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BOOK
APPOINTMENT

CUK Extends Winter Vacation Till Feb 14

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central University of Kashmir (CUK) on Thursday announced extension of winter vacation till February-14.

"Due to inclement weather conditions and ongoing student internship programs outside Jammu & Kashmir, the university has decided to resume its offline classwork from February 17," reads a communique of CUK.

The notification further states that the regular classwork will be conducted online from February 10 to February 14.

The decision was taken following a meeting of Deans and Heads of Departments (HODs) with an approval from the competent authority to ensure uninterrupted academic activities.

Meanwhile, all Heads and Coordinators of Departments have been directed to structure the academic timetable efficiently so that the syllabus for the even semester is completed before the End Semester Examinations (ESE).

Earlier, university was scheduled to re-open on February 10, after a long winter break.

2 Civilian Deaths In J&K Trigger Outrage Police Urge People To Maintain Order

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two separate incidents in Jammu and Kashmir—one in Baramulla and the other in Kathua—have sparked controversy, with political leaders demanding investigations into the circumstances of the civilian deaths.

A truck driver was killed in Army firing when he allegedly refused to stop his vehicle at a checkpoint in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir despite repeated warnings, officials said on Thursday.

The checkpoint was set up at Sangrama Chowk on Wednesday following inputs about the movement of terrorists in the area, they said.

"On 05 Feb 2025, based on a specific intelligence input about the movement of terrorists, a Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) was established by Security Forces.



One speeding suspicious civil truck was spotted. When challenged, the truck didn't stop despite repeated warnings and instead accelerated further while crossing the

check post," the Army's Chinara Corps said in a post on X.

"Alert troops pursued the vehicle for over 23 km. Shots were fired aiming at tyres to deflate which forced vehicles to halt at

Sangrama Chowk," it said. "Consequent to detailed search, the injured driver was immediately evacuated to GMC Baramulla by Security Forces where | More on P6

J&K Govt To Order Own Probes: CM

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said his government will order its own inquiries into the deaths of a truck driver in Army firing in Baramulla and an alleged

terrorist in police custody in Kathua. "I have seen the reports of excessive use of force & harassment of Makhan Din in police custody in Billawar leading to his suicide and the death of Waseem

Ahmed Malla, shot by the army under circumstances that are not entirely clear. Both these incidents are highly unfortunate and should not have happened," Abdullah posted on X. | More on P6

Separate Enquiries Ordered In Kathua Youth's Death

Authorities in Kathua district have launched separate enquiries into the death of a Gujjar youth, following allegations of custodial torture. Kathua District Magistrate Dr Rakesh Minhas has ordered a magisterial probe into the death of Makhan Din, a resident of Billawar. Police, however, claim that Din took his own life by consuming insecticide at home on Tuesday evening.

To ascertain the exact cause of death, the DM has appointed Tehsildar Lohai Malhar, Anil Kumar, as the Inquiry Officer. He has been directed to gather statements from all relevant individuals and submit a detailed report within five days.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has also appointed DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar Sharma as the Head of a Fact Finding Committee to ascertain the reasons behind the death of the youth and submit his report within 10 days. The | More on P6

MLAs Nomination Case J&K HC Sets Final Hearing For March 20

Agencies

Srinagar: The J&K High Court today fixed March 20th, the next date for final hearing in the significant MLAs nomination case, filed by Mr Ravinder Sharma, former MLC & Chief Spokesperson of J&K Congress.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri, after briefly hearing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's plea on behalf of the respondents for a short extension to file a reply, directed both parties to complete all pleadings, including replies and counter-replies, before the next hearing date.

Senior Supreme Court lawyer Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, along with D.K. Khajuria, represented petitioner Ravinder Sharma. The counsel suggested March 20 as a suitable date for the final hearing, which the court accepted with the mutual consent of all parties. The bench assured that it would be available for a full-day hearing on the matter.

Meanwhile, an application seeking impleadment as party respondent/ permission to intervene in the PIL was moved by one Ravinder Singh retired JKAS officer | More on P6

2 Doctors Suspended After Botched Surgery In Sopore

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities in north Kashmir's Sopore have sealed the operation theatre of Hakeem Sanaulah Hospital and suspended two doctors following an alleged case of medical negligence, where a woman admitted for ear surgery reportedly had her uterus removed instead.

Sources said that the woman had been undergoing treatment at the private hospital and was scheduled for ear surgery. However, in the absence of the doctor treating her, the procedure was allegedly conducted by another doctor, who mistakenly performed a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus).

Following public outcry, authorities acted swiftly and sealed the hospital's operation theatre, citing serious violations of medical protocols.

"We are investigating the matter thoroughly and have served notices to the hospital management, doctors, and

staff to explain their position. Preliminary inquiry and evidence suggest that this operation theatre should not have been operational in the first place, and therefore, we have sealed it," said Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, SA Raina.

He assured that a comprehensive probe is underway and strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

Taking further action, the Jammu and Kashmir government has suspended two doctors allegedly involved in the incident. According to an official order, a copy of which lies with KNO, the following doctors have been suspended: Dr. Anjum Nazir, Consultant Gynaecologist, SDH Sopore, and Dr. Tariq Ahmad Dar, Medical Officer (Diploma in Anesthesia), DH Bandipora.

The government has also barred both doctors from engaging in any form of private practice across Jammu & Kashmir until | More on P6

LG Calls Upon Youth To Build Strong & 'Viksit Bharat'

Observer News Service

Jammu: Calling upon the youth to work collectively to build a strong and 'Viksit Bharat', Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday urged them to focus on the needs and aspirations of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society so that they can actively participate in the development process and contribute to overall progress.

He praised the initiative 'One Nation - One People - One Culture' and said it is playing a pivotal role in realizing the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. The lieutenant governor emphasized this initiative enables youth to truly experience and understand the concept of unity in diversity.

Sinha interacted with youth from the north-eastern states visiting Jammu under the ABVP's Students Experience in Inter-State Living (SEIL) initiative



at the Convention Centre.

"The SEIL programme, launched in 1965, has created an emotional bridge between the youth of the north-east region and the rest of the country," he said.

The lieutenant governor commended the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) for its efforts in promoting national unity and providing young people with opportunities to experience unity in diversity.

"I am extremely proud that as the world's largest student organization, ABVP, has been

making a significant contribution in strengthening the spirit of unity and brotherhood. By eliminating geographical distances, it has connected the youth with the cultural roots of India," he said.

Sinha highlighted that a distinctive feature of the SEIL programme is that each student stays with a local family, which welcomes them not as guests but as family members.

"This unique experience allows students to understand local cultures and lifestyles, while host | More on P6

Private Hospitals Warn Exit From SEHAT Scheme

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centre Association has raised serious concerns over the future of the Ayushman Bharat SEHAT scheme, warning that they may stop providing free treatment under the programme unless urgent reforms are introduced.

In a letter addressed to the CEO of the State Health Agency (SHA), J&K, the association said that following extensive deliberations, they have concluded that the current contract—set to expire on March 15, 2025—is no longer viable under existing terms.

The letter highlighted several key grievances arising from the 9th Governing Council Meeting held on January 19, 2025, where certain decisions were made that the association considers detrimental to private healthcare providers.

"The reservation of four surgical procedures for public hospitals, a 10% reduction in



UT-specific incentives, and the implementation of HBP 2.2 instead of HBP 2022 are not in our interests. These measures are anti-private sector and will push many hospitals to the verge of bankruptcy, given that we have already been suffering for the past ten months," the letter stated.

The association also expressed concern that the meeting failed to address long-pending payments, interest on delayed reimbursements, or the review of unjustified deductions and claim rejections dating back to 2022.

A member of the association said that the government's plan to exclude | More on P6

HC Upholds ₹1 Million Compensation To Cross-firing Victim

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a plea challenging its single bench order, directing Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the Helper in Forest Department whose arm was amputated following firearm injury during cross-firing incident in 2000.

The High Court's single bench on 9 June 2023 had directed payments of Rs 10 lakh compensation to the helper, Jehangir Ahmad Khan while disposing of a petition filed by him in 2015.

According to the pleadings, Khan was serving as Helper in the Forest Department of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, when he became a



victim of cross firing between the security forces and the militants in 2000. He was seriously injured in cross firing, which ultimately resulted in the amputation of his right arm.

Subsequently, Khan had approached authorities for grant of compensation to him for the injuries which he suffered while serving in the Department of Forest. However, the authorities only released Rs. 75,000 as ex-gratia in his

favour "which was too meagre to meet the expenditure of his treatment."

In 2015, Khan moved the High Court, seeking directions to the authorities to provide Rs. 15 lakh by way of compensation for "85% permanent disability suffered by him".

After considering the rival contentions of the parties, the single bench granted a compensation of Rs. 10.00 lakh in lumpsum on 9 June 2023.

However, the government challenged this judgment which was dismissed by the division bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Puneet Gupta.

"Having heard the Counsel for the parties and perused the material on | More on P6

Hajj-2025 MHA Allocates Quota To Combined Haj Group Operatives

Agencies

Srinagar: According to the Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee the public in general and aspiring Haj Pilgrims of Hajj-2025 in particular are informed that the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has allocated Haj quota to member constituents of Combined Hajj Group Organisers (CHGO) for Haj-2025.

