

## Anti-Corruption court Pulwama convicts five in fake teacher appointment case

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A Pulwama anti-corruption court on Tuesday convicted five individuals in a decades-old case involving a fraudulent government teacher appointment, sentencing them to jail terms and fines for corruption and forgery. In a statement, a spokesperson said in a significant verdict reinforcing the commitment to combat corruption, the Hon'ble Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Pulwama, Dr. Noor Mohammad Mir, convicted 1. Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh S/O Assad Sheikh R/O Dadsar Tral, 2. Bashir Ahmad Shah S/O Wali Mohd Shah R/O Dadsar Tral, 3. Syed Showkeen Andrabbi S/O Syed Sharief Andrabbi R/O Chandgam Nownagri Pulwama, 4. Mohammad Ashraf Khan S/O Ab. Aziz Khan R/O Naina, Batpora and 5. Hamida Akhter D/O Ghulam Ahmad Salroo R/O Bijbehara accused in Criminal Case titled "State of J&K (Now UT of J&K) through P/S VOK (Now ACB) V/S Assad Ullah Lone and Ors", covered by Case FIR No. 110/1998 U/S



5(2) read with 5(1)(d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Sec 468 r/w 471, 120-B/RPC of P/S VOK (Now ACB). He said, the accused persons were found guilty under Sections 5(2) read with 5(1)(d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, and Sec 468 r/w 471, 120-B/RPC, for fake appointment of accused No (06) Hamida Akhter D/O Ghulam Ahmad Salroo R/O Bijbehara as teacher in Govt High School Goripora in District Pulwama. "On 15-09-1998, P/S VOK (now ACB) received information from reliable sources to the effect that one Hamida Akhter

D/O Ghulam Ahmad Salroo R/O Bijbehara has been working fraudulently on the post of teacher in Govt High School Goripora District Pulwama," said the spokesperson. He said, the fraud and fake appointment of accused No (06) has been possible due to criminal involvement of accused Nos 01 to 05 (Accused No 01, namely Assad Ullah Lone now expired). "On receipt of this information Case FIR No. 110/1998 U/S 5(2) read with 5(1)(d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Sec 468 r/w 471, 120-B/RPC was registered in P/S

VOK (Now ACB)." The spokesperson said, after thorough investigation, Charge sheet was filed on October 14, 2000 and the case proceeded for judicial determination in the Hon'ble Court. On March 31, 2026, the Hon'ble Court delivered the judgment, sentencing the accused:- For offence under section 5 (2) r/w 5 (1) (d) of J&K P.C. Act Svt 2006 to simple imprisonment for five (05) years and a fine of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only). "In default of payment of fine, they shall undergo simple imprisonment for a further one (01) year. -For offence under section 468 RPC r/w 471 RPC and 120-B RPC the above named convicts are sentenced to Simple imprisonment for five (05) years and a fine of Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only)." He said, in default of fine, further simple imprisonment for three (03) months. -For offence under Section 420 RPC the convicts are sentenced to simple imprisonment for three (03) years and a fine of

R.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only). "In default of fine, further simple imprisonment for three (03) months and the convicts namely Mohammad Ashraf Khan S/O Ab. Aziz Khan R/O Naina, Batpora and Hamida Akhter D/O Ghulam Ahmad Salroo R/O Bijbehara are sentenced; -For offence under section 120-B RPC r/w 5 (2) of J&K P.C Act Svt 2006, 468 RPC r/w 471 RPC to simple imprisonment for five (05) years and a fine of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only). In default of payment of fine, they shall undergo simple imprisonment for a further one (01) year. -For offence under section 420 RPC the said convicts are sentenced to simple imprisonment for three (03) years and a fine of R.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only). He further added, this conviction marks another milestone in the Anti-Corruption Bureau's ongoing efforts to uphold integrity and accountability in public service.

## ACB refutes paper leak claims in fire services recruitment, says probe ongoing

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday dismissed claims circulating on social media about a paper leak in the Fire Services recruitment examination, stating that no such conclusion has been reached so far. It said the investigation is still underway and cautioned aspirants against relying on unverified information, adding that any action taken at this stage is based on preliminary evidence and due legal procedure. In a statement, a spokesperson said it has come to notice that certain social media platforms, particularly the handle "J&K Services Selection Board Aspirants," are circulating claims suggesting that the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has confirmed a paper leak in the Fire Services recruitment examination and that the Government has taken action against only 106 candidates while leaving others untouched. "These claims are misleading and not based on officially established facts. It is hereby clarified that the ACB has not confirmed any paper

leak at this stage. The matter is currently under investigation, and no final conclusions have been drawn by the competent authorities," said the spokesperson. He said, any assertion presenting the investigation as a confirmed finding is premature and inaccurate. Further, the identification of a specific number of candidates is part of an ongoing and evolving investigative process. "Actions such as cancellation of candidature or other administrative measures are taken strictly on the basis of prima facie evidence available at a given stage and in accordance with due legal procedures. This should not be misconstrued as the investigation being limited in scope or excluding other potential findings," said the spokesperson. He said, the public and aspirants are advised to exercise caution and refrain from relying on unverified or partial information circulating on social media. Official updates and verified communications from competent authorities should be treated as the only authentic source of information. Issued in public interest.

