

WULAR WONDER!

A GROUP OF 5 DUCKS WERE SEEN FORAGING in Wular lake by field officials of WUCMA and they recorded its details on their field book and captured pictures as well.”

Long-Tailed Duck Sighted In Kashmir After 84 Years

Auqib Javeed

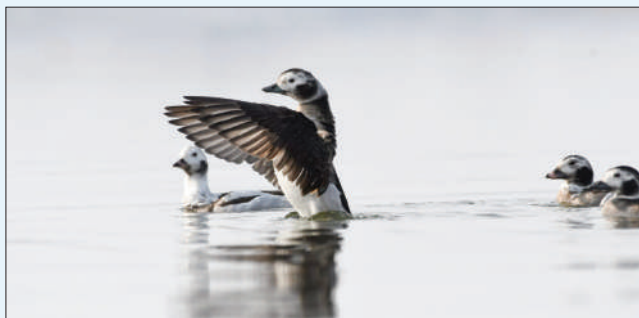
Srinagar: After a gap of 84 years, a rare duck species has been found in Wular lake—Asia's largest fresh lake, bringing cheers to bird enthusiasts in the Kashmir Valley.

The long-tailed duck, *Clangula hyemalis*, a rare duck species, was spotted by the field officials of Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) on 22 January, an official told Kashmir Observer. The duck is found in

European and American continents and assessed as highly vulnerable on the IUCN Red list.

“A group of 5 ducks were seen foraging in Wular lake by field officials of WUCMA and they recorded its details on their field book and captured pictures as well,” said an official.

The WUCMA then shared the pictures with ornithologists for identification and it was discovered that the birds are in fact, rare migrants known as Long Tailed Duck, said Irfan Rasool Wani,



Conservator WUCMA.

He said that they expect more species in the lake in coming

weeks as they have cleared a

major portion of the lake.

“The fresh water gives the

migratory birds more surface area of water. So the more we restore the lake, more birds will arrive,” Wani said.

He further added that the duck was spotted near the Banyari area of the district Bandipora.

The Wular lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes of Asia having area 130 Sq km. The WCM is working on the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of Wular Lake.

“The lake has a silt and willow infestation problem which

is being mitigated by carrying out large scale earth excavation and willow removals,” said the officials.

As per official figures, an area of 4.5 sq km has been restored out of 27 sq kms. The work on remaining 22 is going on. The project is being executed in a phased manner.

In 2018, the UT administration had sanctioned Rs 200-crore Wular Action Plan for the conservation and management of the lake.

The official said **More on P6**

Panel To Probe Illegal Appointments In IMPARD



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory administration on Monday constituted a Committee to probe the appointment of faculty members in Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JKIMPARD) in “violation of rules”.

Headed by Financial Commissioner Chairman (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, the members of the committee include Director General, J&K Institute of Public Management, Administration and Rural Development, Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Director General (Codes), Finance Department, according to an order.

“The Committee shall also enquire into the reasons for not previously reporting to the Government the irregular appointments of the faculty members in the Institute, which pre-date the term of the current Director General.”

Besides, it has been asked to enquire the number of meetings of the Governing Council required to be held under norms vis-à-vis the actual number of meetings held over the last five years and whether the matter involving “irregular appointments” was ever brought to the notice of the members of the Governing Council.

“The Committee shall also evaluate overall functioning of the IMPARD Over the last five years and submit its recommendations for improving work/academic environment, management efficiencies and institutional integrity on sustainable basis,” the order reads, the copy of which is with Global News Service, adding, **More on P6**

Tight Security In Kashmir Ahead Of R-Day



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Security has been tightened in Kashmir ahead of Republic Day celebrations with police and other security personnel carrying out sanitisation and area domination exercises here, officials said on Monday.

Police and CRPF personnel conducted random checking of vehicles at various places in the city to thwart the movement of subversive elements, they said.

The officials said the security

has been tightened in view of the blasts in Jammu as well as a blast here and other upcoming events.

“We have Republic Day dress rehearsal tomorrow and the main function on Thursday. We will ensure that everything is smooth,” a police official overseeing the frisking operation said.

A civilian sustained injuries in a grenade attack carried out by militants in the Eidgah area of the city Sunday evening. Back-to-back blasts had rocked the Narwal area in Jammu on **More on P6**



An artist busy weaving gold and silver threads into a silk pheran, while a passerby looks at his work through a glass frame in the Old City of Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

In Jammu, Rahul Gandhi Promises Fight For J&K's Statehood

Agencies

Jammu: On the 129th day of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader and Member Parliament Rahul Gandhi Monday said that demand for statehood is Jammu and Kashmir's biggest issue and the Congress party will use “full power” to get it restored.

“I have covered more than 3000 kilometers. During the yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, I have met a cross section of people from the last few days and



let me tell you that during my conversation with them, I was informed that statehood for J&K is the biggest issue **More on P6**

Yatra Begins for Kashmir today

Rahul Gandhi on Monday paid obeisance at Jammu's famous Raghunath Temple, soon after his Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the city of temples. Rahul, who was accompanied by senior party leaders, was garlanded by **More on P6**

Widespread Snowfall Likely From Jan 24: MeT

Mercury Falls, Minus In 9.6°C In Gulmarg

ONS

Srinagar: As Kashmir valley awaits snowfall and rains by the meteorological department, the minimum temperature fell below freezing point in the valley on Monday, officials said.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.4°C against last night's 1.0°C. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was 1.1°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of minus 1.0°C against 0.2°C on the previous night and



it was 2.9°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of minus 4.7°C against minus 6.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.8°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south

Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.7°C against minus 1.9°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of

minus 9.6°C against minus 6.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at minus 2.9°C against minus 0.5°C on the previous night and it was normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 6.5°C against 7.1°C on the previous night. It was 0.5°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 2.4°C (above normal by 2.7°C), Batote 2.1°C (below normal by 0.7°C), Katra 6.2°C (0.2°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 2.0°C (3.3°C above normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 12.6°C and minus **More on P6**

Rahul Look-Alike Steals The Show At BJJ

Donning a white T-shirt, Rahul Gandhi's look-alike-- Faisal Chaudhary-- has become another attraction of Bharat Jodo Yatra, as people ask him to get photos and videos clicked with them. Faisal, who hogs the social media in Jammu and Kashmir says people who are unable to meet and click pictures with Rahul Gandhi, take pictures with him. Faisal is the most 'clicked' **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

Two IEDs Destroyed In Rajouri

Two IEDs were destroyed in a controlled explosion in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Monday. The IEDs, or Improvised Explosive Devices, were recovered during a joint operation by police, army, and CRPF from Dassal village, 4 kms from Rajouri town, Sunday evening, the officer said. He said the IEDs were located on an intelligence input. They were destroyed in a controlled explosion by the bomb disposal squad in the Chingus forest area, 30 kms away from the town. Security forces are on high alert across Jammu and Kashmir, where they have intensified checking and strengthened border **More on P6**

Shopian Retrieves 135 Kanal State Land

As part of ongoing anti-encroachment drive, the District Administration here retrieved more than 135 Kanals of land from illegal encroachments at village Pahnoo, an official spokesperson said Monday. The Land, retrieved from illegal encroachment consisted of both state and shamilat. The drive was conducted under the presence of Tehsildar Shopian Fida Mohd Bhat. The District Administration has passed strict directions to all Tehsildars for intensifying the anti-encroachment drives in the district for retrieval of all encroached State/Kahcharie land.

Rahul Pays Obeisance At Raghunath Temple

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday paid obeisance at the Raghunath temple here, soon after his Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the city. He performed a special puja at the shrine, which had come under twin terrorist attacks in 2002. Gandhi, who was accompanied by senior party leaders, was garlanded by the priests at the temple after being welcomed by the president of the Dharmarth Trust, Ajay Gandotra. President of the Trust Dr Karan Singh also welcomed Gandhi to the shrine. Earlier, Gandhi's yatra received a warm welcome as it entered Jammu from the adjoining **More on P6**

Father-Son Held For Stealing In Trains

Government Railway Police (GRP) arrested a father and son for their alleged involvement in theft cases at trains, railway and bus stations, an official said on Monday. The father was identified as Naresh Chandra, a resident of Firozabad and presently living in Madhu Nagar in Agra, and son as Aryan. Talking to PTI, SP Railway Mohammad Mushtaq said, “The father was suspended as a school principal in 2012 in a case of the corruption charges of the scholarship of the students. After that in 2019 he was dismissed from the school on the same charges.” “During the investigation, **More on P6**

LG Calls For Empowerment Of Girls Through Quality Education

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday called for a proactive approach to build a system to empower the girls through quality education and thereby raising their capacity to contribute to nation building.

In his message on National Girl Child Day, the LG urged everyone to step forward and help in empowering the girl child in every possible way.

