contract shall automatically expire after completion of financial year, unless extended further by mutual consent of the parties in writing.
28. The Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division has the absolute right to terminate the contract at any time before the due date of expiry without assigning any reason by giving one month's notice in advance to the Bidder in writing. The Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division shall also have the right to extend the contract in writing on the same terms and conditions or with some addition/deletion/modification for a further period of two years or for a shorter period.
29. In the event of the bidder / contractor desiring an earlier termination of the contract, he shall have to give three months' advance notice to the Department.
30. The bidder / contractor will be bound by the details and documents as furnished by him while submitting the tender or at any other time. In case any of the details of such documents furnished by him, are found to be false at any stage, this would be deemed to be a breach of the terms of Contract making him liable for action.
31. In case of breach of any of the terms of Agreement, the security deposit of the Bidder will be liable to be forfeited. In addition, the Contract/Agreement will also be terminated: any sum of money due or payable including the security deposit refundable to him under the contract can be appropriated by the Institute against any amount which the bidder / contractor may owe to the Department.
32. TDS will be deducted as per Laws in force and certificate to this effect shall be provided to the bidder / contractor.
33. The responsibility of paying the GST as per prevailing rates and as claimed in the bill amount, will be of the Bidder. The Bidder will be required to furnish proof of such deposit to the Institute every month.
34. If the bidder / contractor fails to observe the obligations applicable to him/ them as Transport Contractor, penalty as may be deemed proper by the Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, Kashmir, Srinagar shall be imposed per vehicle per day and deducted from the bill for each of such occasions.
No. WLW (WL)/Accts/2024-25/639-41
DIPK-10926/24 Dated:16-01-2025
--Sd/-- Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, Kashmir, Srinagar.

'Combat Drug Abuse With Fitness'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Inspector General, Central Kashmir, Rajiv Omprakashn Pande Thursday urged the youth to adopt fitness as a powerful tool to combat the rising drug menace.

After flagging off cyclists for their journey to Kanyakumari, the DIG Srinagar, said that the event was organised to support a group of cyclists pedaling from Lal Chowk to Kanyakumari.

He praised their effort, noting that their journey not

only promotes fitness but also conveys a message of a pollution-free India.

"So many students and so many youth are connected with drugs, and we have seen the menace all around. The message is simple: once you start the fitness journey, these drugs and other associated issues naturally diminish," he said.

He also said that engaging in physical activities like cycling not only promotes health but also naturally discourages harmful habits such as drug abuse—(KNO)

EJCC's Protest Demanding Release Of DA Foiled

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC) staged a protest at Srinagar's Press Enclave on Thursday, demanding the release of the pending Dearness Allowance (DA) and GP fund.

Chanting slogans "Inqalaab Zindabad" and "We want justice", the protestors called for immediate action from the authorities.

The demonstration was short-lived as police intervened and dispersed the pro-

testors soon after they gathered at press enclave Srinagar.

Similarly, as frustrated with a seven-month delay in the release of the 3% DA and seeking the regularization of daily wagers, the Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC) announced plans for further demonstrations in both Jammu and Srinagar.

Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the EJCC, earlier said the delay has caused significant distress among employees. "We will not stop until our demands are met," he said—(KNO)

DC Reviews Arrangements For Republic Day-2025 Celebrations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In connection with celebrations of forthcoming Republic-Day-2025, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud Din Bhat Thursday visited Bakshi Stadium to take on site review of the preparatory activities and arrangements being put in place by the respective Departments for seamless conduct of Divisional level event.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner along with Officers went around the Stadium pavilions and VVIP Gallery to have first-hand appraisal of the preparatory activities.

The DC was given appraisal about the preparations/arrangements being made with regard to seating arrangements, cultural programmes, March past parade, power supply, deployment of medical & first aid and fire fighting system,

installation of Public Address System.

In addition, preparations related to Media management, security related matters and entry of VVIPs, VIPs and other participants were also reviewed.

The DC was given brief information about the security arrangements in and around the Stadium to ensure hassle-free celebrations of the function.

During the visit, the DC asked the concerned to make requisite arrangements for parade contingent passage and for the cultural activities at the Stadium to cope with any situation arising due to snowfall/rain or water logging on rehearsal day or main event of the Republic-day 2025.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal enjoined upon the Officers to maintain close coordination with each other for smooth and successful conduct of the function.

Cyclists Embark On 3,676-KM Journey To Promote Pollution-Free India



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The atmosphere around Srinagar's iconic clock tower (Ghanta Ghar) turned energetic on Thursday morning with the kick-start of a 3,676-kilometer cycle journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, aimed at promoting a pollution-free India.

The cycle journey started from Srinagar this morning and was flagged off by Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Central Kashmir Range (CKR), Rajiv Omprakashn Pande, from the iconic Lal Chowk.

According to details, a group of elderly men, mostly in their 60s, said

they gathered at Lal Chowk to promote a pollution-free India.

Jitendra Jayin from Bombay (Mumbai), speaking on the occasion, said they are excited about the journey as it is going to be tough yet thrilling. "We are carrying our work luggage without any support vehicle, and the journey will be challenging but exciting," he said.

"We all are above the age of 60, and there should always be excitement in life," he said, adding that they have previously traveled from Mumbai to Goa, but this will be their first time attempting such a long journey.

Jayin added, "If we can do it in our 60s, why can't young people do it?"

Manoj Kumar, another cyclist, said the hospitality of Kashmir is incredible, and when people learn about their reason for cycling, they offer free tea and refreshments. "Our aim is to promote a pollution-free India, and this cycling rally is a way to make our message clear and loud across the country," he said.

It is worth mentioning that DIG, Central Kashmir, Rajiv Omprakashn Pande, flagged off the cycle journey and urged youth to adopt fitness as a powerful tool to combat the rising drug menace—(KNO)

SKIMS Warns Employees For Proceeding On Leave Without Approval

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura authorities have expressed serious concern over employees proceeding on leave without prior approval despite an acute staff shortage.

In a communication issued by SKIMS authorities—while directing adherence to norms—the authorities noted that some employees proceed on leave without prior sanction from the competent authority and leave the station without approval for such leave.

"This has been taken very seriously by the authorities as it is unbefitting of a Government employee, violates service rules, and warrants disciplinary action against the defaulting employees," the communication stated.

The authorities also pointed out that Heads of Departments (HoDs) and Sectional Heads are recommending leaves for employees without proper justification, even amid the prevailing staff shortage.

In this regard, HoDs and Sectional Heads have been instructed to recommend leave requests "very judiciously, with proper justification, until the staff strength is restored."

Additionally, SKIMS authorities raised concerns over officers availing ex-India leave without following the prescribed procedure.

The communication noted that "most officers/officials are also applying for ex-India leave on short notice" and proceeding on leave without awaiting the requisite approval or permission to leave the country from the competent authority.

It has been directed that all SKIMS employees, including faculty members, who intend to avail leave or ex-India leave, must apply for approval through the concerned HoDs at least 15 days in advance.

"For ex-India leave, applications must be submitted 45 days in advance after obtaining Vigilance Clearance from the GAD (Vigilance) to ensure administrative approval is sought in time, avoiding mismanagement and maladministration," the communication stated.

To address the issue, HoDs and Sectional Heads have been instructed not to frequently recommend leave cases.

"There is already a staff shortage, and any recommended leaves must be based on genuine grounds, keeping in view the constraints within departments," the authorities emphasized.

All employees, including HoDs, faculty members, and Sectional Heads, have been directed to strictly adhere to these instructions. "Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action as per the rules, without further notice," the communication warned.

SMC Deploys Machinery, Manpower To Tackle Snowfall

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has completed preparations for snow clearance in Barubari and other areas, ensuring a well-equipped response with a range of machinery and manpower. Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed, stated that modified tractors, 4x4 vehicles, JCBs, loaders, and additional machinery have been deployed for efficient snow removal.

A ward-wise team has been formed, with ward officers and Junior Engineers (JEs) overseeing operations. "We have set up a dual monitoring system for both mechanical and manual snow clearance to ensure smooth progress," Dr. Owais said. He highlighted that over 5,000 lanes and bylanes would be manually cleared, supported by sufficient manpower, while 1,500 km of roads would be cleared mechanically.

Additionally, SMC has deployed water pumps at key locations to address water accumulation issues post-clearance. "Our control room, equipped with GPS monitoring, operates 24x7, allowing real-time tracking of machinery and quick response to public grievances through telephone or social media," he added.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
16 Rajab
1446

PRAYERS	
FAJR	6:08
ZUHR	12:38
ASR	4:08
Magrib	5:50
ISHA	7:14

This Day In History

- 1287- King Alfonso III of Aragon invades Minorca
- 1377 -Pope Gregory XI moves the Papacy back to Rome from Avignon
- 1501- Cesare Borgia returns in triumph to Rome from Romagna
- 1524- Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano's sets sail aboard French ship La Dauphine to find a passage to China - finds North America instead
- 1536- Francois Rabelais absolved of apostasy by Pope Paul III
- 1595- King Henry IV of France declares war on Spain - lasts till 1598
- 1601- France gains Bresse, Bugey, Valromey & Gex in treaty with Spain
- 1656- Brandenburg & Sweden sign Treaty of Königsberg
- 1746- Battle of Falkirk Muir, the Jacobites under Charles Stuart defeat Hanoverian forces
- 1757 -German Diet declares war on Prussia
- 1773- Captain James Cook becomes the first to cross Antarctic Circle (66° 33' S)
- 1781- Battle of Cowpens: American revolutionary forces led by Brigadier General Daniel Morgan defeat the British under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton in a decisive double envelopment near the town of Cowpens, a turning point in the American reconquest of South Carolina
- 1852- British recognize independence of Transvaal (in South Africa)
- 1862 -Jan 22nd) BBT Ft Henry, Tennessee by USS Lexington
- 1885- Battle of Abu Klea (Battle of Abu Tulayh), Sudan: British Desert Column defeat Mahdist forces: 76 British and 1,100 Mahdists killed
- 1893- Franco-Russian Alliance is signed
- 1895- French president Casimir-Perier resigns; Félix Faure installed.
- 1899- US takes possession of Wake Island in the Pacific
- 1915- Battle of Sarikamish ends with a Russian victory over Ottoman forces led by Enver Pasha with loss of over 30,000 men of the Turkish Third Army during Caucasus Campaign
- 1915- Russia occupies Bukovina & Western Ukraine
- 1920- Paul Deschanel elected President of France
- 1928- 1st fully automatic photographic film developing machine patented
- 1938- Joseph P. Kennedy becomes the 44th United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom
- 1938- Supreme Soviet elects Michail Kalinin as presidium chairman
- 1939- Ed Barrow is elected Yankee president succeeding deceased J Ruppert
- 1945- Nazis begin evacuation of Auschwitz concentration camp to other camps in Austria and Germany as the Red Army advanced across Poland
- 1945- Soviet army enters the devastated city of Warsaw and clears German resistance
- 1948- Netherlands & Indonesia agree to a cease-fire
- 1961- US President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivers a televised farewell address to the nation three days before leaving office, in which he warns against the accumulation of power by the "military-industrial complex".
- 1962- NASA civilian pilot Neil Armstrong takes hypersonic research plane X-15 to 40,690m
- 1969- Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 5 lands
- 1979- USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1980- NASA launches Fltsatcom-3
- 1987 - US President Reagan signs secret order permitting covert sale of arms to Iran
- 1991- Iraq fires 8 Scud missiles on Israel
- 1995 - 7.2 earthquake destroys Kobe, Japan and kills 5,372
- 1996 - The Czech Republic applies for membership of the European Union.
- 1996 - Iraq agrees to talks concerning a UN plan to allow for the Iraqi sale of \$1 billion of oil; proceeds from the sale would be used for humanitarian purposes
- 1998- US President Bill Clinton faces sexual harassment charges from Paula Jones
- 2001- OPEC agrees at a meeting of ministers in Vienna, to reduce members' oil production quotas by 1.5 million barrels per day
- 2013- 33 people are killed by a series of bombs across Iraq
- 2013 Japan unveils plans to build the world's largest wind farm near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN
Sub: Issuance of Registration order in respect of delayed birth.
PUBLIC NOTICE
The registrar birth EO Municipal committee pattan has submitted case file pertaining to birth of. Mohammad Irfan Shah s/o Muzaffar Ahmad Shah R/o Nehalpora pattan Tehsil Pattan distt. Baramulla with verified date of birth 11/01/2024 occurred at SDH Pattan
SD /-
Naib Tehsildar
Pattan
FKO

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr.DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 06.02.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Bidding System	Single Bid System
Date of Uploaders	10.01.2025	Bid Starting Date	23.01.2025	Bid Closing Date/Time	06.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of Completion
1.	294-2024-25-Sr-DEN-I/FZR	TRR (P) 45.30 km of existing old 52 kg rails with 60 kg (90/110 UTS) new rails from DN line km 4.50 to km 12.00, km 14.00 to km 34.30, km 36.40 to km 48.20, km 53.10 to km 55.20 and km 59.20 to km 62.80 on Suchipind- Pathankot section under Sr. DEN-I/FZR.	₹4,04,64,284.40	₹3,52,300/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work: "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track, Deep screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28".						
2.	295-2024-25-Sr-DEN-I/FZR	Various Base Depot/Site activities in c/w CTR (P) - 26.822 Km of existing track laid with 52kg rails of PSC-5 sleepers (1540/m) with 60kg (90/110 UTS) new rails on PSC wider seat sleepers 1660 nos./km (LWR) with raising ballast cushion 25 cm to 35 cm from km 8.00 to km 12.00, km 14.00 to km 18.00 & km 19.89 to km 27.78 on UP line and km 75.00 to km 81.432 on Suchipind-Pathankot section under Sr. DEN-I/FZR.	₹4,67,38,427.70	₹3,83,700/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work: "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track, Deep screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28".						

