

Kashmir Convener

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HM To Chair Security Meeting On J&K On Dec 19

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEWDELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to chair a high-level security meeting in the national capital on December 19, official sources said on Saturday.

The officials, privy to the development, that the meeting will primarily focus on critical security issues, with a special emphasis on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha will also attend the meeting, which aims to review strategies to ensure peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval,



Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director, of Intelligence Bureau Tapan

Deka, Senior Army Officers including Chief of Army Staff General Upendra

Dwivedi, Director General of CAPFs, Chief Secretary, DGP of Jammu and Kashmir and other senior officers are expected to attend the meeting which is being arranged almost five months after Shah chaired a similar high-level review meeting on security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir here in the national capital on June 16.

The meeting is significant in terms of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government's committed to set an example by cracking down on terrorists through innovative means.

In the previous meeting, the Home Minister had directed security agencies to replicate the

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Two Power Centres Are Recipe For Disaster: CM Omar

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEWDELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has bluntly termed the dual governance model in the Union Territory — where he shares power with the lieutenant governor — a “recipe for disaster”, as he urged the Centre to keep its promise and restore statehood to the region at the earliest.

In his first sit-down interview since assuming office in October, Abdullah expressed cautious optimism over the Centre's commitment to restoring J-K's statehood, citing repeated promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during election campaigns.

The chief minister's candid remarks underscore the complex political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir, and the difficulties in pushing for a more defined and unified administrative leadership by virtue of getting statehood.

Abdullah drew parallels with corporate leadership, challenging anyone to name a successful business with multiple leaders.

“Let me just say this, having two power centres anywhere is a recipe for disaster... No organisation works well if there are multiple power centres....

there is a reason why our sports team has one captain. You don't have two captains. “Similarly, you don't have two prime ministers or two power centres in the government of India. And most of India has one

command far greater. “Sono. In the two months that I've been chief minister, I have yet to come across a single example where J-K has benefited out of being a Union Territory. Not one. There's not a single example of



elected chief minister who is empowered with their cabinet to take decisions,” he told PTI's senior editors at its headquarters.

“A dual power centre system is never going to work,” he said, citing the example of Delhi where the government shares power with the lieutenant governor in what has been a bitter and fractious experience.

Abdullah noted that Delhi is after all a small city state, while Jammu and Kashmir is a large and strategic region bordering China and Pakistan, making its need for a unified

governance or development that has come to J-K by virtue of it being a Union Territory,” he said.

Jammu-Kashmir was reorganised into a Union Territory in August 2019 under an Act of Parliament after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which had given the erstwhile state special powers and status.

The Union's Territory's governance was handed over to the lieutenant governor. A year ago, on December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court directed

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Dy CM Reviews Winter Preparedness For Snow Clearance In J&K

Asks for effective coordination among all line departments



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today emphasised for an effective and coordinated mechanism in place to ensure snow clearance within shortest possible time in prone areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting today at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to review the preparedness for snow clearance operations for winter season.

The meeting was attended by several MLAs including Kangan, Sonawari, Gulmarg, Uri, Sopore, Pattan, Baramulla, Pampore, Beerwah, Shopian, Pahalgam, Anantnag East and Chanapora besides Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Deputy Commissioners of all districts, Chief Engineer's and other senior officers from the Public Works (R&B) Department, Mechanical Engineering Division (MED), PMGSY,

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Unscheduled Power cuts Govt increases power supply by nearly '150 MWs

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: In order to minimize the unscheduled power and distress power cuts in Kashmir valley, Power Development Department has recently increased the power supply by nearly 100-150 Megawatts (MWs).

A top official of PDD informed the news agency—Kashmir News Agency that the decision of supplying extra was taken in a recent review

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J&K Reorganisation Act-2019 Centre to amend law to integrate J&K with “one nation, one election” initiative

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Union Government will introduce a bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday to amend “The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019” for integration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory with its “one nation, one election” initiative.

According to business scheduled in Lok Sabha on Monday, Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal

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Centre sanctions Rs 827.98 cr for 4-lane highway project in J&K

● Project will boost connectivity, security, economy in region: Gadkari

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR : The Central government has sanctioned a Rs 827.98 crore project to construct and upgrade a four-lane highway from Pandach to Manigam near Wayil Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the announcement was made by Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

In a post on X, the minister said that Rs 827.98 crore for constructing

and upgrading a 4-lane highway from Pandach to Manigam near



Wayil Bridge, spanning 12.11 km has been approved. “The project

includes a major bridge, three minor bridges, three realignments and 51 box culverts, alongside a 2.55 km elevated structure passing through Ganderbal Town,” he said.

Gadkari said the highway will enhance connectivity for tourists and defence vehicles travelling to Leh and Kargil, adding that the project streamlines access to vital regions, fostering regional security and boosting tourism while improving overall travel efficiency. Officials told KNO that the highway will help streamline traffic

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Govt forms committee to monitor DPCs & vacancy referrals

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Saturday constituted a new monitoring committee to oversee the referral of vacancies and the conduct of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs).



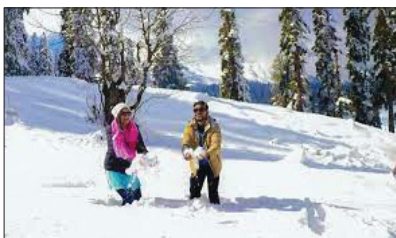
In a government order issued today, as per news gathering agency KINS, the committee will consist of key administrative officials, including the Additional

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Surge In New Year Bookings In Kashmir's Tourist Hotspots

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: As the holiday season and the festival of New Year and Christmas approaches, tourist destinations in Kashmir have recorded varied booking trends to celebrate a joyful and



dreamlike holiday in the valley.

Gulmarg, known for its snow-covered landscapes, has already sold out for New Year, which reflects its continued popularity among visitors, several hotel

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Speaker LA, Edu Minister conduct extensive tour of Chrar-i- Sharief constituency

KC NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather along with Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted an extensive tour of Chrar-i- Sharief Constituency of Budgam district.

During the tour, the Speaker and the Minister inaugurated vital infrastructure projects. They also inspected several health facilities in the constituency and took stock of healthcare facilities available for the general public.

Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Akshay Labroo; Director School Education Kashmir, Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Colleges J&K, HoDs of various departments, district officers, and other concerned

officers also accompanied the Speaker and Minister during the tour.

At GDC Chrar-i- Sharief, the Speaker and the Minister inaugurated

and inspected classrooms and other facilities of the college. They also interacted with students and took onspot feedback from them about the



Indoor Sports Complex built at an estimated cost of ₹2.28 crores and Extension of Library Block constructed at the cost of ₹97 lakh at Government Degree College, Chrar-i- Sharief. They also took round of the College premises

quality of education being provided at the institution.

Addressing the gathering, Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather emphasized

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Govt to regulate rates of private labs: Sakina Itoo

Ishtiyaz Kar

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, Saturday said that the government is working on framing a standardized rate list for private laboratories to prevent overcharging for medical tests.

Speaking to reporters in Budgam, the Minister said, “We have received grievances about private labs charging exorbitant rates for various tests. I have directed the Secretary of Health and Medical Education Department to examine and regulate the rates.

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Delayed DPCs mar career progression of JK Firefighters

Convener News Desk

SRINAGAR: Fire fighters in the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department are growing increasingly frustrated as they await long-overdue Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) that haven't been conducted in over a decade. The lack of career progression has left employees stressed and demotivated.

The lack of promotions has left many fire stations without adequate leadership or sufficient staff, raising concerns about the department's ability to effectively respond to emergencies. Fire fighters within the department express

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HC directs UP Govt to appoint man accused of sedition and acquitted later as Judge

PRAYAGRAJ/KANPUR (UP): The Allahabad High Court has directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to appoint as additional district judge a man who was denied appointment on the ground that he had faced two trials regarding alleged charges of spying for Pakistan as well as for sedition.

The court asked the state to issue appointment letter to petitioner Pradeep Kumar by January 15, 2025. He had successfully passed the higher judicial examination in 2017.

Passing the order on a writ petition filed by Kumar, a two-judge bench comprising justices Saumitra Dayal Singh and Donadi Ramesh observed, "The petitioner was 'honourably acquitted' at two criminal trials faced by him and no element of truth was found in the prosecution story, in either case."

"In view of the above, the writ petition must succeed. It is allowed. Mandamus is issued to State Government to ensure character verification of the petitioner within a period of two weeks. Consequentially, upon completion of all formalities, appointment letter may be issued to the petitioner not later than 15th January 2025. The petitioner may be appointed against existing vacancies, as on date," the court added.

Kumar had applied for selection to the UP Higher Judicial Service under the UP Higher Judicial Service (Direct Recruitment) Examination, 2016.

In that application, he disclosed the

facts pertaining to Session Trial No.69 of 2004 under Sections 3, 6, 9 of Official



Secrets Act & Section 120-BIPC (allegations of spying) and Session Trial No.236 of 2004 under Section 124-A IPC (sedition) arising out of Case Crime No.268 of 2002, Police Station Kotwali, Kanpur Nagar.

Kumar and his family live in Kanpur's Meston road locality. He is the youngest of five siblings.

On March 6, 2014, the Additional Sessions Judge court of Kanpur Nagar had acquitted Kumar in those trials.

He participated in the selection process and was declared successful. On August 18, 2017, the high court forwarded to the state government the list of selected candidates and recommended their appointments. Appointment letter was not issued to Kumar.

The high court in its order dated

December 6, said, "In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, we dispose of

exists with the state respondents to reach a conclusion that the petitioner may have worked for any foreign intelligence agency,"

The fact that he may have been on the "radar" of the Indian intelligence agencies, itself means nothing, it said.

"The fact that the petitioner's father may have been suspended/dismissed from service on charges of bribery etc. is equally extraneous to the issue. A person may not be penalised, and his character may not be judged for the act of another be it his father or son. It is indeed regrettable that the respondent authorities have also chosen to rely on the allegations of corruption levelled against the father of the present petitioner," the high court bench said.

The court further said, "To say, a citizen would continue to be suspected of an offence alleged and therefore be deprived of fruits of hard labour and 'honourable acquittal' earned by him, would be, to not only vicariously penalise an innocent citizen after his innocence has been established in a court of law, but it would successfully militate against the rule of law itself, guaranteed by the Constitution."

It added that a criminal trial begins with a presumption of innocence of the person charged. Once, the charged person is "honourably acquitted", after full appraisal of all prosecution evidence, that presumption is confirmed and sealed, by judicial pronouncement made, it said, adding none may look beyond it.

The court also observed, "No material

Degeneration Of Institutions, Individuals Assured If No Scrutiny, Says VP Jagdeep Dhankhar

NEW DELHI: Institutions and individuals will degenerate if there is no scrutiny, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Saturday underscoring the importance of expression and dialogue for a democracy to thrive.

".. audit, self-audit is very important. The surest way to bring about degeneration of an individual or an institution, (is to) keep it or the gentleman or gentle lady from scrutiny. You are beyond scrutiny, your degeneration is assured. And therefore, self-audit, an audit beyond self, is essential," he said.

Dhankhar, who faces a no-trust notice from the opposition parties for allegedly being partisan in his role as chairman of Parliament's upper house Rajya Sabha, was speaking at the 50th Foundation Day programme of Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS) here.