“If a girl child is empowered, the prosperity of the society is certain. We must



proactively build a system to empower the girl child through quality education and thereby raising their capacity to contribute to the nation building,” Sinha said.

Under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **More on P6**



Ensure Facilities To Devotees On Forthcoming Urs: NC Urges Admin

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference impressed upon District and Divisional administration Kashmir to ensure round the clock facilities to devotees during the annual Urs Observances of Hazrat Habibullah Nowshehri (RA), Hazrat Baba Haji Adhami (RA), and Hazrat Baha Ud Din Ganjbaqsh Kashmiri (RA) at their revered shrines in Nowshehra, and Nowhatta respectively.

In a statement Party

General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar urged the administration to rise up to the occasion and ensure all facilities to devotees on the annual Urs observances at the revered shrines.

The administration he said was duty bound to ensure hassle free Urs observance by providing round the clock transport facilities, drinking water and electricity supply at the revered Shrines. He also urged the administration to ensure public transport on the roads leading to the major shrines.

Two Houses Guttred In Fire Incident

Agencies

Srinagar: Two houses were gutted in the Srinagar fire incident on Monday.

Sources said that a fire broke out in Guzarbal Noor Bagh area of Srinagar old city, resulting in the damage of two residential houses.

Sources added that fire-

fighters, policemen from Safa Kadal police station as well as locals helped in dousing the fire.

The houses belonged to Ghulam Muhammad Khan son of Ghulam Rasool Khan and Fayaz Ahmed Mir son of Ghulam Nabi Mir.

Police have registered a case to investigate the cause of the fire. [KNT]

Status of City Action Plan Under National Clean Air Prog Reviewed

Observer News service

Srinagar: To review the Implementation Status of City Action Plan under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) being carried out to improve Air Quality Index in Srinagar, a meeting of District Implementation Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here.

Besides, Regional Director, Pollution Control Board, Kashmir, Rafi Ahmad Bhat and Scientist B, Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB), Sahil Patel, the meeting was attended by DSP Traffic Police, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, DFO Urban, Chief Sanitation Officer, DFO City Forests, District Floriculture Officer, District Officer Pollution Control Board, ARTO

and other Engineers & Officers from SMC, FCS&CA.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review about the Implementation Status of City Action Plan under National Clean Air Programme(NCAP) being executed in Srinagar aimed at 25% reduction in PM10 levels by 2025 to improve Air Quality Index in the District.

During the meeting other aspects under NCAP were also discussed threadbare including Annual Action Plan with Micro Detailing, Source Apportionment and Emission inventory studies, preparation of Hot Spot Action Plan and Timelines for Preparation of Action plan for 2023-24.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned Officers to develop an Annual Action Plan with Micro Detailing at the earliest.

Dried Up Trees With Low Hanging Twigs Pose ‘Threat’ To life

Have sought detailed report, will go for branch cutting once report is received: Div Com Kashmir

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Damaged and dying Chinar trees with low hanging twigs, sagging dangerously on roads in several areas of the city, that undergo major ‘facelift’ as part of the center’s Smart City mission, poses serious threat to life and property.

Dozens of such trees with branches spread across the main road from Botshah Mohalla Lal Bazar to Kanitar Saderbal have become a cause of concern for the residents living around.

One such example visible at Shalimar-Telbal Chowk speaks volumes about the civic authorities’ ‘negligence’ to wake up to the threat. Locals told Kashmir Observer that dried up Chinar tree at Shalimar-Telbal Chowk not only pose a threat to people, but also act as a stumbling block for smooth traffic movement.

They said the tree with thick trunk having occupied a major portion of the road causes frequent traffic jams in the area while its long uncarved branches have become the cause of worry for everyone including pedestrians, motorists and passengers.

“The area witness’s heavy traffic jams on a daily basis, we brought the issue into the notice of authorities but no serious efforts were made so far. This old tree, whose low hanging branches have never been carved, could prove detrimental for life and property. We appeal to the administration to wake up to the threat so as to make people heave a sigh of relief,” Naushad Ahmad, a Shalimar resident, said.

He said the government spends hundreds of crores to give Srinagar a new look under Smart City plan, however the much hyped project will be of no use until and unless the government pay serious attention to the poor condition of roads and remove all the ‘bottlenecks’ for smooth traffic movement.

“Government no doubt is desperate to develop Srinagar city on modern lines like providing low cost Wi-Fi access points, constructing smart buildings, installing smart LED street lighting; however basic facilities have always been the first priority of the people,” Abdul Rashid, a retired employee from Shalimar said.



mar said.

Habak-Naseem Bagh Road which is some ten kilometers away from city center Lal Chowk is another identified place where old Chinar trees stand tall in row with low hanging branches spread on either side of the road. Locals living around said the presence of these trees causes hours-long traffic jams in the area.

An official who wish not to be named told this newspaper that the prohibitive orders in place prevents authorities to act “these are protected trees and we couldn’t touch them without permission from different departments including Chinar Development Authority and Roads and Buildings department”

He said the authorities are well aware of the issue but couldn’t act till the time proper permission either for branch cutting or permanent axing is granted.

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, P.K Pole told Kashmir Observer that he has already sought a detailed report on all those Chinar trees which causes ‘inconvenience’ to the public.

“We will go for branch cutting as and when a report is received. There are a number of such dry

chinar trees at other places which need attention and we will do that as well. We are also aware of dry chinar trees at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kot-hibagh and we will go for their branch pruning soon,” Pole told Kashmir Observer.

When contacted Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) who also holds additional charges of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City Project, Athar Amir Khan told Kashmir Observer that the issue will be taken up with the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir at the earliest.

He was however quick to add that the Smart City mission is aimed at developing cities on modern lines and not repairing roads and removing trees as the same is the prerogative of the divisional administration.”

The issue highlighted does not come under the domain of Smart City, it is a framework, predominantly composed of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT),” he said adding, “ I will still take up the matter with concerned authorities so that issues confronting people are addressed at the earliest.

DC Conducts Inspection Of SK Cricket Stadium

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with celebration of upcoming Republic Day-2023, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday morning visited SK Cricket Stadium Sonwar to take on site review of the arrangements being put in place by the different departments.

At the outset, the DC along with Officers went around the Stadium pavilion and VIP gallery to have first hand appraisal of the arrangements being made for the events to be held on January 24 (full dress rehearsals) and on January 26 (Republic day).

The DC took onsite review of the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of the Republic Day event.

On the occasion, the DC directed officers of all concerned departments to ensure all preparations regarding various facilities including seating arrangements, cultural programmes, march past parade, transport and parking facilities, power supply, deployment of medical and first aid and fire and emergency teams, installation of PAS. Besides Media management, security related matters and entry of VVIPs, VIPs and other participants were also finalized.



Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Technology & Development Department
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar
M. A. Road Srinagar, J&K 190 001

On Line Expression of Interest (e-EOI)
for
Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Interactive Signage Screens / Kiosks and a Central Management & Signage Solution for J&K BANK

EOI Notice along with Complete Tender document (EOI) outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and Bids can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. **January 23, 2023, 16:00 Hrs.** EOI Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is **February 02, 2023, 17:00 Hrs.**

•EOI Ref. No. JK/B/T&D/INT-DIS-SIGNAGES/2023-534
Date: 20-01-2023

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN:L6510JK9385C000048 | T : +91 (0)194 248 9305 | F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 | E : info@jkbank.com | W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-6100/22
DATED: 23-01-2023

E-mail:- techrbpul786@gmail.com

Phone:-01933-295302,

Government of Jammu & Kashmir(UT)

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No : 390/EEP/RNB/of 2022-23/ 16543-53

Dated: 19 /01 /2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term 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 Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs.Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Record Approval No:
1	Repairment of Drain near H/O Abdul Samad Lone to H/O Mohammad Yousuf Regoo at Eidgh Khrew.	1.50	200/-	2% of Adv. cost	10 Working Days	DEE	IDMT MC- Khrew	DULB/Plg/748/371 of 2022 Dated: 25.06.2022.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	19/01/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 19/01/2023 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	19/01/2023 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	27 /01/2023 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28/01/2023 at 10.30 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 3% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance security.


- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama]**
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of **Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama**
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- If first lowest bidder fails to deposit 3% as performance security within prescribed date the work will be put to fresh tenders at his risk and cost and the CDR/FDR/BG will be forfeited and shall be debarrd from participating the tendering process for the period of one year in this division.
- The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date**

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman
DIPK-16533/22
DATED: 23-01-2023

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Pulwama

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

01 Rajab

1444

PRAYERS

FAJR 6:07

ZUHR 12:42

ASR 4:15

Magrib 5:56

ISHA 7: 20

This Day In History

- 1644 - Parliamentary army wins battle of Nantwich, Cheshire, English Civil War
- 1722 - Tsar Peter the Great begins civil system
- 1892- Battle of Mengo, Uganda: French missionaries attack British missionaries
- 1900 - Battle of Tugela-Spionkop, South Africa (Boers vs British army)
- 1901 - Denmark and the US sign a treaty under which Denmark will sell the Danish West Indies to the USA for \$5 million, but the sale will be postponed until 1917
- 1924 - Benito Mussolini disallows non-fascists work union
- 1969 - Students protest the erection of steel gates around the London School of Economics
- 1972 - Japanese Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi is found hiding in a Guam jungle, where he had been since the end of World War II.
- 1975 Fastest Earth-bound object, 7200 kph, in vacuum centrifuge, England.
- 1977 Massacre of Atocha in Madrid: five labor lawyers murdered by fascists in Madridduring the Spanish transition to democracy.

From KO Archives

Cease-Fire Extended By Another Month

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI - Despite reservations from within, government today extended the cease-fire in Jammu and Kashmir by a month beyond republic day to give peace every chance and asked Pakistan to curb and control militant activities of organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad.

"The present ceasefire is being extended (for restoring peace in the state) by another month," External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh told reporters outside Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 7 Race Course Road residence.

The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by the prime minister discussed the situation in Jammu & Kashmir for three hours before deciding to extend the truce.

"Yes, the CCS felt that despite the continuing violence unleashed by the militant groups, especially by Jaish-e-Muhammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, the government must extend the ceasefire by another month," Singh said.

But the government is still debating the issue of clearing the proposed travel plans of the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference delegation which wants to go to Pakistan for talks with militant commanders based there.

Government believes violence must be ended and peace, which has been welcomed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, given every chance

The CCS took the decision of cease-fire extension notwithstanding views of sections within the government opposing extension. The entire security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly acts of cross-border 'terrorism and militant acts against civilians', was reviewed at the CCS meeting.

The CCS meeting was attended by home minister L.K.Advani, Jaswant Singh, defence minister George Fernandes, finance minister Yashwant Sinha, deputy chairman of planning commission K.C.Pant, national security advisor Brajesh Mishra, army chief Gen. S.Padmanabhan besides other top officials.

Singh said Vajpayee's peace initiative on Ramazan eve was taken despite heinous acts of terrorism and violence against innocent people.

Asked about the possibility of Indo-Pak talks on the Kashmir issue, he said India has always been in favour of a dialogue and will remain so.

A congenial atmosphere has to be created and the onus for that ties on Pakistan. Dialogue on one hand and gun-talk on the other does not work, he said.

The ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir as well us on the border and the Line of Control (LoC was reviewed in its entirety, Singh said, adding that chief minister Farooq Abdullah was informed and consulted in the matter.

Singh said the views of major political parties was also taken into consideration while taking the decision.

On Islamabad's stand that it was unable to control militant organisations, including Lashkar-e-

Taiba, which were carrying out violent activities, highly-placed sources today said we do not buy Pakistan's argument that they have no control over these groups: They are controlled and directed by Pakistan.

They said the main aim of Vajpayee government's announcement of extending the cease-fire by a month* beyond January 26 was to meet people's desire for peace in Jammu and Kashmir. Tell the international community that India sincerely wanted to end violence and also address Pakistan for a positive response.

We have been able to convince the people in the state that we sincerely want to give a chance to peace, they said adding that the international community has appreciated New Delhi's gesture across the board.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 24 January, 2001)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday | 24-01-2023

Covid Is Still Lurking

In a fresh spike in Covid-19 outbreak, China has reported nearly 13,000 Covid-related deaths in hospitals between January 13 and 19. A week earlier, China said that nearly 60,000 people had died with Covid in hospitals as of January 12. However, considering China's data is not regarded as reliable, the experts fear many more Chinese are infected with the virus. A top Chinese official said that nearly 80 percent of the population has already been infected by the virus. This is quite a gigantic proportion of population considering China's is still the world's most populous country at 1.4 billion.

This has hit hard China's economy. China's economy grew just 3 percent in 2022, the second-slowest growth rate since the last year of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in 1976. The Covid surge saw the last quarter's growth slump even lower.

If anything, this is a reminder once again that Covid has not gone anywhere. Though outside China the Covid situation remains very much stable, the world has reason to be alert. There is fear of new viruses which could turn out to be more virulent. Since the outbreak in China is likely to lead to further mutations, and given the size of China's economy, the United States has warned the rest of the world should be concerned about it. And there is an urgent need for the world and the individual countries to get serious about the challenge.

However, India has a reason to be happy about the fresh Covid numbers: The country recorded 140 new Covid cases on Sunday and the seven day average has been 120. This shows that the pandemic is on its way out in the country. But the example of China has come as a warning that the virus is very much among us. And if we continue to ignore observing the SOP, the pandemic could once again blow up in our face, just like it did in January-February 2021, killing thousands of people.

The continuously mutating sub-variants of the Omicron virus could in time trigger yet another wave. So people have to continue to take care. It is too soon to abandon the masks or give up the use of sanitizers. The SOP remains as relevant as it did when the pandemic broke out in early 2020. Meanwhile, we can celebrate our triumph on the Covid pandemic with the least number of Covid cases and fatalities to date.

In Kashmir too, the drastic reduction in Covid cases is a cause for celebration. It is also a boon for tourism which has witnessed a bumper year so far with over one crore people visiting the union territory. But at the same time, we can't afford to let our guard down.

OTHER OPINION

Why we should eat cake in office

It's the middle of the week. At the office of a firm that prides itself on keeping up with market trends, workers are gulping down their lunch, their eyes fixed on computer terminals. One of them springs up from her chair and announces that it's a teammate's birthday, there is cake in the common room. After the handshakes and greetings, all eyes turn to the table where a sunshine-yellow lemon cake awaits. The next quarter of an hour is spent in eating it and extolling its fluffy texture. The more discerning talk of the aromas of spices and butter. Everyone returns to their workstation happy, primed to meet the next deadline.

Of course, workplace bonding doesn't necessarily require a birthday celebration. But an occasion to have cake is not to be disdained. The head of the UK's Food Standards Agency, Susan Jebb, seems to believe that treating colleagues with these slices of pleasure is akin to making them passive smokers. She has suggested that people avoid bringing cake to office for the sake of their colleagues' health.

However, even the censorious food safety expert cannot avoid talking of the charm of cakes: "If nobody brought cakes to office, I would not eat cakes during the day, but because people do bring cakes in, I eat them." It's difficult not to sympathise with this confession. Whether gilded with ornate toppings, frosted with buttercream and embedded with chocolate chips, fruits and nuts or evoking the discrete charms of vanilla, a cake is an indulgence to be had not for nutrition alone. The dessert is also about sharing, love and camaraderie. Eaten in moderation, it can't be too bad, especially in times when deprived of mealtime fellowship, people are driving themselves to the extremes of emaciation and obesity.

Indian Express

Asad Mirza

The historic Abraham Accords may not have contributed substantially to resolving the political impasse, as expected between Israel and Arab nations, but they have been able to bolster the economic and trade relations in the region

OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Conscious Winter

WITH temperatures dropping, Kashmiris have geared up for yet another spell of cold. As we prepare to enter a full blown season of low temperatures, we are stocking up everything especially gadgets and electronics to keep oneself warm.

Many of these heating gadgets are not energy efficient and often create a lot of pressure on the power department as well.

Therefore, it is important for us to use energy efficient alternatives. Additionally, we must also check reckless use of these appliances. For

instance, we must regulate the number of geysers we use. Perhaps, we can only use one and ensure that we switch it off well in time.

We can also be careful about the use of electric blankets and switch them off before going to bed. This will not only save electricity but is also a

safe use of such appliances.

These are just some common uses that can be regulated ethically. We must keep our eyes open and ensure a judicious use of all such resources.

Jawad Muhammad

Abraham Accords: The Second Coming?



It seems as if the United States has taken another step towards being a relevant player in the Middle East, after an ill thought hiatus, leading to relations with regional players like Saudi Arab hitting rock bottom. The latest American initiative in this regard is through vitalising the Abraham Accords. This may also lead to it normalising its strained ties with Saudi Arabia besides efforts to contain Iran.

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with the visiting White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan a fortnight ago, in Jerusalem. The two discussed ways to broaden the Abraham Accords and reach a breakthrough that could lead to the normalisation of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

After becoming the prime minister for the third time in December 2022, hard-right Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has set normalising ties with Saudi Arabia as one of his two main foreign policy goals. Though the Israelis admit that it won't be possible if relations between Riyadh and Washington remain tense.

Reports say that Sullivan and Netanyahu also discussed the Iranian nuclear programme, Iran's actions in the region and its military assistance to Russia in its war in Ukraine, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the normalisation process between Israel and its neighbours.