Accordingly, M/S LABAIKA HAJ & UMRAN SERVICES, 2nd Floor, M.S. Shopping Mall, Srinagar, (Member constituent of M/s Sacred Trips LLP, MHCHGO) has been allotted quota of 100 pilgrims; while M/S AL HAYAT HAJJ AND OMRAN TRAVEL SERVICES,

1st Floor, Main Road, Budgam (Member constituent of M/S FOUR WAYS CHGO FORUM); M/S UNIVERSE TRAVEL CORPORATION 217, Dr. Ali Jan Complex, M.A. road, Srinagar (Member constituent of M/S FOUR WAYS CHGO FORUM); M/S AL GHAZALI TOUR & TRAVELS, Gawkadai, Srinagar (Member constituent of M/S RAHMAT-E-HARAM CHGO); M/S ALHUDA TRAVELS, Maharaja Heights, Airport Road, Srinagar (Member constituent of M/S AZONE Haj Services Private Limited MHCHGO); M/S AL SAFEER TOUR AND TRAVELS, 19-Thoker Market, Anantnag (Member constituent of M/S FOUR WAYS CHGO FORUM); | More on P6

Budget Should Not Be Framed In Isolation: CM



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting the budget to be passed in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly should not be framed in isolation, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday emphasized the aim of these consultations is to ensure that the proposals of people's representatives are considered and their needs and aspirations

are reflected in the budget.

Abdullah highlighted that such consultations provide a clear picture of ground realities, enabling the government to formulate policies that effectively address public concerns.

For the second consecutive day on Thursday, the chief minister conducted pre-budget consultations with stakeholders, emphasizing the | More on P6



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اطلاع عام

میں نظر احمد ڈار ولد محمد قاسم ڈار ساکنہ سرائے ڈانچ پورہ تحصیل سبیل ضلع بانڈی پورہ 1982 کے آس پاس پرائمری اسکول ڈانچ پورہ کا طالب علم تھا۔ میری یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ کی کم ہو گئی ہے۔ مجھے یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ کی کاپی کے ساتھ اسکول میں پرائمری اسکول میں پڑھانے کی وجہ سے میرا وہاں پر کوئی ریکارڈ نہیں ہے اب میں بڑھ کر اخبار خاص و عام تک یہ پیغام پہنچانا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر میری یوم پیدائش پر کسی کو کوئی شک ہے تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر راندراہتی شکایت درج کرے۔ سات دنوں کے بعد کوئی شکایت قابل قبول نہیں ہوگی

عرض نیاز
نظر احمد ڈار ولد محمد قاسم ڈار

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my service records as Waseem Ahmad Bhat S/O Mohd Maqbool Bhat R/O Palhallan Pattan while my correct name is Wasim Maqbool S/O Mohmad Maqbool Bhat R/O Palhallan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office for the P D D sub div pattan A W E PATTAN within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Wasim Maqbool fko_r
S/O Mohmad Maqbool Bhat R/O Palhallan

Public Notice

The name of my daughter has been wrongly written in her Adhaar Card as Arsa Arshad while her correct name is Arbeena Arshid which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arshid Ahmad Shekh fko
F/o Arbeena Arshid
R/o Manihal Tehsil Barbugh

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: - Application of Khazir Mohammad Dar S/o Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Khispora Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance Of EWS (Economically Weaker Section in favour of her daughter namely Mehnaza Khazir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of EWS in favour of his daughter namely Mehnaza Khazir. In this connection a report of patwali halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Khispora. The details of the family of the

S. No	Name Of the Family Member	Relationship with the Family Head	Age	Occupation	Annual Income.
01	Khazir Mohammad Dar	Self	58	Labour	1,95184
02	Sada Begum	Wife	55	House Wife	
03	Aijaz Khazir	Son	22	Employee at SBI Kreeri	
04	Mehnaza Khazir	Daughter	20	Student	
05	Bisma Khazir	Daughter	18	Student	

As such a detailed report was sought from patwali halqa concerned and the report by the team that visited the spot which reveals that:

- Family of the applicant is residing in a house whose dimensions are 33*25 = 825 Sq. Ft., and bathroom whose area is 36 sq. Ft. And veranda with area of 37 Sq. Ft. As such total area of the residential house + Veranda + Bathroom is 898 sq. Ft.
- Besides this there is also lawn. As such total area of the residential house + Lawn of the applicant is 1540 sq. Feet.
- Moreover, the report of the patwali halqa concerned further reveals that there is another residential belonging to the son of the applicant whose area is 384 sq. Ft., although he is residing separately and is not recorded under chola of the applicant.
- Further annual income of the family from all sources is 1,95184. And one family member is Employee at SBI Kreeri.

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from general 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

Public Notice

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing number 489591269012 my name is entered as RAJA BANO while my actual name is RAJA BEGUM. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

RAJA BEGUM W/O ABDUL SALAM KHAN
R/o OMPORA BUDGAM CELL. 8491038577 mcb

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my PNB Metlife bearing policy No 22757945 as Gowher Nabi Ganai instead of Gowher Nabi . Now I have applied for the correction of my name. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the office of the PNB Metlife within seven days. after that no objection shall be entertained.

Gowher Nabi bmg_r

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the notice is claimed to have lost his qualification certificate of with the following particulars.

- Roll No:- 2109278
- Class:- 12th
- Year & Session :- 2017
- Registration No:- N14340030011
- Name :- FAIZAN RASHID WANI
- Fathers Name:- ABDUL RASHID WANI
- Mothers Name:- SHAHZADA BANO
- Date of Birth:- 03-05-2000.
- Residence:- OMPORA BUDGAM

Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE. before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, any person having any objection in this regard may please file the same before the secretary BOSE or undersigned with in 7 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above losted QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE be treated as CANCELLED.

Sd/-
Asstiant Secretary
Certificates - KD
mcb

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject Application of Ghulam Nabi Chopan S/o Habibullah Chopan R/o Authoora Reshipora Tehsil Kreeri for issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in favor of Showkat Ahmad Chopan , Parvaiz Ahmad Chopan, Nazaat Nabi

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 patwali halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant In currently residing in village Authoora Reshipora and belongs to the Najar Community having annual Income of Rs 405600 (Four Lack Five Thousand and Six Hundred) The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S No	Name of the family Member	Relation-ship with the Family Head	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Ghulam Nabi Chopan	Self	63	Retd Employee	405600
2	Shaheena Begum	Wife	64	H/W	
03	Showkat Ahmad	Son	35	Student	
4	Parvaiz Ahmad Chopan	Son	26	Student	
5	Nazaat Nabi	Son	24		

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

fko Naib Tehsildar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism Kashmir

TRC, Srinagar, Kashmir. 190001 Tel/Fax 0194-2502279, 0194-2502281.

Sub: - Commercial White-Water Rafting in River Sindh (Ganderbal) & River Kishen Ganga (Gurez).

NOTICE

All the Eligible Adventure Tour Operates having valid registration certificate in Rafting Activity intending to operate commercial White-Water Rafting in River in (Mammer to Wussan and Wussan to Wayul Bridge stretches) at Ganderbal or in River Kishan Ganga (Markoot to Astana Mohalla Bridge to Badwan stretch) at urez (Bandipora) for summer Season 2025 are intimated through this notice to apply on company letter Head to undersigned via email- advertuejktourism@gmail.com or offline to this office within in 10 days of publication of this notice clearly mentioning the spot so that the slots are allotted in favour of eligible Adventure Tour Operators for operation of Commercial White-Water Rafting at these destinations.

The application should be accompanied with the copy of valid Registration Certificate. The application (s) received after the cut-off date shall not be considered.

Dy. Director Tourism, Recreation

No. DTK/Rec/91/5016
DIPK-11645/24
dated: 06-02-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Single Cover System

E-NIT No: Fresh -137/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/9643-53 Dated: 06/02/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S No	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. GST) (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H Of Ac-count	AAA No and Dated	Class Of Contactor
1.	Construction of 2 No. Culvert with Deep Drain on Interior roads of Tral Near Kadi Masjid.	18.90	800/-	2% of Adv cost	25 working days	Distt Capex Budget 2023-24	24-DDCP of 2023 Dated 27.05.2023.	BEE,CEE

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds:- Available

Project Authority: DDCP

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06 /02/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06 /02/2025
3	Bid Submission Start Date	06/02/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	12 /02/2025 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	13/02/2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora. (tender receiving authority).

Note:- (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (As per format) and The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee (bid security) should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

Sd/-
Head Draftsman
DIPK-11660/24 dated: 06-02-2025

Sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, BIJBEHARA

e-mail : phebijebehara230@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.:-43/PHE/BJ of 2024-25 [e-Tendering]

Dated :- 05.02.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and registered Govt. contractors, for the works mentioned below: -

SN o.	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Earnest money. (in Rs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion
1.	Development of drinking water facility at Govt. Middle School Gundpora Ward No. 5 under District Capex (Sector PRI) 2024-25.	1.01	2020	DEE	200	25 days

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.
- Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara (Tender receiving authority).
- Earnest Money equivalent to 2% of Advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR without which the tenders shall not be entertained.
- The quantity of items in the BOQ are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. The quantity items in the BOQ can increase or decrease and shall not be mentioned in the allotment order.
- The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job falling which the Engineer in-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond in time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debared to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.
- The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the peripherals of the area, before tendering for the stages of the particular area at his own expenses.
- The tenderers have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof. No conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be lowest one.
- The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work in rate/quantity schedule in the form of BOQ.
- The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available within or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required for execution of any other work or works allotted to him.
- The successful bidder shall have to remain in close liaison with the Divisional Office and subordinate sub divisional offices of PHE Division Bijbehara till the expiry of the contract, besides the tenderer shall have to remain available (24x7) round the year as such have to maintain his residence near Head Quarter of the respective sub division, so as to remain available during night hours.
- The contractors who wish to put their tenders for the said NIT has to execute the work in all conditions of weather or any untoward situations.