Communications minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia was also present at the event.

As many as 60 MPs from Congress and other opposition parties earlier this week submitted the notice, the first such move in the country's history.

Dhankhar on Saturday said challenges to institutions often stem from the erosion of meaningful dialogue and authentic expression. "Both outpouring of expression and meaningful dialogue are priceless jewels of democracy. Expression and communication complement each other. Harmony between



the two is the key to success," he said.

Underlining the importance of core values in any democracy, he said, "Democracy thrives not just on systems, but on core values... It has to be centred on the delicate balance of expression and dialogue. These twin forces, expression and dialogue, shape democratic vitality."

Their progress, he said, is

measured not by individual positions, but by the broader societal benefit.

"India's democratic journey exemplifies how diversity and vast demographic potential can fuel national progress. As we chart our path forward, we must recognize that democratic health and economic productivity are



inseparable partners in national development," he said.

The Vice President said ego serves no one and damages most of the person who possesses it. "The ego in us is irrepressible, we have to work very hard to control our ego. Ego serves no one, but damages most the person who possesses it".

Furthermore, he said the country is on the cusp of another

BJP Ridiculing Savarkar When It Talks Of Protecting Constitution: Rahul Gandhi In Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday cited VD Savarkar's remarks that there was nothing Indian about the Constitution and took a jibe at the BJP, saying that by talking of protecting the Constitution, the ruling party is "ridiculing" Savarkar.

Participating in a debate on 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution, the Congress leader said Savarkar, who is seen as an ideologue of the BJP and RSS, had said there is nothing Indian about the Constitution, and that he preferred Hindu religious text 'Manusmriti' to it.

"The Constitution is a document of modern India but it could never have been written without ancient India and her ideas," Rahul Gandhi said.

Savarkar had said there is nothing Indian about the Constitution and called Manusmriti a scripture "most worshippable" for Hindus after the Vedas,



according to Gandhi.

"Nice that you say you are defending the Constitution, but I want to ask, do you stand by your leader's words? Because when you speak about protecting the Constitution you are abusing, ridiculing Savarkar," the Leader of Opposition told the BJP.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, ANANTNAG

e-TENDERING

E-NIT Notice No:- 16 of 2024-25, Dated: 14.12.2024

For and on behalf of the Government, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work of District Anantnag under CAPEX Scheme:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	Providing and fixing of black annealed barbed wire fencing, renovation of 1000 rfts with wooden fence posts of size 8" mid girth 7 length and plantation of i. Conifer poly pot plants = 600 No's ii. Naked root plants = 500 No's at Co. 55/LDR (Hamnadi Khiram) of SF Range Anantnag excluding of extraction of plants including loading unloading and head load from different Departmental Nurseries upto site.	0.565	Rs. 200/-	2% of Adv. Cost	"D"	30 Calendar Days
2	Providing and fixing of black annealed barbed wire fencing, renovation of 1500 rfts with wooden fence posts of size 8" mid girth 7 length and plantation of i. Conifer poly pot plants = 1000 No's ii. Naked root plants = 700 No's at Co. 28/LDR (Batkoot) of SF Range Anantnag excluding of extraction of NR plants including loading unloading and head load from different Departmental Nurseries upto site.	0.865	Rs. 250/-	2% of Adv. Cost	"D"	30 Calendar Days
3	Providing and fixing of black annealed barbed wire fencing, renovation of 1000 rfts with wooden fence posts of size 8" mid girth 7 length and plantation of i. Conifer poly pot plants = 500 No's ii. Naked root plants = 501 No's at Co. 55/LDR-Ext (Hamnadi Khiram) of SF Range Anantnag excluding of extraction of plants including loading unloading and head load from different Departmental Nurseries upto site.	0.536	Rs. 200/-	2% of Adv. Cost	"D"	30 Calendar Days
4	Providing and fixing of black annealed barbed wire fencing, renovation of 800 rfts with wooden fence posts of size 8" mid girth 7 length and plantation of i. Conifer poly pot plants = 600 No's ii. Naked root plants = 700 No's at Co. 7/K (Bedihard) of SF Range Kokernag excluding of extraction of plants including loading unloading and head load from different Departmental Nurseries upto site.	0.557	Rs. 200/-	2% of Adv. Cost	"D"	30 Calendar Days

bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of Funds: 50% available.

Position of AA: Accorded.

Position of TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date :-	14.12.2024
Download Start Date :-	14.12.2024 From 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date :-	14.12.2024 From 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date :-	03.01.2025 From 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid (online) :-	04.01.2025 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Regional Director, Social Forestry Kashmir, Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid (online) :-	To be notified after evaluation of technical bid

No. DFO/SF/ANG/ACCTT/2024-25/913-17
Dated. 14.12.2024

DIPK-9583/24

**Sd/-Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Anantnag/Kulgam**

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILLOO

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.71/6808-17 of R&B/Vailloo /2024-2025/e-tendering/ DATED:11/12/2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Approved Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs)	E/Money(2% of Adv.Cost)(in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Cement concrete drain including laying of RCC pipes on Chanpora link road	2.500	200	5000	15 Days	PWD	DEE Class	MnR
2	Repair/ Renovation of 1x2m span culvert in KM 1 of Sirgan Hallan road	1.486	200	2972	15 Days	PWD	DEE Class	MnR
3	Construction of Drain including laying of RCC spun pipes near High School on Dandipora link road	1.451	200	2902	15 Days	PWD	DEE Class	MnR
4	Construction of ACR at Govt. MS Poshnadi	10.261	600	20522	60 Days	Education	BEE/CEE/ DEE Class	PAB

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

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	11.12.2024		
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From	11.12.2024	04.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From	11.12.2024	04.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To	18.12.2024	04.00 pm
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.12.2024 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailloo		

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan remitted in Head-0059 and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only. Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailloo (tender receiving authority) (Name of work or ENIT no. and Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan (The date of Treasury receipt /Challan should be between the date of start of bid end Bid submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailloo (Tendering Inviting Authority) . 5% Performance Security of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR by the Successful bidder. Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.

2. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work.

3. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.

DIPK-9492/24

**-Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division Vailloo**

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU NAND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEV.PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KULGAM

email. cdpokulgamkr777@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Merit List of the Candidates applied for Honorary Post Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centre's of POSHAN Project Kulgam and inviting of Objections thereof.

Notification No: 16-CDPO (K) of 2024

Dated: 13.12.2024

In pursuance to the Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023, and approval from Mission Director POSHAN J&K Vide No: MD/ POSHAN/Esst-2023/13350-58 Dated: 09.05.2023 an advertisement Notice was issued vide Notification No:20 CDPO(K) of 2023 Dated: 10.10.2023 & No:24 CDPO(K) of 2023 Dated: 28.12.2023 and 29 CDPO(K) of 2024 Dated: 29.02.2024 with opening date of receipt of application forms as 28.12.2023 & 29.02.2024 and closing date is 11.01.2024 & 14.03.2024 for merit list of 05 Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for 05 AW Centre's of POSHAN Project Kulgam. The merit list of the candidates has been prepared as per the criteria laid down vide Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 and accordingly Provisional merit list has been framed for 05 AWC's (Annexure-A) are hereby published for information of public in general and candidates in particular for filing of objections if any. The objection if any against the Provisional Merit list shall be filed in the Office of the Child Development Project Officer POSHAN Kulgam against proper receipt within 10 days (in office hours) from the date of publication of this notification. No objection/appeal shall be entertained after expiry of last date of filing objections.

[ANNEXURE-A]

PROVISIONAL MERIT LIST OF THE CANDIDATES APPLIED FOR THE POST OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS)

FOR AWC VIDE THIS OFFICE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO: NO:20 CDPO(K) OF 2023 DATED: 10.10.2023 & NO:24 CDPO(K) OF 2023 DATED: 28.12.2023 AND 29 CDPO(K) OF 2024 DATED: 29.02.2024

S	Panchayat Halqa/AWC	Ward No	Application Form No	Applicant Name	Parentage/Spouse Name	D O B	Max Marks	Marks Obt	%age	Quali.
1	Awgam	03	33	Santosha Bashir	W/O Zahid Ahmad Dar	01.10.1987	500	197	39.40	Matric
2	Zazripora	07	02	Shazia Gulam	W/O Towsif Ahmad Wani	10.08.1991	500	298	59.60	Matric
3	Kulpura	05	24	Ruby Jan	W/O Sajad Ahmad Dar	03.05.1995	1000	347	34.70	Under Matric
4	Panipora	06	14	Sumaya Jan	D/O Mohd Ahsan Ganie	06.02.1998	500	221	44.20	Matric
5	Mohdpura	02	30	Rugaya Jan	W/O Saifuddin Eytoo	01.03.1991	500	262	52.40	Under Matric

No: CDPO/POSHAN/KGM/Esst-2024-25/ 252-60
Dated:14.12.2024

DIPK-9536/24

**Sd/=Child Dev. Project Officer
POSHAN Project Kulgam
(Member Secretary)**

Literary Forum Bandipora Unveils Three Books by Parsa Rouf Ghayal

Writers praises author’s diverse contributions to poetry and drama

Bandipora: The Literary Forum Bandipora (LFB) on Saturday released three books authored by Parsa Rouf Gayal at an impressive function at Govt

Dr. Nishtar, while reviewing Teyoth Moudurr, praised Ghayal's contribution to the genre of drama and encouraged him to focus further on this art form,

Dr Ali Nishtar who was Chairing the first session said that Rouf Ghayal is the first Drama writer from Bandipora who has written scientific drama. He

Danish Bhat commended the efforts of the Literary Forum and stressed the importance of connecting younger generations with traditional roots,



Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora.

The programme was organised under the supervision of Adbi Markaz Kamraz Jammu and Kashmir –the conglomerate of literary organisations working to promote and preserve Kashmiri Language.

The three Books included Shahkaarte Meraj Gov (Mehraj Nama) , Waslech Aash (poetry Collection) and Teyoth Moudurr (Drama).

On the occasion Dr. Bashrat Fakir, presenting a review of Shahkaarte Meraj Gov, described it as a unique work written in prose form. Reviewing the poetry collection Waslech Aash, Mir Tariq noted that Ghayal's poetic expressions resonate deeply with emotions, eschewing ideological undertones.

highlighting his potential as an impressive playwright.

The first session of the event was chaired by Dr Ali Muhammad Nishtar along with GM Lone (Ex-CEO), Majeed Majazi Treasurer AMKJK, Danish Bhat Research Fellow Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

Dr Bashrat Fakir presented the review paper on the book Shakair Ti Mehraj Gov. Faulkir in a detailed review concluded that Ghayil's Mehraj Nama is unique as it has been written in a prosic form.

Mir Tariq while reviewing the poetry collection Waslyech Aash said that Ghayil has tried to reach out the people and their emotions purely in an artistic way without taking along any philosophy or ideology.



said this form of writing is uncommon in Kashmir and he has started a good trend for writers.

While reviewing Tyoth Modur he concluded that if Rouf properly focuses on the drama genre he can be an impressive drama writer.