Abraham Accords

The Abraham Accords, which were signed on 15 September 2020, normalised diplomatic relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco, and so far have achieved mixed results.

As anticipated, normalisation has opened new opportunities for defence and security cooperation, especially among Israel, Bahrain, and the UAE, which share a common perspective on the security threat posed by Iran.

But there are shortcomings at the level of bilateral cooperation. Most notably, despite the initial goal of the Arab nations, cooperation between Israel and its Arab partners has failed to produce tangible improvements in the Israeli-Palestinian conundrum.

In reality, the Israelis are now, arguably, more cautious about

managing relations with the Palestinians to avoid conflict with their newfound Arab partners, affecting trade ties.

The Palestinians have not yet embraced the American vision. 86% of Palestinians believe the normalisation agreement with the UAE serves only Israel's interests and not their own. There is indeed a possibility that the Palestine quest might be ignored further.

Netanyahu told Sullivan that the latest Palestinian moves in the international arena, especially the Palestinian Authority's push for the International Court of Justice to issue a legal opinion on the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, "are an attack on Israel and oblige us to respond".

Sullivan also met with Palestinian President Mahmoud

The Palestinians have not yet embraced the American vision. 86% of Palestinians believe the normalisation agreement with the UAE serves only Israel's interests and not their own. There is indeed a possibility that the Palestine quest might be ignored further.

Abbas in Ramallah. Abbas is reported to have warned Sullivan that the new Israeli government's policy could have dangerous consequences and stressed the Biden administration must intervene "before it is too late".

Abbas told Sullivan that the Israeli government's policy and the recent sanctions it has imposed on the Palestinian Authority, destroy the way to two-state solution, violate the agreements between the parties and ruin the chances that are left for achieving peace and stability in the region.

Getting the Israeli government and PA agree to any understanding, might be a bit tough, as the issue has many intertwined political and legal elements to be resolved, but on the other hand, Abraham Accords have been a boon to both Israel and other Gulf nations to bolster economic and trade ties.

Economic Growth

Statistically speaking, the Abraham Accords seem to have made a positive impact on entrepreneurs and investors in Israel and the Gulf.

Besides facilitating a pro-business environment in the region, it has indirectly brought positive momentum to deals such as the maritime border agreement between Israel and Lebanon, reached last year, which was mainly driven by local economic interests.

In particular, the economic and trade ties between Israel and UAE have grown substantially, besides notable steps in strengthening the economic relations between both countries, like the decision by the Dubai International Chamber to open up an office in Tel Aviv.

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, trade between Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached \$212.6 million in August 2022, constituting a 163% increase in trade from August 2021. For the first eight months of 2022,

bilateral trade was just over \$1.62 billion, constituting a 121% increase in trade from the first eight months of 2021.

Israel's new Foreign Minister Eli Cohen has said that the volume of trade with Arab countries that normalised relations with Israel under the US-negotiated Abraham Accords in 2020 broke the 10 billion-shekel (\$2.8 billion) barrier in 2022. Cohen said the Abraham Accords have dramatically changed the face of the Middle East. He added that a summit would be held in March with other Arab countries to boost regional trade.

Though the Abraham Accords might not have been able to resolve the regional schisms and rivalries, yet they have indeed paved the way for greater economic and trade relations, which seems to be the way forward also.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He can be contacted on www.asadmirza.in

SHOOT YOUR SHOT, CLAIM YOUR PLACE

Navigating the Path to Studying Abroad - Part III



MANY STUDENTS IN KASHMIR TRADITIONALLY BEGIN THEIR EMAILS WITH THE SALUTATION “SIR.” While this is a common cultural practice in South Asia, it is important to note that when writing to a potential supervisor or professor abroad, it is not appropriate to use this honorific. Instead, simply use the person’s last name preceded by their official title, such as Dr or Professor

Muhammad Tahir

In the last two articles (30 Dec and 13 Jan), we’ve explored the importance of the research proposal and statement of purpose in a college and university application package abroad. This week, we’re delving into the topic of recommendation letters, and how to properly write an email and correspond with a prospective supervisor.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

When applying to colleges and universities abroad, in addition to the aforementioned documents, academic references are also required. During the online application process, applicants are asked to provide the names, addresses, and emails of their academic referees, also known as recommenders. Some universities require two references, while others ask for three. Regardless of the specific requirements, it’s best to have at least three potential recommenders on hand, as you’ll likely be applying to multiple graduate schools.

When choosing recommenders, it’s best to select professors who have taught you in the last three years and who you have a positive relationship with. Additionally, if you’ve held a job or internship, a superior from that organization can also serve as a reference. It’s important to note that some universities will only accept institutional email addresses, and not personal ones such as Gmail or Yahoo. If any of your chosen recommenders do not have an institutional email address, reach out to the university you’re applying to and explain the situation. In most cases, they will make an exception if they find merit in the case.

When requesting a letter of recommendation (LoR) from your referees, it’s important to provide them with your updated curriculum vitae (CV) and research proposal (RP). These documents will assist them in writing a tailored reference letter that aligns with the specific degree program you’re applying to.

It’s common for universities to contact your referees directly, rather than requiring you to upload the LoR. This is due to confidentiality concerns, as well as the need for additional information. Some universities may ask your referees to respond to specific evaluation questions in addition to uploading a letter, as is the case with [Stanford University](#).

It’s crucial to remind your referees or recommenders a couple of weeks before the submission deadline for your application. Without a letter of recommendation (LoR), your application may be considered incomplete and may not be reviewed.

If you feel that your chosen referees may not have much experience writing LoRs, you can provide them with sample recommendation letters to imitate. Keep in mind that not all professors may be familiar with the format or style of a LoR, as it is not a common practice in Indian or Kashmiri academia. Here is a sample reference letter:

<https://gsi.berkeley.edu/media/sample-recommendation-letter.pdf>.

Stanford University provides guidelines for writing effective letters of recommendation on their website, which recommenders should follow to provide a comprehensive and informative letter of recommendation.

According to the guidelines, recommenders should:

- Write candidly about the applicant’s qualifications
- Assess the applicant’s potential to succeed in advanced study in the specified field
- Evaluate the applicant’s intellectual independence and capability for analytical thinking
- Assess the applicant’s ability to organize and express ideas clearly
- Assess the applicant’s potential for teaching

Additionally, the guidelines suggest that descriptions of significant actions, accomplishments, character, and personal qualities related to scholarly achievement are particularly helpful. By following these guidelines, recommenders can provide a comprehensive and informative letter of recommendation that will help the applicant stand out in the admissions process.

HOW TO WRITE EMAILS PROFESSIONALLY

Many students in Kashmir traditionally begin their emails with the salutation “Sir.” While this is a common cultural practice in South Asia, it is important to note that when writing to a potential supervisor or professor abroad, it is not appropriate to use this honorific. Instead, simply use the person’s last

name preceded by their official title, such as Dr or Professor. For example, if you are writing to Dr. John Nash, your salutation should be “Dear Dr. Nash” or “Dear Professor John Nash.” There is no need to use “Dear John Sir” or “Respected Sir.”

When drafting an email, it’s important to take care and revise your draft to not only communicate effectively, but also to leave a positive impression of your communication skills. Below is an example of a letter of inquiry addressed to a professor by a prospective PhD candidate:

Dear Professor John Nash,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Adnan Ali and I recently completed my MA in Sociology from the University of Kashmir. I am writing to inquire about the possibility of your supervision for my PhD research, which will focus on understanding gentrification in Kashmir, an understudied subject in the context of the restive region.

I am particularly interested in studying the impact of gentrification on the displacement of local communities and the cultural and social changes that occur as a result. I believe that your expertise in urban sociology and gentrification would be invaluable to my research and I would be honoured to have the opportunity to work under your supervision.

I would greatly appreciate if you could let me know if you are currently accepting PhD students and if there is any further information or materials that I should provide in order to be considered for supervision.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adnan Ali

It’s important to take care when crafting the subject line of an email, as it can greatly impact your chances of getting a response. Some students make the mistake of leaving the subject line blank or writing long

sentences, which can be detrimental to their chances of getting a response.

Professors are busy individuals who receive numerous emails on a daily basis, and an ill-thought or carelessly written subject line can easily cause your email to be overlooked. When writing the subject line, it’s important to think professionally and express the purpose of your email in a clear and concise manner. For the above email a suitable brief subject line would be like this:

‘Subject: Inquiry for PhD supervision: Understanding Gentrification in Kashmir.’

Now let’s imagine that the professor responded to Adnan’s email. He asks for his updated CV. How will Adnan reply? Here is a way to write back:

Subject: Follow-up for PhD supervision: Understanding Gentrification in Kashmir (CV attached)

Dear Professor John Nash,

Thank you for getting back to me regarding my inquiry for PhD supervision. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. As per your request, I am attaching my CV for your review.