Note: Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No.: 294 & 295-2024-25-Sr-DEN-I-FZR
Dated: 16.01.2025
179/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR
ESTATES WING, MAIN CAMPUS SHALIMAR - 190 025
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-NIT No. (86) of 2024-25 Dated: 14.01.2025
For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2025 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Upgradation of Agronomy & Bio Fertilizer Laboratories at FoA Wadura, SKUAST-K (HADP).	4.74	9,480	D Class	200/-	15 Days

a) Position of AAA: Accorded
b) Position of T.S : Sanctioned
c) Position of funds: Available
1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:-

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	14.01.2025
2. Date of start of downloading	14.01.2025
3. Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4. Bid submission start Date	14.01.2025
5. Bid submission end date	19.01.2025 (18.00 PM)
6. Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	20.01.2025 (11.30 AM)
7. Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	20.01.2025

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.
No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(86)/950
Dated: 15.01.2025
DIPK-NB-3199-24
DT: 16/01/2025
Sd /-
Executive Engineer
SKUAST-Kashmir

Thousands Across Gaza Celebrate Ceasefire Deal

Agencies

DEIR EL-BALAH: Crowds of Gazans chanted and embraced on Wednesday as news spread that a ceasefire and hostage release deal had been reached between Israel and Hamas aimed at ending more than 15 months of war in the Palestinian territory.

After a US official and a source close to the negotiations first revealed the agreement, Israel cautioned that several points "remain unresolved" that it hoped would be resolved.

But celebrations were already underway in Gaza, where AFP journalists saw crowds of people hugging and taking photos to mark the announcement.

"I can't believe that this nightmare of more than a year is finally coming to an end. We have lost so many people, we've lost everything," said Randa Sameeh, a 45-year-old displaced from Gaza City to the Nuseirat Camp in the centre of the territory.

"We need a lot of rest. As soon

as the truce begins, I will go to the cemetery to visit my brother and family members. We buried them in Deir el-Balah cemetery without proper graves. We will build them new graves and write their names on them."

Outside Deir al-Balah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where so many of the war's casualties have been taken, hundreds of Palestinians gathered to chant, sing and wave flags, AFP/TV footage showed.

At one point, a member of the crowd and a journalist in body armour were raised on people's shoulders to conduct an interview above the mass of elated Gazans.

As an ambulance squeezed through the crowd to reach the hospital, smiling men and women alike chanted "Allahu Akbar", or "God is greatest" in Arabic, and waved the Palestinian flag.

Young children, some looking confused by the commotion, gathered outside the hospital too, milling between adults and watching as they gave interviews to the waiting media.

A gaggle of young boys in the



Crowds of Gazans chanted and embraced on Wednesday as news spread that a ceasefire and hostage release deal. (Photo | X)

centre of the crowd led a popular pro-resistance chant as adults filmed the moment on their phones.

In Gaza City, 27-year-old Abdul Karim said: "I feel joy despite everything we've lost."

"I can't believe I will finally see my wife and two children again," he added. "They left for the south

almost a year ago. I hope they allow the displaced to return quickly."

Large crowds also gathered in Khan Yunis, in southern Gaza, with young men surfing through the crowd on the shoulders of others beating drums and cheering, an AFP photographer saw.

The deal agreed on Wednesday is expected to halt the fighting in the devastated Palestinian territory and see hostages held in Gaza released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Hamas sparked the war in Gaza by staging the deadliest-ever attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, resulting in the deaths of 1,210 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures.

Palestinian militants also took 251 people hostage during the attack, 94 of whom are still being held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed 46,707 people, most of them civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry that the UN considers reliable.

Actor Saif Ali Khan Stabbed By Intruder At Mumbai Home

Doctors Say He Is Out Of Danger

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan was repeatedly stabbed with a knife by an intruder inside his 12th floor apartment in upscale Bandra early Thursday in a shocking attack that raises intriguing questions about security, motive, and celebrity life.

Khan, 54, was "out of danger" following an emergency surgery, said the doctors at the Lilavati Hospital where he was rushed following the incident that took place around 2.30 am at his house in 'Satguru Sharan' building.

The intruder fled from the spot.

Actor Saif Ali Khan stabbed by intruder at Mumbai home; doctors say he is out of danger

Actor Saif Ali Khan stabbed by intruder at Mumbai home; doctors say he is out of danger

Dr Nitin Dange, neurosurgeon at Lilavati Hospital, said Khan had sustained major injury to his "thoracic spine."

"Surgery was performed to remove the knife and also to repair the leaking spinal fluid.... Khan is completely stable now. He is in a recovery mode and is completely out of danger. We will shift him out of ICU tomorrow morning," Dr Dange added.

12 Naxalites Gunned Down By Security Forces In Chhattisgarh

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Twelve Naxalites were killed in a fierce encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur dis-



trict on Thursday, a senior police official said.

The gunfight broke out at around 9 am in a forest of south Bijapur when a joint team of security personnel was out an anti-Naxalite operation and the intermittent exchange of fire lasted till late in the evening, he said.

elite jungle warfare unit of the CRPF) and the 229th battalion of the CRPF were involved in the operation, he said.

"As per preliminary information, 12 Naxalites were killed in the gunfight. Further details were awaited as a search operation was still under way in the area," the official said.

Faulty Road Construction Should Be Made Non-Bailable Offence: Gadkari

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said faulty road construction should be made a non-bailable offence and road contractors and engineers should be held responsible for accidents and sent to prison.

Addressing an event organised by industry body CII, Gadkari further said India is number one in road accidents in the world.

"Faulty road construction should be a non-bailable offence and road contractors, concessionaires and engineers should be held responsible for accidents and sent to prison," he said.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways aims to reduce road accident



Faulty road construction should be a non-bailable offence and road contractors, concessionaires and engineers should be held responsible for accidents and sent to prison

fatalities to half by 2030.

According to the minister, the ministry data of road accidents in 2023 shows five lakh mishaps in the country resulting in 1,72,000 deaths.

"Of this, 66.4 per cent, or 1,14,000, were in the 18-45 age bracket while 10,000 deaths were of children," Gadkari said.

He pointed out that 55,000 deaths were reported due to absence of helmets and 30,000 were due to non-use of seat belts.

Gadkari also said the highways ministry is spending Rs 40,000 crore to rectify black spots on highways.

Gadkari urged the industry and other stakeholders to partner with the government for setting up of driver training and fitness centres to address the acute shortage of drivers in the country.

EC Issues Advisory On Use Of Ai In Poll Campaigning

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Against the backdrop of increasing use of artificial intelligence in campaigning and its potential to influence voter opinion, the Election Commission on Thursday issued an advisory to political parties asking them to promote transparency and accountability in use of AI-generated content.

The advisory introduces labelling and disclosure norms requiring parties to clearly label any images, videos, audio or other materials generated or significantly altered by AI technologies with a notation such as "AI-Generated"/ "Digitally Enhanced"/ "Synthetic Content".

It also requires political parties to include disclaimers during dissemination of campaign advertisements or promotional content, wherever synthetic content is utilised.

It also requires political parties to include disclaimers during dissemination of campaign advertisements or promotional content, wherever synthetic content is utilised

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had recently cautioned against the potential of AI and deep fakes in compounding the malaise of misinformation.

He had expressed concern that deep fakes and misinformation have the potential to erode trust in electoral processes.

Bangladesh Commission Proposes Removal Of 'Secularism' And 'Socialism' From Constitution

Press Trust Of India

DHAKA: Bangladesh's Constitution Reform Commission on Wednesday submitted its report to interim government chief Muham-

mad Yunus, proposing the replacement of the state principles of secularism, socialism and nationalism.

The commission set up by the Yunus administration, after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as prime minister following a mass agitation led by students, also proposed a bicameral parliament for the country and a two-term limit on a premier's tenure.

The three principles are

among the four enshrined as "fundamental principles of state policy" in the country's constitution. Under the new proposals, only one -- "democracy", remains unchanged.

"We are proposing five state principles -- equality, human dignity, social justice, pluralism, and democracy -- for reflection of the great ideals of the 1971 Liberation War and the people's aspiration during the 2024 mass upsurge," commission chairman Ali Riaz said in a video statement.

The report kept "democracy" alone in the constitution's preamble alongside the four new principles as it presented



Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus

the report to Yunus.

The chief advisor's press wing in a statement quoted Riaz as saying the commission recommended the formation of a bicameral parliament with a lower house named the National Assembly and an upper

house named the Senate with 105 and 400 seats respectively.

The report suggested both the proposed houses will have a term of four years instead of the existing five-year term of the parliament.

The commission suggested the lower house be based on majority representation and the upper one on proportional representation.

The commission believes that one of the main reasons the "autocratic authoritarianism Bangladesh" faced over the past 16 years was because of the absence of an institutional power balance and concentration of power in the prime minister's office.

It recommended a two-term limit on the premier's tenure.

The report said, therefore, it proposed the creation of a constitutional body named the National Constitutional Council to establish a system of checks and balances between the three branches of the state and the two executive positions -- the prime minister and the president.

This council would include the president, the chief justice, the prime minister and the leader of the opposition (both elected through the parliament), speakers of both houses, deputy speakers from the opposition, and a representative of other parties.

NEWS MAKERS

Jaishankar To Represent Indian Govt At US President-Elect Trump's Swearing-In Ceremony

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent the Indian government at the swearing-in ceremony of US President-elect Donald Trump as the 47th US President.

He is set to attend the swearing-in ceremony at the invitation of the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, according to a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) press release.

During the visit, Jaishankar will also have meetings with representatives of the incoming administration, as well as some other dignitaries visiting the US on that occasion.

In a press release, MEA said, "On the invitation of the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar will represent the Government of India at the Swearing-In Ceremony of President-Elect Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States of America."

The ceremonial event is set to take place on January 20, approximately two weeks after Trump's electoral college win was certified by the US Congress.

Earlier on January 6, Trump's election victory was certified ahead of his inauguration with no objec-



tions from any lawmakers as the tally of states was announced on the House floor. Donald Trump won 312 electoral votes while Harris got 226 votes, a total that was confirmed during the certification on Monday, marking the final step in the election process before Trump returns back to the White House on January 20.

Republican lawmakers gave a standing ovation in the chamber when Harris announced Trump's victory was certified, The Hill reported. A bipartisan standing ovation broke out in the House Chamber after Harris announced that the joint session of Congress was dissolved.

Pakistan Airlines Ad Accused Of Evoking 9/11 Imagery As Pm Orders Inquiry

Pakistan's national airline has been criticised for an advert that shows a plane flying towards the Eiffel Tower - with some saying it bears similarities to imagery of the 9/11 terror attacks.

The advert, which was posted on the official X account of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on 10 January, shows the plane heading towards the French landmark alongside the words "Paris, we're coming today".

It was meant to mark the return of direct flights to Europe after a four-year ban over safety standards was lifted.

But some on social me-



dia said the ad was reminiscent of imagery of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US, when hijacked planes crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC.

One user wrote: "Is this an advertisement or

threat?", while another said: "Who thought this ad was a good idea?"

Omar Quraishi, a former media adviser to Pakistani politician Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, also questioned the thinking behind the ad, saying he was "truly speechless".

"Did the idiot who de-

signed this graphic not see a PIA plane heading for the Eiffel Tower? One of Europe's iconic landmarks," he wrote.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has now ordered an inquiry to determine how the controversial advert was allowed to be published, according to local media.

The first flight from Islamabad to Paris since 2020 was fully booked with more than 300 passengers on board, PIA said.

Restrictions on PIA flights to Europe were imposed in 2020 by the European Union's aviation safety agency after 97 people died when a PIA plane crashed in Karachi in southern Pakistan.

Kawaki Bazar Bridge In Kulgam's Qaimoh Sees No Progress

Agencies

KULGAM: The old Kawaki Bazar bridge in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, dismantled four months ago, has seen no progress, leaving residents of over ten villages in hardship.

Locals alleged that the concerned authorities have taken the work for granted, and the temporary footbridge has also been closed, further adding to the sufferings of people, especially the elderly.