Danish Bhat Research Fellow Rajiv Gandhi Foundation praised the efforts of literary forum and concentration of participants who consistently Tool Paet in day-long events. Bhat urged litterati to reach out to the younger generation in order to connect them with the traditional roots. He said that there is a shift among the young generation towards traditional literature and culture but they need guidance which can be delivered by senior litterati only.

noting a growing interest among youth in literature and culture that requires mentorship from seasoned literary figures. Among the others who participated in the event include Mubashir Nazki, Shabaz Hakbari, Bashir Charag, Dr Reyqzul Hassan, Rafiq Ahmed Parray, Prof Ismail Ashana, Abdul Rashid Parsa, Nizamuddin Parsa, Muntazir Parsa, GM Zahid, Mir Davhigami, G H Tair, M Yousuf Khyat Dr Mustafa Khan, Bashrat Hussain Najar, Munear Parwana, Ta Ha Mubashir, M Ayob, and others.

Literary Fourm along with relatives of the author felicitated Rouf Ghayal during the event. A special poetic session (Mehfil-e-Mushaira) which enthralled audiences.

DC Bandipora hands-over Milk Vans to youth beneficiaries

Emphasizes market linkages, value addition, support for young entrepreneurs

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Saturday conducted a comprehensive tour to inspect various enterprises established under



government schemes including Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Integrated Poultry Development Program (IPDP) and other schemes.

During the tour, the DC visited several units, including Kesperia Organics Papchan (established under IDDS), Sheikh Dairy Farm and Satellite Heifer Unit Gamroo (under IDDS and HADP), Rather Poultry Farm Asham (under IPDP), and Beigh Hydroponic Podder Unit Wangipora Sumbal established under HADP.

As part of the tour, the DC handed over the keys of four milk vans to youth benefi-

ciaries in Sumbal under the IDDS initiative, aiming to boost dairy supply chain efficiency and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to unemployed youth.

During his visit, Qadri interacted with stakeholders, reviewed the support provided by departments, and evaluated market linkages for the products. He stressed the importance of value addition to enhance product quality and market competitiveness.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of creating a robust support system for budding entrepreneurs to strengthen the local economy.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to provide financial assistance, skill development and market linkages to youth, and urged the beneficiaries to make full use of the facilities provided to improve their income and contribute to the overall development of the economy.

He underscored the administration's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, employment, and self-reliance among youth.

During the tour the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and other concerned.

DC Bandipora Reviews Health Sector; Calls for Enhanced Service Delivery

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today reviewed the functioning of the Health department and progress of different schemes and projects implemented by Health Department in a meeting held at Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

CMO Bandipora briefed the chair regarding various indicators, schemes and projects of the Health Department.

The DC took detailed review of various ongoing works including construction of Health Sub Centres at Kuchama, Laharwalpora, Aloosa, Sonerwani, Athwatoo, Gamroo, Zalpora Shilvat, construction of BMO office at Bandipora besides repair and renovation of Sumbal and Hajin Hospital under District CAPEX.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held to evaluate the functioning of the health sector and developing strategic plans for its enhancement, besides discussing existing challenges, identifying key areas for improvement and formulating actionable solutions to elevate the quality, accessibility, and efficiency of healthcare services.

The meeting also discussed critical issues within the health sector, including state of healthcare infrastructure, optimization of staff deployment, sufficient medical equipment and the efficiency of service delivery.

The DC, on the occasion directed the concerned to identify gaps in infrastructure and explore ways to enhance capacity, ensure optimal resource allocation,



ensure the availability of essential medical equipment and improve overall service delivery to meet the growing needs of patients effectively.

Qadri emphasized the importance of devising practical solutions to strengthen the sector's foundations and improve patient care outcomes.

The meeting was attended by CPO Bandipora, Chief Medical Officer, MS District Hospital and BMO Bandipora besides other concerned officials.

Bilal Habib

PAMPORE: The Department of Social Forestry Pulwama organized an Awareness-cum-Plantation drive under the banner "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Save Plants Save Environment" on Saturday along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway at Galander, Pampore.

Officials, along with students, actively participated in the initiative by planting a significant number of saplings inside the highway premises. Each sapling was marked with nameplates for easy identification and accountability.

The event was graced by notable dignitaries, including DFO Pulwama/Anantnag Social Forestry Division Gazalla Abdullah, Principal GDC Pampore Prof. Safiyya Khalil, SDPO Pampore

ore Krishan Rattan, Assistant Professor and HoD Islamic Studies Dr. Iqbal Malik, Trustee BOMIS Pampore Shaista Gull, Trustee BOMIS Pampore Saim Shabir Mir, Manager RAMIKY



also conducted at Birla Open Mind International School (BOMIS) Pampore, where speakers underlined the role of afforestation in environmental conservation.

The initiative reflects a collaborative effort

to enhance greenery, raise awareness about environmental sustainability, and involve youth in ecological preservation.

Speaking to Kashmir Convener, DFO Pulwama-Anantnag Social Forestry, Gazalla Abdullah, said that the Social Forestry Division Pulwama-Shopian organized a mega plantation drive today in collaboration with BOMIS Pampore.

The main objective of this drive was to emphasize the importance of involving institutions, especially schools, in plantation activities. Gazalla Abdullah highlighted that such initiatives are more beneficial when conducted with schools as students actively participate. Since students represent our future, spreading awareness through them is an effective way to convey the message about the significance of plants and the need to grow more for the safety and preservation of the environment.

Tarun Chugh Slams Congress for Historical Blunders

SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh today lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's powerful speech in Parliament on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Constitution. He also criticized the historical blunders committed by the Congress party, which, he said, undermined the sanctity and spirit of the Constitution.

In his statement, Chugh emphasized the significant milestones highlighted by PM Modi in his address, focusing on the importance of safeguarding the Constitution and how it has been shaped by the leadership of various governments over the years. He particularly praised the Prime Minister's strong stance on the damage caused by Congress in the past, especially during the imposition of the Emergency in 1975, when constitutional provisions were suspended, citizens' rights were curtailed, and press freedom was suppressed.

"While we celebrate 75 years of our Constitution, it is important to remember that Congress' repeated assaults on it have left indelible scars on India's democratic journey. From the imposition of Emergency to the consistent efforts to erode the Constitution's sanctity, Congress' history is a tale of disregard for the democratic ideals enshrined in our founding document," said Tarun Chugh.

Major General AS Bevli Reviews Republic Day Preparations at NCC Academy Nagrota

JAMMU: Major General AS Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General (ADG) of the Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate of the National Cadet



Corps (NCC), visited the NCC Training Academy in Nagrota on December 13 to review the preparations for the Republic Day Contingent - 2025.

The cadets presented a ceremonial Guard of Honour, showcasing their discipline and precision. Major General Bevli interacted with the 14 Best Cadets and Youth Exchange Program aspirants, encouraging them to enhance their knowledge and communication skills.

During the visit, the ADG inspected the drill contingent and observed performances by aspirants of the Kartavya Path parade and the Prime Minister's Rally. The cadets also displayed innovative projects and artistic models at the Flag Area, which earned high praise for their creativity and technical skill.

Addressing the cadets, Major General Bevli commended the high training standards maintained at the academy and emphasized the NCC's role in fostering discipline, leadership, and character among youth. He urged the cadets to uphold the values of the NCC in their personal and professional lives.

The visit also featured a cultural program, with performances of songs, ballets, and traditional dances adding a vibrant touch. The ADG lauded the cadets and staff for their dedication and described the visit as "unique and fulfilling."

The event highlighted the NCC's efforts in shaping young citizens into confident and responsible leaders of tomorrow.

DE&CC Ganderbal Holds Week-Long Awareness Drive on Mission Youth Schemes

SUHAIL RATHER

Ganderbal: The District Employment and Counseling Center (DE&CC) Ganderbal conducted a week-long series of awareness programs to educate the public about various schemes under the Mission Youth initiative. The programs were held at multiple locations across the district, including Kullam Block Gund Ganderbal, BDO Office Kangan, Gund, Harran, Sherpathri, and Wakura. The initiative also reached several villages, including Kullam, Rayil, Gutlibagh, Baba Wail, Malshbagh, Anderwan A, Anderwan B, Kangan, Urpash, and Nunner.

During these sessions, participants were informed about the benefits and procedures of key Mission Youth schemes such as the Tejaswini Scheme, Mumkin Scheme, and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI). The Tejaswini Scheme focuses on empowering young women by providing financial assistance and skill development opportunities. The Mumkin Scheme supports unemployed youth by facilitating self-employment through the provision of small commercial vehicles. The Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI) is designed to encourage entrepreneurship by offering financial and technical support to aspiring business owners.

The awareness programs emphasized the importance of these schemes in addressing unemployment and fostering self-reliance among the youth. DE&CC officials explained the eligibility criteria, application processes, and potential benefits of each scheme, encouraging participants to take advantage of the opportunities provided.

The programs witnessed active participation from local residents, who engaged in discussions and sought clarifications about the schemes. Officials from the DE&CC Ganderbal expressed their commitment to ensuring that information about these initiatives reaches every corner of the district, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

The DE&CC Ganderbal plans to organize similar programs in the future to extend the outreach of Mission Youth schemes and ensure maximum participation from eligible beneficiaries. (KNS)

Indian Army Organizes Free Medical Camp at Pir Topa, Poonch

Poonch: In a continued effort to support remote communities, the Indian Army organized a free medical camp in the remote village of Pir Topa in Poonch district on December 14, 2024.

The camp, aimed at addressing the healthcare challenges faced by residents due to the region's harsh terrain and weather conditions, provided free health check-ups and medicines. A team of specialized civilian and military doctors, along with medical staff, attended to the patients, offering consultations, vaccinations, and necessary medications.

A total of 93 individuals, including 37 women, 28 men, and 28 children from Pir Topa and neighboring areas, benefited from the camp. In addition to medical services, the initiative featured an informative lecture focusing on immunization, family planning, child healthcare, and preventive measures for common illnesses. The session also emphasized the importance of hygiene, sanitation, balanced diets, and recognizing early symptoms of diseases. Local residents expressed their gratitude for the Indian Army's thoughtful initiative. "This medical camp has brought much-needed healthcare to our doorstep. We are thankful for the Army's support in improving our quality of life," said one of the attendees.

The outreach not only met critical healthcare needs but also reinforced the trust and bond between the Indian Army and the local populace. This initiative highlights the Army's unwavering commitment to community welfare and its role in fostering goodwill in the region.

The Absurdity of Life and Diverse Responses



Shabeer Ahmad Lone

The concept of life's absurdity attributed to Albert Camus (20th century Philosopher) stems from the fundamental human condition, the desire human longing for meaning in a universe which offers no inherent meaningful response. This philosophical conundrum, especially highlighted by existentialist and absurdist thinkers like Albert Camus, Søren Kierkegaard, and Jean-Paul Sartre, confronts us with a stark reality-life is irrational, unpredictable, and often indifferent to human suffering or ambition.

The French existentialist Albert Camus famously depicted this in his essay *The Myth of Sisyphus*, where he compared the human condition to the plight of Sisyphus, condemned

Throughout history, philosophers have grappled with this absurdity, offering diverse responses aimed at helping us navigate a world devoid of inherent meaning. One response is surrendering to despair, succumbing to nihilism, where life is viewed as a sequence of arbitrary events, devoid of value or purpose. This perspective can lead to apathy and disengagement, stripping life of its vibrancy and ethical pursuits. In contrast, religious and metaphysical solutions offer narratives of divine purpose and an afterlife, providing solace amid life's absurdities. Thinkers like Kierkegaard proposed a "leap of faith," suggesting that while reason falters in the face of absurdity, faith can transcend life's paradoxes.