Please let me know if there is any additional information or materials that you need from me. I would be more than happy to provide them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adnan Ali

Adnan was lucky and the professor agreed to supervise him. Here is how he can respond to the supervisor:

Subject: Acceptance of PhD supervision offer: Understanding Gentrification in Kashmir

Dear Professor John Nash,

Thank you so much for considering my request for PhD supervision and for agreeing to be my supervisor. I am thrilled at the op-

portunity to work under your guidance and expertise. I am confident that your guidance and support will greatly benefit my research on understanding gentrification in Kashmir.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you and discuss my research proposal in more detail. Please let me know a convenient time and date for us to schedule a meeting.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adnan Ali

But Adnan will need scholarship to fund his PhD, what should he do now? He can ask the professor in this way:

Subject: Request for guidance on scholarship opportunities for PhD funding.

Dear Professor John Nash,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to follow up with you regarding the funding for my PhD research on understanding gentrification in Kashmir. As we discussed, I am in need of a scholarship to support my studies and I was wondering if you could advise me on any available options at the university or any other sources that I could consider.

I would greatly appreciate any information or guidance you can provide on potential scholarships or funding opportunities, including application process, deadlines, and required materials.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adnan Ali

In conclusion, the process of applying to colleges and universities abroad can be a daunting task for students, particularly for those in Kashmir. However, by paying attention to the important details such as research proposal, statement of purpose, recommendation letters, and email communication, students can increase their chances of success. I hope that the suggestions and tips provided in this and previous articles have been helpful and will give confidence and skills to Kashmiri students who wish to embark on the journey of applying abroad. In the next article, I will delve into the topic of scholarships and how to prepare for them. We will explore the different types of scholarships available, the application process and tips on how to increase the chances of being awarded a scholarship.

to be concluded....

Muhammad Tahir is Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at Dublin City University, Ireland



THE PROCESS OF APPLYING TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ABROAD CAN BE A DAUNTING TASK FOR STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE IN KASHMIR. However, by paying attention to the important details such as research proposal, statement of purpose, recommendation letters, and email communication, students can increase their chances of success

J&K Startup Policy Nurturing Young Entrepreneurial Brains To Pursue Innovation, Entrepreneurship

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government is building an encouraging ecosystem for nurturing innovation and start-ups in the Union Territory with liberal funding.

Under the 'J&K Startup Policy 2018-2028', the UT administration aims to nurture and inspire the young and entrepreneurial brains of Jammu and Kashmir to pursue innovation and entrepreneurship by creating a vibrant and conducive start-up environment in the region.

Some focus sectors have been identified under this policy which inter alia included Construction and Engineering, Food Processing and Allied activities, Agriculture including Horticulture and Floriculture, Textiles, Apparel and Fashion Technology, Renewable Energy, Handicrafts and Handlooms and their design element, Electronics System Design and Manufacturing besides Information Technology enabled services among others.

The main objective of 'J&K Startup Policy 2018-2028' is to facilitate and nurture the growth of at least 500 new start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir in next 10 years. The objective also includes establishing at least 10 new state-of-the-art incubators including private sector, facilitate access to early stage investments for aspiring and



existing start-ups, setting up of innovation labs in selected Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges and setting up of at least three fabrication labs, one each in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions besides creating a strong institutional framework for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

The policy also focuses on innovative projects like ideas capable of introducing new or disruptive

technology in the development of existing and new products, processes or services, capable of addressing any of the present challenges before the society at large in an effective manner. The policy also provides special focus on start-ups, promotion of platforms like start-up hub, incubator, angel investors, innovation labs, Entrepreneurship Development Cells and Fabrication Lab among others.

The Jammu and Kashmir

Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has been declared the nodal agency for implementation of the policy and Director, JKEDI has been designated as the UT nodal officer.

The policy also provides various benefits and incentives to the entity recognized as a start-up. The government provides co-working space with uninterrupted high-speed internet to the selected recognized start-ups at a subsidized price

through JKEDI at its campuses in Pampore and Bari-Brahmana and all the 22 district centres besides a monthly allowance of Rs. 10,000 (for a period of one year) is also being paid to the start-ups.

Similarly, startups are provided one time assistance of Rs 10 Lakh for Product Research and Development/Marketing/Publicity. The scheme also has provision of 100 per cent subsidy on purchase and installation of Diesel Generator set or Solar/Wind Generator or Hybrid Solar Wind System to the recognized start-ups.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, recently asked all stakeholders to focus on affordability, sustainability of innovative products, creation of industry innovation clusters to encourage young entrepreneurs and drive job creation. "Under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, India's Start ups are making their place in the global market. India is now ranked third in the world in terms of innovation and start-ups after US and China," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Notably, J&K featured among the five 'top performers' in the start-up India States' ranking 2021, scoring high on parameters like incubation support, institutional support and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

14th FC Unspent Funds To Be Utilized For Ongoing Works: Mandeep Kaur

Says, unspent funds shall also be expended on approved plans for Solid Waste Management

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur, today directed the officers to utilize the unspent funds under 14th Finance Commission for ongoing works and plans duly approved by the District Development Commissioner for Solid Waste Management after approval of the competent authority.

According to an official communiqué received here in this regard, it has been reiterated that districts will not lose funds of 14th FC but in order to ensure timely and rational utilization of funds before 31st March 23, it is important that every penny of FC funds lying with 4291 panchayats, are accounted for and unspent funds are utilized for Swachh J&K, which is the top most priority of the government.

Pertinently, the Fourteen Finance Commission was constituted (FFC) by the President on 2nd January 2013 to give recommendations on specified aspects of Centre-State fiscal relations from 2015-2020, where J&K received first two installments during the year 2015-16. Afterwards, due to expiry of five year term of Panchayati Raj Institutions in 2016, J&K couldn't receive the remaining installments for three years due to non-existence of PRIs in the UT.

After constitution of PRIs

in 2019, J&K received 6 more installments during 2019-20 and 4 more for 'Back to Village' programme phase III. The scheme was supposed to be closed on 31st of March 2021 but due to constraints faced by the Gram Panchayats on account of COVID pandemic requests from various states and union territories including J&K were received by MoPR regarding utilization of FFC grants beyond FY 2020-21. The MoPR, accordingly, took up the matter with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and obtained one time dispensation for incurring expenditure out of FFC grants by the Gram Panchayats beyond FY 2020-21 and up to 31/03/2022.

However, the Gram Panchayats were directed to utilize the unspent amount of FFC grants only on the works included in the GDDPs and in conformity with the extant guidelines issued by MoF. In this regard, various communications were disseminated to all the sub-ordinate offices of RDD to reconcile the FFC accounts and complete all the ongoing works by December 2022.

Thus, accordingly, an order was issued on 16/01/2023 regarding freezing of funds in the accounts of Panchayats halqas, Block Offices and District Panchayat Offices except for the ongoing works under FFC grants.

SC To Hear Journalist Rana Ayyub's Plea In Money Laundering Case On Jan 25

Agences

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said it will hear on January 25 the petition of journalist Rana Ayyub challenging the summons issued to her by a special PMLA court in Ghaziabad in a money laundering case lodged by the ED.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justices V Ramasubramanian and J B Pardiwala, posted the matter after senior advocate Vrinda Grover mentioned it.

Grover told the court that the Bench which was scheduled to hear the matter Monday was not available, and requested the bench to post the matter for hearing later today at 2 pm.

"We will keep this day after tomorrow before an appropriate bench. Today will be difficult," the bench said.

On January 17, a bench led by CJI Chandrachud had agreed to consider listing the plea of Ayyub for urgent hearing after taking note of the submissions of advocate Vrinda Grover who appeared for her.

Grover had said a summons was issued by the special court in Ghaziabad against Ayyub for January 27 and therefore the matter be listed urgently.

In her writ petition, Ayyub has sought quashing of the proceedings initiated by the Enforcement Directorate in Ghaziabad citing lack of jurisdiction as the alleged offence of money laundering

occurred in Mumbai.

On November 29 last year, the special PMLA court in Ghaziabad had taken cognizance of the prosecution complaint filed by the Enforcement Directorate and summoned Ayyub.

The ED chargesheet filed with under section 45 read with section 44 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 for money laundering was filed by Sanjeet Kumar Sahu, Assistant Director of ED, Delhi.

"I have perused the above mentioned prosecution complaint and have also gone through the prosecution papers as well as documents including statements.

"From the perusal of the entire record there is sufficient

evidence as to a prima facie case for taking cognizance against Ms Rana Ayyub with regard to commission of offence," the special court judge said.

The special court has said that Ayyub's crime involves taking money illegally from the general public in the name of charity via 'Ketto' (an online crowdfunding platform) in three campaigns without any approval, raising a huge sum in the bank account of her sister and father, and transferring it into her own bank account which was not used for the intended purpose.