Unbalanced Tender:

- The unbalanced tenderer should be uploaded additional performance security in the shape of CDR / FDR of Advertised cost in addition to his earnest money as specified above (without which no tender document shall be accepted and is liable to be rejected) as per the following breakup: -

S. No.	Percentage of Unbalanced Tender viz Adv. cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% and upto 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and upto 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and upto 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30%	20%

- Since the maintenance works are of emergent nature, therefore, in order to restore supply of the maintenance works/jobs are to be carried out during day and night hours.
- The Payment to the concerned agency shall be made as per availability of funds.
- The items which may not figure in the BOQ but found necessary for execution shall be paid as per SSR or lowest market rates decided by the contract committee of the Divisional Level.
- Work done claim shall be supported with pre, during and post photographic evidence.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

S.No.	Description	Date	Time	YYYY
1	Publishing date of NIT	06	02	2025
2	Download start date	06	02	2025
3	Bid submission start date	06	02	2025
4	Bid submission end date	11	02	2025
5	Bid opening date	12	02	2025

33. All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

No. PHE/BJ/11965-88
DIPK-11615/24
Dated: 06.02.2025

Executive Engineer,
J.S.PHE Division Bijbehara.

Master Woodcarver Fights To Preserve Kashmir's Dying Art

Agencies

Srinagar: Ghulam Nabi Hakak, a 78-year-old master woodcarver from Nawabazar, Srinagar, is renowned for his elaborate floral patterns and is believed to have carved the United Nations logo in the 1970s, which still adorns the General Assembly wall.

Despite his age, Hakak remains dedicated to his craft, working tirelessly to preserve the centuries-old tradition of Kashmiri woodcarving. Ghulam Nabi Hakak recalled learning the art from a seasoned woodcarver six decades ago. "Handling the chisel was challenging at first. I injured myself several times before mastering the craft," he said.

Operating from his workshop in Srinagar's downtown, Ghulam Nabi Hakak, along with two fellow artisans—including his brother—continues to create exquisite wooden pieces, ranging from intricately designed doors to Qur'an stands and furniture. However, he lamented the decline in demand for hand-crafted items.

"The work is not as abun-

dant as before. People now prefer machine-made products over traditional hand-crafted woodwork," he said, urging the government to step in and support artisans in reviving this fading heritage.

Despite the challenges, Hakak remains committed to passing on his skills to younger generations, hoping to keep Kashmir's woodcarving legacy alive for years to come.

It may be recalled that a woodcarver in Kashmir typically has a background deeply rooted in the centuries-old tradition of intricate walnut wood carving. Artisans, known locally as "Naqash," utilize the abundant walnut trees in the region to create detailed designs on furniture, decorative items, and architectural elements.

The craft often traces its origins back to the 15th century when Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom introduced it to the valley. Their work often features floral motifs, geometric patterns, and Islamic influences and is highly prized for its delicate craftsmanship and the unique qualities of Kashmir walnut wood—(KNO)



Major Blow To Drug Networks, Five Held Under PIT-NDPS In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police have intensified their crackdown on drug trafficking by booking five notorious drug peddlers under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act. The action follows formal detention orders issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, based on dossiers prepared by the police.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, reads that the accused, identified as Mohd Toyoub Sheikh of Surnai Mohalla Kawdara, Abrar Ahmad Misger alias "Aaba" of Shah Hamdan Colony Zakoora, Milad Bashir Bhat of Doolipora Kawdara, Mohd Rafiq Patoo of Shah Mohalla Ahmad Nagar, and Muneer Ahmad Bhat of Sonwar,

In addition to their detention, police have initiated the process of attaching their properties under PIT-NDPS provisions. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to eradicating drug trafficking and warned those involved that stringent action will follow.

have been detained and lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal, Jammu, as well as district jails in Udhampur and Kathua.

Further it reads, these individuals were actively involved in drug peddling across Srinagar, operating an extensive narcotics network targeting local youth. Despite multiple cases registered against them under the NDPS Act, they continued their illegal activities after securing bail.

In addition to their detention, police have initiated the process of attaching their properties under PIT-NDPS provisions. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to eradicating drug trafficking and warned those involved that stringent action will follow.

J&K Police emphasized that offenders will be brought to justice, urging citizens to support efforts in curbing the drug menace in the region.

Potholed Roads Irk Sonwar Residents, Seek Immediate Renovation

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents of Sonwar and surrounding areas in Srinagar have raised serious concerns over the deteriorating condition of roads, especially outside the main Sonwar market.

Locals said large potholes have developed on the road, which are now filled with water, making the path hazardous for commuters and pedestrians.

The residents from Sonwar and adjoining areas urged the authorities to take immediate action, fearing that a major accident could occur if the condition is not addressed soon.

"The Sonwar road is in a very bad condition, and the potholes, filled with water, pose a great risk. We are afraid that an unfortunate incident could happen at any time if the issue is not resolved," said Moin Ahmad, a local resident.

Another resident added that every day, they see vehicles struggle to navigate this road. It is becoming very dangerous, and the authorities must act before it's too late, he said.

Meanwhile, the locals have urged the authorities to prioritize repairs and fix the road on an urgent basis to prevent any untoward incidents—(KNO)

IAS Probationers Enthralled By Treasure Display At School Of Designs

Agencies

Srinagar: A delegation of IAS Officer Trainees of 2024 batch was enthralled by the rare collection of exquisite hand-made products at display in the School of Designs of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, in the summer capital.

During the visit, the probationers were taken over by the guided tour given by Chief Designer, Amina Assad, who highlighted the product diversification in traditional crafts which could be customised to today's requirements and taste.

The School of Designs in Kashmir Haat offers a rare combination of Live Craft display along with a unique collection of handicrafts and

handloom products which rivet the visitors every time a visit is made.

At the conclusion, the Trainee IAS officers expressed great delight over the intricate craftsmanship displayed in the Craft Museum. They also appreciated the hard work that goes into making such artefacts, indicating years of perseverance, patience and skill. (ANB)

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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HIGHWAY STATUS
 Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
 Mughal Road - (Closed)
 Srinagar-Leh - (Open)

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 59
 ZUHR 12: 45
 ASR 4: 27
 Magrib 6: 10
 ISHA 7: 31

HIJRI CALENDAR
 8 Shaban
 1446

This Day In History

- 1831 - Belgium adopts its Constitution
- 1863 - HMS Orpheus sinks off the coast of Auckland, New Zealand, killing 189.
- 1881 - Battle at Ingogo, Transvaal: Boers beat superior British forces
- 1889 - Astronomical Society of Pacific holds 1st meeting in SF
- 1905 - Dominican Rep signs treaty turning over customs collection to US
- 1907 - Conservative coalition take over Reichstag in Germany after rallying conservatives against the threat of a socialist government
- 1915 - 1st wireless message sent from a moving train to a station received
- 1915 - 2nd Battle of Masurian Lakes: German armies surrounded a Russian army
- 1924 - Benito Mussolini government exchanges diplomats with USSR
- 1928 - 1st solo England to Australia flight takes off (Bert Hinkler)
- 1944 - Germans launch counteroffensive at Anzio, Italy
- 1945 - US 76th/5th Infantry divisions begin crossing Sauer
- 1945 - London, Washington and Moscow discuss final phase of World War II
- 1947 - Arabs & Jews reject British proposal to split Palestine
- 1950 - US & Great Britain recognize Bao Dai Vietnamese regime
- 1959 - Fidel Castro proclaims new Cuban constitution
- 1962 - Gas explosion in Luisanthal coal mine Voelklingen Germany kills 298
- 1962 - US President JFK begins blockade of Cuba by banning all Cuban imports and exports.
- 1964 - Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and is renamed Muhammad Ali
- 1965 - US begins regular bombing & strafing of N Vietnam
- 1967 - A fire at a restaurant in Montgomery, Alabama kills 25 people.
- 1969 - Al-Fatah-leader Yasser Arafat becomes president of PLO
- 1971 - Switzerland votes for national women's suffrage in a referendum
- 1974 - Grenada gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1976 - World's largest telescope (600 cm) begins operation (USSR).
- 1977 - Soyuz 24 launches with 2 cosmonauts
- 1978 - Ethiopian offensive in Ogaden desert
- 1986 - Haiti's President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier flees to France Henri Namphy becomes leader of Haiti
- 1986 - Corazon Aquino defeats incumbent Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos but fraudulent returns gave the election to Marcos.
- 1987 - Police in South Korea make hundreds of arrests during protest demonstrations, the country's biggest for 6 years, after a student died in custody.
- 1990 - Karachi police kill 22 anti-nationalistic demonstrators
- 1990 - USSR Communist party agrees to allow opposition political parties
- 1991 - The IRA launches a mortar attack on 10 Downing Street during a cabinet meeting.
- 1992 - European Union becomes official under Maastricht treaties.
- 1994 - Jim Nabors undergoes a liver transplant.
- 1997 - US & Russia announce summit set for Helsinki, March 20-21
- 1999 - Crown Prince Abdullah becomes the King of Jordan on the death of his father, King Hussein.
- 2000 - Bahria University is established through Presidential Ordinance No. V of 2000 by the Government of Pakistan.
- 2005 - Britain's Ellen MacArthur becomes the fastest person to sail solo around the world
- 2006 - Uma Thurman is named a knight of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France for outstanding achievement in the field of art and literature
- 2008 - 58th Berlin International Film Festival: "Elite Squad" wins the Golden Bear

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name and parantage in my Aadhar Card Vide Aadhar No:- 5027 7654 4129, has been wrongly mentioned as Mohammad Maqbool Lone. S/O:- Ab Rahim Lone instead of Mohd Maqbool Lone S/O:- Ab Rahim Lone . Now I am applying for its Correction as per school & Board Date of Birth Certificate (DOB) record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Mohd Maqbool Lone S/O. Ab Rahim Lone
 R/O:- Langate .Tehsil .Langate Distt : Kupwara .Pin Code 193302.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My particulars have been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing dl no; JK-0520150051014 as Nayeem Ahmad Yato S/o Mohamad Ashraf R/o Dandra Pattan Bla while my correct particulars are Nayeem Ahmad Yato S/o Mohd Ashraf Yattoo R/o Dilshad Pora Donadara Pattan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nayeem Ahmad Yattoo
 S/o Mohd Ashraf Yattoo
 R/o Dilshad Pora Donadara Pattan

fko

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
 AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K UT, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following works.