Jean-Paul Sartre takes this further, linking absurdity to human freedom. In a universe lacking inherent meaning, we are "condemned to be free," compelled to create our own meaning through our actions. Sartre's existentialist framework emphasizes authenticity-acknowledging life's absurdity while actively constructing meaning through personal choices and societal engagement.

In our personal lives, the encounter with absurdity is not merely theoretical but deeply experiential. Loss, failure, and the awareness of mortality often serve as stark reminders of

Mysticism and spiritual traditions offer another dimension to this discourse, often embracing the absurd through surrender rather than rebellion. Mystics, whether in Sufism, Vedanta, or Christian mysticism, accept life's paradoxes, seeking unity with the divine or the cosmos. Sufi poets like Rumi, for instance, explore the interplay of love and existential absurdity, finding joy in surrendering to a higher mystery. Eastern philosophies, such as Buddhism and Taoism, similarly advocate for acceptance and detachment, emphasizing mindfulness and harmony with life's flow rather than resistance to its inherent uncertainties.

Contemporary and pragmatic responses to life's absurdity are diverse, ranging from existential acceptance and the pursuit of personal meaning (Camus, Sartre) to psychological resilience and the quest for purpose (Frankl, positive psychology). While existential despair is an inevitable part of human consciousness, these responses encourage individuals to embrace the absurd, find joy in the struggle, and create meaning in a world that offers none inherently. Whether through philosophy, psychology, creativity, or spirituality, these responses reflect humanity's enduring capacity to confront life's inherent contradictions with re-

interprets life's struggles as a divine dialogue, transforming absurdity into a call for ethical action and faith in God's covenant. These traditions turn life's contradictions into a journey toward transcendence and meaning.

Islamic teachings and mysticism, particularly Sufism, offer profound responses to the absurd that complement and challenge the existentialist discourse. In Islam, life's inherent uncertainties and struggles are acknowledged, but they are viewed as integral to a divine design. While existentialists may highlight life's absurdity in the face of death and suffering, Islamic teachings present these as opportunities for spiritual growth and connection with the Creator.

The Qur'an repeatedly calls humanity to reflect on the paradoxes of existence. For instance, in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:286), it reminds us, "Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear." This verse, while not directly addressing absurdity, encapsulates the Islamic view that life's trials, however incomprehensible, have a higher purpose. Faith in the unseen (Iman bil Ghaib) offers solace amidst uncertainty, teaching that life's apparent chaos is part of a divine tapestry that humans are not fully equipped to understand. This perspective does not dismiss the experience of absurdity but recontextualizes it within a framework of trust and surrender to God's wisdom.

Sufi mystics delve into it by embracing the paradoxes of existence as portals to divine truths. For them, life's absurdity is not a contradiction but a reflection of the infinite mystery of the Divine. Rumi, for instance, finds joy in surrendering to life's inherent uncertainties, proclaiming in his poetry: "Try not to resist the changes that come your way. Instead, let life live through you. And do not worry that your life is turning upside down. How do you know that the side you are used to is better than the one to come?" This embrace of life's unpredictability exemplifies the Sufi ideal of Tawakkul (complete trust in God), which transforms the absurd into a means of spiritual transcendence.

Sufism also emphasizes love as a response to absurdity. For mystics like Rumi and Hafiz, love-whether divine or human-is a force that transcends the seeming meaninglessness of existence. Rumi's conception of love is deeply paradoxical, seeing it as both the cause of existential suffering and its ultimate resolution. He writes: "With life as short as a half-taken breath, don't plant anything but love." Love becomes a sacred rebellion against despair, mirroring Camus's call for defiance against the absurd.

Islamic teachings further address existential questions through the concept of Tawheed (oneness of God). The realization of Tawheed aligns human will with divine purpose, creating a harmony that dissolves existential tension. Absurdity, from this perspective, arises when humans perceive themselves as disconnected from their Creator. In surrendering to God's will, Muslims find not an escape from absurdity but a profound acceptance of it as part of divine wisdom. This surrender is not passive; it involves active engagement with life's challenges through patience (Sabr) and gratitude (Shukr), virtues deeply embedded in Islamic spirituality.

Mystics and Islamic teachings also reframe death, one of the central elements of absurdity. While existentialists see death as the ultimate negation of meaning, Islamic thought views it as a transition rather than an end. The Qur'an, in Surah Al-Mulk (67:2), states: "[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed." This verse redefines life and death as parts of a divine trial, encouraging a focus on ethical action and spiritual growth rather than despair over mortality.

In contrast to Camus's call for rebellion or Sartre's emphasis on creating personal meaning, Islamic teachings propose a balance between effort and submission. Humans are encouraged to act meaningfully within the framework of divine guidance, recognizing that ultimate meaning lies beyond human comprehension. This balance is echoed in the Sufi concept of Fana (annihilation of the self), where the individual ego dissolves into divine reality and attain baqa, transcending the need for answers and embracing unity with the infinite.

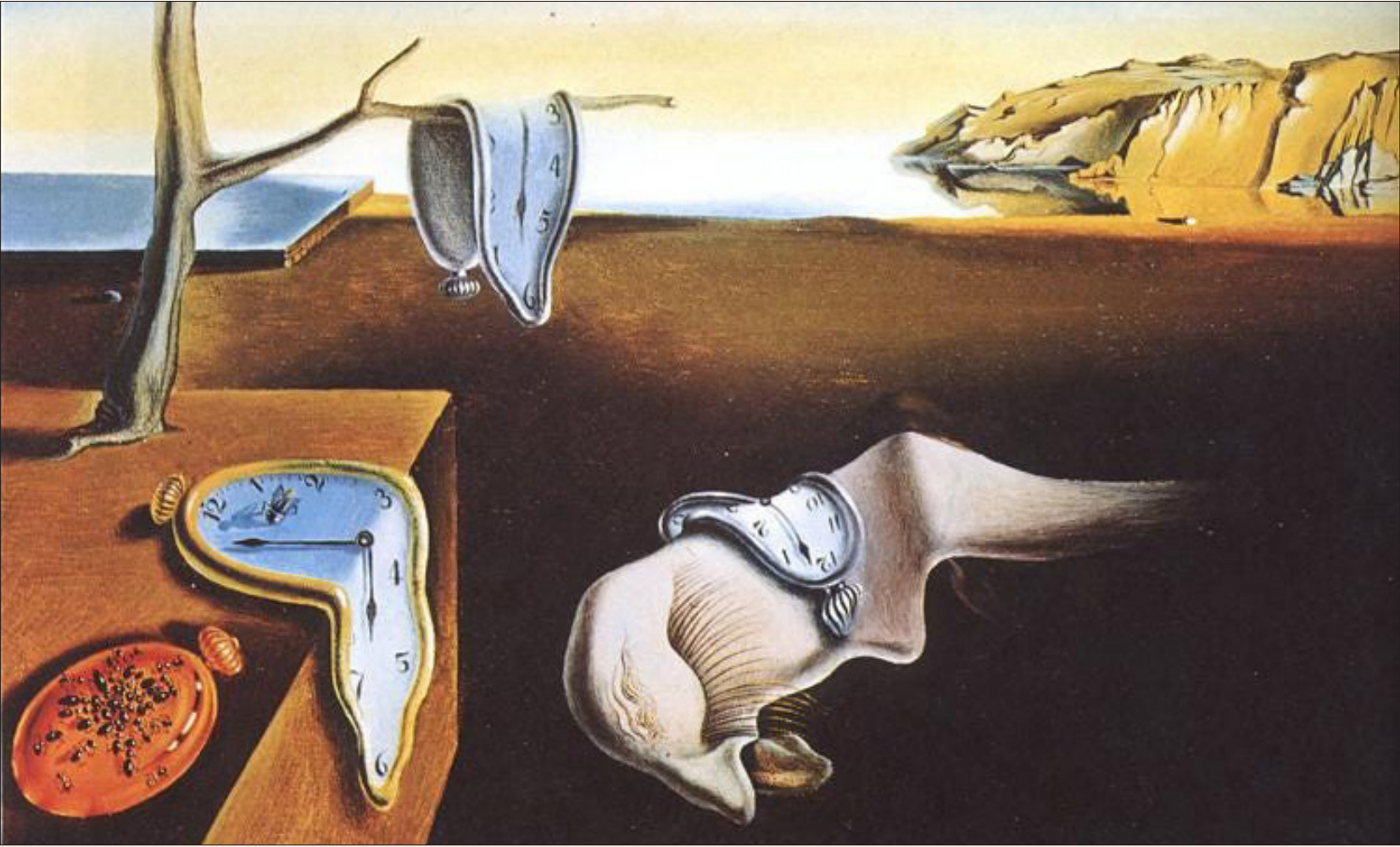
The Islamic approach also resonates with contemporary psychological insights into meaning-making. Research suggests that individuals who integrate spirituality into their lives demonstrate greater resilience in the face of existential crises. Practices like prayer, meditation, and community engagement-central to Islamic and mystical traditions-offer not only solace but also a sense of belonging and purpose, countering the isolating effects of absurdity.

Art, too, serves as a bridge between existentialist and mystical responses. Islamic art and poetry often use abstract forms and metaphors to explore life's paradoxes, reflecting the belief that ultimate truths lie beyond rational comprehension. This aligns with existentialist literature, where authors from Kafka to Dostoevsky grapple with the absurd through narrative and symbolism.

The Islamic notion of accountability adds a unique dimension to the discourse on absurdity. While existentialists emphasize individual freedom, Islamic teachings balance this with a sense of responsibility toward others and the Creator. Acts of charity (Sadaqah), social justice, and community service are seen as ways to infuse life with meaning, transforming the struggle against absurdity into a collective effort to create a more compassionate world.

Most fundamentally, the absurdity of life, while a universal experience, invites diverse responses that enrich our understanding of existence. Existentialists like Camus and Sartre offer frameworks for rebellion and authenticity, while mystics and Islamic teachings reframe absurdity as a pathway to transcendence, love, and unity. Together, these perspectives illuminate the human condition, urging us to embrace life with courage, creativity, and faith. By weaving meaning from the threads of absurdity, we affirm not only our existence but also the enduring potential of humanity to rise above the void. In this, the absurd becomes not a limitation but an invitation to live deeply, authentically, and in harmony with the mysteries of existence.

Author can be mailed at shabirahmed.lone003@gmail.com



by the gods to roll a boulder up a hill, only for it to roll back down again. The task is endlessly futile, much like the human quest for ultimate meaning in a universe that appears devoid of purpose. Yet Camus does not advocate despair. Instead, he suggests that, in the face of this absurdity, we must find our own meaning, engaging fully with life rather than retreating into nihilism or despair.

Absurdity, then, is both universal and deeply personal. It transcends the boundaries of culture, geography, and historical era. At the same time, it is unique to each individual's encounter with life's meaninglessness, resulting in different responses to this existential predicament.