On October 12 last year, the ED had filed a charge sheet against Ayyub, accusing her of cheating the public and using Rs 2.69 crore she got in charity

for creating personal assets, and also violating the foreign contribution law.

"Rana Ayyub launched three fundraiser charity campaigns on the 'Ketto platform' starting from April 2020 and collected funds totalling Rs 2,69,44,680," the ED had said in a statement.

The campaigns, it had said, were meant to raise funds for slum dwellers and farmers, relief work for Assam, Bihar, and Maharashtra, and help Ayyub and her team help those impacted by COVID-19 in India.

"Ayyub utilised these funds to create a fixed deposit of Rs 50 lakh for herself and also transferred Rs 50 lakh to a new bank account. Investigations found that only about Rs 29 lakh was

used for relief work," the ED had claimed.

"In order to claim more expenses towards relief work, fake bills were submitted by Ayyub and subsequently, bank balances in the accounts of Ayyub amounting to Rs 1,77,27,704 (including FD of Rs 50 Lakh) were attached under the PMLA order a provisional attachment order dated February 4, 2022," it had said.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered on September 7, 2021 by the Indrapuram Police Station of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh under various sections of the IPC, Information Technology Amendment Act 2008, and Black

Money Act against Ayyub.

It also alleged that Ayyub received foreign contributions without registration under FCRA.

On August 17 last year, the Delhi High Court had restrained the ED from proceeding further with the provisional attachment of funds in connection with the probe against her.

On April 4 last year, the Delhi High Court had allowed Ayyub to travel abroad and questioned the ED over a Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against her barring her from travelling abroad.

Ayyub was stopped by the ED from taking a flight to London from the Mumbai airport in March under the 'Look out Circular' issued against her.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Long-Tailed Duck

that so far one lakh willows have been removed from the lake during restoration works so far and it has generated a revenue of Rs 24 crore to the government. The dredging has increased the capacity of the lake.

The official said that the last record of this bird was reported from Hokersar lake Kashmir in 1939 as mentioned by F.Ludlow in a research paper published in "Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society".

"It is after 84 years that the bird has been spotted again in Kashmir and has been documented now. There are only a few sites in India which meet the "1% criteria" necessary for the survival and propagation of this duck species," said WUCMA.

The officials said that much to the delight of Ornithologists, the eco-restoration of Wular lake has created a ray of hope, as a record number of migratory birds have visited Wular lake, this year.

"The rare sightings have been of Common Pochard, Red crested Pochard and Long tailed Duck apart from other common water birds normally seen in other wetlands," said the officials.

Wani told Kashmir Observer that they have taken several measures to stop the poachers in the lake and several anti-poaching teams have been put on alert to tackle the poachers.

On December 7 last year, the anti-poaching unit of Forest Protection Force seized a 10 feet long punt gun from the Banks of Wular lake, after poachers fled from the spot in Watlab area of Sopore.

The punt gun is a type of extremely large shotgun used in wetlands to shoot large numbers of waterfowl for commercial use.

"We have taken proactive measures and seized several punt guns from the packers," Wani added.

Panel To Probe

"The Committee shall be serviced by the J&K IMPARD." It has been asked to submit its report within one (01) month.

Tight Security

Saturday, leaving nine people injured.

While the main Republic Day function will take place in Jammu, the biggest function in the valley will be held at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here.

The security around the venues of Republic Day functions in the valley including the cricket stadium will be further beefed in the coming days, the officials said.

In Jammu, Rahul

along with the highest level of unemployment in the country," Rahul said, addressing a gathering at Satwari Chowk in Jammu. He told the gathering that the Congress party will fully support "you and your statehood demand."

"To restore the statehood, we (Congress) will use our full power to get back the statehood as soon as possible," Rahul said. "Statehood is your (people of J&K) biggest issue. There is no big issue as big as statehood. Your right has been snatched. Cross section of people from J&K during this yatra raised their concerns."

Rahul said: "People told me, which I am sharing with you, that their voices are not being heard by the administration. Earlier native people had a say in administration and trade but now the entire trade is being run by outsiders and people of J&K watch them sitting haplessly."

He further said that Jammu and Kashmir has the highest level of unemployment in the country.

"Youngsters aspire to become engineers, doctors and lawyers but they find they cannot because of lack of opportunities," he said.

On Kashmir Pandits

Rahul Gandhi said that Pandits are facing injustice at the hands of the government and asked Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to apologise to the community for telling the prime minister's package employees that they should not seek alms.

He said that a Kashmiri Pandit delegation called on him during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Samba district earlier in the day and briefed him about their various issues including "targeted killings" by terrorists and the resultant protest by those employed under the prime minister's package.

"Injustice is being meted out to Kashmir Pandits by this government...this morning, a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits met me and briefed me about their issues. I was surprised to know that their delegation was told by the lieutenant governor that they should not seek alms."

Rahul said he wanted to tell the lieutenant governor that they are not demanding alms but

are seeking their rights. "You (LG) should seek forgiveness from them (Pandits)."

Earlier, Rahul said that yatra has been started from Kanyakumari and "we learned a lot during this period. Every state teaches us a lot and it."

"We tried to raise issues of demonization, wrong GST, farmer bills, China's incursion, unemployment in the parliament but we were not allowed and our mikes were turned off, it's now only us but media should also contribute in protecting democracy," he said, adding, "I wish in-stead of talking about Bollywood stars they should raise issues of unemployment, price rise etc, which is affecting the poor population of nation."

Yatra Begins

the priests at the temple.

Rahul also participated in special prayers at temples ancient Shiv Mandir and performed Jal Abhishek to Shiv Lingam.

On Tuesday, the yatra will resume from Jammu's outskirts Nagrota for a night halt at Udhampur, 60 kilometers away.

"The yatra will cover approximately 60 kilometers, longest in the day so far and will make a halt at Udhampur on Tuesday evening," said a party leader.

On Tuesday afternoon, Gandhi will also address a press conference in the afternoon at Jajjar Kotli area—(KNO)

Rahul Look-

man after Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra which is in its last leg.

His video clip and pictures go viral on social media in J&K as he can be seen marching along with other supporters of the yatra.

"People come to me and click pictures and videos with me. I love it," said Faisal, who joined the yatra on January 5 from Baghat (UP-Delhi border).

He goes on to say that it is love for Rahul Gandhi that they click pictures with him. "People love Rahul Ji. That is why they take pictures and videos with me, when they are unable to get pictures with Rahul Ji. I love being his look-alike," he added.

"I feel lucky to be Rahul ji's look-alike. As a party activist, my face resembles my top party leaders. But I will always be his activist," he said.

Faisal, who wears a brown beard like Rahul

Gandhi, is a resident of Sangat village of Meerat district and is a worker of Congress party in Uttar Pradesh.

Unlike hundreds of people wearing jackets and sweaters while walking with yatra, Faisal wore white half-sleeved T-shirt like Gandhi.

"If Rahul ji can wear a T-shirt, why cannot anyone wear it. I am wearing it. I have no problem," he said.

Tearing into the remarks of the BJP that the yatra will not get support from people of Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal said, "People of J&K have wholeheartedly gave love to Rahul Ji and supported this yatra. Thousands of people are out and throng the venues. We thank them".

Faisal opined that Rahul Gandhi will dismantle the walls of hatred and bring in a new atmosphere of love and harmony.

"This yatra will be hundred percent successful. There will be a new dawn", he said.

Like Faisal, 88-year old Karon Prasad, who joined the yatra on 2nd October last year in Madhya Pradesh said that he will hoist tricolour in Lal Chowk and will continue to be part of the yatra.

"There is a need to bring back an atmosphere of harmony and brotherhood in the country. we pray for Rahul ji successful mission", one of the oldest yatri said.

Widespread Snowfall

16.6°C respectively, the official said.

Kashmir is under the grip of Chillai-Kalan, the 40-day long harsh winter period that started on December 21.

The MeT department has forecast "isolated" light rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

"Widespread moderate snow/(rain in Jammu) & moderate to heavy snow over middle and higher reaches of J&K very likely from evening of January 24th to 25th," he said, adding, "On January 26-28th, weather is expected to be partly to generally cloudy with light snow/rain at isolated places."

From January 29-30th, MeT forecast widespread moderate to heavy rain and snow.

He said that in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours Srinagar received 2.6cm of snowfall. Reports said that snowfall was also received from some upper reaches in the Valley.

LG Calls For

he said, Nari Shakti is breaking the barriers

KP's Demanding Their Right Not Alms: Rahul

Agencies

JAMMU: Alleging that Kashmir Pandits are facing injustice at the hands of the government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday asked Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to apologise to the community for telling the prime minister's package employees that they should not seek alms.