The Kawaki Bazar bridge at Qaimoh area was dismantled on October 21st last year due to its narrow structure, which caused traffic congestion.

A temporary footbridge was erected to provide convenience to the people.

Locals told KNO that the bridge is crucial as it connects almost ten villages to the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Unfortunately, no work has been carried out on the bridge since its dismantling, they said.

Jahangir Ahmad, a local, said, "When the administration doesn't have any planning, why did they dismantle the bridge? The bridge needs to be com-

pleted quickly as it holds great importance."

He said dismantling the bridge without any clear timeline for completion has left them stranded. "The suffering of the people, especially the elderly, could have been avoided if the authorities took their responsibilities seriously."

Another local said the authorities seem to have forgotten that the bridge connects vital areas. "Their indifference is causing us daily hardships and a temporary footbridge was a solution, but now it is also closed now. How much longer will the administration ignore our pleas for basic infrastructure?"

He also pointed out, "It is a harsh winter; if any emergency arises, what can we do? Even vehicles have to travel kilometers to reach here. Authorities should start work on it as soon as possible and the temporary footbridge needs to be reopened for commuters on a priority basis."

"The administration and a local MLA, whom we voted for, seem to be in deep slumber. We urge higher authorities to look into the matter," he added—(KNO)

5 Drug Peddlers Arrested

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday said to have arrested five drug peddlers in Kupwara, Baramulla, Srinagar & Budgam and recovered contraband substances & cash from their possession.

A police team of Police Post Bazaar at a checkpoint established at Geerhatchi, Kupwara, intercepted a suspicious person identified as Ishaq Ahmad Parry son of Ghulam Hassan Parry resident of Doniwari Lolab. During the search, 11 grams of Heroin-like substance and Rs 5,170 was recovered from his possession. Subsequently, he was arrested, a police spokesman said in a statement.

Meanwhile in Baramulla, a Police party of Police Station Uri at a checkpoint established at Gingal Uri, arrested a drug peddler identified as Saleem Khan son of Akhter Khan resident of Dawaran Uri. During the search, 1.208 Kgs of Cannabis Powder like substances was recovered from his possession, police said.

In Srinagar, a Police team at a checkpoint established at Dalgate, arrested two drug peddlers identified as Aquib Ahmad Sofi son of Late Gh Mohi Udin Sofi resident of Buchwara Dalgate and Ashiq Hussain Dar son of Mohd Yousuf Dar resident of Dubji Bund Maisuma Srinagar.

During search, a substantial quantity of narcotic substance and cash amount of ₹5,000/- have been recovered from their possession, police added.

In Budgam, during naka checking at Madbal Chadoora, a Police party of Police Station Chadoora intercepted a vehicle (Alto) bearing registration No. JK01K-3500 driven by Sajad Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Mohiud-din Wani resident of Nowhar Chadoora. During the search, 1.70 Kgs of Charas Powder and 02 sticks of Charas wrapped in corn husk were recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

Accordingly, police said that the cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

"We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said.

BJP Hails CM Omar Over His "Pro-Modi Stance"

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary Ashok Koul, on Thursday hailed Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his recent statement in which he hailed Prime Minister Modi. The party has stated that Omar's statement during the inauguration of Sonmarg tunnel is the vindication of BJP's pro-developmental policies.

Koul, when asked about the opposition's attack on Omar Abdullah accusing him of parroting the BJP's stance in Kashmir, Koul said that such allegations are for the concerned individuals to answer.

Koul claimed that the BJP's initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are laudable. He highlighted the government's efforts to honor November 26 as Constitution Day, commemorating the day in 1949 when Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Drafting Committee finalized the Indian Constitution. "From November 26 to Jan-



uary 26, the BJP is spreading awareness about the Constitution and the contributions of Dr. Ambedkar. This period reflects on his unparalleled role in shaping India's democratic framework, and it's important to also discuss the challenges he faced, including how the Congress party worked to undermine him," Koul added.

Koul also spotlighted major infrastructure initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those announced by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. He spoke of significant projects, including four corridors, the Ring Road in Kashmir and Jammu, and expressways, collectively worth Rs 50,000 crores.

"These developments, including the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, are set to transform the region. With over thirty tunnels under construction, nine of which are expected to be operational by December, the travel time between Jammu and Srinagar will soon reduce to 4-5 hours," Koul said.

The BJP leader also criticized the Congress party for its historical treatment of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, alleging efforts to defeat him politically and deny him respect in his final rites. "The injustice done to Dr. Ambedkar, who made monumental contributions to the nation, must be highlighted," Koul said—(KNO)

Gogaldara 'Chill Point' Attracts Tourists, Becomes Social Media Sensation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An unusual yet stunning natural formation (35-foot icicle), surrounded by snow-covered pine forests, known as Chill Point in Gogaldara in north Kashmir has become a rising attraction for tourists with its unique beauty.

Just 13 kilometers from Tangmarg, this natural "Chill Point" has not only drawn tourists but also sparked interest on social media, with many sharing breathtaking pictures on social media, bringing the destination into the spotlight.

Tourists visiting the destination have expressed their love for the picturesque scenery and the warm hospitality of the locals.

Anjali Verma, a tourist from Delhi, while sharing her thoughts said that she had no idea this place existed until recently. "The unique natural formation and the snow-covered pine trees are like something out of a dream. It's peaceful and perfect for anyone seeking a break from city life."

Another visitor, Vishal Malhotra, a Lucknow resident, shared his excitement, "The



sledding rides and the local meals made this trip unforgettable. It's like a hidden paradise that deserves more attention."

Meanwhile, local residents have stepped up to accommodate the influx of tourists by providing meals, washrooms, and sledges for rides. However, they believe that the destination has untapped potential and are urging the administration to take measures to promote it on a larger scale.

"Gogaldara has everything to become as popular as Gulmarg or Pahalgam. If the government invests in its promotion and infrastructure, it can bring

in more tourists and create jobs for the locals," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a local businessman.

Similarly, Basit Ahmed, a sledge ride operator said that they are doing their best to welcome tourists, but proper infrastructure and official recognition could make this place a major attraction. "It's not just about tourism; it's about boosting the local economy," he said.

They appealed to the administration to explore Gogaldara's potential, with a belief that Chill Point could become a contributor to the region's economy besides tourists an another reason to visit the valley—(KNO)

Police Arrests Fraudulent Gold Smith From Bijbehara

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in Srinagar on Thursday have apprehended an individual involved in the sale of counterfeit gold ornaments.

"On 09/01/2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Nowhatta by an individual namely Nisar Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Bindoo Kokernag, at present living in Srinagar & working as a storekeeper at Lalmandi Srinagar, stating therein that he had purchased gold ornaments from one Mehraj Din Qazi, the proprietor of M/S Soliya Ornaments in Bijbehara. Upon close observation once purchased, they turned out to be fake," a police spokesman said in a statement.

In this connection, police said that a case under FIR number 02/2025 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Nowhatta.

Acting swiftly, the investigating team arrested the accused

shopkeeper identified as Mehraj Din Qazi son of Gh Mohamad Qazi resident of Bijbehara, and seized the fake jewellery, police said.

During questioning, the accused admitted to deceiving customers by embossing fake hallmarks on gold-like ornaments. The investigating team also learnt that the accused had been making home deliveries of these counterfeit items to various locations of Srinagar City, including Nowhatta, the statement added.

The laboratory tests of the seized gold jewellery have confirmed that the ornaments in question are indeed counterfeit, police said, adding that the investigation of the case is going on to uncover any further links in this fraudulent network.

"People are requested not to fall prey to fraudulent elements who dupe people on various counts including sale of golden ornaments on cheap rates," police said.

CS Advocates Tough Action Against Online Scammers



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired the 35th Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) meeting convened by Reserve Bank of India, Jammu branch here.

The meeting was aimed to discuss issues related to unauthorised deposits, fraudulent activities of unregulated entities and sharing of market intelligence among the stakeholders.

Regional Director, RBI, Jammu, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Principal Secretary, Finance, ADGP(CID), Secretary, Revenue, Secretary, Law, Director Industrialise and Commerce and Joint Director, Information, Jammu were present in the meeting. Besides, top officials of regulatory bodies in J&K including GM, RBI, Registrar Cooperatives, RoC, Market Intelligence Unit, RBI and representatives from SEBI and ICAI also attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary took notice of the instances of defraud committed against the people of the UT. He stressed on tak-

ing strict action against these online scammers under the relevant provisions of BUDS Act.

Dulloo reiterated that commission of crime in itself is cognizable offence so the law enforcement agencies have primary responsibility to take impromptu action against such entities to safeguard people from falling prey to their traps. He enjoined upon the regulatory bodies to notify the rules so as to facilitate the law enforcement agencies in taking action. He also advised them including the RBI, SEBI and others to generate awareness among the people and circulate this knowledge through social media, WhatsApp and bulk messaging to people through banks operating in J&K.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the RBI authorities to empower the police officers in carrying out effective investigations in the cases of digital arrest or online scams. He asked them to train some master trainers who would go in districts to train about 5000 investigation officers in the police department.

Sakeena Itoo Inspects GMC, AH Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday conducted an extensive inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) and Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Jammu to assess the medical facilities, evaluate ongoing works and ensure effective functioning of healthcare services for the people of Jammu and surrounding regions.

During the inspection at GMC and Associated Hospital, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review of the infrastructure, equipment, patient care services and cleanliness standards maintained at the facility. She interacted with the hospital staff to gain first-hand insights into the challenges they face.

She also inspected BSL Lab, VRDL, ICMR lab, Chopra nurs-



ing home and other sections of the hospital. She laid emphasis on availability of essential medicines, diagnostic tools and manpower so that the patients are ensured due advantage of these facilities.

On the sidelines of the visit, the Minister also chaired a meeting to review progress on various ongoing projects of GMC and Associated Hospitals. She also assessed the functioning of Bone and Joint Hospital, Jammu, SMGS Hospital, Shalamar, MCCH Gandhinagar, State Cancer In-

stitute Jammu, Chest Disease Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital Jammu.

During the meeting, the Minister took stock of infrastructure upgrades, status of under-construction buildings, procurement of modern medical equipment as well as requirement of manpower for smooth functioning of these health facilities.

While appreciating the efforts of the hospital administration in providing quality healthcare facilities, Sakeena Itoo emphasized the need for

continued improvements in healthcare services to address the existing gaps. She stressed on the importance of timely completion of these projects to enhance the overall efficiency and patient care standards in the region. "Address any kind of bottlenecks in execution of works timely in consultation with other stakeholders and ensure that these projects are completed within the stipulated timelines", Sakeena directed the officers.

Highlighting the government's commitment towards improving healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister reiterated that patient-centric approach is the priority of the current government. She asked the officers to work in synergy and ensure that every effort is made to provide affordable, accessible and high-quality healthcare facilities to all sections of society.

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub: Application of Saja Begum widow Gh Ahmad Ganie R/o Ganiepora Bum pattan for obtaining Legal hair certificate of his husband

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above applicant's husband legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants husband died on 09/09/2024 and left following legal heirs.

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
SAJA BEGUM	82	HUSBAND	WIDOW
RAFEQA BEGUM	54	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
MOHD ASHRAF GANIE	50	SON	MARRIED
FARDOOQ AHMAD GANIE	39	SON	MARRIED
ATEQA BEGUM	49	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
KOUSARA JABEEN	37	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
MOHAMMAD BIN AHMAD	50	SON	MARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of the said certificate he may contact to this office within 07 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD/-
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
FKO

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF LD MUNSIF PAMPORE

In the case of:- Mohd Afzal Lone S/o: Lt.Mohd Shuban R/o: Androosa Pampore(Caveator/ applicant)

V/s
Public At Large

In the matter of:- Caveat Application under Sec148-A CPC on behalf of the Caveator for providing an opportunity of being heard before passing any order or any direction in any suit or application presented against the Caveator by anyone from public with respect to landed estate situated in the Patwari Halqa Androosa and Ladhoo Tehsil Pampore. The applicant is constructing the roof top of his residential house in his land situated at Patwari Halqa Ladhoo. The applicant apprehends that someone from the general public may file false and fabricated case/ application to entangle them in litigation, and if they succeed in getting any ex-parte order that will cause great hardships and irreparable loss to the Caveator.

Applicant through Counsel
Aasif Ahmad Bhat
(Advocate)
FKO

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SRINAGAR

cposrinagar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 0194-2477742

Subject: Provisional Selection List for the Vacant Posts of One Stop Centre for Women, Srinagar, and Reporting thereof.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, an advertisement for the recruitment of manpower for the vacant posts (Multipurpose Staff/Cook=2 and Security/Night Guard =2) of One Stop Centre for Women, Srinagar was issued vide Notice No: DSWOS/Sch/2024/788-93 dated 29-07-2024, with 02-08-2024 as the opening date and 22-08-2024 as the closing date for the submission of application forms.