The question that arises, then, is how we respond to this absurdity. Do we succumb to despair, find solace in illusions, or seek out meaning through human experience and action? This meditation will explore the nature of the absurd, the philosophical responses it has evoked, and the various ways we, as individuals and societies, choose to confront or embrace it.

Albert Camus, however, advocated a rebellion against absurdity. He rejected both nihilism and religious escapism, urging us to embrace life's absurdity without succumbing to despair. In *"The Myth of Sisyphus"*, Camus presents Sisyphus, eternally condemned to push a boulder uphill, as an emblem of human perseverance. Though his task is futile, Sisyphus finds meaning in his struggle, embodying the "absurd hero" who lives with defiance and passion. Camus posits that by accepting absurdity, we can live fully, finding meaning in daily experiences like love, art, and human connection rather than in some ultimate goal.

Modern data underscores the prevalence of existential anxiety, particularly in an era marked by rapid technological advancement, environmental crises, and societal fragmentation. Studies reveal that individuals who engage in meaningful relationships, pursue creative endeavors, or practice mindfulness report higher levels of psychological resilience and life satisfaction. The rise of secular mindfulness practices and philosophical communities reflects a growing recognition of the need to confront absurdity constructively.

At the core of absurdism lies the profound tension between humanity's relentless quest for meaning and the universe's stark indifference. We are creatures of consciousness, driven by an innate desire to understand our existence, yet we find ourselves in a cosmos that offers no ultimate answers. This creates the "absurd conflict," a concept Camus explored deeply, highlighting the chasm between our yearning for purpose and the silent, indifferent universe. Absurdity arises not from life's chaos alone but from the human confrontation with it, especially when faced with life's transience, randomness, and the certainty of death. This existential confrontation often leads to profound questions: Why do we toil, suffer, love, and strive when all seems to culminate in nothingness? Such questions, while philosophical, strike deeply personal and emotional chords, potentially ushering existential despair or nihilism, the belief in life's ultimate meaninglessness.

life's inherent absurdity, prompting shifts in perspective. Creativity and art emerge as profound responses to this existential tension. Through artistic expression, we impose order on chaos, creating works that, while not resolving the absurd, reflect our grappling with it. Literature, from Dostoevsky to Kafka, delves into these existential themes, mirroring our own struggles and inviting introspection.

English poetry often explores life's absurdity through existential despair, as seen in T.S. Eliot's fragmentation and Beckett's alienation, seeking meaning amidst contradictions. Chinese poetry, influenced by Taoism and Buddhism, embraces impermanence, with poets like Li Bai and Wang Wei finding harmony and beauty in life's transience. Both traditions turn the absurd into profound reflections on existence. Rainer Maria Rilke suggests that life's absurdity invites us to "live the questions," embracing mystery and personal growth. Walt Whitman dissolves this absurdity in a cosmic unity, where "every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you." William Blake encourages us to confront paradox by seeing "a world in a grain of sand," recognizing infinity in the finite. John Keats softens life's absurdity with the thought that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever," finding solace in beauty's permanence. Percy Bysshe Shelley transcends the absurd through poetry, believing it "strips the veil of familiarity from the world," revealing deeper truths. Emily Dickinson, too, confronts life's uncertainties, suggesting that "the soul selects her own society," finding meaning in inner solitude and individual choice amidst life's chaos.

Some notable Urdu poets explored the themes akin to life's absurdity like Mir in "Ik barzakh mein hai har insan yahan", Ghalib resonates as "Bas ke dushvar hai har kam ka asan hona, Iqbal who often reconciles and says "Tunde-baad-e-mukhalif se na ghabra aye aqab, Jaun Elia" kya safar hai jo mukammal bhi nahi, khatm bhi nahi", Faiz's rebellion against despair, Parveen Shakir's absurdist sense stagnation in "kabhi kabhi lagta hai, kuch nahi badla etc", often capture the essence of humanity's struggle to find meaning in an indifferent and contradictory world. Persian poets, particularly those influenced by Sufism and mysticism like Khayyam, Hafez, Rumi, Saadi, N.Ganjavi, Ferdowsi, Shams Tabrizi, etc often turned to spiritual transcendence and divine love to make sense of life's absurdities, their works also contain deep reflections on the inherent contradictions, paradoxes, and ephemeral nature of existence. The theme of the absurd-whether in the form of fate, the fleeting nature of human pursuits, or the ultimate unknowability of the universe-runs throughout Persian poetry, making it a rich field for exploring existential ideas. From sufi mysticism of Nund Rishi to the modern existentialism of Agha Shahid Ali, Kashmiri poetry offers varied responses to the absurdity of human existence.

Moreover, human connections provide solace in the face of absurdity. Love, friendship, and community offer transient yet profound moments of meaning, countering the existential void. This aligns with existential and mystical thought, where love is seen as a rare transcendence of absurdity.

silience and hope.

The challenge of absurdity invites us to live with courage, authenticity, and freedom. Authentic living, as existentialists like Sartre champion, involves embracing the freedom to create meaning in a world without predetermined answers. This requires an active engagement with life, where meaning is forged through our actions, relationships, and creative endeavors. Through art, love, and philosophical reflection,

"Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear."

---Al-Quran

"The Struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy."

-Camus

"The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for."

Dostoevsky

"I wish I could show you when you are lonely or in darkness / The astonishing light of your own being."

-Hafiz

"The irony of man's condition is that the deepest need is to be free of the anxiety of death, but it is life itself which awakens it."

-Ernest Becker

"To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering."

-Friedrich Nietzsche

"The only thing that makes life intolerable is the fear of not having lived."

-Beauvoir

we confront the absurd not as a burden but as an opportunity to define our existence on our own terms.

In facing absurdity, we are called to live deeply, authentically, and compassionately, creating pockets of meaning through our connections, creativity, and courage. The absurd, rather than a source of despair, becomes a challenge to craft a life rich in experience and profound in its humanity. In our defiance of life's inherent meaninglessness, we affirm our existence and contribute to the collective human narrative, making our fleeting moments of existence deeply significant.

The existential dialogue is not confined to Western thought. Hinduism views life's absurdity as Maya, an illusion to be transcended through self-realization and unity with Brahman. Christianity sees it as a consequence of human sin, offering redemption and purpose through Christ's grace. Judaism

Implement strict measures to prevent unauthorized extraction, transportation of minerals: Dy CM

SRINAGAR: While emphasizing the urgent need to curb illegal mining in the region, the Deputy Chief Minister today directed the officials to implement strict measures to prevent unauthorised extraction and transportation of minerals.

Chief Minister was chairing a high level review meeting of the Mining Department (Kashmir Division) today at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for increased vigilance through deployment of modern technology, such as GPS-enabled vehicles, CCTV surveillance at mining sites besides drone monitoring. He asked the officials to conduct frequent and surprise inspection of mining sites to detect and deter illegal activities.

He emphasised the need for accurate and real time data entry on the e-market web portal to ensure all quantities extracted are properly accounted for. He stressed the importance of close collaboration between the Mining Department and law enforcement agencies to take swift action against illegal miners and transporters.

"Department should launch awareness campaigns in local communities to educate them on the legal implications of illegal mining and encourage them to report unauthorized activities,"



the Deputy Chief Minister stressed. He also directed the officials to impose strict fine and penalties on individuals and entities involved in illegal mining, sending a strong message against such practices.

The Deputy Chief Minister further stressed the importance of maintaining strict check on the quantity of materials being uploaded on the e-market portal, ensuring that data is accurate and free from manipulation.

He highlighted that these measures would not only curb illegal mining but also boost revenue generation and ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

Earlier, Director G&M presented key initiatives undertaken by the department to streamline operations and ensure transparency.

These included transition to E-Auction, launch of E-Challan and E-Market Web Portal and assured supply of construction material to public and several developmental projects undertaken by the government.

48 progressive farmers flagged-off for 7-days interstate training program

SRINAGAR: A group of 48 progressive farmers from Srinagar, Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian districts of Kashmir was today flagged-off for an interstate seven days exposure cum training program to Punjab Agriculture University Ludhiana from Agriculture Complex, Lal Mandi Srinagar.

The training program has been organised by the Deputy Directorate of Agriculture (Trainings) under NMAET (ATMA) interstate 2024- 25.

Joint Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah while interacting with the farmers on the occasion, said that the training program has been organised for making the farmers aware of the latest technologies for commercial farming, real-time trends in farming and cultivation of different agriculture crops on scientific lines.

He said, skilled human resource and capacity building of farmers are among the department's priorities.

He impressed upon the progressive farmers to interact with the agriculture scientists, experts, and extension functionaries to get acquainted with up to date methodologies in crop cultivation on scientific lines.

He asked the farmers to enhance their technical skills in the field of crop farming and to adopt the advanced technologies after learning from such training/exposure visits. He further said such exposure visits promote cultural exchange among the farmers of different regions.

Many Farmers on the occasion said the tour would enhance their knowledge and skills.

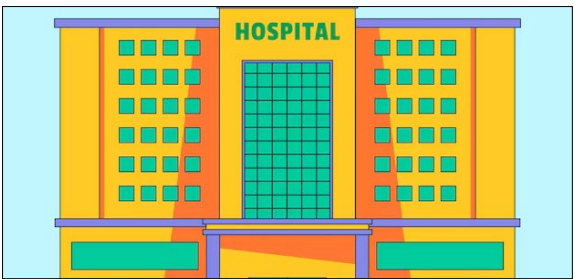
La Niña alert: Hospitals in Bla directed to stock medicines for cold-related illnesses

Srinagar: The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Baramulla has released an urgent advisory ahead of the expected harsh winter conditions in the valley.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that the "La Niña" phenomenon will trigger a cold wave, bringing heavy snowfall and frost to the Kashmir region.

These conditions are likely to pose significant risks to vulnerable groups, particularly women, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health issues, across the Kashmir Valley. The DDMA has called for heightened awareness and preparedness to mitigate the potential impact of this severe weather.

A circular issued by the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and District Magistrate



Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, as reported by news agency KINS, directs Block Medical Officers (BMOs) to identify high-risk individuals and compile comprehensive data within the next 10 days.

This data must then be submitted to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Baramulla for further action.

The directive also emphasizes that hospitals must ensure an adequate stock of medicines to treat cold-related illnesses and

DC Srinagar chairs District Valuation Committee meet

SRINAGAR: SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 14: In order to finalize the process of revision of Market Value proposed for the year 2025, a meeting of District Valuation Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex on Saturday.

At the outset, the DC took a thorough review of the proposals submitted by the member of the Committee for revision of annual stamp duty rates and the market value of land, buildings, and other immovable property within the District.

The DC also discussed the procedure and parameters adopted in formulating the proposed rates in the District. The Committee members briefed the DC about the procedure followed to analyze the rates, providing the area/village-wise percentage changes for incorporation in the year 2025.

The DC emphasized the importance of adhering to established criteria for rate fixation and stressed



for a classification of the rate structure based on area categories to ensure fair and accurate finalization of the stamp duty rates for the District.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahamd Kataria, General Manager DIC, Superintending Engineer R&B, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, District Panchayat Officer, Town Planner H&UDD and Divisional Forest Officer besides others concerned.