Gandhi made the statement shortly after a Kashmiri Pandit delegation called on him during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Samba district earlier in the day and briefed him about their various issues including

departments in Kashmir Valley after their selection under the prime minister's employment package announced in 2008. The package has two major components -- 6,000 jobs for the youth from the community and building as many accommodation units for the recruited employees.

However, many of the employees fled to Jammu after one of their colleagues, Rahul Bhat, was shot dead by militants inside his office in Budgam district on May 12 last year in what was described as a case of targeted killing. They are on a strike demanding their relocation out of the Valley.



"targeted killings" by terrorists and the resultant protest by those employed under the prime minister's package.

"Injustice is being meted to Kashmir Pandits by this government...this morning, a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits met me and briefed me about their issues. I was surprised to know that their delegation was told by the lieutenant governor that they should not seek alms," Gandhi told a gathering at the end of the day's yatra at Satwari here.

Gandhi said he wants to tell the lieutenant governor that they are not demanding alms but are seeking their rights. "You (LG) should seek forgiveness from them (Pandits)," he said.

Earlier, social activist Amit Koul, who was part of the delegation, said they have invited Gandhi to their Jagti township along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and that he is likely to visit the community on his way to Kashmir.

"We had a very good interaction with Gandhi and we briefed him about the issues of the community, especially the prime minister's package employees who were provided jobs by the previous UPA government led by Manmohan Singh. They are on protest over the past six months in Jammu and their salaries have been withheld," Koul told PTI after meeting Gandhi.

Nearly 4,000 Kashmiri Pandits are working in different

"We also raised other issues of the community including the need for enhancement of relief. We requested him to visit our township Jagti or send a delegation but he assured that he will visit Jagti himself and raise their issues within and outside Parliament," Koul said.

Another member, Jitendra Kachroo, said he has come all the way from Uttar Pradesh, where he has settled after migrating from Kashmir, to meet Gandhi with other members of the delegation.

"He (Gandhi) is a very nice human being and a very simple person. He patiently heard our issues and it was heartwarming that he had time to listen to us," Kachroo said.

He said they were initially supposed to meet him as a 13-member delegation but several more joined them and "we raised issues which the community is facing".

Charging the BJP with using the community to further its political agenda, Kachroo said, "They do not really mean to solve the problems of the Kashmiri Pandits because for them it is a political agenda to spread hate on the basis of religion."

"We used to live together in Kashmir -- both Muslims and Hindus -- as we shared culture, dressing, and even surnames. There was never such a type of atmosphere, and we all were living together (before the eruption of militancy and migration of the community)," he said.

wari chowk for 15 minutes and briefed him about various issues concerning the common people, he said.

He said they informed Gandhi about the eviction drive launched by the J-K administration to "snatch" the land from the people despite the fact that they are holding the property for generations.

The delegation also informed the Congress leader about the Prime Minister package Kashmiri Pandit employees and Dogra employees who have been on strike in Jammu for the past over six months, seeking their relocation outside Kashmir following targeted killings.

Growing unemployment in J-K, inflation and economic distress also came up for discussion during the interaction, the PDP said leader.

President AJKPC Calls On LG



JAMMU: Anil Sharma, President, All J&K Panchayat Conference called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here on Monday.

Anil Sharma submitted a representation on behalf of PRI members and AJKPC to the Lt Governor pertaining to releasing of pending instalments of 15th Finance Commission

to Panchayats, besides other important issues, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the President, AJKPC also expressed his gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT-administration for providing liberal funding, besides formulating favourable policies for driving the developmental transformation in the rural areas of J&K.



SECURITY FORCES HAVE INTENSIFIED random search operations in Srinagar and elsewhere in view of R-Day..

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Cong, BJP In War Of Words Over Digvijaya's Surgical Strike Remark

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Monday accused the Congress of being a "group of traitors" after opposition leader Digvijaya Singh questioned the 2019 surgical strikes on terror camps by Indian armed forces across the border.

He said the Congress should be ashamed by seeking proof of the surgical strikes carried out by the IAF in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

"The Congress has once again stabbed Bharat Mata in the back. By questioning the surgical strikes, the party has humiliated our brave Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel who carried out the strikes

in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan and destroyed terror camps," Raina said.

Addressing a public meeting during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, Congress leader Digvijaya Singh alleged that the government did not agree to the CRPF request of flying its personnel from Srinagar to Delhi and 40 soldiers sacrificed their lives in Pulwama in 2019 to a terror attack.

"They talk of surgical strikes. They claim to have killed so many people but no proof is given. They are ruling by peddling a bundle of lies," Singh, a former Madhya Pradesh chief minister who has often courted controversy with his comments, said.

Reacting to his statement, Raina said the world watched

how the Indian Army hit the terror camps in PoK in September 2016 in the aftermath of a terror attack on an Army camp in north Kashmir's Uri that left 19 soldiers dead and again in Balakote (Pakistan) by the IAF on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel.

"The Congress should be ashamed by seeking proof of the surgical strikes. Rahul Gandhi owes an apology to the nation for this treason. Congress is responsible for the partition of the country in 1947 and all the problems in J-K," he said.

"The Congress is a group of traitors and the treason with the country is in their DNA. The nation will never forgive this party," Raina said.

Court 'Closes' JKLF Chief's Right To Cross-Examine Witness After He Insists On Physical Questioning

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A special court in Jammu on Monday "closed" banned JKLF chief Yasin Malik's right to cross-examine a prime witness in a 1990 case related to the killing of four IAF personnel after he refused to do so through video conference, a lawyer said.

Malik, who is in Delhi's Tihar Jail after being convicted in a terror funding case and has been demanding that he be allowed to cross-examine witnesses physically in the Jammu court, was present in court virtually.

He was asked whether he would like to examine V K Sharma, a prime witness in the case. Malik refused and reiterated his stand that he would like to physically question Sharma in court, said Monika Kohli, senior additional advocate general and CBI counsel.

"However, the accused did not do that following which the court closed his right to cross-



examine," Kohli told reporters. Sharma had identified Malik before the examiner-in-chief of the court as well as the CBI as one of the terrorists involved in the January 25, 1990 killing of four IAF personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Kohli informed the court that the Union Home ministry had passed an order barring Malik from moving out of Tihar jail for one year from December 22, 2022 because of

pending NIA cases against him.

Malik has been charge sheeted in the case along with six others. The charges were framed against the accused in 2020, 20 years after CBI filed the charge sheet before a designated TADA court in Jammu.

According to the CBI, the IAF personnel were fired upon by terrorists. Forty, including a woman, received serious injuries and four were killed on the spot.

HK Hyundai Unveils All New Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS Facelift, New Hyundai Aura Facelift

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: HK Hyundai (Authorized dealer of Hyundai Motor India Private Limited) unveiled the new facelift of Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS and New Hyundai Aura at their dealership located at Athwajan bypass Srinagar.

The new 2023 Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS facelift has been launched in India by HML at a starting price of Rs 5.69 lakh (ex-showroom) and New Hyundai Aura at a starting price of Rs.6.29 Lakh (ex-showroom). Bookings for the same are open and the deliveries will begin soon.

Both the cars were unveiled by Rafee (DySP Traffic Police Srinagar) in presence of Umar Yaqoob Mir (Managing Director, HK Hyundai Srinagar). Style meets sophistication in the new Grand i10 NIOS. The new Grand i10 NIOS is a flamboyant expression of refreshing design and agility. The interior of the Hyundai AURA combines modern aesthetics with contemporary craftsmanship. It is meticulously designed to optimise the space to give the occupants more room and make long journeys as comfortable as short hops across the city, "said Mr. Umar Yaqoob Mir (Managing Director).



The price of Hyundai Aura starts at Rs. 6.29 Lakh and goes upto Rs. 8.57 Lakh. Hyundai Aura is offered in 7 variants - the base model of Aura is E and the top variant Hyundai Aura SX CNG which comes at a price tag of Rs. 8.57 Lakh. The updated hatchback (Grand i10 NIOS) is available in four variants: Era, Magna, Sportz and Asta, priced from Rs 5.69 lakh (ex-showroom). The Grand i10 NIOS facelift receives a redesigned front grille and bumpers as well as V-shaped LED daytime running lights. The car also gets a reworked rear end featuring new wraparound taillights and what appears to be a reflective strip in the centre. It rides on new 15-inch dual-tone alloy wheels, "Said Mr. Shabir Baba (General Manager).

Wont Allow An Inch Of Land To Outsiders: Bukhari

Ask People Not To Panic As Govt Is Committed To Protect Rights Of Poor

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari Monday assured people that his party will not allow an inch of land to be given to 'outsiders' in Jammu and Kashmir and that the political leadership will 'strive' for the rights of the poor.

Bukhari, who served as a minister in PDP-BJP led coalition government from 2015 to 2018, appealed to the Lieutenant Governor, to initiate action against those having encroached huge tracts of land in the UT and 'exempt' poor on humanitarian grounds.