S.No	ENIT No & Date	Advertised Cost of Construction	Class of Contract
1.	Providing and Fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing of the Left out Portion of the Southern Side of IUST CAMPUS II IUST/EW/25/TEND/CVL/BWFC2/04 Dated: - 06-02-2025 Document Download Start Date/ Bid submission Start Date: 06-02-2025 Bid submission End Date: 26-02-2025 Up to 6:00 pm. Bids shall be opened at IUST on 27-02-2025 at 10:00 am.	Rs. 9,99,063.00	"C" & "D"
2.	Aluminium Partitioning For Faculty Cubicles At Nursing College at IUST Campus I Awantipora. IUST/EW/25/TEND/CVL/APNC/03 Dated: - 06-02-2025 Document Download Start Date/ Bid submission Start Date: 06-02-2025 Bid submission End Date: 15-02-2025 Up to 6:00 pm. Bids shall be opened at IUST on 17-02-2025 at 10:00 am.	Rs. 6,74,460.00	"C" & "D"
3.	Balance Works for Boundary Wall by Means of Chain Link Fencing and 4 no of Gates at IUST Campus IV Larmoo-Awantipora, Awantipora IUST/EW/25/TEND/CVL/BWCLF/02 Dated: - 06-02-2025 Document Download Start Date/ Bid submission Start Date: 06-02-2025 Bid submission End Date: 26-02-2025 Up to 6:00 pm. Bids shall be opened at IUST on 27-02-2025 at 10:00 am.	Rs. 21,50,129.00	"B"

Tender details are available at www.iust.ac.in and <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

DIPK-NB-3397/24 dated: 06-02-2025 Sd/- Executive Engineer IUST Awantipora

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8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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 9070806160

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From Chai to Gifts

The Shifting Terminology of Corruption



KO VIEW

Trump's Gaza Overreach

Donald Trump's latest proposal on Gaza is a dangerous mix of fantasy, imperial overreach, and disregard for Palestinian self-determination. His suggestion that the United States should take over the war-ravaged territory, forcibly resettle its people, and transform it into a luxury destination is both absurd and deeply troubling. It is a plan rooted not in diplomatic realism but in Trump's characteristic mix of grandiosity and ignorance.

Trump's announcement, made alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, elicited audible gasps—an indication of just how shocking the proposition was. He spoke of Gaza in real estate terms, comparing it to Monaco and promising to make it “the Riviera of the Middle East.” But his vision hinges on the forced displacement of more than two million Palestinians, treating them as obstacles to be removed rather than as a people with legitimate rights to their homeland.

The complete lack of details on how such a plan would be executed further exposes its impracticality. Would the United States deploy troops to enforce this takeover? Where would the displaced Palestinians go? Trump vaguely hinted at Egypt and Jordan as potential hosts, despite both countries having already rejected the idea outright. His casual dismissal of Palestinian agency underlines his broader pattern of disregarding international law and human rights when they do not align with his ambitions.

Netanyahu, whose political survival depends on maintaining strong ties with Washington, predictably lauded Trump's willingness to “think outside the box.” But this is not innovative thinking—it is reckless speculation that ignores the realities of the region. Netanyahu's government has been under mounting global pressure over the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and Trump's proposal offers little beyond another distraction from the crisis on the ground.

The suggestion that Gaza should not be rebuilt for the people who have suffered there is particularly cruel. Trump framed their existence as inherently miserable, as if their suffering justifies their removal rather than necessitating justice and reconstruction. The Palestinians, however, have made their position clear: Gaza is their home, and they are not willing to be forcibly expelled in service of some billionaire's development fantasy.

The international reaction has been swift and firm. Saudi Arabia has reiterated that it will not normalize relations with Israel without a Palestinian state. Egypt, Jordan, and Qatar have flatly rejected any forced displacement. The broader Arab world views Trump's proposal not as a bold vision but as another example of American disregard for Palestinian sovereignty.

Even within the United States, such a plan is unlikely to gain traction. The political, military, and economic costs of occupying Gaza would be enormous, and Trump's vague promises of economic transformation do not change that reality.

What Gaza needs is not another colonial experiment but a just and lasting solution. That begins with recognizing Palestinian rights, ending the cycle of displacement, and ensuring genuine self-determination. Trump's grandstanding offers none of that—only another distraction from the pressing need for peace.

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

“
By framing bribes as “gifts,” they create a facade of legitimacy, convincing themselves that they are not engaging in wrongdoing. However, this rebranding does not absolve them of guilt. Corruption, whether labeled as “chai” or “gifts,” remains a moral and legal offense

Corruption, as defined by the Oxford Dictionary is “dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially by people in authority.” The term originates from the Latin word “corruptus” meaning “to bribe, destroy, or spoil.” Josiane Fahed-Sreih, in her book “Corruption: New Insights”, delves into the historical roots of this pervasive issue. It is as old as human civilization itself. From the first dynasty of ancient Egypt (3100-2600 B.C.), where judicial corruption was rampant, to ancient Greece, where the term “corruption” was associated with the loss of physical form, integrity, or moral virtue, this malady has plagued societies for millennia.

Fast forward to the present-day corruption remains deeply entrenched in every society. In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir hundreds of corruption cases are registered annually. The new year 2025 brought with it the usual resolutions of self-improvement and repentance for everybody. However, for corrupt officials, the resolutions are different. Instead of vowing to serve the public, they seemed to resolve to exploit them further.

The ACB's data for January 2025 paints a grim picture. In January 2025, several significant cases of corruption were exposed. On January 15, a Preliminary Enquiry was registered concerning the misappropriation of Devri Stones and the use of substandard materials in the Srinagar Smart City Project. Two days earlier, on January 13, a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case was filed against a retired Superintending Engineer from the Public Works Department (R&B). On January 10, DA cases were also registered against the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Engineer of Srinagar Smart City Limited. Additionally, on January 2, irregularities were discovered in the selection process for Fireman and Fireman Drivers in the Fire & Emergency Services Department, shedding light on the widespread corruption within government systems. These cases represent only the tip of the iceberg. For every cor-

rupt official caught, countless others evade scrutiny. The past two years, for instance, saw a surge in recruitment scams, highlighting the systemic nature of the problem.

It's almost laughable to see posters plastered across government office corridors proudly declaring, “This is a corruption-free office.” The sheer audacity of such claims never fails to amuse me, albeit with a tinge of bitterness. Let me share a personal experience that has stayed with me over the years. When I was in Class 9th, I needed a birth certificate from the Municipal Committee to apply for a passport. The documents to be submitted needed to be applied at Tehsil Office first. At the time, this was the only accepted proof of date of birth for passport. Accompanied by a friend, I went to the Tehsil Office, documents in hand. There, a clerk in the dispatch section handled my paperwork. After completing the formalities, he looked at us and said, “The actual chai for this is 500, but since you're a student, I'll give you a discount. Just pay 150.” (In Kashmiri, Asle aees ath chai denn paanxh hath, magar tohhe chew student tohhe gow ve discount. Thohhe de ev sird doud hath”

It was around 1:05 PM, and the man was in a hurry. As he rushed through the process, he muttered under his breath, “Beta, jaldi karo, nimaz padhne jaana hai” (Hurry up, I need to go for prayers). At that age, I was neither mature nor worldly-wise. Hearing him mention prayers, I assumed he was a religious man. Without a second thought, I handed him 150.

Years have passed, but that moment remains etched in my memory. It wasn't just about the money. It was the realization that corruption had become so normalized, so deeply infused into the fabric of society, that even a man hurrying to prayers could demand a bribe without a hint of shame.

Years have passed then nothing has changed but the terminology of corruption has evolved over time. In UT of Jammu & Kashmir a few years ago, it was euphemistically called “chai.” Today, it has been rebranded as “Gifts.” This

shift is not merely linguistic but psychological. Corrupt officials, perhaps influenced by social media and religious teachings, have begun to rationalize their actions. They convince themselves that accepting a “gift” is not the same as taking a bribe. This self-deception allows them to justify their actions while ignoring the moral and spiritual consequences.

Social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram have played a dual role. On one hand, they have raised awareness about the evils of corruption through religious reels and sermons. On the other hand, they have inadvertently provided corrupt individuals with a way to assuage their guilt. By framing bribes as “gifts,” they create a facade of legitimacy, convincing themselves that they are not engaging in wrongdoing. However, this rebranding does not absolve them of guilt. Corruption, whether labeled as “chai” or “gifts,” remains a moral and legal offense. The wrath of the Almighty, as well as the vigilance of institutions like the ACB, will eventually catch up with them. The “gift” they receive may well come in the form of handcuffs and a prison sentence.