Whereas, the list of 17 aspirants who applied for the vacant posts of One Stop Centre was submitted by the DSWO (Nodal Officer, One Stop Centre, Srinagar) vide No: DSWOS/Estt/2024/1537-38 dated 16-10-2024. Of these, 03 aspirants were found ineligible as per the scheme guidelines.

Whereas, the list of 14 eligible aspirants for the vacant posts of One Stop Centre for Women, Srinagar was published vide No: DSWO/Sgr/Estt/1736-39 dated 19-11-2024, inviting objections/claims regarding eligibility and candidature, if any from the aspirants, to be submitted by or before 23-11-2024, however no objection has been filed by any aspirant.

Whereas, the interview was conducted by the District Level Committee on 10-12-2024 and Out of the 14 aspirants, 13 appeared for the interview, while 01 candidate was absent.

Whereas, on the basis of performance in interview/ personal interaction/ other parameters and the weightage in academic merit as per advertisement the final merit list is prepared and consequently provisional selection list for the vacant posts of one stop centre is hereby appended to this notification as Annexure -I

The provisionally selected candidates are required to join at the office of the District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar (Nodal Officer, One Stop Centre, Srinagar) within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notification.

At the time of reporting, candidates must produce the following original documents:

- Original Qualification certificates/ marks cards/ DOB Certificates and other relevant documents.
- Original experience certificates.
- ID proof/Address proof.
- Medical fitness certificate.
- NOC from concerned quarters (DIC & Employment)
- Character Certificate issued by concerned department.
- Affidavit on prescribed format duly attested by First Class Judicial Magistrate to the effect that candidate shall have no claim/right for the permanent absorption or regularization under the scheme in the department and is not working in any Government/Semi-government Department/Agency.

The selection is provisional subject to following conditions:

- The engagement is purely temporary/ contractual in nature initially for a period of one year which may be extendable subject to satisfactory performance, continuation of scheme and funding from the Ministry/Government.
- Engagement being a temporary/contractual is terminable if the performance is not satisfactory as assessed by District Level Committee headed by District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.
- The provisional selection list issued is subject to the verification report regarding authenticity/genuineness of the documents from the issuing bodies/organizations. Any adverse report received regarding the documents produced based on which selection is obtained shall invite legal/penal action under relevant rules/laws and engagement so obtained shall be cancelled ab-initio.
- The selection list is provisional and subject the outcome of the writ petitions, if any pending before the court of law.
- In case any selected candidate fail to join within the specified time period of 15(Fifteen) days, the candidate falling next in the merit list in the respective category of posts, shall be considered.

ANNEXURE-I

1. Multipurpose Staff/Cook(OSC Srinagar)			
Sr.No	Name of the applicant/Parentage/Spouses	Address	Remarks
01.	Tahira Manzoor D/o Manzoor Ahmad Dar	Fruit Mandi Parimpora	Selected.
02.	Faarizah Javid D/o Javid Ahmad	Mominabad Batamaloa	Selected
2. Security Guard/Night Guard (OSC Srinagar)			
Sr.No	Name of the applicant/Parentage/Spouses	Address	Remarks
01.	Aqib Ali S/o Ali Mohammad Mala	Barthana Qammarwari	Selected
02.	Abdul Basit Khan S/o Farooq Ahmad Khan	Ikhrajpora Srinagar	Selected

No: DDCS/Dev./2024-25/10102-06
Dated: - 11-01-2025

DIPK-10871-24
DT: 16/01/2025

Deputy Commissioner
Srinagar
(Chairman OSC)

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
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KO VIEW

Planned Urban Spaces

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday stressed on adopting urban planning strategies for planned development, an initiative that if taken forward will make a redeeming difference to the cities of Srinagar and Jammu. According to the initiative named as the Land Pooling Policy, landowners and developers will pool land for development, ensuring infrastructure like roads, parks, and amenities, with remaining land returned to owners. The policy aims to create sustainable infrastructure and enhance land value, benefiting both the government and stakeholders. The meeting also reviewed policies such as Transferable Development Rights (TDR) Policy. Under the policy, the potential use of TDR for heritage properties, ensuring their preservation while enabling urban growth was also discussed. Similarly, the discussion of the concept of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) focused on sustainable urban mobility and planned development around public transport hubs.

The implementation of the schemes could make a redeeming difference to the land use, infrastructure and transportation in the urban territory. More so, in the urban areas of the region. Srinagar needs urgent urban planning. Over the past few decades, Srinagar has witnessed unregulated urban growth. Colonies after colonies have come up across the city, few of which are planned. This growth continues unabated. A forbidding mass of cement and bricks has taken shape in all its ugliness across large swathes of the orchards, green highlands, paddies, swamps, flood plains, canals and of course even on Dal lake. Planned urban growth is not merely about infrastructure; it is about creating spaces where communities thrive. For Srinagar, this means harmonizing modernization with its rich cultural legacy.

Srinagar's modern urban growth is tied up with the political conflict in the state. As the government collapsed in the nineties and the internal migration to Srinagar from the countryside created the need for housing on a mass scale, the land mafia took over. In the subsequent years, the vacant spaces got filled up and Srinagar expanded.

Government also needs to address the public transportation in Srinagar. The city is now grappling with a modern-day menace: relentless traffic congestion. The latest data reveals that Kashmir recorded over 69,000 vehicle registrations in the fiscal year 2023-24, with Srinagar alone contributing more than 26,000 new vehicles. This surge in vehicle registrations has brought Srinagar's total vehicle population to over 335,000, exacerbating the already critical traffic situation.

To mitigate this situation, a paradigm shift towards public transport is urgently needed. A reliable, and efficient public transportation network can serve as a viable alternative to personal vehicles, reducing the number of cars on the road and easing congestion. The introduction of modern buses, and even metro lines could transform the way people commute within the city. Although modern buses have been introduced, they are not sufficient enough in numbers to address the city's transportation problem. It is essential that the government acts decisively to implement these plans, ensuring a better future for urban areas that have long suffered from unregulated growth and outdated infrastructure.



Did you know?

Navigating Stock Market Declines: Understanding Panic Among New Investors and the Importance of Patience

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing in the stock market can be an emotional rollercoaster, especially for newcomers who often lack experience. When the market takes a downturn—often marked by declines of 10% or 20%—it's natural for panic to set in. New investors, who might already be feeling uncertain, can react strongly to these declines. This instinctual fear, rooted in human behavior, frequently leads to poor decision-making during tumultuous times. Historically, many individuals have lost money in the stock market due to anxiety and hasty choices. They often sell their stocks at a loss, thinking they're cutting their losses, only to watch as the market rebounds. The reality is that panic-driven selling can be devastating. It not only damages personal finances but also contributes to a broader misconception that the stock market is a high-risk, loss-making venture. It's important to understand the difference between what we think might happen (the "myth") and reality. Market downturns can feel severe, but history shows us that the market rarely stays down for long. In fact, over the past 50 years, the stock market has typically not remained in a significant decline for more than eight months. This offers a glimmer of hope for investors: the downturns we experience are often temporary. Let's say you invested one crore rupees in shares or mutual funds two years ago. At the peak of the market, the value may have been around 160 lakhs. If the market drops by 10% to 12%, the value of your investment might decrease to 140 lakhs. While this seems alarming, what you must remember is that you're not realizing a loss unless you sell. As long as you hold your investment, its value is only on paper. And when the market rebounds—as it historically does—you may find your investment reaching even higher values, perhaps 1.75 cr or 1.80 cr which means you're still ahead in the long run. The key to surviving a market decline is discipline, courage, patience, and holding a well-diversified portfolio. By protecting yourself from the urge to liquidate at low prices, you can ride out the volatility that characterizes investing. Avoid taking on significant debt or borrowing money to invest, as this can further complicate your financial situation. Ultimately, the best approach in uncertain times is to respect your portfolio and seek advice from knowledgeable sources. Stay informed, remain calm, and remember that the stock market declines are, more often than not, a part of the investment journey, not the end of it. By maintaining a long-term perspective, you can navigate these challenges without losing your peace of mind or financial footing.

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

Disclaimer: This article is for information only and doesn't offer investment advice. It's not an endorsement or an offer to buy or sell any financial products. If you decide to act on the information here, you do so at your own risk

US-India: Diamonds Are Not Forever

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

The US state department disclosed on Thursday in an accounting of gifts received from foreign leaders during 2023 that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's was the "priciest" gift that President Biden received, rather, his wife Jill Biden received—a diamond valued at \$20,000 (over Rs. 17 lakh.)

To an observer of the US political culture, it would invoke the analogy of a Middle Eastern sheikh from the Gulf region kow-towing to curry favours from the White House. Indeed, troubling questions do arise.

Touched to the quick, Delhi reacted immediately to put the record straight—that it was an artificial lab-grown diamond with a cost price between Rs. 15000-25000, which would put the value of the gift between Rs. 1.1-1.9 lakh only.

What Delhi didn't say, or more likely its bureaucrats didn't know, is that while real diamond has no limits on its shelf life, a lab-grown diamond may look the same, but has zero resale value. Suffice to say, the brilliance of the relationship may be gone, but the stone won't lose its lustre and doesn't get worn out with time.

Delhi's clumsy clarification, unattributed of course, makes things worse. Actually, none of the three famous people looks good in this controversy. It makes Jill Biden who apparently took the gift seriously and retained it for official use, somewhat foolish.

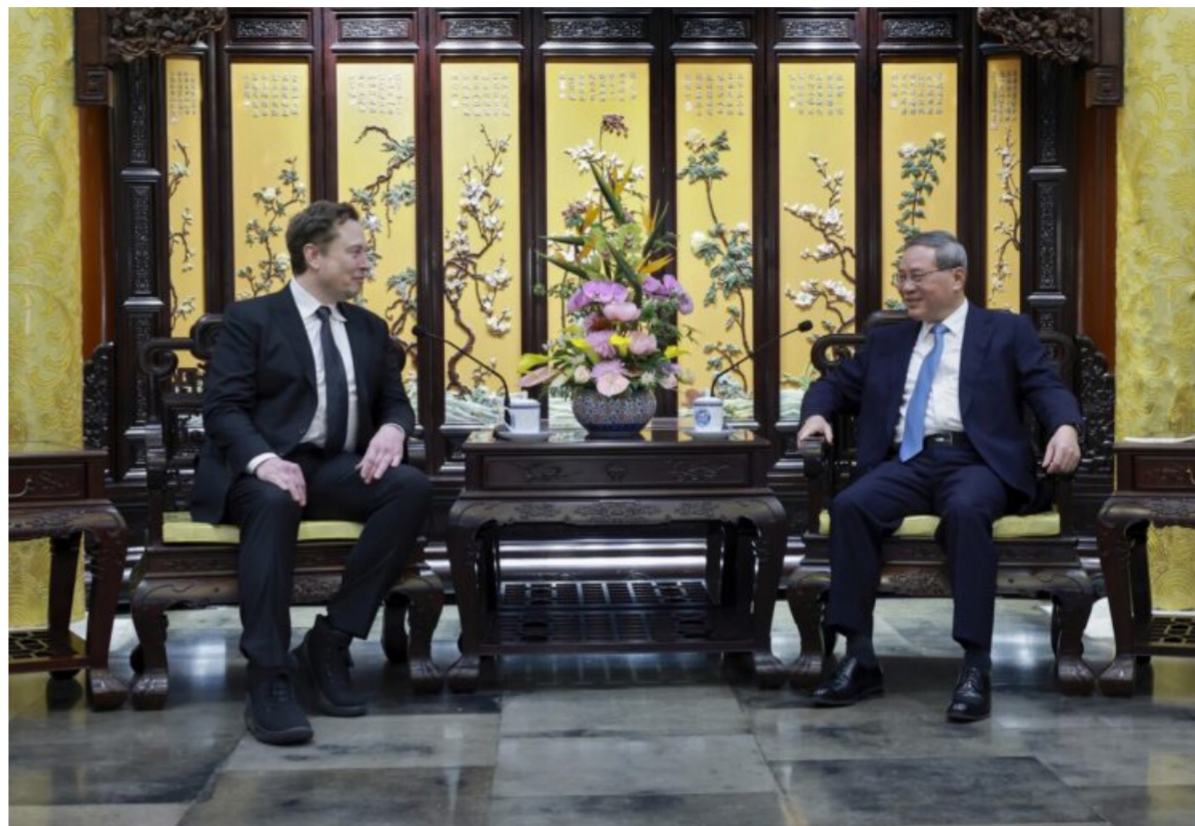
A lavish edition of Mahabharata, the great epic that tells a millennia-old tale about the futility of war would have probably made a more appropriate gift from Modi to Biden who poked his nose into a fratricidal strife in distant Eurasia, undermined a nascent peace treaty between two brothers, and coaxed the impetuous kid brother to instead go into a futile proxy war that ultimately caused the death of hundreds of thousands of his subjects and destroyed his kingdom.

Biden is still unrepentant. Earlier this week, columns of American military vehicles loaded with weaponry were crossing border from Iraq into Syria in anticipation of some war in the making just 4 years after the old one ended.