Mega Awareness/Employment Mela held at Shopian

SHOPIAN: In order to provide a platform to people, especially youth, aspiring to take self-employment ventures for their economic upliftment, the District Administration Shopian today organised a mega awareness cum employment mela at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

All departments providing self-employment avenues and service based departments along with business entrepreneurs, farmers and others had set up stalls showcasing their products and services besides generating awareness on their respective schemes for self-employment.

The awareness of different government schemes for livelihood and employment was targeted specially with on spot registration of beneficiaries and potential entrepreneurs.

The mela was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar with participation of more than 5000 youth. Around 1000 registrations of youth for different schemes was done on spot by Departments.

The DC inspected stalls set up by different departments including service and employment based, development based, community led, financial institutions, Agri companies, local progressive farmers and business establishments.

He interacted with staff and successful entrepreneurs on their employment ventures, and sought their feedback on schemes and their benefits.

The mela also provided a platform to business establishments and farmers to sell their produce



and products, which received massive public response.

Established entrepreneurs and farmers who spoke on the occasion briefed the DC about their successful businesses.

On the occasion, the DC handed over sanction letters of Reefer Vans to three beneficiaries under AIF, keys of commercial vehicles to two beneficiaries under Mumkin scheme, sanction letters of PMIEGP to two beneficiaries, only to mention a few events of the distribution function.

Shahid besides highlighting the objective of organising the camp, called upon people especially youth seeking employment to take maximum benefit of such events. He asked them to register for various self-employment schemes and ventures into manufacturing/service and other business for their livelihood generation.

Success stories of the entrepreneurs, who guided youth, added flavor to the event. A youth narrated how he started his business enterprise with Rs 10 lac loan and has now a turnover of 1.40 crore annually.

Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurated 4th National Lok Adalat at Poonch

JAMMU: With the aim of resolving and providing quick, affordable as well as hassle free resolution of disputes as mandated under Constitution of India, the 4th and final National Lok Adalat of the calendar year 2024 was held today throughout the UT of J&K under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and dynamic mentorship of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as also under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson,



High Court Legal Services Committee. the Lok Adalat, Chief Justice inspected different benches and interacted with the Presiding officers, members of the benches, Advocates and litigants. While addressing a gathering, Justice Tashi

DC Poonch addresses developmental issues of Colleges

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, reviews various developmental challenges faced by colleges in the Poonch district.

The meeting brought together concerned officers who presented their respective issues, including land acquisition for hostel construction, drainage problems, boundary wall constructions etc. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner announced that the land for Mandi College will be officially awarded on January 3, 2025. He emphasized the urgent need for the construction of the boundary wall at Mendhar College, instructing the concerned executive engineer to expedite the process.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner revealed the allocation of 10 kanals of additional land for the establishment of Boys' and Girls' Hostels in both Mendhar and Surankote Degree College.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the concerned executive engineer to ensure that the G+1 structure under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is completed within one month, highlighting the administration's commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure in the region.

J&K BOPEE organises 3rd one-day awareness camp at Kulgam

KULGAM: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) in collaboration with District Administration Kulgam today organised a third awareness camp in Boys Higher Secondary School Kulgam.

The students from Boys HSS Kulgam and Girls HSS Kulgam attended the programme.

Dr Bashir Ahmad Lone, Member J&K BOPEE appraised the students about the examination cum counseling schedule for admission to various professional courses in UT of J&K for the session 2025-26.

He also impressed upon them to choose career options early from amongst the courses available in Govt and Private Institutions in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir for which examination as well as counseling are conducted by JK BOPEE.

details of the number of courses and seats available in Govt. and Private Institutions were given to the participating students.

The students were also informed about the abundant opportunities of employment in Govt and Private sector for which they will become eligible after completing these technical courses, particularly in education, health and engineering sectors.

The objective of this awareness camp was also to address the issue of low admissions in some professional courses during the year 2024-



25 and to inform the students in advance about the schedule of issuance of Notifications for inviting applications, tentative schedule of examinations, and counseling schedules.

Pamphlets indicating the details of professional courses eligibility criteria, admission processes and tentative schedule of examinations and counseling were distributed among the students which were followed by an interactive and question/answer session.

The camp highlighted the advantages of studying in local colleges, including lower fees, a familiar environment, and better job opportunities.

It also emphasized the importance of filling up vacant seats to avoid wastage of resources.

Chief Education Officer Kulgam while addressing the students advised them to go through the details of these technical courses and work hard to qualify these competitive examinations with high scores so that they can get selected in a course of their choice for betterment of their future and service to the society.

DLIC approves 30 cases under Mission Youth schemes in Employment Mela held at GDC Shopian

SHOPIAN: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, during an interactive session with beneficiaries at an Employment Mela held at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian, approved 30 new cases on the spot under various Mission Youth schemes.

The Employment Mela was organized by the District Administration.

At the beginning of the Employment Mela, a detailed briefing was given on the progress of Mission Youth

schemes.

The Nodal Officer for Mission Youth self-employment schemes presented a total of 30 new cases for approval. These included 14 cases under the Mumkin scheme, 2 under Tejaswini and 14 under the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative.

The Chairman of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) reviewed and approved the cases in the presence of the beneficiaries during the Employment Mela.



SHEW Ganderbal leads awareness camp on prevention of harassment at workplace

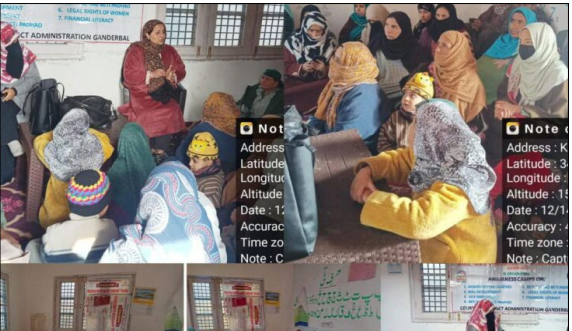
GANDERBAL: The Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Ganderbal today spearheaded an impactful awareness camp at Khrahihama Ganderbal, emphasizing the prevention of sexual harassment at workplaces.

The event also showcased collaborative efforts with the Child Helpline, underscoring the unified commitment to ensuring safety and dignity for women and children in the district.

SHEW took center stage in educating participants about the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) and the SHE-Box platform, an online grievance redressal mechanism empowering women to report workplace harassment with confidentiality and efficiency.

Experts from Sankalp Hub highlighted the organization's pivotal role in bridging the gap between policy frameworks and grassroots awareness, driving systemic change for women's empowerment in required to foster safe and equitable work environments.

The speaker from the CHL Awareness Camp deliberated on the significance of Childline 1098,



Ganderbal.

They shared their expertise on support mechanisms available for victims of harassment and abuse. The discussions delved into the responsibilities of employers, the functioning of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), and the collaborative efforts a 24/7 toll-free helpline dedicated to addressing issues related to child safety and protection.

They explained how the helpline serves as a lifeline for children in distress, offering immediate assistance in cases of abuse, exploitation, or neglect

LOSE BELLY FAT

the smart way with these six pro tips

Talk of stubborn weight and one simply can't think past belly fat as it is the easiest to accumulate and toughest to get rid of. Belly fat, besides making one seem out of shape, belly fat contributes to an increased risk of obesity, metabolic disorders, diabetes and other chronic health problems. While there are a plethora of diet fads and workout routines that can help burn stubborn belly fat like a pro, we'll help share some basic tips to keep you moving on the road to fitness.

Take a look at our top five tips to help you lose belly fat like a pro and one additional pro suggestion that no one told you about.

Increase your fibre intake: Fibre is a macronutrient that keeps the digestive tract clear and healthy, prevents constipation. According to a 2012 study by experts from the University of Carolina, increasing daily fibre intake by 10 grams helps reduce abdominal fat levels by 3.7 per cent. Foods like fruits, vegetables, pulses, beans, whole grains, and whole-wheat bread, and pasta are rich sources of fibre – foods that can help prevent bloating and may over time lower the risk of stroke.

Watch your alcohol intake: One of the biggest foes of your weight loss efforts is alcohol. With its high-calorie content, alcohol in excessive quantities can add additional inches to your waistline in a brief period; and when combined with carbonated drinks or fruit juices, the effect is further worse.

Enjoy healthy snacks mindfully: When it comes to snacking, one often struggles to find the right options. However, once those options are discovered, the next question is how much to eat safely. Experts recommend snacking wisely – opting for nuts and seeds instead of low-fat yogurts, fat-free crackers and biscuits, and no-sugar sodas as they do no good to your health. The key rule for snacking wisely is eliminating high sugar, high salt, high calorie, and high-fat foods while practicing portion control on the safe options. Instead of helping reduce your waistline, it could contribute to belly fat accumulation.

Cut down on sugar: Sugar is another foe of health – increases belly fat accumulation risk, obesity risk and over time can contribute to diabetes as well if consumed uncontrollably. However, sugar does not specifically mean refined white sugar – it also includes energy drinks, packaged biscuits, cookies, cereals, binge-eating fruits, etc.

Go for strength training: Strength training is super effective for weight loss and burning belly fat. According to several studies, it burns fat more effectively and builds muscle mass as well. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, strength training twice a week can be helpful for burning belly fat.

Get ample sleep: Surprisingly, sleep can also contribute to the loss of belly fat as it helps manage cortisol levels. Sleep induces a sense of rest, curbs cravings, keeps appetite under control, and gives you more energy to move around. According to a study by experts from Columbia University, sleep-deprived people are more like to consume 300 additional calories than those who get ample rest.



Watch your alcohol intake: One of the biggest foes of your weight loss efforts is alcohol. With its high-calorie content, alcohol in excessive quantities can add additional inches to your waistline in a brief period; and when combined with carbonated drinks or fruit juices, the effect is further worse



Some are the days when back pain was a concern for older adults – people aged 40 and above. Sad as it is, youngsters too struggle with back pain these days – and the lifestyle choices, weak immune system, and other underlying health problems stand accused. However, while diet is the key perpetrator that could make things go haywire, it is the one component that could work wonders to improve the state of your health. And there is one spice that can particularly have a positive impact on back pain. Keep reading to find out what it is.

Can diet help with back pain? One of the best ways to manage back pain naturally is by making changes to your diet – including anti-inflammatory foods that alleviate pain and discomfort. One of the leading causes of back pain is sitting in the same place and in the same position for hours – be it working professionals or students or those accustomed to a sedentary lifestyle.

Over time, this increases strain on your back thereby triggering back pain. While excessive back pain can be mitigated with medication and physiotherapy, a mild form of the same can be treated with lifestyle changes – exercising, eating the right foods, and not sitting in the

same place for too long, and so on.

On the diet front, experts recommend turmeric (haldi) for alleviating back pain.

Turmeric and back pain: The link explained The golden spice from your mum's masala box – which adds a bright colour to your milk, curries, and other preparations, has a warm effect – is a rich source of antioxidants, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial properties that could raise your health quotient significantly. These effects are attributed to curcumin, the anti-inflammatory compound that gives haldi its healing virtues.

Curcumin reduces inflammation, soothes back muscles, and alleviates pain over time. Be it in the form of haldi dudh (turmeric latte) or herbal tea or in your curries, haldi can be consumed in every way for maximum benefits.