Corruption erodes the very foundations of society. It thrives on greed, rationalization, and systemic loopholes. Until we address these root causes, the terminology may change, but the problem will persist. The fight against corruption requires not just stringent laws and enforcement but also a collective moral awakening. Only then can we hope to see a future where “chai” and “gifts” are no longer euphemisms for dishonesty but symbols of genuine hospitality and goodwill.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is M.Tech Infrastructure Development and Management (Hon's), Member ASCE, Researcher-- Contracts and Planning



Did You Know?

The Art of Wealth Creation through Mutual Funds

Irshad Mushtaq

In the world of finance, it's imperative to understand that when we invest in mutual funds, we are not merely creating money; we are embarking on a journey to create lasting wealth. Money can often be generated quickly and can experience volatility in the short term, leading many investors to focus on daily, weekly, or monthly fluctuations. However, the pursuit of wealth demands a different approach—one that is rooted in patience and long-term thinking.

Wealth creation is akin to investing in tangible assets like real estate, such as land in Kashmir, or precious metals like gold. These assets require time to appreciate in value. Similarly, wealth generated through the stock market necessitates a stable mindset amid volatility. While it is true that stock markets can be unpredictable, an investment philosophy focused on long-term growth will allow you to weather these fluctuations.

To create wealth through mutual funds, investors must cultivate the virtue of patience. The journey to wealth accumulation is not about seeking instant gratification; instead, it involves a strategic approach centered around long-term gains. Understanding the concept of Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) is crucial, as it highlights the benefits of compounded growth over time. Compounding serves as the backbone of wealth creation, enabling your investments to grow exponentially.

It's important to recognize that various short-term disturbances—such as geopolitical tensions, election outcomes, or governmental budget announcements—are part and parcel of the investment landscape. These events may temporarily affect market performance, but they should not divert our focus from our long-term financial goals.

Building a quality portfolio is essential; it acts as a foundation for sustained wealth creation over time. Investors should adopt a strategy of accumulating more shares during market dips rather than panicking during downturns. Remember, every dip in the market is typically a temporary phase, and with time, the market tends to recover and often surpasses previous highs.

In summary, the path to wealth creation through mutual funds requires commitment to long-term investment strategies, patience during market fluctuations, and a clear vision for your financial future. By embracing the principles of compounding and developing a robust and diversified investment portfolio, you can navigate the ups and downs of the market and ultimately secure your financial well-being.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M1 Securities! Connect at miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com. Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and doesn't offer investment advice. It's not an endorsement or an offer to buy or sell any financial products



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Trump for India?

President Donald Trump's announcement of the United States' withdrawal from WHO presents significant challenges to global health governance and international cooperation, and the retraction could lead the U.S. to isolate its health system considerably. As one of the world's largest funders of global health through, both international and national agencies, Trump back-peddaling may

curtail efforts to provide lifesaving health care and combat deadly outbreaks, especially in lower-income countries without the means to do so alone. As for India, key programmes, such as tuberculosis eradication and vaccine distribution could entail significant delays and reduced funding if the global health body's resources are stretched thin. Moreover, the absence of US support might slow down collaborative efforts between

Indian organizations and the WHO, potentially impacting initiatives aimed at tackling antimicrobial resistance, improving maternal and child health, and strengthening general health systems.

As the global healthcare community navigates this development, stakeholders in India must prioritize resilience and collaboration. Strengthening domestic public health initiatives, investing in indigenous

research and development, and fostering multilateral partnerships will be crucial to mitigating the fallout of reduced WHO funding. While the US withdrawal is a significant setback, it also serves as a reminder of the need for collective action and robust frameworks to address global health challenges effectively.

Ranganathan Sivakumar
Gandhi Nagar, Tamil Nadu

Whispers of the Winter Sky

The Silent Toll of Seasonal Affective Disorder in Kashmir

Umair Ashraf

Kashmir, a land of mesmerizing beauty, transforms into a realm of psychological trials during its prolonged winters. With the sun veiled behind thick clouds for weeks, the valley experiences a collective descent into Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). The absence of adequate sunlight disrupts the body's internal clock, leading to mood disorders, lethargy, and a decline in motivation. This phenomenon is not merely a shift in mood but a neurological recalibration, where the circadian rhythm, governed by the suprachiasmatic nucleus, fails to align with the external environment. The depletion of serotonin levels, coupled with the heightened secretion of melatonin, leads to an altered state of consciousness, making the simplest of tasks feel burdensome. Neurological signaling slows, affecting decision-making, concentration, and response times, ultimately contributing to the valley-wide psychological slump.

Frozen Minds: Depression, Anxiety, and Seizures Amidst the Chill

As the valley braces for the biting cold, an increasing number of individuals exhibit symptoms of clinical depression and anxiety. The interplay between reduced serotonin levels and excessive melatonin secretion contributes to this mental fog, making daily functioning arduous. More alarmingly, epileptic patients experience a higher frequency of seizures during these months, indicating a neurological collapse in signal transmission. The disruption of circadian rhythms due to a lack of sufficient morning light (10,000 lux or more) prolongs confusion, delaying time orientation and increasing seizure vulnerability. A critical factor is the role of CGRP (Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide) receptors, which, when dysregulated, can lead to migraines and neurological hypersensitivity, worsening symptoms of both depression and seizure disorders. The brain's fragile equilibrium is disturbed, amplifying symptoms of pre-existing conditions. SAD, in Kashmir's context, extends beyond just a seasonal slump—it morphs into a widespread neurological event, leaving thousands struggling against an unseen force, demanding urgent psychiatric and neurological intervention.

The Migration Dilemma: Escaping Winter, Escaping SAD?

Every year, a significant portion of Kashmiris migrate to Jammu to escape the unforgiving cold and its psychological burden. Those with financial stability opt for relocation, experiencing notable improvement in mood and vitality. However, a vast majority remain in Kashmir, forced to endure the season's psychological strain. For them, SAD is not just a

sharp rise in the consumption of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) and acid neutralizers. What should be a season of serene snowfall often turns into a period of medical dependence, highlighting the need for lifestyle adjustments. A structured routine, balanced diet rich in vitamin D, and mindful physical activity could prove instrumental in managing these seasonal health concerns. Additionally, maintain-

to altered wake-sleep cycles. The brain, relying on optic nerve cues, struggles to distinguish between day and night, creating a state of perpetual lethargy and confusion. Light therapy, involving exposure to artificial bright light (10,000 lux in the morning), has shown promise in resetting the biological clock and reducing SAD symptoms. Without this synchronization, time orientation remains disrupted, prolonging

become an irreversible epidemic, making future generations even more vulnerable to seasonal mood disorders.

Embracing Winter: A New Perspective on SAD

Rather than perceiving winter as a period of suffering, shifting the narrative to embrace it as an opportunity for introspection and adaptation could be transformative. Kashmiris have long been known for their hospitality, yet during the winter, many retreat indoors, missing the opportunity to embrace the seasonal beauty that the region offers. The stark contrast between those who leave for warmer climates and those who stay highlights the severity of SAD. However, embracing the winter in Kashmir could offer an antidote to this psychological struggle. Kashmir is blessed with natural beauty, and exploring its own tourist spots—such as Gulmarg, Sonmarg, and the cable car rides—can offer therapeutic value. It is unfortunate that many Kashmiris, often overwhelmed by the challenges of winter, miss out on these opportunities. By bringing families and children to these picturesque destinations, we not only uplift our spirits but also strengthen the connection with our roots. Engaging in adventurous activities, like those offered by the tourism department, can rejuvenate the mind and body. Rather than feeling trapped by the season, we must embrace it as a chance to create memories, build resilience, and enhance mental well-being.

For those suffering from SAD, it is crucial to break the cycle of isolation. Face-to-face interactions with relatives, spending time outdoors, and partaking in these winter experiences can make a profound difference. By using this winter as a blessing, rather than a burden, we can reclaim our mental health. Winter need not be a time of despair—it can be a season of mindful survival, where knowledge and adaptation lead the way to a healthier, brighter future.

The author is a Master's student in Clinical Psychology with a dedicated focus on Neural networks, brain chemistry, and their broader societal implications. He is also a committed Social Activist and Mental Health Advocate, raising awareness through articles and public education. He can be reached at Umairvanio7@gmail.com



clinical diagnosis but a lived reality, exacerbated by economic hardship and social constraints. The stark difference in mental well-being between those who migrate and those who stay highlights the severity of the disorder and the pressing need for effective interventions. SSRI (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors) and Tricyclic Antidepressants are frequently prescribed to regulate mood fluctuations, but these do not address the root cause—the absence of sunlight. The long-term reliance on pharmacological solutions without environmental and lifestyle modifications only serves as a temporary bandage rather than a cure.

The Light We Cannot See: Sunlight, Optic Nerves, and the Biological Clock

Scientific studies suggest that the retina transmits crucial daylight signals to the brain, helping regulate the internal biological clock. In Kashmir, where sunlight remains scarce for months, this mechanism is thrown off balance. The suprachiasmatic nucleus, which governs circadian rhythms, fails to synchronize with the external world, leading

cognitive confusion and exacerbating neurological disorders. Encouraging residents to spend more time outdoors during brief sunny intervals, or to install high-intensity lighting indoors, could mitigate the neurological effects of SAD. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) tailored to seasonal depression also serves as an adjunctive approach to counteract the behavioral withdrawal and mood disturbances associated with winter.