However, the good part is that the diamond controversy is emblematic of the matrix of US-Indian relationship beneath the rhetoric. Some sixteen months after gifting the diamond, BJP accused the Biden administration of conspiring to overthrow Modi government. Which means that the estimation of Jill Biden being a 'silvery influencer' in the White House was a wrong notion.

The Biden administration is no longer believing that in Modi government it has a potential ally to curb China's rise as superpower that would spell doom for the 5-century old Western hegemony in the world order. The Biden Team belatedly realised that Delhi was not only boosting the ties with Russia but also had a master plan to engage with China bilaterally and work out the guard rails of co-habitation as immediate neighbours.

The common refrain is that constraints in India's development path forced the government,



under pressure from the industry and business, to ease the tensions with China to attract investments and boost trade. But that is not the whole story. Chinese commentaries are stressing that the two countries have a higher destiny that is easier to realise if they cooperate rather than undercut each other. There is much truth in this, as the colonial history would testify.

At any rate, the defining moment in the US-Indian relationship came with the G20 Summit, which Modi hosted in the third quarter of 2023, when Biden came to Delhi and in tandem with his Canadian counterpart Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took up with Modi the report of the Five Eyes (US, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand) that India was involved in transnational crimes in North America.

The whiplash, albeit administered in private, came as a bolt from the blue when Indian diplomacy was riding high—oil trade with Russia going hand in hand with the "consequential" partnership with the US. The entire delusional foreign-policy matrix began unravelling. And a cat-and-mouse game began, culminating in the Biden administration installing a hostile regime in Bangladesh. It was a stark reminder that diamonds are not forever.

Indeed, there are heartrending tales in literature of young love and passion turning into betrayals, vendetta, revenge and marginalisation, and an entire world tumbling down around diamonds.

Fortunately, the sordid chapter is ending as the Trump presidency begins on Jan. 20. The big question is what conclusion Trump would have drawn by now. Perhaps, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is doing the right thing by reminding the Trump Team tirelessly that their boss holds the patent for Quad.

But, a rearguard course correction is already being advocated in the US intellectual discourses. The prestigious DC-based Stimson Centre addressed two back-to-back policy briefs on the Indo-Pacific in quick succession to the new administration no sooner than Trump



The Biden Team belatedly realised that Delhi was not only boosting the ties with Russia but also had a master plan to engage with China bilaterally and work out the guard rails of co-habitation as immediate neighbours

was elected on November 5:

Revive the South Asia Strategy by Elizabeth Threlkeld • Elizabeth Zazycki dated November 26, 2024, which argues that "The next administration should craft a standalone South Asia strategy to address regional complexities while aligning with Indo-Pacific priorities", and,

Think Small to Win Big in the Indo-Pacific by Kelly A. Grieco • Evan Cooper dated November 21, 2024, which argues that "The next administration should lean into smaller, more flexible alignments and issue-based coalitions and lead more with economics and diplomacy rather than military and security policies."

Succinctly put, the thesis ad-

vised by these policy wonks in a think tank known to be leaning toward the Democratic Party, is, paradoxically, what Jaishankar also has been espousing—multi-alignment as India's foreign-policy doctrine.

There is a saying that our dreams ought to be what define our individuality. As the English poet and philosopher William Blake put it in sharper focus, 'No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings'. But the Modi Government's diplomacy leaps out of Kautilya's Arthashastra, the ancient Indian Sanskrit treatise on statecraft, politics, economic policy and military strategy which overlooks that this is an era of Internet and Artificial Intelligence.

Delusional mantras still continue—'There is a bipartisan consensus in America for relations with India; so-and-so in Trump Team has been in the India Caucasus; we got along fine with Trump, etc.' From available indications, however, Trump 2.0 can be radically different.

Trump has no more elections to fight and his soaring ambition, which is no secret, will be to carve out a presidential legacy that outshines by far all his mediocre predecessors. Trump's turnaround on H-1B visa debate shows that he can take tough decisions and there are no holy cows in his domain.

Then, there is the X factor, the known unknown, while navigating his compass. By the way, I go along entirely with the incisive opinion of Mick Mulvaney, who served as Trump's second chief of staff, when he told the Times, "What makes (Elon) Musk such a valuable adviser is that he has enough money—and enough other things to do—that he is uniquely situated to be the bearer of honest news. More than perhaps anybody else on the planet, he doesn't need the job."

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 India Punchline



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
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Remembering the Postman's Legacy

Once, the postman was a cherished figure in every household. His khaki uniform, the familiar bicycle bell, and the satchel brimming with letters held a promise of connection, emotion, and anticipation. Today, the internet has all but erased his footsteps, replacing handwritten letters with instant messages and emails. In this digital age, we've gained speed, but have we lost something profound in the process?

There was a time when the postman's arrival brought joy and excitement. A letter from a loved one carried more than words—it held the

essence of the sender. The paper bore the warmth of their hands, the ink flowed with emotions, and the envelope often carried the faint scent of a distant place. Writing a letter was a ritual where every stroke of the pen reflected thought and feeling. Waiting for a letter was an exercise in patience, and its arrival was a moment to savor.

Today, emails and messages deliver information faster than the postman ever could. But in this quest for efficiency, we've traded depth for brevity. A message, sent and read within seconds, pales in comparison to the deliberate effort

of crafting a letter—one that could be folded and kept under a pillow, re-read on lonely nights, or rediscovered years later. Can a text message ever evoke such sentiment?

The postman was more than a messenger; he was a silent witness to life's many stories. He delivered love letters, official notices, and postcards—each envelope carrying a story waiting to unfold. His visits were moments of connection, a break from the monotony of daily life. Families would gather, eager to see what he brought, making his role deeply emotional, tying people together across miles and memories.

As the world hurtles forward, there is a growing yearning to bring back the charm of handwritten letters. Writing a letter requires time and effort—a gesture of love and care. Rediscovering this art can teach us to pause, reflect, and express ourselves beyond the limits of a keyboard.

Let us honor the postman's legacy by embracing the timeless art of letter writing. In doing so, we not only keep a beautiful tradition alive but also reclaim a sense of connection that the digital age has diminished.

Dr. Rizwan Rumi
Srinagar

Hidden patterns of Love

How to Tame Unconscious Forces for a Fulfilling Relationship or Marriage

Syed Nasir Gilani

In last week's discussion, we explored how unconscious forces shape our attractions and relationships, often leading us to repeat cycles of pain in the hope of healing past wounds. This week, we shift our focus to how we can overcome these patterns to create meaningful, intentional relationships that stand the test of time.

Unconscious Marriage: The Default State of Love

When we fall in love or choose to marry, we often ascribe our feelings to destiny, love, or divine intervention. While divine intervention plays a role in every aspect of life, we sometimes use it to avoid taking responsibility for what requires effort and intention.

Love and marriage are not purely spontaneous acts; they are deeply influenced by cognitive and emotional patterns established in early childhood. These unconscious forces, shaped by our attachments and experiences, create a blueprint for how we interact in relationships.

This phenomenon, often referred to as psychic determinism, reminds us that the past exerts a powerful influence on the present. However, as human beings, we possess the unique gift of free will, which allows us to challenge and redirect these patterns. Viktor Frankl, the author of *Man's Search for Meaning*, captured this beautifully:

"Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom."

This space is where we can transform unconscious habits into conscious choices, reshaping the course of our relationships.

The Danger of Passive Love and Why Passion Fades

Romantic relationships often follow a predictable script: attraction, pursuit, passion, and eventually, commitment. The initial pursuit, fuelled by passion and novelty, gives us a sense of purpose. However, once the chase ends and the relationship stabilizes, we risk falling into passivity.

This decline in passion happens because humans thrive on meaning and growth.



Without ongoing effort and attention, even the most promising relationships can stagnate, giving rise to frustrations rooted in unconscious expectations. The very traits and patterns that once fueled our attraction may resurface as challenges, testing the foundation of the relationship.

The truth is, passion alone cannot sustain a relationship. It must be accompanied by effort, mutual understanding, and the willingness to grow together. Otherwise, we risk falling into the trap of passive love, where the relationship merely exists without purpose or vitality.

Making the Unconscious Conscious: A New Path to Lasting Love

True growth begins where the romantic fantasy ends. The mundane aspects of daily life—shared chores, raising children, managing finances—offer opportunities for profound connection if approached with awareness.

Ask yourself: Why do I feel and behave this way in my relationship? What patterns am I repeating? These questions can unveil

the unconscious dynamics at play, offering insights that are critical for breaking cycles of dysfunction.

Even in struggling marriages, this self-awareness is invaluable. It helps us understand how we contribute to the relationship dynamic and offers a pathway for healing, both individually and collectively.

Why Love Requires Intentional Effort

Love is often romanticized as an effortless emotion, something that simply happens. But lasting love requires consistent effort and deliberate choices. Unlike the fleeting nature of passion, intentional love is built on shared values, communication, and mutual respect.

Effort in love means:

- **Investing Time:** Regularly dedicating time to connect, whether through deep conversations, shared activities, or simple gestures of affection.
- **Communicating Openly:** Addressing misunderstandings and expressing

needs without fear of judgment or rejection.

- **Supporting Each Other's Growth:** Encouraging your partner's personal development and celebrating their successes.

By consciously practicing these behaviors, we can shift the focus from fulfilling unconscious needs to creating a partnership based on mutual growth and respect. This intentional approach not only strengthens the bond but also helps us transcend the patterns of the past.

The Role of Forgiveness in Breaking Unconscious Patterns

Forgiveness is a powerful tool in transforming relationships. Many of the conflicts we face in marriage stem from unresolved issues—both personal and relational. Holding onto resentment or unspoken grievances can deepen the wounds created by unconscious patterns.

True forgiveness begins with understanding. When we empathize with our partner's

struggles and recognize how our own unresolved traumas might contribute to the conflict, we can begin to let go of the blame. Forgiveness is not about ignoring hurtful behavior but about freeing ourselves from its grip, allowing space for healing and growth.

The Importance of Self-Awareness and Personal Growth

Marriage serves as a mirror, reflecting our deepest fears, unresolved traumas, and unmet needs. It is within this intimate relationship that we can confront and heal the wounds of our past. By becoming aware of these unconscious influences, we not only improve our relationships but also contribute to breaking generational cycles of pain and dysfunction.

This journey of self-awareness and personal growth is essential for fostering stability, fulfillment, and love. It is the legacy we leave for future generations—a testament to why marriage holds a central place in divine revelations.

Practical Steps for Building Conscious Relationships

To make your relationship more intentional and fulfilling, consider the following steps:

- **Practice Active Listening:** Pay attention to your partner's words without interrupting or formulating a response. Genuine listening fosters understanding and connection.
- **Set Shared Goals:** Discuss your dreams and aspirations as a couple. Working towards common objectives strengthens your bond and provides a sense of purpose.
- **Engage in Self-Reflection:** Take time to examine your own patterns, triggers, and areas for growth. This awareness will help you approach conflicts more constructively.
- **Seek Support When Needed:** If you find yourselves stuck in repetitive cycles, consider seeking guidance from a therapist to gain new perspectives.

The author is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and can be reached at nasir.geelani@gmail.com

CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

A fragile calm amid unending struggle

Afaf Al-Najjar

The announcement of a ceasefire agreement in Gaza undoubtedly marks a critical moment in the ongoing conflict. For those of us who have witnessed, experienced, and then watched, mourned, and advocated from afar, this pause in hostilities provides an opportunity to reflect on the past 15 months, and the heavy price paid for this fleeting calm.

As a Palestinian, receiving this news feels like standing in the eye of a storm, in a moment of ghostly calm surrounded by chaos and destruction. For me, at least it marks the end to the bloodshed, but the fact is, the ones we lost will never return, and these scars will never heal. How would a ceasefire ever change that fact?

Ceasefires are often hailed as victories for diplomacy, but to me, they are more like pauses in a constant nightmare. This latest agreement is a reminder that, for the people of Gaza, survival often hinges on the fragility of politics. Children, mothers, and fathers carry the unbearable weight of uncertainty. I find myself asking: Is this truly a step towards peace, or just another chapter in a story of delayed justice and extended suffering?

The ceasefire's terms, reached under immense international pressure, include a halt to air strikes and rocket fire, along with provisions to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. These measures are desperately needed. But their necessity is also an accusation of the international community's failure to act sooner to prevent the crises that make such measures critical. Aid is vital, but it cannot heal the wounds of oppression, wide open and bleeding. Temporary peace cannot replace the right to live freely and to dream beyond survival.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and their arrest warrants, which were meant to address crimes committed against our people, are overshadowed by political inaction. Will the world pursue these mechanisms when the war ends, or will justice be buried under a mountain of



bureaucracy and indifference? The failure to enforce accountability before, during, and after the conflict reveals how deeply flawed these institutions are.