## Veteran DIPR Artist Hilal Ahmad Mattoo retires

**SRINAGAR:** Joint Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Kashmir today bid a heartfelt farewell to its veteran artist and senior official, Hilal Ahmad Mattoo, on his superannuation. On the occasion, a grand farewell function was organized at Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir, where officers and officials gathered in large numbers to bid him a warm send-off. Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnavaz Bukhari, congratulated Mattoo on his retirement and praised his distinguished service. Deputy Director Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq Zullah appreciated the retiring official for his dedicated service even in odd times. Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain also extended his best wishes to Mattoo for a successful and fulfilling post-retirement life. Speaking on the occasion, AECO, Syed Shakeel Shan lauded Mattoo for his unwavering dedication and commitment to duty. He said that retiring official had always performed his responsibilities with sincerity and professionalism, rising to the occasion whenever his services were required under all circumstances. In his farewell address, Hilal Ahmad Mattoo fondly recalled his long and fulfilling career, describing it as a "golden period" marked by learning, service, and memorable experiences. Colleagues and officers present at the function appreciated his valuable contributions to the department, particularly in promoting cultural activities and performing arts across the region. They offered prayers for his good health, happiness, and prosperity in the years ahead.

## JKEDI Baramulla launches several Developmental Programmes under RAMP

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BARAMULLA:** In an effort to foster sustainable enterprise growth, the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Baramulla, today launched a series of developmental programmes under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme. While conducting an Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) at ITI Pattan, JKEDI has simultaneously commenced its 6-day, 30-hour Management Development Programme (MDP), Batch-VIII, at ITI Baramulla. A total of 54 participants, including both male and female candidates, have enrolled in the programmes,



with 32 participants in ESDP and 22 in MDP. The programmes are designed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills in key areas such as entrepreneurship development, business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, awareness of government schemes, and critical soft skills required for sustainable enterprise development. The programmes were formally inaugurated by the ITI Superintendents, Er. Showkat Ahmad and Er. Javed Ahmad and is being coordinated by faculty members under the overall guidance of Imtiyaz Ahad, JKEDI District Centre Baramulla.

## Div Com Office Bids Farewell to Deputy Director Planning (E&S) on his transfer

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The officers and officials of the Divisional Commissioner's Office Kashmir today organized a farewell ceremony to bid adieu to the Deputy Director (E&S), Ashiq Hussain Malik on the occasion of his transfer. The programme was presided over by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, and was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Central, OSD to Div Com, Law Officer, Private Secretary to Div Com, Section Officer, and other officers and officials from subordinate offices. Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner extended his best wishes to the Deputy Director Planning and lauded him for rendering nearly six years of dedicated service in the office with an unblemished record of integrity, efficiency, expediency, and punctuality.



He urged all participants to draw inspiration from the officer's sense of responsibility, commitment, and work ethic. The Deputy Director Planning also shared his experiences and time spent in the office and expressed gratitude to the Divisional Commissioner and other staff members for their support and cooperation. Other officers, including the ACC, OSD, Section Officer, and Private Secretary, also extended their best wishes to the officer and prayed for his continued success in future professional assignments and life.

## NIT Srinagar secures patent for AI-IoT Based Smart Hamaam system

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a major technological breakthrough, the National Institute of Technology Srinagar has secured a patent for an innovative system aimed at modernising the traditional Hamaam through artificial intelligence and Internet of Things (IoT)-based automation. The patented invention, titled "An Automated Temperature Control System for Underfloor Heating," has been developed by Dr. Saniya Zahoor, Dr. Shabir A. Sofi, and Syed Farmaan Ali from the Department of Information Technology and Engineering. Traditional Hamaam, widely used in Kashmir and other cold regions, has long served as an essential source of indoor heating during harsh winters. However, conventional systems require continuous manual monitoring and often lead to inefficient fuel use. The new system addresses these limitations by combin-



ing smart technologies with traditional heating. The system continuously monitors environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, and wind speed to ensure optimal performance. An AI-driven module determines fuel requirements dynamically, activating the fuel feed mechanism as needed to

optimise energy use and minimise wastage. The system also features a controlled ignition unit and a motorised ash-removal mechanism, ensuring cleaner and more efficient operation. Additionally, it enables precise temperature and humidity control based on user preferences and ambient conditions. Officials said the innovation significantly reduces human intervention while enhancing operational efficiency, safety, and user comfort. The AI-enabled system is expected to improve the overall heating experience while promoting sustainable energy use. The development marks a significant contribution by NIT Srinagar in leveraging advanced technology to solve region-specific challenges. With its focus on automation, efficiency, and sustainability, the patented system has the potential to transform traditional heating practices in cold climates. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said the patent reflects the insti-

tute's commitment to innovation rooted in local needs. "Integrating artificial intelligence with traditional systems like the Hamaam demonstrates how technology can preserve cultural practices while enhancing efficiency, safety, and sustainability," he said. In her message, In-charge Director and Dean Research and Consultancy, Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir said such initiatives encourage faculty and students to develop indigenous technologies tailored to local requirements. It further strengthens NIT Srinagar's role as a hub of impactful and socially relevant research," she said. Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, said that innovation is a significant step towards developing smart, energy-efficient solutions for cold regions. "Such research-driven advancements not only address real-world challenges but also strengthen the institute's contribution to technological progress and sustainable development," he added.