The Silent Epidemic: Blood Pressure, Acid Reflux, and Medication Overload

With reduced physical activity, dietary changes, and heightened stress levels, Kashmir's population faces an alarming rise in hypertension and digestive issues during winter. The sedentary lifestyle leads to poor circulation, increasing dependency on calcium channel blockers and beta-blockers to manage high blood pressure, while tension headaches are often treated with CGRP inhibitors. The constant lack of movement results in vascular stiffness, exacerbating the problem. Moreover, disrupted digestion due to stress-induced acidity sees

stable calcium and magnesium levels helps in reducing neuromuscular tension, thereby preventing blood pressure-related headaches.

The Dopamine Deficit: A Generation at Risk

The younger generation, raised in an era of digital stimulation and instant gratification, faces a heightened risk of SAD due to excessive screen time. The constant exposure to artificial blue light disrupts melatonin secretion, leading to poor sleep cycles, further compounding depressive symptoms. The overstimulation from digital content creates a dopaminergic imbalance, reducing motivation levels and increasing susceptibility to anhedonia—a core symptom of depression. Dopamine-driven instant gratification weakens the brain's ability to sustain focus and long-term goal-directed behavior, making individuals more prone to SAD and attention deficits. Social withdrawal and reliance on digital interactions exacerbate the isolation that winter already enforces. Without proactive measures such as structured physical activity, community engagement, and regulated screen exposure, this pattern may

How AI Imagery Could Be Used To Develop Fake Archaeology

Colleen Morgan

Generative AI is often seen as the epitome of our times, and sometimes even as futuristic. We can use it to invent new art or technology, analyse emerging data, or simulate people, places and things. But interestingly, it is also having an impact on how we view the past.

AI imagery has already been used to illustrate popular articles, such as covering scientific discoveries about Neanderthals. It was employed to animate the Mesolithic period (from about 9,000 to 4,300 years ago) in a museum. TikTok users have adopted it to make realistic short videos about archaeology and history. It's even been used in a TV documentary about Stonehenge.

Yet there are many issues with using AI imagery in archaeology—some of which are also found more broadly within generative AI use. These include its environmental impact and the violation of intellectual property (using training data created by humans).

But others are more specific to archaeology. As an academic who has worked extensively on "resurrecting" the past through digital technology, generative AI has both fascinating potential and enormous risk for archaeological misrepresentation.

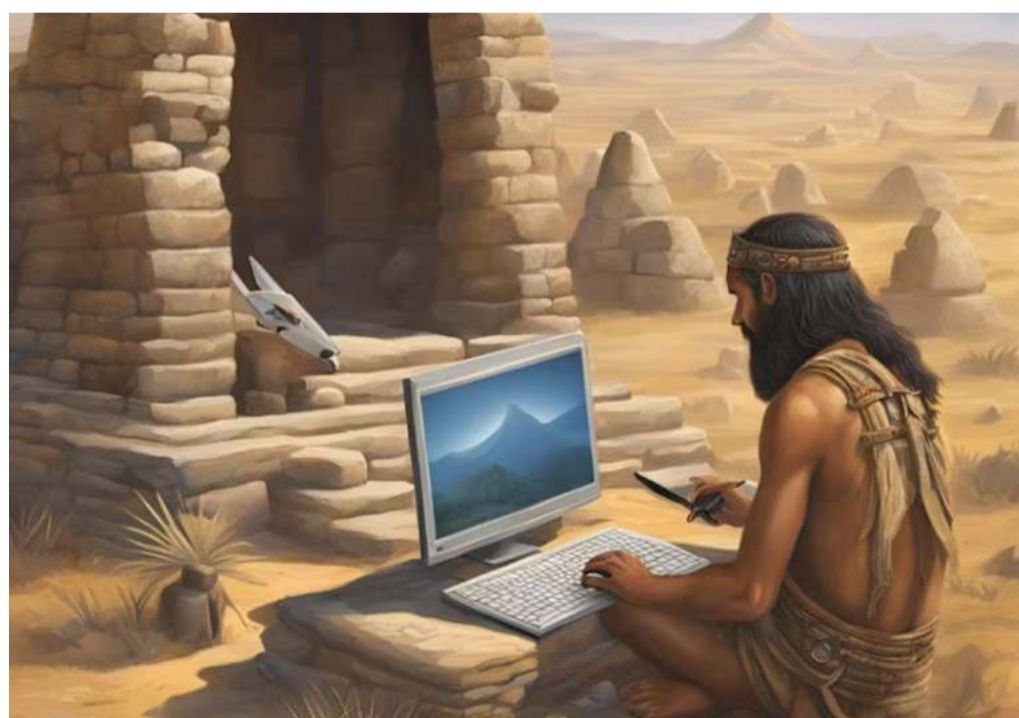
Even before the use of AI, it

was widely accepted within archaeology that visualisations of the past are highly fraught and should be treated with extreme caution. For example, archaeologist Stephanie Moser examined 550 reconstructions published in academic and popular texts on human evolution. Her review found highly biased depictions, such as only males hunting, making art and tools and performing rituals, while women were in more passive roles.

A similar study by Diane Gifford-Gonzalez revealed that "not one of 231 depictions of prehistoric males shows a man touching a child, woman, or an older person of either sex ... no child is ever shown doing useful work." These reconstructions do not reflect scientists' nuanced understanding of the past. We know humans organised themselves in an incredible array of variety, with a multitude of gender roles and self-expression.

A recent DNA-based study, for example, showed that women were actually at the centre of societies in the iron age.

The stakes of representation in archaeology are high. For example, the hotly-debated, dark-skinned reconstruction of "Cheddar Man", originally found in south-west England, was based on ancient DNA analysis. It made headlines for disrupting the perception that all human ancestors in the



north were light-skinned. This and similar controversies reveal the iconic power of reconstructions, their political implications, and their ability to shape our understanding of the past.

While the Cheddar Man reconstruction demonstrates that research is iterative, such reconstructions are sticky. They have profound visual legacies and are not easily supplanted when new data becomes available.

This is exacerbated as they are incorporated into generative AI data sets. Beyond the use of outmoded data, generative AI visualisations of the past can be extremely poor.

Even when more plausible details are included, they can be seamlessly integrated with other highly inaccurate elements. For example, it is impossible for viewers to disentangle the data-led from the so-called hallucinations (mistakes) produced by AI.

Highlighting uncertainty is of central importance and concern among archaeologists. Archaeological illustrator Simon James noted that reconstruction artists have used strategically placed clouds of smoke to obscure unknown elements.

As a digital archaeologist, I have made virtual reconstructions of many different sites and subjects. I know there is often estimation and guesswork involved in making holistic representations.

Indeed, photo-realistic accuracy is not always the paramount consideration in visualisation—particularly when exploring different hypotheses or addressing young audiences. But knowing what is backed by archaeological data and what is more speculative is key for authentic visual communication.

Pseudoarchaeology

This is particularly important at a time when pseudoarchaeology is increasingly prevalent in popular media, such as the Ancient Apocalypse show on Netflix. The celebrity host and author Graham Hancock asserts there was a lost ice age civilisation of Atlantis, with advanced technology. But this claim has been thoroughly repudiated by archaeologists.

Arguably, hoaxes will be much easier to perpetuate using generative AI. Beyond the high potential for misinformation about archaeology, the use of generative AI for archaeological visualisations can actually be harmful for archaeological knowledge production.

My research has shown that crafting reconstructions and illustrations in archaeology is incredibly important for understanding and interpreting the past. Creating visualisations based on science—and indeed soundscapes, smells, and other interpretations based on multiple senses

—is very helpful for generating new questions.

Drawing allows archaeologists to create more detailed mental models and therefore a better understanding of archaeological remains. By delegating this creation to AI, archaeologists lose a powerful tool for knowledge generation. Moreover, my collaborative work with artists has demonstrated the intriguing possibilities that creative approaches open up to tell new stories about the past.

Even with all of these problems, I encourage an engaged, critical, applied approach to understanding the impact of digital technologies on our investigation of the past. And this includes exploring the uses of generative AI for archaeological visualisation.

Archaeologists and non-specialists are able to leverage generative AI to creatively produce interpretive media. Indeed, some archaeologists are already exploring AI to generate hypotheses about ancient life. And we are teaching critical uses of AI to our archaeology students.

But what remains imperative is that archaeologists engage with and critique all visualisations—both those created by generative AI and using other media.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Advisor Nasir Engages With Public At Raabita Office

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani held an extensive interaction with delegations and individuals here at Raabita Office.

People from Srinagar, Budgam, Sopore, and other parts of Kashmir valley came forward to discuss key developmental and civic issues affecting their areas.

A wide range of concerns, including road infrastructure, power supply, water availability, health services, education, and employment opportunities, were raised during these interactions.

Advisor Wani, while patiently listening to the concerns, assured the delegations that their issues will be taken up with the relevant authorities for swift resolution.

He reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to public welfare and its

proactive approach to addressing citizens' concerns.

"The government is fully committed to bridging the gap between administration and the people. We are here to listen, act, and ensure that public concerns are addressed in a time-bound manner," he stated.



He further emphasized that public engagement is the cornerstone of the government's development agenda, and such interactions will continue to ensure that governance remains people-centric and transparent.

The initiative was widely appreciated by the public, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to directly communicate their issues to the administration.

The Advisor assured that all genuine demands will be followed up with the concerned departments, ensuring that necessary measures are taken at the earliest.

CBC, BGSBU Discuss Maximizing Educational Outreach



Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas called on the Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, at the university campus on Thursday.

In the meeting, the dignitaries discussed implementing and maximising collaboration between BGSBU and CBC to promote educational outreach, awareness campaigns and youth engagement initiatives. The Vice Chancellor emphasized the university's dedication to promote academic excellence, effective communication and community-oriented programs.