Aid is vital, but it cannot heal the wounds of oppression. Temporary peace cannot replace the right to live freely and to dream beyond survival. This prompts another crucial question: Will Palestinians ever get their rights to have full control over their political and diplomatic path to justice, or will they always be eliminated from the political stage and portrayed to fit in the victim's role? While international recognition of our plight is critical, we must chart a path towards independence from unreliable global powers.

For Palestinians, especially those in

Gaza, the siege is its own kind of war. It is violence without bombs, but no less devastating. The blockade, now in its 17th year, has eroded the fabric of life. It has robbed families of opportunities, denied them access to basic rights, and imposed a daily struggle that defies the bounds of human endurance. How do we rebuild a life in such conditions, knowing that this ceasefire might crumble as quickly as it came? How do we dream of a future when the present feels like an everlasting state of mourning?

During the war, decisions such as halting the funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) exacerbated the humanitarian crisis. The inability of the in-

ternational community, including entities as disparate as the UN, the G8, or BRICS, to intervene in time to restore such vital lifelines for Palestinians further highlights its failure to protect civilian life and uphold humanitarian law. What happens when the safety nets, already too fragile, are arbitrarily stripped away without global resistance powerful enough to alleviate the crisis?

The international community, particularly Western powers, must confront their role in preserving this cycle. Statements of support for ceasefires ring hollow when they are not accompanied by meaningful action, accountability, protection for civilians, and a real commitment to addressing the root causes of this conflict. The imbal-

ance of power, the brutal reality of occupation, the suffocating blockade – these are not peripheral issues. They are the core of the problem.

How can we trust the same US administration – led for now by Biden and soon Trump – that pressured for this ceasefire when its actions have consistently undermined peace in the region? Decisions by the first administration of President-elect Donald Trump to relocate the US embassy to Jerusalem and recognise the Golan Heights as part of Israel are stark reminders of an agenda that prioritises power over justice. Moreover, the fear remains that this administration will shift its focus to the West Bank, transferring the same policies of violence and displacement there. Such decisions show that any pause in violence does not equate to a shift in policy or priorities.

As I process this moment, I feel both a flicker of hope and a tide of anger. Hope that this pause might save lives, and anger that it has taken so much suffering to reach even this fragile point. The cameras will turn away soon, the world's attention will shift, but for us, this is not an end. Ceasefires are not peace. They are moments of quiet in an unending storm. Until justice is realised, until dignity and equality are more than distant dreams, the cycle will continue.

This is not to diminish the significance of the ceasefire for those whose lives hang in the balance every day. For many, it means the difference between life and death. But as a Palestinian, I cannot ignore the deeper truth: peace is not just the absence of war. It is the presence of justice. It is the freedom to live without fear, to rebuild without the certainty of destruction, to dream without limits. Anything less is not peace. It is survival. And survival is not enough for people who deserve so much more.

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 Al Jazeera

New AI Method To Pick Up Arthritis, Lupus Early In High-Risk Patients

IAN S

Artificial intelligence (AI) can significantly aid in early detection of autoimmune diseases, like rheumatoid arthritis and lupus especially in high-risk patients, leading to better outcomes, finds a study.

In people with autoimmune diseases, the immune system mistakenly attacks their body's healthy cells and tissues. Some well-known diseases include type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Early diagnosis is critical and may improve treatment and better disease management, said the team led by researchers from the Penn State College of Medicine.

Using machine learning, a type of AI, the team developed a new method that could predict the progression of autoimmune disease among people with preclinical symptoms.

These diseases often include a pre-



clinical stage before diagnosis that's characterised by mild symptoms or certain antibodies in the blood.

The method dubbed Genetic Progression Score or GPS, could predict the progression from preclinical to disease stages.

In the study, the team used GPS to analyse real-world data to predict the progression of rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.

Compared to existing models, this methodology was found between 25 and 1,000 per cent more accurate in determining mild symptoms that would move to advanced disease stage, the findings showed.

"By targeting a more relevant population—people with a family history or who are experiencing early symptoms—we can use machine learning to identify patients with the highest risk for disease," said Dajiang Liu, Professor, Penn State College of Medicine. Liu noted that this can also help "identify suitable therapeutics that may be able to slow down the progression of the disease".

Accurate prediction of disease progression using GPS can enable early interventions, targeted monitoring, and personalised treatment decisions, leading to improved patient outcomes, Liu said.

Having Sleep Disorders? Melatonin Is No 'Magic Pill', Say Experts

Press Trust Of India

When 35-year-old Shruti Nagpal from Noida faced sleep issues, she tried 'melatonin gummies' on an experimental basis.

"They helped soothe my mind and eventually helped me sleep. I spoke to my doctor, who prescribed them for me as an experiment," said Nagpal, a media professional.

However, melatonin isn't the quick fix. Experts advise against relying on the popular supplement and suggest concentrating on "sleep hygiene", which includes keeping a regular bedtime, relaxing your mind, staying active, and avoiding screens or devices at least an hour before sleep.

Melatonin, available in various forms like gummies, pills, and liquid, has become a go-to for many with sleep problems. For the unversed, the supplement is a synthetic version of the hormone produced naturally by the pineal gland in the brain that helps regulate sleep-wake cycles.

Several health experts caution that while the supplement may seem like a safer choice, it is no 'magic pill'. They recommend that individuals struggling with sleep issues consult a psychiatrist or undergo psychotherapy, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), before turning to melatonin supplements.

"People having underlying anxiety or depression are unlikely to respond to melatonin supplements. It is possible that everything that happens during the day affects their night-time sleep.

"They will need to consult with a psychiatrist, and therefore, should not resort to melatonin," says Dr Neetu Jain, who deals with sleep-related breathing disorders at Pushpawati Singhania Hospital & Research Institute, New Delhi.

Supporting Dr Jain's point is Dr Sanjay Saxena, principal director and head of



Neurology Department at Max Hospitals in Patparganj, New Delhi and Vaishali, Ghaziabad, as he recommends that individuals try CBT before resorting to pharmacological treatments for sleep related problems.

CBT is a talking therapy in which a patient's thought processes are addressed to help them cope with challenges in life.

The doctors, in general, are of the opinion that these supplements are probably most beneficial for people with irregular work shifts (as long as it's a temporary situation), those crossing time zones, or individuals recovering from periods of poor sleep patterns, like during exam preparation.

Melatonin levels are known to rise as the sun sets, reaching their peak between midnight and 3 am, before gradually decreasing.

"So, that's why, if we synchronise our

bedtime with our melatonin, we will get a good night's sleep and wake up feeling rested. But if we function against this, it can disrupt the circadian rhythm (body clock)," explains Dr Manvir Bhatia, a senior consultant neurologist, who runs Neurology and Sleep Centre in New Delhi.

Shift-workers are especially prone to such disruptions, as their day and night differentiation is affected.

Health experts further clarify that melatonin supplements are not sedatives or sleep-inducing drugs, but rather "physiological supplements" that support the brain in restoring the quality, structure, and pattern of sleep.

For example, Dr Arun Garg, chairman, Neurology and Neurosciences, Medanta - The Medicity, Gurugram, explains that while melatonin supplements stimulate

hormone production, sleeping pills like benzodiazepines work by affecting brain receptors that release GABA.

GABA, or gamma-aminobutyric acid, is a chemical that promotes sleep by slowing brain activity.

The doctors also advise those using melatonin on their own to assess if it is still needed after its intended purpose has been fulfilled.

For instance, Tanyaa Sharma, a 32-year-old cafe server in Goa, shared that she used melatonin for 10 days to stabilize her routine after being diagnosed with ADHD.

Sharma now takes it occasionally when her sleep schedule is off.

The experts also claim that melatonin supplements typically serve their purpose within four to six weeks, and prolonged use can lead to side effects like grogginess and nausea.

"There is also talk of how these supplements can impact one's immunity and also suppress the internal production of melatonin, even though there is not enough evidence to substantiate," says Dr Bhatia.

Ultimately, doctors emphasize the importance of good "sleep hygiene", which includes avoiding stimulating activities or drinks in the evening, reducing screen time, and engaging in relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music before bed.

Dr Garg suggests that individuals avoid caffeine, screens, and video games before bed and instead opt for a gentle 30-minute walk.

Even cafe server Sharma acknowledged that melatonin, by itself, is far from a solution for sleep disorders.

"I take melatonin and then turn off the lights, stop using devices, and only allow myself to read books sometimes when sleep doesn't arrive still. I've realised over time that it's not a magic sleeping pill -- in fact, very different than that," she added.

Book Suggests Ways To Mitigate Human-Animal Conflict

Press Trust Of India

Conservationist G Susheel, who has spent nearly 50 years in the jungles of India, has come out with a real-life account of the man-animal conflict in which he also suggests how small steps can resolve much of the tension and keep both the animals and humans safe.

In "Rogues: Elephants, Maneaters, Poachers", he further discusses how perilous the land and laws are for wildlife as well as people.

Susheel wonders how safe will wildlife hotspots remain as the pressure of 1.4 billion people on them increases rapidly.

He says it is time to urgently relook conservation in the agricultural

landscape, where huge numbers of wildlife exist.

According to him, tigers and other animals do not have any protection in the agri-landscape and a better management plan for dealing with these big cats needs to be put in place.

"For man-eating tigers and leopards, a standard operating procedure has to be put in place to deal with these problem animals. The local populace usually gets terrorised by these animals. It has to be seen to be believed to see the fear that people go through during all such episodes in any affected area," Susheel writes in the book, published by Storywell Books Foundation.

He says incidents of man-animal conflict disrupt the livelihood of the people living in the affected areas.

He suggests that in the event of an attack on humans or cattle kill, a wait-and-watch policy should be adopted to identify the errant animal among the many in the specified habitat.

"The moment there is an incidence of man-eating, a series of immediate steps should be taken to remove the problem animal, by following a well-tested, scientifically devised SOP," he writes.

On the shooting tranquiliser darts, he says there is no training provided.

"It is better to train some forest staff in the art of shooting - experts to do the real shooting of the dart - and allow vets to accompany them to calculate weights and dosages and carry the drugs and to aid in the recovery process of the darted animal," Susheel says.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub . Application of Musrat Jabeen ,Rafia Jabeen D/o Lal Mohd Gojree R/o Nehalpora 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 are residing in village Nehalpora with her father and belongs to Gojree caste and monthly income of applicant family is 6000 . Family members of applicant's are as under.

- 1 Lal Mohd Gojree S/o Noor Mohammad 57y labour
- 2 Mahjabeen Begum w/o Lal Mohd Gojree 55y H/work
- 3 Musrat Jabeen D/o Lal Mohd 30y Student
- 4 Rafiq Jabeen D/o Lal Mohd Gojree 25y Student
- 5 Mehak Jabeen D/o Lal Mohd Gojree 23y Student

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 03 days after that no objection shall be entertained

SD

fko

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 Rakia Rameez D/o Rameez Ahmad Dar R/o Sher Colony Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 02-06-2021 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

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Gh Mohd Chopan S/o Ghulam Ahmad Chopan R/o Authoora Reshipora Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in favor of his children Mehjoor Ahmad Chopan , Ishfaq Ahmad Chopan and Shabnum Gul.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Authoora Reshipora and belongs to the Chopan Community having annual income of 90000/= (Ninety Thousands Only) the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S.No	Name Of the Family Member	Relationship with the Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Ghulam Mohd Chopan	Self	60	Labour	90000/=
02	Raja Begum	Wife	58	Housewife	
03	Mehjoor Ahmad Chopan	Son	30	Student	
04	Ishfaq Ahmad Chopan	Son	28	Student	
05	Shabnum Gul	Daughter	27	Student	

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from the public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko

Naib Tehsildar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT JAIL ANANTNAG
EMAIL: djanantnag@gmail.com : Phone / Fax 01932-237004 (Office)

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF FRESH VEGETABLES / DIETARY ITEMS / PULSES/ CEREALS/SPICES/ TOILETRY ETC FOR DISTRICT JAIL ANANTNAG
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No: 01/2025 Date: 11-01-2025

1. For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tender through online mode are invited from eligible vendors/firms possessing valid FSSAI licenses wherever applicable for execution of Rate Contract (valid for the year 2025) for supplies of items as mentioned in Annexure 'K' of this bid document.
2. Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of items, quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract, and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the websites www.jktenders.gov.in and www.jkprisons.in
3. Schedule of tender :

a	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11.01.2025
b	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.01.2025 from 1600 Hrs to 23.01.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
c	Bid submission Start Date and time	11.01.2025 from 1600 Hrs
d	Bid submission End Date and time	23.01.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
e	Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids in online mode	24.01.2025, 1200 Hrs in the office of Superintendent, District Jail Anantnag.
F	Pre-bid meeting date and time	20.01.2025, 1130 hours in the office of Superintendent, District Jail Anantnag.
4. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents) : An amount of 1500/- towards cost of tender fee has to be deposited by the bidder in the shape of Treasury Receipt in the following Major Head: Major Head : 0056 (Jails) Paid on behalf of : Superintendent District Jail Anantnag. Note: Scanned copy of the receipt of the tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.