Is turmeric the only anti-inflammatory spice? Turns out, turmeric is not the only spice that comes with anti-inflammatory properties. Take a look at three others that can offer relief from inflammation.

Ginger – To be consumed in tea form or in curries
Willow bark – Helps soothe muscle pain, menstrual cramps, and back pain – active ingredient salicin helps mitigate inflammation

Devil's claw – Extracts to be used as a remedy for arthritis

Back pain

A warm spice from your mum's masala box could work wonders



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Continued From P1...

HM To Chair

successes achieved in Kashmir valley through an area domination plan and zero terror plan in the Jammu division.

Shah had also directed all security agencies in earlier meetings to work in a mission mode and ensure quick response in a coordinated manner. He had then also emphasised on seamless coordination amongst the security agencies, identifying vulnerable areas and addressing the security concerns of such areas.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, the Home Minister has reiterated on many occasions that “the government will leave no stone unturned in rooting out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir.” (Agencies)

Two Power

the Election Commission to hold assembly elections by September and asked the Centre to restore statehood at the earliest without giving a deadline.

Assembly elections were held in September, which Abdullah's National Conference party swept, winning 41 of the 90 seats which went to polls. Its ally, the Congress party, won six seats. The BJP won 28 seats.

Abdullah said elections in Jammu and Kashmir could only be held because of the intervention of the Supreme Court, but “unfortunately, and this is a matter of great regret for us, on the statehood question, the Supreme Court was more vague than I would have liked them to be”.

Restoration of statehood “as soon as possible is good, but it's not as good. If they had said as soon as possible for Assembly elections, I wouldn't be sitting here with you today. Because that as soon as possible may not have come around.”

Abdullah acknowledged that he had a backup plan in case Jammu and Kashmir continues to remain a hybrid state, saying “I'd be foolish not to have a backup in mind in case it doesn't happen.”

“Obviously, there's a time frame in mind as well. But you will allow me to keep that to myself for the moment, simply because I'd like to believe that the promises made to the people of J-K will be kept,” he said.

“The fact is that people came out to vote, they came out for a reason,” indicating that it was a BJP-ruled Centre's promise of statehood that drew the voters.

“When in the campaign you repeatedly told people that statehood will be restored to J-K, you didn't say statehood will be restored if the BJP forms a government or statehood will be restored if there is a chief minister from Jammu.

“There were no ifs and buts, You said J-K will be back as a full state. That's it. So that has to be done now.”

Abdullah said in no uncertain terms that the final decision of restoring statehood was to be taken by only two persons – the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

“Ultimately, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister are the ones who are going to have to sit down and decide if this is what has to be done and this is when it has to be done. Either that, or then it has to be mandated,” he said while replying to a question that the National Conference could use allies of NDA to influence the government for the restoration of statehood.

Describing the current governmental setup as a “work in progress” and a “learning experience,” Abdullah acknowledged the challenging transition for both elected representatives and bureaucratic officials.

He stressed that while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handles police, security, and law and order, other administrative responsibilities rest with the elected government.

“We are in the process of re-examining business rules to bring clarity on administrative boundaries,” Abdullah said, highlighting ongoing efforts to streamline governance mechanisms.

Centre to

would introduce The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill-2024 to make changes in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

While the amendments in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 have been proposed for respectively for synchronisation of assembly polls of Puducherry and Delhi with Lok Sabha polls, the amendments in J&K Reorganisation Act- 2019 will align J&K's electoral cycle with Lok Sabha polls.

According to the amendments proposed in J&K Reorganization Act-2019, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the term of the Legislative Assembly shall come to an end on the expiry of the full term of Lok Sabha.

According to the bill, simultaneous elections would come into effect on an “appointed date” to be notified by the President on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election.

Dy CM Reviews

NHIDCL and BRO.During the meeting, a detailed winter action plan was presented which envisaged smooth functioning of essential services and connectivity across the Union Territory, particularly in snow prone areas.

It was informed that as a matter of priority, MED will oversee the clearance of 10,223 km of roads with 6,728 km categorised as Priority-1, including highways, hospital routes and roads to critical infrastructure. Besides, PMGSY has finalised contracts for snow clearance on 4042 km of rural roads with an additional 4 contracts under process, the meeting was apprised

It was also given out that 310 snow clearance machines have been mobilized by MED, with an increase from 254 machines last year. Besides, a total of 293 operational staff have been deployed, compared to 231 last year, to handle challenging conditions.

The meeting discussed key roads and highways such as NH-44 (Banihal-Qazigund), Mughal Road, Bandipora-Gurez Road, and Patnitop routes as critical areas of focus requiring special focus. Ensuring uninterrupted supply chains for LPG, petroleum and essential commodities was identified as a priority area.

BRO, NHIDCL and PWD (R&B) highlighted the availability of snow cutters, dozers and graders to maintain road connectivity. Besides, SMC and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) presented their readiness to handle city roads with 422 machines including de-watering pumps and de-icing materials.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised the need for inter departmental coordination and directed all the Deputy Commissioners to monitor ground level operations through virtual meetings regularly.

The Divisional Commissioners presented PowerPoint summaries of their respective regions showcasing the available infrastructure, personnel and strategies to tackle heavy snowfall.

The Deputy Chief Minister commended the officials for their proactive approach and directed the departments to ensure prompt road clearance and adequate stockpiling of essential supplies such as de-icing salt, urea and fuel.

“This winter preparedness plan is vital to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. It is our collective responsibility to ensure uninterrupted services and timely response to emergencies,” the Deputy Chief Minister maintained.

Govt increases

meeting of PDD and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

“Recently, some important decisions were taken by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah regarding the electricity issues in Jammu and Kashmir. We have implemented those decisions to reduce the power cuts,” the official said.

He said, “KPDCCL was receiving 1500 MWs of power and now it has been further increased to 1600-1650 MWs to address the unscheduled and distress power cuts. The same amount of power is already being supplied.”

About the status of installation of smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir, the official said that “Over 6.5 Lakh smart meters have already been installed.”

“There is a program to implement the smart meters in the rest of the places across Jammu and Kashmir. Work has been already tendered and the process is going on. Roughly, both the regions have equally smart metering,” he said.

Earlier, KNO had reported that KPDCCL had requested for more power to reduce the issues of distress and unscheduled power cuts in Kashmir.

A top official had informed that the demand for power has increased significantly from the past two weeks and requires extra electricity to overcome it.

It had also said, “As of the, the unrestricted demand of electricity including the ongoing power curtailment schedule has reached 2600-2700 Megawatts. However, as of now we have only 1450 MW of power.”

Centre sanctions

in Ganderbal Town, particularly during the peak tourism season and the annual Amarnath Yatra. "It will ease traffic congestion during the Amarnath Yatra via Baltal and will also be beneficial for army convoys," they said.

They said the highway will enhance connectivity to Bandipora through Sumbal, as well as to popular tourist destinations like Sonmarg and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Local transport operators are optimistic about the project.

Mohammad Ashraf, a bus driver in Ganderbal, said, “The four-lane highway will make transportation much more efficient. It will reduce travel time, allowing us to cater to more passengers and improve our livelihood. This is a huge relief for the transport community.”

Farooq Ahmad, a hotel owner near the highway, said, “The improved road will not only make travel easier but will also bring more tourists, which is great for local businesses. This project is a significant step forward for Ganderbal.”

Surge In

owners and travel agents, who spoke with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said.

The hotel owners from Kashmir's famous tourist destinations and tour and travel agents said the bookings for the New Year celebration in the valley have been sold out at Gulmarg. They, however, said the bookings for Christmas at the ski resort and other places remain significantly lower, as is the case with other favourite destinations.

A hotel owner at Gulmarg said the bookings for New Year have been all packed. "Not even a single room is left vacant," he said, adding that for Christmas, the bookings are open and very low this year.

At the famous destination - Pahalgam, a hotel owner said they have witnessed a good response for New Year bookings. He also said Christmas reservations have been limited. Similar views were expressed by many other hoteliers in Pahalgam.

At Sonamarg, a hotel owner said they have seen very low bookings this year for both festivals. “We are observing nearly 70 to 80% occupancy for the holiday period, which is lower than previous years,” he said.

Meanwhile, Doodhpathri has also experienced a rise in visitors following the recent snowfall. "A hotel owner at Doodhpathri said footfall at the destination is expected to increase further during Christmas and New Year celebrations,” he said.

Several other tour and travel agents said Gulmarg and Pahalgam have been sold out for New Year.

Houseboats are vacant; however, their owners expect them to be packed for New Year festivities.

The recent snowfall at tourist destinations has added to the festive spirit, with authorities hoping for a rise in bookings across all destinations as the holidays draw closer.

Speaker LA, Edu

on the importance of education in building a bright future for our next generation. He remarked that education is the cornerstone of development of any society and by investing in education, we are laying foundation for a brighter tomorrow for our children.

The Speaker called upon the students to make best use of this newly inaugurated Library block. He also called upon the students as well as locals of Charar-i- Sharief that apart from education they should also take part in extracurricular activities as sports is emerging as key profession in current day world.

Speaking on occasion, Sakeena Itoo remarked that our government led by dynamic Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is committed towards welfare of common masses. “Our Government is determined to ensure that every citizen, regardless of where they live, has access to opportunities that will lead to their prosperity and progress”, Sakeena said.

The Minister, on the occasion, called upon the Principal of college and faculty members to address the reasons leading to shortfall in roll of students in the college. She also advised the students to take best use of inaugurated library block as well as indoor sports facility.

Sakeena Itoo also asked the Director Colleges to look out the feasibility of providing college bus to the institution as the college as student flow from several far off areas.

She also asked the Director Health Services to establish a first aid unit in the college premises for the welfare of students.

The Minister, in her address, assured the College administration, students and public that the issues raised during the interaction will be addressed by concerned quarters promptly.

Later, the Speaker along with the Minister visited SDH Charar-i- Sharief and SDH Pakherpora and took stock of medical care services available for the locals.

They inspected different wards of facilities and also interacted with doctors and paramedics on the occasion.

They also interacted with patients and their attendants and took onspot feedback from them about the services being provided at the facilities.

Govt to regulate

A rate list similar to that of government hospitals will be prepared and made public to ensure patients are not fleeced.”

In addition, Itoo, according to news agency KINS, addressed concerns about schools charging excessive fees.

She urged parents to file formal complaints if schools are found overcharging, assuring action would be taken. “We need proper complaints to act against schools that exploit students with high fees,” she said.

Mother of SIKMS Negwa President and GR Beg Memorial Trust Chairman passes away

Condolences expressed by political, social and journalistic organizations

SRINAGAR: The mother of GR Beg Memorial Trust founder and renowned Negwa SIKMS President Ishtiaq Ahmed Baig passed away on Saturday. The deceased was committed to good character and prayers. All the prominent personalities of the valley, political leaders, political, religious, business and journalistic organizations and others condoled with Baig Memorial Trust Chairman Ishtiaq Ahmed Baig on the death of her mother, terming the deceased as committed to good character and prayers and prayed to Allah Almighty for her forgiveness. The funeral rites of the deceased will be performed on the fourth Tuesday at 11 am at her ancestral tomb in Kundewor, Islamia College Haul.