Director CBC appreciated the contributions of BGSBU in higher education and assured support for initiatives that align with the CBC's mandate of information dissemination and public awareness. He expressed keen interest in organizing joint programs, workshops and awareness drives to equip students with a better understanding of government welfare initiatives.

Prof. Iqbal extended gratitude to Ghulam Abbas for his visit and welcomed future collaborations that would benefit students, faculty and the broader community. He reiterated the university's commitment to work in sync with other government departments to facilitate knowledge-sharing and skill development among youth.

Capacity Building Prog For Child Help Groups Held



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: District Child Protection Unit, Mission Vatsalya, Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Administration, on Thursday organized a capacity building programme for various stakeholders, including the District Juvenile Police Unit, Bharat Scouts and Guides, NSS Volunteers, Self-Help Groups, and representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations.

The programme was aimed to sensitize participants about the formation of Child Help Groups at the sub-district, ward, and PRI levels. These groups play a crucial role in identifying children in need of care and protection

at the grassroots level.

During the programme, Gowhar Mahmood, Protection Officer, highlighted the role and responsibilities of Child Help Groups in implementing the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Dr. Asima Hassan emphasized the responsibilities of the District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, and Special Juvenile Police Unit besides Dr. Nasir Ahmad Bhat discussed the role of the Child Helpline.

In the closing remarks, Sahir Majeed, District Child Protection Officer, thanked the participants and stressed the importance of Child Help Groups in tracing children who require care and protection.

Delhi HC Seeks NIA's Stand On Er Rashid's Plea For Custody Parole To Attend Parliament

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the response of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) regarding jailed MP Engineer Rashid's request for custody parole to attend the ongoing Parliament session while facing trial in a terror funding case.

Justice Vikas Mahajan questioned the objection to allowing Rashid to attend the session while remaining in judicial custody, emphasizing that he is an elected Member of Parliament. "What is the difficulty in sending him in custody?" the judge asked.

The court granted the NIA time until Friday to provide its stance on the matter. The agency's counsel, however, argued that the case involved security concerns and was not straightforward.

The court was hearing Rashid's petition, which alleged that he had been left without legal recourse after the NIA court handling his bail application failed to take a decision following his election to the Lok Sabha last year. The delay was attributed to the NIA court not being a designated special MP/MLA court.



"The court granted the NIA time until Friday to provide its stance on the matter. The agency's counsel, however, argued that the case involved security concerns and was not straightforward."

During the proceedings, a counsel representing the high court administration informed the bench that an ap-

plication seeking clarification had been submitted to the Supreme Court and would be mentioned on Friday for listing. The Supreme Court's website indicated that the case was likely to be heard on February 10 or 11.

Earlier, the NIA had opposed Rashid's plea for interim bail to attend the Parliament session, asserting that he had no such "right" as a parliamentarian. In his petition, Rashid urged the high court to either expedite the disposal of his pending bail plea in the NIA court or intervene and decide the matter directly.

On December 24, 2023, Additional Sessions Judge Chandler Jit Singh dismissed Rashid's request for an order on his bail application, instead requesting the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers. However, the case was later sent back to him, leading the trial judge to clarify that he could only rule on miscellaneous applications, not the bail plea itself.

The case remains under legal scrutiny, with further developments expected after the Supreme Court's hearing on the matter. [KNT]

Chief Minister Releases Book Of JKAS Officer

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here on Wednesday released a book titled "Hearts and Heroes: Lives that Shaped Us", a poetic narrative on famous personalities authored by Kulbhushan Kumar, JKAS officer presently posted as Director Finance in Disaster Management Relief & Rehabilitation Department. The event was attended by colleagues and friends of the author at a brief function held at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Hearts and Heroes is a collection of poems that pays tribute to visionaries, leaders, and unsung heroes whose



lives have left an indelible mark on humanity.

The book emphasizes power of love, kindness, and determination, drawing inspiration from global icons described in the poems on eminent personalities.

In his comments, Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah praised the author for his literary pursuits while balancing his demanding role as a civil servant. The author hails from the village Birnoo in Jammu and Kashmir and his book 'Hearts and Heroes' has been published by Authors press.

Dy CM, Transport Minister Hold Public Outreach Programme

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, along with Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, held a public outreach programme in Chowki Choura, Jammu and took stock of people's grievances and demands.

The event aimed to provide immediate solutions to the issues faced by the local residents besides ensuring on the spot redressal of certain development issues.

During the programme, the Deputy Chief Minister and Transport Minister addressed various issues raised by the local deputations, led by the DDC, BDCs and PRIs of Chowki Choura.

The issues mainly pertained to road connectivity, irregular power and water supply, better health services, inadequate staff in various departments especially schools.

The locals also demanded two degree colleges in Chowki Choura and Maira Mandarin, Guest house, IIT college, upgradation of high schools, fire station, ambulance service and other vital utilities.

The Deputy CM issued strict



instructions to the officers to resolve the concerns promptly and implement all directives in letter and spirit for the welfare of the public. He personally met with the individuals, listened to their grievances ensuring prompt action on the same.

Surinder Choudhary directed the officers to conduct frequent visits to rural areas to ensure effective implementation of government schemes. He said that holding these public outreach programmes is a testament to government's commitment towards directly addressing and resolving the grievances of public at their doorsteps.

The Deputy CM emphasised that the government's initiative of organising village-level camps to provide citizen-cen-

tric services, is a step towards making governance more efficient and people-friendly.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma expressed gratitude to the Deputy CM for visiting his constituency and listening to people's genuine issues and also resolving them.

He asked the officers of the line departments to put in their sincere efforts in rendering prompt services to the people. He urged them to work in synergy so that people don't face any kind of inconvenience.

Satish Sharma said that the Government is committed to fulfill developmental aspirations of people while taking care that no one is deprived of his basic requirements and all are served equally.

J&K PCC Expands Water, Air Pollution Monitoring Network

Agencies

SRINAGAR: J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) Kashmir has considerably prioritised one of its basic mandates of environmental monitoring and pollution control in the past one year.

All the laboratories in Kashmir Division have been equipped with new machinery and environmental monitoring has been expanded and streamlined covering different aspects like water, air, microbiology and vehicular pollution.

JKPCC also regularly monitors the air pollution levels at its stations spread across Kashmir division with parameters being studied including PM 2.5, PM 10, NOx and SOx. JKPCC also regularly monitors the air pollution levels at its stations spread across Kashmir division with parameters being studied including PM 2.5, PM 10, NOx and SOx.

At present, 23 air quality monitoring stations are operational in Kashmir division while installation of 14 more stations in different districts of Kashmir valley is in the pipeline. A state-of-the-art Continuous Online Air Monitoring Station (COAMS) is already functioning in the Rajbagh campus of JKPCC which monitors and displays the air pollution levels in real time. During the present financial year, a total 5303 air quality monitoring samples were analysed.

The Vehicular Emission Monitoring Laboratory has also been geared up to keep a check on the functioning of the Pollution Testing Centres and also to randomly cross-check the emission from individual vehicles. Total 1638 vehicles have been checked for emissions and PUC certificates besides 90 inspections have been conducted during the current financial year.

A number of recent reports submitted by JKPCC Kashmir in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in different matters regarding Dal Lake, wetlands and tourist resorts have resulted in significant directions from the apex environmental court of the country. The reports were submitted after carrying out detailed surveys and analysis of water samples from the water bodies, wetlands and Sewage Treatment Plants.(KNS)

FCS&CA Pulwama Faces Dearth Of Staff

Agencies

PULWAMA: The Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department in South Kashmir's Pulwama is facing a severe dearth of staff as no recruitment has taken place for the district since 2013.

Official sources revealed that there is not enough manpower in the department, which simultaneously has resulted in additional charges of more than 3 stores to a single employee.

They added that since last one decade, over 200 employees have reached superannuation but at their place, the department has hardly got 15 to 20 employees during this period.

They said that the department advertised over 100 posts of storekeeper, Kandaman and deport assistants since 2013, however, due to unknown reasons the recruitment process was never completed.

"In other districts, the persons who were selected through the same recruitment process have got promoted as well, however, this district continues to grapple under staff dearth," they said.

The official sources said that for the last 12 years, the population has increased manifold but no attention has been given towards enhancing the staff in the department.

They said that even watchmen and helpers are holding charge of 2-3 sale depots besides that officials posted either at district headquarter or tehsil supply office headquarters are holding charges of one

or more sale outlets in addition to their duties, which create impediments for the smooth functioning of the office.

The official sources said that in the year 2014 and 2015 the then Assistant Director of the department, who was also Chairman of the recruitment process framed the shortlist but used different criteria forcing some aspiring candidates to knock the doors of court where the case is going on for the last 6 years.

"The second recruitment process remained withheld too because some shortlisted candidates from first recruitment put a stay on it and asked authorities to first complete their recruitment process. It has been over six years since the matter is at the standstill," they said.

They further added that more than 110 Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) posts are lying vacant in the district due to which people are suffering.

Due to staff shortage, many government sale centres are run by private dealers despite License holders can't hold many charges, he can have only one license. But they are running government sale centres which should be otherwise run by government employees not licence holders.

They further added that the post of Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) is also lying vacant in the district since 30 September, 2024 and at present AD FCS&CA Shopian is holding the additional charge of Pulwama.

DC Pulwama Presides Over Grievance Redressal Review Meeting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A grievance redressal and review meeting was held by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Thursday to provide a crucial platform for stakeholders to voice their concerns and discuss developmental priorities.