Sd/-
Superintendent
District Jail Anantnag

No:DJA/Accts/2024-25/Tender/1515-17
DIPK-10877/24
Dated 16-01-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT JAIL ANANTNAG
EMAIL: djanantnag@gmail.com : Phone / Fax 01932-237004 (Office)

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS TO DISTRICT JAIL ANANTNAG
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No: 03/2025 Date: 13-01-2025

1. For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tender through online mode are invited from eligible vendors / firms possessing valid licence for execution of Rate Contract (valid for the year 2025) for supplies of miscellaneous items as mentioned in Annexure 'K' of this bid document .
2. Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of items, quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract, and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the websites www.jktenders.gov.in and www.jkprisons.in
3. Schedule of tender :

a	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11.01.2025
b	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.01.2025 from 1600 Hrs to 23.01.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
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4. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents) : Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents) : a. An amount of 500/- towards cost of tender fee has to be deposited by the bidder in the shape of Treasury Receipt in the following Major Head: Major Head : 0056 (Jails) Paid on behalf of : Superintendent District Jail Anantnag.

Scanned copy of the receipt towards deposit of amount of tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.

Sd/-
Superintendent,
District Jail Anantnag

No:DJA/Accts/2024-25/Tender/1521-23
DIPK-10901/24
Dated 16-01-2025

90k Salaried Individuals Withdraw Wrongful Tax Claims Worth ₹1,070 Crore

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As many as 90,000 salaried individuals, both from PSUs and the private sector, have withdrawn wrongful tax deductions claims totalling Rs 1,070 crore as of December 31, 2024, government sources said on Thursday.

During various search & seizure and survey operations conducted by Income Tax Department, it has come to notice that various individuals are claiming incorrect deductions, under sections 80C, 80D, 80E, 80G, 80GGB, 80GGC, in their ITRs, leading to reduction of tax payable to the government.

During investigation, it was revealed that such individuals are employees of organisations operating in diverse fields including PSUs, big corporations, MNCs, LLPs, Private Ltd Companies, etc, sources said. Also, most of them who claimed wrongful deductions were working in the same company.

Analysis of the information with the department showed that there is a vast mismatch between total deductions under section 80GGB/80GGC claimed by taxpayers in their ITRs as against the total receipts shown by the donees in their ITRs.

Similarly, deductions claimed under sections 80C, 80E, 80G also appear to be suspicious in nature, sources said.

They said, a list of common employers (TDS deductors) has been identified and tax depart-



ment would be reaching out to as many persons as possible who are suspected to have claimed bogus deductions under section 80E, 80G, 80GGA, 80GGC and other deductions.

"Further, verification has revealed that certain unscrupulous elements have misguided taxpayers for claim of incorrect deduction/refunds," a source said.

Sources said the department has been conducting outreach programmes with employers to spread awareness about the consequences of claiming incorrect deductions in the ITRs and corrective measures which can be taken by the taxpayers to rectify the errors of omission or commission.

"Till 31st December, 2024, approximately 90,000 taxpayers have withdrawn incorrect claim of deductions amounting to Rs 1,070 crore approx in their ITRs and have paid additional taxes," a source said.

As per the provisions of Income-tax Act, 1961, taxpayers can file updated returns on payment of some additional tax rectifying the errors within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year, for AY 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Local Industry Pivotal In Boosting Economy, Employment Generation: Dy CM



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today said that the local industry plays a pivotal role in employment generation besides helping in boosting the economy of a particular region.

"The role of local industrial sector is of significant importance in ensuring that the economy of a particular area gets the necessary boost and the present government is committed to ensure its proper growth by way of various interventions and industry friendly schemes" the Deputy Chief Minister maintained.

The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with the officers during his visit to Jammu & Kashmir Industries (JKI) showroom at Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu today.

Managing Director JK Industries, Vikram Gupta and

other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The visit highlights the government's on-going commitment towards promoting local industries and encourage the growth of indigenous and traditional products.

During the visit, Surinder Choudhary inspected various stalls showcasing an array of products manufactured by JKI, related to renowned mulberry silk and local wool, which are integral to the region's cultural heritage and hold a special place in textile heritage as well.

While appreciating the quality and originality of the products on display, the Deputy Chief Minister commended JKI for its efforts in preserving the traditional skill especially those related to world famous Kashmiri mulberry silk. "In-order to make the products of JKI more

competitive, the management should focus on marketing of these products in a more scientific and rigorous manner" he added. He emphasised upon quality and design upgradation as per current market demands at national and international level.

"We are committed towards supporting the local industries to boost the economy and subsequently generate employment avenues in J&K. The present Government shall provide all necessary support to JKI and other local enterprises to ensure their sustainable growth and global competitiveness" the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised.

The visit concluded with Surinder Kumar Choudhary encouraging JKI officials to continue their efforts in promoting local crafts, which are vital for the region's economic growth and employment generation.

Sensex, Nifty Extend Gains For 3rd Day On Strong Global Cues, Lower US Inflation



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the third session on the trot on Thursday, helped by a rally in global markets after lower-than-expected consumer inflation in the US ignited hopes of more rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

Intense buying in Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank also boosted sentiments, traders said.

The 30-share BSE index climbed 318.74 points or 0.42 per cent to revisit 77,000 level at 77,042.82. During the day, it jumped 595.42 points or 0.77 per cent to 77,319.50.

On the similar lines, the NSE Nifty rallied 98.60 points or 0.42 per cent to 23,311.80. As many as 2,778 stocks advanced, while 1,188 declined and 101 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Unabated foreign fund inflows, weakness in the rupee and elevated global crude prices continue to weigh on domestic equity markets, traders said.

"Benchmark indices continued to trade in the positive, albeit off highs, driven by positive investor sentiment following mild US inflation data, which raised hopes for a po-

tential rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

"Additionally, favourable developments in the Israel-Hamas ceasefire and a reduced trade deficit further boosted the market's upward movement. However, weak economic growth data from the UK dampened some of this optimism," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Adani Ports, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, Maruti, Reliance Industries and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers.

In contrast, HCL Tech, Nestle, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ITC and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

IT services major Infosys on Thursday reported an 11.46 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 6,806 crore in the October-December quarter of FY25.

Shares of Infosys slipped 1.21 per cent to settle at Rs 1,926.20 apiece on the BSE.

Meanwhile, Adani group stocks rallied on Thursday after Hindenburg Research founder Nate Anderson announced that he would disband the firm, which made international waves with campaigns targeting billionaire Gautam Adani that wiped billions from the market value of his group companies.

Shares of NDTV surged 9.15 per cent, Ambuja Cements jumped 3.88 per cent, Adani Green Energy rallied 3.35 per cent, Sanghi Industries climbed 3.34 per cent and Adani Power went up by 2.45 per cent on the BSE.

H&H Dept Distributes Kani Looms, Namdah Tools Amongst Artisans



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir Thursday distributed 10 Kani looms and 25 sets of specialized Namdah tools to local artisans free-of-cost, a significant initiative aimed at promoting the region's rich cultural heritage and empowering its traditional craftsmen.

The event was held at the Handicraft block office Safakadal Srinagar and was presided over by Mussarat Islam, Director, Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir.

This strategic move is part of the Government's ongoing efforts to support and sustain the centuries-old craft traditions of Kashmir, ensuring artisans have access to the

necessary resources to continue their work while gaining opportunities to expand into global markets.

Speaking at the event, Director emphasized upon the importance of this initiative. "This is a vital step towards enhancing the economic independence of our artisans. We are committed to providing them with the resources and opportunities needed to thrive in the global market," he said.

The distribution of Kani looms and Namdah tool kits will enable artisans to improve the quality and efficiency of their craftsmanship, empowering them to produce high-quality traditional products while increasing their competitiveness.

The event was organized by

the Assistant Director of Handicrafts, Srinagar, Mohsina Irshad, who also played a significant role in ensuring successful execution of the programme.

This initiative marks another important milestone in the ongoing efforts to uplift the Handicrafts sector in Kashmir, ensuring the preservation of its unique heritage and the welfare of its artisans.

It is significant to mention that since Srinagar's designation as a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and its recognition as a Craft City by the World Crafts Council (WCC), the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir has accelerated its efforts to celebrate and preserve the region's rich artistic heritage.

India One Of The Most Prepared Job Markets: Qs World Future Skills Index

Agencies

NEW DELHI: According to the inaugural QS World Future Skills Index, India has emerged as one of the world's most prepared job markets for 'future in-demand' skills, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), digital technology, and green industries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "This is heartening to see! Over the last decade, our Government has worked on strengthening our youth by equipping them with skills that enable them to become self-reliant and create wealth. We have also leveraged the power of technology to make India a hub for innovation and enterprise. The insights from the QS World Future Skills Index are valuable as we move further on this journey towards prosperity and youth empowerment."

The UK-based higher education firm QS evaluates countries' readiness to meet evolving global job market demands.

Ranked 25th, India is recognised as a 'future skills contender'. The country excelled in the 'future of work' metric, achieving the second-highest global score of 99.1, just behind the United States.

This index evaluated over 190 countries, over 280 million job postings, over 5,000 universities, 5 million employer skill demands reviewed and 17.5 million research papers.

QS World Future Skills Index classifies economies into four categories based on their overall performance - future skills aspiring, practitioner, contender, and pioneer. India is positioned



in the contender category.

"The Indian economy is the fifth largest in the world and was the fastest growing G20 economy in 2024. Industries driving this growth include FMCG, infrastructure, healthcare, IT and renewables. The economic innovation being driven globally through AI, digital and green is very evident in India wherein it scores second in the world for 'future of work', signalling that Indian employers today are demanding the innovative skills of tomorrow," the report said.

The key factors that contributed to India's performance include a resilient investment ecosystem driving innovation, significant readiness to adopt AI in the workforce, and being one of the nations most prepared to recruit into digital roles.

However, the index underscored several challenges in India's education and employment landscape, such as a mismatch between academic curricula and industry demands in AI, green, and digital skills; limited access to tertiary education for a young and growing population; a lack of focus on sustainability in education and industry readiness; and low investment in research and development, at just 0.6 percent of GDP compared to the global average of 2.7 per cent.

Gold Rallies ₹500 To ₹81,300 Per 10 Gm; Silver Soars ₹2,300

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices rallied Rs 500 to hit over a two-month high of Rs 81,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid fresh buying from jewellers and retailers and rupee depreciation, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 80,800 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 500 to Rs 80,900 per 10 grams. It settled at Rs 80,400 per 10 grams in the previous trading session.

Silver also surged Rs 2,300 to Rs 94,000 per kg from the previous close of Rs 91,700 per kg on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, gold contracts for February delivery rose Rs 297, or 0.38 per cent, to Rs 79,007 per 10 grams in the futures trade on the MCX on Thursday.

"Gold surged higher trading above Rs 79,000 in MCX, supported by a rupee depreciation," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

On Thursday, the rupee depreciated 16 paise to close at 86.56 (provisional) against the US dollar, dragged down by a strong American currency overseas, elevated crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows.

Silver contracts for March delivery appreciated Rs 654, or



0.7 per cent, to Rs 93,510 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Globally, Comex gold futures increased USD 19.70 per ounce, or 0.72 per cent, to USD 2,737.50 per ounce.

Further, Jateen Trivedi highlighted that in the international markets Comex gold rally followed the release of US CPI data, which came in line with expectations for December.

However, a lower-than-expected core CPI, provided additional support to gold prices. The softer inflation reading has strengthened expectations of continued rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, adding momentum to gold's rally, Trivedi added.

HDFC Securities' Senior Analyst of Commodities Saumil Gandhi said market participants will keep an eye on important US macro data, such as retail sales and the Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index to be released later on Thursday that will provide more direction for bullion prices.

Comex silver futures also traded 1.28 per cent higher in the Asian market hours at USD 31.94 per ounce.

Agri Dept Jammu Organises Buyer-Seller Meet For Flower Growers

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu Thursday organized the Buyer-Seller Meet 2024-25 for flower growers under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Baba Jitto, Kisan Kendra Talab Tillo.

The event aimed to foster a robust marketplace for floriculture, connecting buyers, sellers, and flower growers, while promoting commercial floriculture as part of the broader agricultural development initiative.

Mission Director HADP/JKICP, Rahul Yadav, the chief guest for the event, inaugurated the Buyer-Seller Meet and officially commenced the program with the lighting of the lamp. The program was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen.

In his inaugural address, Mission Director Rahul Yadav highlighted the key projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aimed at boosting floriculture in Jammu and Kashmir.

Listing the project initiatives, he mentioned Project No. 4: Strengthening Agri-Marketing System in UT J&K, Project No. 5: Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants on a Commercial Basis, and Project No. 14: Promotion of Commercial Floriculture.

The MD emphasized the crucial role of marketing and branding for the success of commercial floriculture, noting that effective marketing strategies and strong branding would enhance the value of floriculture products, open new markets for farmers and increase their income. He further stressed that these initiatives are designed to improve agri-

cultural productivity.