## Tawi incident: Mahasabha condoles tragic loss of three students

**ANANTNAG:** The Employees Mahasabha Martand Anantnag has expressed deep grief over the tragic drowning of three students in the River Tawi near Dhok Waziran, Nagrota. The victims, identified as Sonam Dutt, Bavish Koul, and Aditya Pandit, were young students from Jagti Township whose untimely demise has left the community in shock. In a statement, the Mahasabha conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, praying for strength and courage to bear this immense loss. The organization described the incident as a tragic reminder of the importance of water safety and urged authorities to take necessary measures to prevent such accidents in the future. The Mahasabha also called upon the local community to come together and support the families during this difficult time, emphasizing solidarity and compassion in the face of such a devastating event.

## Srinagar Police accord warm send-off to retiring officers

**SRINAGAR:** Police organized a farewell ceremony to honour thirteen retiring officers - Sub-Inspectors Mohd. Maqbool, Mohd. Yaqoob, Riyaz Ahmad Gashro, Mohd Assadullah, Rajinder Singh, Dara Singh, Mohammad Amin Dar, Ab. Qayoom, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat and Gh Rasool Zargar and Assistant Sub-Inspectors Ali Mohammad Najar, Mohd. Yousof Ganie and Ab. Rashid Shah - at the District Police Lines, Srinagar. All the officers have rendered years of dedicated and commendable service to the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. G.V. Sundep Chakravarthy, IPS, lauded the Retirees for their unwavering commitment, professionalism, and integrity throughout their careers.

## SWD Srinagar continues Educational Kit Distribution Drive

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** On the second consecutive day of its ongoing outreach initiative, the Social Welfare Department (SWD)- SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar continued its efforts to promote education and support underprivileged sections of society by distributing educational kits among girl students at Government Boys Middle School, Moti Mohalla Kalan Dal, and Government Girls Middle School, Latti Mohalla Dal. The initiative aims to encourage girl students to actively pursue their education by providing essential learning materials, thereby reducing barriers to access and enhancing academic participation. The distributed kits comprised basic educational supplies necessary for dai-

ly school activities, helping create a more supportive and resourceful learning environment. Officials from the SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar reiterated the importance of empowering girls through education and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that no child is deprived of learning opportunities due to financial constraints. They emphasized that sustained efforts like these are crucial in fostering inclusivity and strengthening the education system at the grassroots level. School authorities expressed their sincere appreciation for the department's continued support, describing the initiative as a significant and impactful step toward improving the educational experience of students in need.

## DC Athar reviews progress of 125-Bedded District Hospital, 100-Bedded CCU

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BUDGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the under-construction 125-bedded state-of-the-art District Hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Reshipora, Budgam. At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the physical and financial progress achieved so far on both major healthcare projects. Emphasizing the critical importance of timely completion, he directed all executing agencies and concerned departments to further accelerate the pace of work while strictly adhering to quality standards. The DC underscored that these flagship projects are of immense public significance and are poised to transform



the healthcare delivery system in the district. He noted that upon completion, these facilities will substantially enhance the district's capacity to provide specialized and critical care services locally. While reviewing the progress, the DC expressed satisfaction over the pace of work on the ground and appreciated the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders. He reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring that both projects are completed well within the stipulated timelines. The DC stated that the upcoming District Hospital, equipped with modern infrastructure and advanced medical facilities, will significantly reduce the referral burden

on tertiary care hospitals and ensure quality healthcare services within the district. The 100-bedded CCU, he added, will play a pivotal role in managing emergency and critical cases, thereby improving patient outcomes. The DC emphasized that the District Administration, in close coordination with the Health and R&B Departments, is closely monitoring the progress of works on a regular basis. During the meeting, the DC also directed the concerned departments to initiate and expedite the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for essential allied infrastructure, including transmission lines, oxygen plant, electrical works, PHE pipelines, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), and other allied works to ensure seamless functionality of both healthcare facilities upon completion. "Our focus remains on ensuring timely and quality completion of these vital healthcare projects. Every aspect is being closely monitored so that these facilities are dedicated to the public ahead of schedule, significantly strengthening healthcare delivery in Budgam," the DC said. The DC also directed officers to maintain strict adherence to timelines, ensure optimal utilization of resources, and enforce accountability at all levels. He stressed the need for sustained on-ground supervision to achieve smooth and accelerated progress. The meeting was attended by SE R&B, Circle Budgam, Iram Lone, CPO Budgam, CMO Budgam, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Budgam, Executive Engineers, AEEs, and representatives of executing agencies.