The meeting saw participation of Ex-Presidents and Councilors of the Municipal Council Pulwama, along with representatives of Traders, civil society groups and community forums, including, Local Auqaf Committee Pulwama, Citizen Welfare Committee Pulwama, Youth Forum Pulwama and Street Vendors Association Pul-

wama. Several prominent traders from Pulwama actively participated in the discussions, reflecting a representation of stakeholders invested in the district's development.

The session was structured into two distinct phases. The first phase focused on listening to grievances and recommendations presented by stakeholders, while the second phase involved responses and resolutions from the concerned departments.

The proceedings commenced with a welcome address by the Deputy Commissioner, who voiced for participatory governance, efficient public service delivery and the timely redressal of citizens'

issues. A diverse range of issues including infrastructure, civic amenities, public services and socio-economic development, were brought forth during the meeting.

The representatives emphasized the completion of key public infrastructure projects, including the Marriage Hall, Slaughterhouse and Conference Hall, highlighting their importance in enhancing civic amenities.

They also stressed the need for improved drainage systems, the installation of solar-powered streetlights and the widening of major roads to enhance urban planning and traffic management.

The development of eco-tour-

ism at various places was strongly advocated to boost local employment and economic growth, with calls for Homestay registrations and sustainable tourism facilities. Additionally, stakeholders urged better representation and support for street vendors, ensuring legal recognition and designated vending zones to secure their livelihoods.

The development of Chatpora Industrial Estate was identified as a priority, given its potential to generate employment and attract investments.

Stakeholders urged swift action to operationalize the estate and stimulate industrial growth in the region.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:-		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-PnU25-2	18.02.25 at 12:30 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Batala, Muktsar & Kot Kapura Railway Stations.
EAFZR-WVM25-3	20.02.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Faridkot, Phillaur, Firozpur Cantt, Amritsar & Phagwara.
EAFZR-MPS25-2	20.02.25 at 11:30 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for Multi-Purpose stall (MPS) at Faridkot & Kathua Railway Station.
EAFZR-WVM25-4	21.02.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Kathua, Udhampur & Pathankot Cantt.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in		
No.: MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date: 06.02.2025		
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1st ODI: Gill Anchors India To 4-Wicket Win Over England

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: Vice-captain Shubman Gill orchestrated India's chase with grace, while debutant Harshit Rana dazzled with the ball as the hosts registered a four-wicket win against England in the series opener here on Thursday.

Gill (87), Shreyas Iyer (59), and Axar Patel (52) rose to the occasion, guiding India to a commanding chase after Rana (3/53 from 7 overs) and the seasoned left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (3/26 from 9) shared six wickets between them, dismantling England for a below-par 248.

Rana's fourth over, which claimed the twin wickets of Ben Duckett and Harry Brook, decisively stifled the England



innings, putting India firmly in control as the visitors never managed to rebuild despite fifties by skipper Jos Buttler (52) and Jack Bethell (51).

Chasing a below 250 score, Gill anchored the innings, forging key partnerships with Iyer

and Axar that became the backbone of India's chase.

He adapted perfectly to the match situation, playing the perfect foil to Iyer when the Mumbai batter was in full flow, then stepping up as the mainstay, steering India towards victory.

Iyer, walking in at 19/2, unleashed a counter-attacking knock, filled with sizzling shots, including back-to-back sixes.

Gill continued to exude confidence, as he smashed 14 fours, while Axar too brought up a memorable fifty.

England took a flurry of wickets, causing some nervous moments for the hosts but India managed the win with 68 balls remaining.

Earlier, England blazed out of the blocks with electrifying intent after opting to bat, but India's disciplined bowling and razor-sharp fielding orchestrated a remarkable fightback.

Making his ODI debut, Rana endured a baptism by fire. His first over proved costly, as the explosive Phil Salt (43) feasted on his deliveries, plundering

26 runs in a ruthless display of power-hitting.

Three sixes and two fours rained down upon the young pacer, prompting Rohit Sharma to swiftly turn to spin, summoning Axar Patel (1/38) in an attempt to stem the flow of runs.

Just when the visitors seemed poised for an onslaught, India struck back in sensational fashion. Shreyas Iyer produced a moment of brilliance in the field, running out the dangerous Salt with a bullet throw to KL Rahul following a mix-up between the two openers.

While Rana's 26-run over gave England the momentum, his fourth over which yielded two wickets changed the complexion of the innings, putting India in control.

Australia's CT Build-Up Hit By Shock Retirement, Injuries

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE/GALLE: The pace duo of skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood joined the injured list while all-rounder Marcus Stoinis shockingly called it quits from ODIs to vacate his place as Australia's Champions Trophy squad unravelled just days before the tournament.

The eight-team Champions Trophy begins on February 19 and Australia have until February 12 to make at least four changes to their provisional squad of 15 after Cummins and Hazlewood joined all-rounder Mitchell Marsh in the injured category.

Complicating matters was Stoinis, who declared on Thursday that he would no longer play the ODI format to "fully focus on the next chapter" of his career, which might mean freelancing in T20 leagues. The 35-year-old, who has



never played Tests, was picked in the provisional squad and will remain available for national duty in T20 Internationals.

Cummins has not recovered from the ankle niggle that plagued him towards the end of the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against India, while Hazlewood is still recuperating from a calf strain.

Hazlewood's last competitive outing was against India in the drawn third Test in Brisbane.

The turmoil has hit the country's national selectors just days before the

quadrennial showpiece gets underway from February 19. While India will play all their matches in Dubai owing to security concerns, Australia will be based in Pakistan, the original hosts of the event.

In the absence of Cummins, either Steve Smith or Travis Head could lead the reigning ODI World Cup winners.

Stoinis' sudden decision to call it quits might be a result of a hamstring injury that he sustained during the ongoing SA20, where he has been playing for Durban Super Giant.

Kohli's Sore Knee Ahead Of 1st ODI Raises Concerns Over Future

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: A sore right knee forced Virat Kohli out of the first ODI against England here on Thursday but the extent of the problem was not immediately clear.

With the ongoing series, India entered the final phase of its Champions Trophy preparations and the side is already grappling with the lingering doubts around pace talisman Jasprit Bumrah's availability.

The Champions Trophy is due to start on February 19 in Pakistan with India playing all their matches in Dubai from February 20.

The management would hope that Kohli's knee injury is not too serious and he is good to go in the remaining two matches of the showdown against England. The second game is in Cuttack on February 9, followed by the series-finale in Ahmedabad on February 12.

Unfortunately Kohli not playing, a right knee problem

that happened last night," skipper Rohit Sharma said at the toss, surprising everyone.

The BCCI, known for divulging only the bare minimum, came up with a one-line statement, which added nothing more to what Rohit had revealed.

It is understood that Kohli didn't bat for a long time due to apparent discomfort during Wednesday's nets. On Thursday before the match, his right knee was seen heavily strapped when he came out to do some shuttle sprints.

He didn't look comfortable and hobbled a bit with physio Kamlesh Jain keeping a close watch on his movements. The 36-year-old hasn't yet been taken for scans.

It will be interesting to see whether Kohli will leave for Bengaluru for a quick check-up at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) or accompany the team to Cuttack for the next game.



Short TAKES

Real Kashmir Draw 1-1 With Sreenidi Deccan In I-League

Real Kashmir FC once again let go of an early lead to draw 1-1 with Sreenidi Deccan in an I-League 2024-25 matchup on Thursday at Deccan Arena in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Brazilian striker Paulo Cezar gave the Snow Leopards the lead in the 25th minute. However, the hosts struck back with Colombian forward David Castañeda Muñoz levelling the game in the 42nd minute.

The second-half saw Real Kashmir create chances but failing to convert them. It was a hard-fought game and the Srinagar club will be disappointed not to come away with all three points.

The draw lifted the Ishfaq Ahmad-coached team up to fourth on the I-League table. However, that could change depending on other teams' results.

Real Kashmir will next play Gokulam Kerala FC on Wednesday, February 12, away at EMS Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala.

3 Karate Champs From Anantnag Shine At International C'ship

Three young karate athletes from South Kashmir made their mark at the Shotokan International Karate Championship 2025 in Amritsar, Punjab, where participants from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka competed.

Zaid Gulzar, Ayesha Aejaz and Mohammad Mukaram represented Kashmir at the event. Zaid and Ayesha secured gold medals, while Mohammad won bronze.

Zaid Gulzar said, "I give full credit to my parents and coach Aamir Gulzar for providing me with the platform to achieve my dreams."

Ayesha Aejaz said, "I urge young people to take part in such sports events and stay away from social evils like drug addiction."

Coach Aamir Gulzar expressed his pride, saying, "This is not only a moment of honor for the athletes' families but for Anantnag and the entire Jammu and Kashmir." (JKNS)

Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium Is Ready For International Cricket: PCB

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Thursday announced that the renovation and upgradation work at Lahore's Gaddafi stadium has been completed in record time of 117 days and it is now ready to host international matches, including the ICC Champions Trophy.

The PCB said in a statement said that the new-look stadium now has better facilities, new floodlights, hospitality boxes, increased seating capacity, electronic scoreboards and top of the line LED towers.

It was reported recently that PCB was running behind by at least five weeks in completing the work. PCB is required to handover the stadiums to the ICC by February 12 as the tournament begins a week after.

Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif will officially inaugurate the stadium on Friday during a ceremony, where notable artists such as Ali Zafar, Aima Baig, and Arif Lohar will perform live.

The new stadium will be put to the test on February 8 when Pakistan and New Zealand play the opening game of the tri-series, also involving South Africa.

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