Rahul Yadav also took the opportunity to engage with the gathering, reiterating the commitment to strengthening the floriculture sector under HADP, and providing vital insights on its role in Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural transformation.

The Mission Director noted the presence of buyers from other states, highlighting the growing interest in Jammu's floriculture products. He stressed the need for extending proper hand holding to flower growers and emphasized the importance of developing a reliable buyer chain for flower growers, ensuring that they have a consistent and profitable market for their produce.

Director Agriculture Jammu S. A.S Reen shared his thoughts on the importance of floriculture for the agricultural development in the region.

He discussed the motive of area expansion of commercial floriculture under HADP in the Jammu region. He highlighted the key provisions in the Holistic Agriculture Development programme, including polyhouses, polycarbonate structures, cold storage units, pack houses, and refrigerated vans—all essential infrastructure that will support the growth of the floriculture sector. These facilities are designed to help flower growers extend the shelf life of their products, improve quality, and enhance their marketability. In addition, Director Agriculture A.S Reen emphasized the potential for flower seedling nurseries raised within polyhouses as a commercial business opportunity. By growing high-quality seedlings, farmers can sell them year-round, creating a sustainable and profitable enterprise in the floriculture industry.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT JAIL ANANTNAG

EMAIL: djanantnag@gmail.com Phone / Fax 01932-237004 (Office)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: 02/2025 Date: 11-01-2025

- For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tender through online mode are invited from eligible vendors / firms possessing valid licenses wherever applicable for execution of Rate Contract (valid for the year 2025) for supplies of items as mentioned in Annexure 'K' of this bid document.
- Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of items, quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract, and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the websites www.jktenders.gov.in and www.jkprisons.in
- Schedule of tender :

a	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11.01.2025
b	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.01.2025 from 1600 Hrs to 23.01.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
c	Bid submission Start Date and time	11.01.2025 from 1600 Hrs
d	Bid submission End Date and time	23.01.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
e	Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids in online mode	24.01.2025, 1200 Hrs in the office of Superintendent, District Jail Anantnag.
f	Pre-bid meeting date and time	20.01.2025, 1130 hours in the office of Superintendent, District Jail Anantnag.
- Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents) :
An amount of ₹500/- towards cost of tender fee has to be deposited by the bidder in the shape of Treasury Receipt in the following Major Head:
Major Head : 0056 (Jails)
Paid on behalf of : Superintendent District Jail Anantnag.
Note: Scanned copy of the receipt of the tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.
No:DJ/A/Cccts/2024-25/Tender/1518-20
Dated: 11-01-2025

DIPK-10905-24
DT: 16/01/2025

Sd/-
Superintendent,
District Jail Anantnag

India To Play Three Four-Day Matches In UK Ahead Of England Tests

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Stung by the massive defeats against New Zealand and Australia, the BCCI has decided to organise three four-day matches in the UK ahead of the Test matches against England to give the players an opportunity to get a feel of red-ball cricket.

The dates and venues of the matches against England Lions are yet to be fixed but they will take place in the UK after the IPL final on May 25, as the tour begins with the first Test at Leeds on June 20.

The board feels the preparatory series is essential to India's chances against England after the team went down 0-3 against the Kiwis at home and 1-3 to the Aussies away.

"We had a similar 'A' tour to Australia ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. These matches will help players to come to terms with English conditions and, also, a chance for them to



play red-ball cricket after some time," a source in the BCCI told PTI on condition of anonymity. Some of the frontline Indian

players such as Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal etc are preparing for the Ranji Trophy matches, which are re-

starting from January 23. However, a few of them will be able to play only one round of the remaining two rounds of the

Ranji Trophy as the white-ball series against England will start at Kolkata on January 22 with the T20Is followed by the ODIs.

The focus has shifted to star Indian batters' appearance in the domestic cricket after most of them, including veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, endured a dismal series Down Under.

"We don't have too many red-ball matches now as the IPL will start soon after the series against England. It's not wise to send the squad to an important series without proper preparation as England is generally a tough place for batters because of the conditions," he said.

It may be recalled that some of the young Indian players such as Sarfaraz Khan, Akash Deep, Dhruv Jurel and Prasidh Krishna had impressive outings against the Lions earlier last year ahead of the home series against England.

All of them played in the subsequent series against England, New Zealand and Australia.

Short TAKES

District Admin Pulwama Felicitates Young Sports Achievers

The District Administration Pulwama on Thursday organised a felicitation ceremony to encourage the J&K Floorball Team for their remarkable achievement as first runners-up in the 18th Floorball National Championship.

During the ceremony, certificates of appreciation, mementos along with cash prizes were distributed to the sportspersons in recognition of their outstanding performance and dedication.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Basharat Qayoom extended his congratulations to the participants, sportspersons, their parents and principals of various schools who attended the event. He commended the team for their hard work and determination, which brought pride to the region.

Senior Citizens' Cycle Rally Flagged Off From Srinagar



Deputy Inspector General Central Kashmir Rajiv Omprakash Pande on Thursday flagged off a cycle rally from Lal Chowk.

The rally is part of "Pollution-Free India" campaign and features senior citizens aged over 50. The cyclists will embark on a journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to promote environmental consciousness and physical fitness.

Accompanied by Superintendent of Police East Bisma Qazi and other police officials, DIG Pande commended the participants for their dedication. He emphasized that such initiatives not only raise awareness about pollution but also inspire healthier lifestyles.

The rally aims to motivate citizens nationwide to prioritize health and contribute to a cleaner environment.

J&K Bank Beats J&K Police, Retains Christmas Gold Cup



Observer News Service

Stadium Parade here.

JAMMU: J&K Bank XI lifted the 18th Christmas Gold Cup 2024-25 after a 4-1 win over J&K Police XI in the final match of the tournament on Thursday at Mini

After a hard-fought opening 40 minutes, J&K Bank sprang to life with Urfan Hamid opening the scoring in the 40th minute. However, J&K Police fought back to level the proceedings as

Salman Hassan found the back of the net in minute 44.

J&K Bank came out strong in the second half, with captain Aakif Reshi making it 2-1 in minute 54.

Furkan added another while Urfan made it 4-1 in the 90th minute to round out a comprehensive performance from the Bank side. The win meant the team was able to retain the Gold Cup.

Former Minister Priya Sethi and Additional Director General of Police Jammu, Anand Jain, felicitated the players, coaches and management of J&K Bank at concluding ceremony.

The J&K Football Association also congratulated the team for its win.

"This victory is a testament to their relentless hard work, dedication, and teamwork," the FA said.

Over 27 Lakh Youth Engaged In Sports Activities In 2024: JKSC



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council on Thursday said it has achieved a record-breaking milestone in 2024, with over 27 lakh youth participating in diverse sporting activities across the region.

An official of JKSC said the Sports Council celebrated the participation of athletes from diverse sporting categories at levels ranging from district to international. He said the council is committed to grassroots sports development and the promotion of inclusive events.

Among the international accolades, the official highlighted the achievements of para-athletes Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, who won bronze medals in Para Archery at the 17th Summer Paralympics held in Paris.

He said that youth participation in sports has grown across J&K over the past two years. In the current financial year, under initiatives such as "My Youth, My Pride," "Har Din Khel Har Ek ke Liye Khel," "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan," "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav," "Jan Abhiyan," and "Calendar of Sports Associations," along with regular coaching programs, 27.10 lakh youth have participated.

Key achievements in 2024-25

One of the council's standout achievements was hosting the Legends League Cricket tournament, the official said. The event took place at Cricket Ground, M.A. Stadium in Jammu and Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar. The tournament featured six teams compris-

ing over 110 players, including world-renowned cricket legends like Chris Gayle, Martin Guptill, and the Pathan brothers.

The J&K Senior Football team reached the quarterfinals of the 38th National Games in the Santosh Trophy. The men's team participated in the 78th National Football Championship (North Zone) in Amritsar in October, where they remained unbeaten in the group stage, defeating Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh.

The last edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, held in Gulmarg, witnessed participation from 800 athletes representing 20 states and Union Territories.

In 2024, JKSC organised six national-level and one international-level competition across six sports disciplines: Cricket (Legends League), Tennis-ball Cricket, Badminton, Pencak Silat, Softball, and Tenni-Koit.

The 36th Sub-Junior National Tenni-Koit Championship 2024 was held at Green Play Field, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, from September 30 to October 4. The event included 21 teams from various states and UTs, with over 330 participants, including 16 athletes from J&K.

Two major Pencak Silat championships were held in Srinagar: The 2nd All India Pencak Silat Championship (November 19-21, 2024) and the 12th Pre-Teen, Sub-Junior, and Junior National Pencak Silat Championship (November 16-18, 2024).

The official said that these events recorded the combined participation of over 215 athletes. (KNO)

JKCA's District Kupwara Carrom Championship Concludes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Carrom Association, the two-day District Kupwara Carrom Championship, concluded on Thursday at Indoor Stadium Handwara. The event was held under the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of the J&K Sports Council.

The championship witnessed participation across Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior categories, with players competing under the rules of the International Carrom Federation.

The JKCA is now set to conduct carrom tournaments in the following districts as per schedule:

- 1. District Anantnag**
Venue: Indoor Stadium, Bejbera
Dates: January 17 & 18
- 2. District Kulgam**
Venue: Indoor Stadium, Quimoh Kulgam
Dates: January 19 & 20
- 3. District Shopian**
Venue: Indoor Stadium, Batpora Shopian
Dates: January 21 & 22

Interested players, clubs, schools and institutions can contact JKCA at Email: jk-carrom@gmail.com and Phone: Arif Sultan (9906767529) to register.

Yamal Conjures Messi Memories After Barcelona Runs Riot Over Madrid & Betis

Agencies

BARCELONA: When Lamine Yamal glided past two Real Madrid defenders before coolly tucking the ball just inside the post, it was hard not to get a shiver that Lionel Messi was back in a Barcelona shirt.

He still wears dental braces, but Barcelona's teenage phenom has emerged as opponents' No. 1 problem thanks to his speed, creativity, and gorgeous goals from Messi's old spot on the right flank.

Yamal has run amok in back-to-back five-goal blowouts for Barcelona. He led its humiliation of Madrid 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final last weekend and helped demolish Real Betis 5-1 in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday.

Yet, beyond the goals, it is his grace with the ball that is conjuring up comparisons to Barcelona's greatest player. Yamal, like Messi, makes it look so easy as he flicks past defenders who always seem just one, or two, steps too slow. They also share an incredible

scoring touch with their left foot, whether scoring powerful strikes from distance or applying a finesse finish amid traffic as Yamal did against Madrid on Sunday.

"After Lionel Messi, he is our best player," Barcelona midfielder Gavi said about Yamal after the forward recorded an assist and scored the fifth goal to round out the thrashing of Betis.

Yamal has rewritten the records books for his precociousness, becoming La Liga's youngest scorer when he was 16. He also became Spain's youngest scorer in the history of last summer's European Championship, where he also scored the goal of the tournament in the semifinals before his team won the final over England.

This season, Yamal leads La Liga with nine assists of his 13 overall, to go with nine goals across all competitions.

Yamal is also a major reason why attack partners Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha have combined for 46 goals.



His passing makes the attack click and, as he often attracts two defenders, he opens up

spaces for teammates. "I have enjoyed Lamine for years, and now everyone is

doing the same. He deserves (the praise) he is getting," said centre back Pau Cubarsí,

who is also 17 and another piece of Hansi Flick's rejuvenated Barcelona.

Cubarsí credited the winter break for helping Barcelona start 2025 in fine fashion. The team hit a rough patch in late November and December after a spectacular start to the campaign and suffered nearly inexplicable losses at home to minors Las Palmas and Leganes.

That dip let an in-form Atletico Madrid take the lead of the domestic league. Barcelona is six points adrift of Atletico in third place. Madrid is second at one point back.

Barcelona visits Getafe on Saturday. Three days later it visits Benfica in Portugal as it resumes the Champions League group phase sitting second in the standings behind Liverpool.

Araújo playing amid rumors of a move

Iñigo Martínez's right hamstring injury might actually save Flick from a headache.

Spanish sports media has been rife with rumors that Bar-

celona defender Ronald Araújo is considering a transfer after not seeing much playing time following his return from a leg injury this season. He has been linked to interest from Juventus.

But Araújo replaced Martínez after he was hurt during the Spanish Super Cup final. He then started for Barcelona against Betis. With Martínez expected to be sidelined for a month, Araújo has become Flick's logical pick to accompany Cubarsí in the heart of the defense.

This week, Barcelona club president Joan Laporta said the club was talking with Araújo "to find a solution" after saying that they wanted the Uruguayan central defender to stay.

Atletico on a record roll of 15 wins

Atletico will aim to add to its club-record streak of 15 wins across all competitions when it plays at Leganes on Saturday.

Real Madrid hosts Las Palmas on Sunday.



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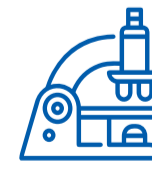
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