Meanwhile, the journalistic community of the valley has also expressed condolences to Ishtiaq Baig's mother on her passing and prayed for her forgiveness.

Govt forms

Secretary (Administration), Deputy Secretary (Services), Deputy Secretary (Monitoring), and Under Secretary (Monitoring). The committee's primary task will be to monitor and review the referral of gazetted vacancies and the DPC process on a weekly basis, ensuring timely and accurate administration.

The committee is also mandated to submit weekly reports for further appraisal by the relevant authorities.

This initiative aims to streamline the promotion process and improve efficiency within the administrative departments.

Delayed DPCs

their distress over the absence of career progression opportunities, with no promotions granted for the past ten years. They claim that higher officials have ignored their pleas, turning a blind eye to the issue and causing immense frustration among the workforce.

Departmental sources reveal that nearly 200 Leading Firemen have completed mandatory fire-fighting courses in Nagpur, making them eligible for the position of Sub Officers. However, despite the presence of vacant positions and an increasing number of trained firefighters each year, their promotions have been indefinitely delayed.

The situation is dire across the Union territory. Officials said three major districts of North Kashmir including and three districts of South Kashmir are being run by a single Assistant Director while each district should have been led by one Assistant Director. In an ideal setup, each district headquarter station should have an Assistant Director, followed by a Divisional Fire Officer, Station Officer, Sub Officers, and other supporting staff.

However, even the Headquarters lacks a Sub Officer, let alone other fire stations. One fire-fighter, eligible for promotion to the Sub Officer position, laments waiting for over a decade to move up the ranks. These stations are currently managed by either selection grade fire-fighters or Hawaldars, both of whom lack the qualifications to serve as station in-charges.

According to regulations, a Sub Officer should assume this role, but due to a lack of promotions, qualified candidates are left waiting, while lower-ranking officers run the stations.

The firemen of the 2010 batch are eligible to be promoted as Selection Grade in 2020 but even after three years they are waiting for getting promoted.

The Selection Grade Firemen of 1998 batch are waiting from the past more than one decade to become a Hawaldar but they are still working as Selection grade officials.

The Hawaldars 1991 batch should have been sub officers ten years ago but they are still working as Hawaldars when they should have been Divisional Fire Officers.

At-least 300 employees including Firemen and Selection grade firemen were asked to sit in exams for promotion to next level in vide order no DF&ES/Estt/DPC/01/2021-02-CC-61393 dated 29th December 2021 and results are still awaited even after about three years.

Surprisingly in the entire north Kashmir and Ganderbal, there is only one station officer (Inspector) who is yet not confirmed as he is working as 'in-charge' and not confirmed yet.

The prolonged absence of promotions and the resulting staffing crisis within the Fire Services Department are raising concerns about the department's ability to ensure public safety and respond effectively to fire emergencies.

Official sources said the severe crisis in career progression has taken a toll on the mental health of the employees. “Even our children taunt us for stagnation as we retire in the same grade where we were recruited,” they added.

“We fail to understand that if there are posts available in the department, why are we not being promoted? We are being punished for unknown reasons?” officials added.

Efforts must be made to address this issue promptly, ensuring that deserving fire fighters are recognized and given the career advancement opportunities they deserve, while adequately staffing fire stations for the safety of communities they serve.

The aggrieved employees have appealed to The Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to personally look into the matter and review the functioning of the department so that their issues are resolved. “We are sure once the Lieutenant Governor takes stock of the situation, our issue will be resolved,” they said.

The official version of the story is currently unavailable. Attempts to reach out to Director F&ES Alok Kumar and Deputy Director Raj Kumar Raina proved futile. However, once we receive the official statement, the news will be promptly updated on the Online Version.

از خیابان بانڈی پورہ
عنوان درخواست منجاب: عبدالمجید سامون ولد عبدالحزیز سامون ساکنہ
اتر بغرض حصول ایس ٹی سرٹیفکیٹ بحق فریڈیا جمیہ وطنیزہ جمیہ
اشتہار ہمبر ادا گاہی ہر خاص عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں کاغذات سائل نسبت حصول سند ایس ٹی سرٹیفکیٹ
مذکورہ دفتر نمائش زیر کار دانی ہے۔
اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو سات دن کے اندر یوم دفتر پڑا میں اپنا
اعتراض پیش کریں مبعیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Aadhar Card bearing Registration No 4575 8008 1489, my name and parantege has been Wrongly mentioned as Shayista Bano, D/O Bashir Ahmad wani, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Maryeema Bashir D/O Bashir Ahmad Ganie. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Maryeema Bashir.
LD/O Bashir Ahmad Ganie.
R/O Guzarbal Bonakoot Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Aadhar Card bearing Registration No 4575 8008 1489, my name and parantege has been Wrongly mentioned as Shayista Bano, D/O Bashir Ahmad wani, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Maryeema Bashir D/O Bashir Ahmad Ganie. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Maryeema Bashir.
LD/O Bashir Ahmad Ganie.
R/O Guzarbal Bonakoot Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Daughter has been Wrongly mentioned in her School Records as 05-08-2013, while as her actual and correct DOB is 05-06-2012, Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Al - Misbah public school Papchan Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mushtaq Ahmad Joo.
F/O Ayesha.
R/O Papchan Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Mother's name of my Ward's has been Mistakenly entered in his school records as Sameena Begum, while as his Actual and correct Mother's name is Samina Jan, Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Headmaster GOVT Girls Middle school Quil with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Manzoor Ahmad Gojar Turk.
F/O Momin Gojar Turk.
R/O Quilmuqam Tehsil Alooosa District Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216010063243, which is Registered in the name of Bilal Ahmad Dar S/O Ghulam Ahmad Dar R/O Shop at New District Hospital Bandipora. Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Rayees Ahmad Mir S/O Mohammad Shafi Mir, in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rayees Ahmad Mir.
S/O Mohammad Shafi Mir.
R/O Shop at New District Hospital Bandipora.

India defeat Japan 3-1 to enter Women's Junior Asia Cup hockey final

Defending champions India asserted their dominance with a 3-1 victory over Japan to secure a place in the final of the Women's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Saturday.

Mumtaz Khan (4th), Sakshi Rana (5th), Deepika (13th) were on target in the first quarter, while Niko Maruyama scored a consolation goal for Japan in the 23rd minute.

It was a one-way traffic for the Jyoti Singh-led India in the opening quarter after Sunelita Toppo foiled Japan's drag-flick opportunity by making a quick run to intercept a threatening ball in the second minute of play.

India took the lead two minutes later by capitalising on a defensive error. A move from the right flank saw the Japanese defenders and goalkeeper advance to intercept the forwards, but the ball was quickly relayed to an unmarked Mumtaz Khan, who deftly pushed it into an empty goal.

A minute later Sakshi Rana was on target, scoring another field goal to put the defending champions 2-0 up.

India's relentless attacks saw the midfield stitch another splendid move in the seventh minute but the forwards fumbled inside the circle.

India seemed to have learnt a lesson from their loss to China in a group game, as they shifted gears quickly to launch counterattacks and catch the opponents off-guard.

With two minutes remaining in the first quarter, India earned a penalty stroke, which Deepika converted to make it 3-0.

Japan were more resolute in the second



quarter as they broke into the rival circle on a few occasions but were thwarted by a stout defence.

Japanese goalkeeper Saito Miaki made a brilliant save to deny India their fourth goal in the 22nd minute and then pulled off another superb rescue act to thwart the rivals' effort from a penalty corner.

The Japanese finally got their much-deserved opening goal on the counter to reduce the margin in the 23rd minute before coming close to unnerving India at the fag end of the second quarter.

However, India too continued to make frequent forays into the rival half, mostly from the right flank but the Japanese defence frustrated them with swift clearance as the teams went into half-time with the defending champions leading 3-1.

Rattled by Japan's fight-back in the second quarter, India were more cautious after the break, which saw their defence being tested in the 34th and 42nd minute.

The final quarter was a nervy affair for India with goalkeeper Nidhi making back-to-back saves in the 46th minute as Japan looked to stage a comeback.

India will take on the winner of the second semi-final between China and South Korea in the title showdown.

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Swepson retains hope of Sri Lanka tour place as focus turns to BBL

Mitchell Swepson is eyeing the BBL as his last chance to push for a Test return in Sri Lanka, with Australia's hopefuls left to make their case with the white ball.

Swepson and Brisbane Heat team-mate Matt Kuhnemann are vying to be on the plane to Sri Lanka in January, with two Tests on the spin-friendly Galle wicket.

Australia's domestic schedule means that by the time of the next Sheffield Shield game, the second and final Test in Galle will have already started.

While Nathan Lyon will be the first-choice spinner, Sixers spinner Todd Murphy is expected to join him as a second offspinner.

Kuhnemann, Swepson and Melbourne Renegades' Adam Zampa then loom as options if Australia play a third spinner, given their ability to turn the ball the other way.

Melbourne Stars pair Glenn Maxwell and Beau Webster could also find themselves on the tour, given they can play as offspinning allrounders.

Webster has been released from Australia's Test camp to play in Sunday night's BBL opener against Perth, while Maxwell is still out with a hamstring injury.

"Playing for Australia is always the goal I am striving for and while I'm not sure how many spinners they are going to take on that tour I would love to be a part of it," Swepson told AAP ahead of the Heat's title defence. "All the Shield games are done now [until February] and the BBL is all we have in front of us."

"I'm not sure they will pick blokes based on the BBL but bowling well in any format helps."

Swepson and Kuhnemann both have Test experience on the subcontinent, with Swepson playing previously in Sri Lanka and Pakistan in 2022. He didn't play on Australia's last trip to Asia in 2023, with Kuhnemann instead impressing in that year's Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Swepson has 17 wickets in the Shield for Queensland this summer and Kuhnemann has 18 for Tasmania.

Swepson, 31, said he was a better bowler now than when he played Test cricket in 2022.



Two-day sports event for Children staying in Child Care Institutions in Pulwama district Concluded at Pampore

Bilal Habib

PAMPORE: A two-day sports event for children residing in Child Care Institutions across Pulwama district concluded at Iqbal Ground, Tanchibagh, Pampore with different sports activities. The event was organized by the District Child Protection Unit under Mission Vatsalya Pulwama, in collaboration with the Zonal Physical Education Department, Pampore.



The concluding ceremony was graced by Naib Tehsildar Pampore, Iftikhar Ahmad, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee Pulwama, Arshid Rahim Naik, Zonal Sports Officer Masrat Hussain Andrabi, TSWO Pampore Irshad Maqbool, and Protection Officers Tawseef Ahmad and Karnal Zuhaib Hassan. Several officials from various departments and representatives of Child Care Institutions were also present on the occasion.

Around 70 students actively participated in the two-day sports event, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm.

The event was inaugurated on Thursday by Tehsildar Pampore Malik Asif Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer Pulwama Azhar Amin, in the presence of other officials.

This initiative focuses on children who fall under the category of "children in need of care and protection" as defined by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. These children are currently residing in various Child Care Institutions in Pulwama district, officials said.

The aim of the event is to provide these children with opportunities to engage in sports activities of their choice, promoting their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Organizers emphasized the importance of such events in building confidence, fostering teamwork, and ensuring holistic development among these children.

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