The former minister also alleged that people sitting at the helm of affairs try to become more loyal than the king, thus leaving no moment spared to 'harass' people on one or the other pretext.

"We will strive for the rights of the poor and will not allow an inch of land to be given to outsiders in J&K. We will not tolerate harassment policy and that political leadership won't hesitate to expose those bureaucrats, who inflict miseries upon common masses. I request them to stop doing so," Bukhari said addressing a presser at party headquarters here, adding not everyone, but few officers try to become more loyal than the king.

He said such orders have been issued in the past and will be issued in future as well, however the recent one has panicked the people a lot.

Bukhari also assured people



that their rights will not be jeopardized, as the LG is on record to say that action will be taken against influential people having encroached upon the state land by violating laws and misusing their official positions, while poor and common masses will be spared.

"You have no rights to harass a common man, whatever you (bureaucrats) do is a part of appeasement policy and I request you not to harass people. We won't hesitate to name those officers and see whether action will be taken against them as the political system has not completely ended yet," Bukhari added.

He also claimed that the LG during the Administrative Council meeting held a day earlier discussed some of the suggestions put forth by the Apni Party on agrarian reforms. Bukhari said besides LG, the Home Minister of India also assured him that the new policy will not affect poor people at all.

"LP6 khatima-i-chakdari is under the possession of common people after the same was taken back from chakdar's. It is still registered as state land in revenue records. I appeal to the government to look into the matter and deliver justice to the tenants," said Bukhari.

Union Govt Rolls Out 'U-WIN' Pilot Project For Immunization Services

Health Secretary Launches Portal For Samba, Pulwama Districts

Observer News Service

JAMMU: After success of eVIN (pillar-1) and CoWIN (pillar-2), Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has rolled out the 3rd pillar 'U-WIN' for immunization services which will have Universal Immunization Program module under CoWIN platform.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, today launched U-WIN in Samba and Pulwama districts as a pilot project as part of nationwide drive being conducted in this regard.

Director General, Health and Family Welfare, J&K, Dr Saleem Ur Rehman besides Assistant Directors Family Welfare, Jammu as well as Kashmir division, State Immunization Officer J&K and SPO J&K UNDP and other concerned officers were present during the launching ceremony.

As part of digitalization of health services, Secretary Health discussed the importance of an integrated immunization system which will help in effective management of vaccination programmes at UT and district level. He said that the launch of U-WIN portal will do away with the hassle of keeping a physical record. It will enable digitization of session planning, updating vaccination status on a real time basis, he added.

Beneficiaries would be able to

book slots for vaccination in advance. Once the whole immunization programme is digitized, beneficiaries will get certificates on the spot and they can also download them. The key features of U-WIN Portal included the aspects of self registration of beneficiaries for vaccination as well as on-site registration of pregnant woman, infant and children, birth doses of new born and subsequent vaccination events with the features of individualized tracking of beneficiaries for vaccination status, digitization of session planning, updating vaccination status on real time basis from the last mile of service delivery by the vaccinator.

Secretary further directed the Family Welfare department to ensure continuous monitoring of U-WIN project in the pilot districts and initiate the data collection as well as preparations for rolling out of U-WIN project in all other districts of J&K after successful implementation in these pilot districts.

U-WIN project was launched successfully at H&WC Birpur from Samba and at SDH Pampore, PHC Kakapora, SDH Tral and Rajpora sites from Pulwama and many beneficiaries both children and Pregnant females were immunized. Immunization certificates were handed over to the beneficiaries immediately after the immunization.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS SHOPIAN

(Fax: 01933293144, Email: adcapdsnp@gmail.com)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, re-verification of families under NFSA (AAY and PHH/BPL) was conducted by Village and Tehsil Level Committees throughout the district on the instructions of District Development Commissioner Shopian.

Whereas, complaints are pouring in this Office that some ineligible/ non-deserving families have been included in the reverified and approved list under NFSA .

Therefore, to redress the grievances of the complainants, the general public of district Shopian is hereby informed through the medium of this notice to furnish the objections (if any) with respect to the inclusion of ineligible/non-deserving families under NFSA (AAY and PHH/BPL) , at Office Of the Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Shopian (Min-Secretariat Shopian) and at the respective Tehsil Supply Offices under proper receipt. The Ration lists are available at the concerned Sale outlets/Fair Price Shops or can be fetched from **RCMS.JK.GOV.IN**. The objections shall reach to the designated Offices within a period of 21 days of publication of this notice after which no objection shall be entertained.

No.FCS&CA/Spn/Adm/23/2240-43
Dated: 17/01/2023

DIPK-16535-22
DT: 23-01-2023

Assistant Director
FCS&CA Shopian



Image via AIFF

Real Kashmir Play Churchill Brothers In I-League Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC is all set to take on Churchill Brothers FC today, Tuesday, January 24, in an I-League 2022-2023 fixture at the Tilak Maidan in Vasco da Gama, Goa.

The Srinagar-based side has endured a torrid away form and haven't won a game in six matches. The team was defeated 2-0 by defending champions Gokulam Kerala in their last outing. The defeat condemned the Snow Leopards to fifth place in the I-League table and face the Red Machines who have lost just once in their previous eight games.

In the reverse fixture played at Srinagar's Synthetic Turf TRC, Real Kashmir had edged Churchill Brothers 1-0. However, considering the form both teams are in, the hosts could exact revenge on the Snow Leopards and move above them in the table.

Real Kashmir head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo thinks the travelling aspect of an away game has an impact on the results.

"Travel can sometimes be a factor before an away game as it leads to fatigue, but there can be no excuses," Wadoo told AIFF.

"When we are on the field, we have to give our best and win the game. Yes, we haven't won a game in quite some time, but tomorrow will be another opportunity against Churchill Brothers," he added.

However, the former international player believes his team can get a decent result.

"When we played them in Srinagar, we got a positive result, but now they have signed many new players. They are playing well and winning more games which creates a positive vibe. We will have to be at our best against a confident team," Wadoo said. The match starts at 4:30 PM.

J&K Delegation Meets International Sports Promoter

- ▶ J&K could host U-12, U-15 & pro football competitions
- ▶ Promoter has ties with SL Benfica and KSA Barcelona

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A J&K delegation led by Jammu & Kashmir FA Election Commission Chairman Wasim Aslam met with renowned international sports promoter Ramneek Singh in New Delhi on Monday.

Ramneek Singh is the founder of Arshh Sports Research Foundation and Senior Consultant at 1 Play Sports, Singapore. He specializes in promoting top-level athletes, events to various countries and also specializes in organizing training camps for young athletes around the world.

In the meeting, Ramneek mentioned that a proposal is being worked upon to hold U-12 and U-15 and professional football competitions by global PSUs in Noida, Delhi, Chandigarh and J&K in the near future.

These competitions will be ac-

credited by AIFF and will be organised in association with State FAs. The promoter also shared his views regarding various options available for players, including training camps in Europe, South America and Asia. He explained

that each camp is tailored to the specific needs of the athletes, and focuses on skill development, teamwork, and mental preparation.

Wasim Aslam suggested the adoption of similar footprints for the uplifting and development of footballers of J&K to which he informed about their tie ups with SL Benfica and Kaptiva Sports Academy Barcelona for holding professional training camps in India.

The possibility of sending some of the region's players to foreign training camps in order to improve their skills and gain international experience was also discussed during the meeting.

Confident India Target Series Whitewash Against Kiwis



Press Trust of India

INDORE: With a series sweep in sight, the middle order will be eager to give a better account of themselves as the Indian team management contemplates rotating its bowlers in the third and final ODI against New Zealand in Indore on Tuesday.

Opener Shubman Gill has been in excellent form, having scored a sensational double hundred in the opener, followed by a 40-run knock in the low-scoring second ODI. Skipper Rohit Sharma, too, is having a good run with the bat.

However, the home team is aware that despite enjoying an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, Shubman and Rohit have been the only two batters among runs for the hosts.

Kohli's problem against left-arm spin has come to the fore once again as the talismanic batter has repeatedly gotten dismissed by Mitchell Santner.

After notching three hundreds in four innings, the former skipper was dismissed

cheaply in both the ODIs as New Zealand's star left-arm spinner exposed the chinks in Kohli's armour.

With the T20 fixtures scheduled later this week and the all-important Australia series due to begin next month, the team management may also be tempted to rest players and hand Rajat Patidar, who was added to the squad as a replacement for the injured Iyer, his international debut on front of his home fans in Indore.

Madhya Pradesh's Patidar has impressed in the domestic circuit as well as in the IPL.

There could also be changes in the bowling department with express pacer Umran Malik coming back into the side or spinner leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal replacing Kuldeep Yadav.

Both Chahal and Umran have not featured in the series so far and with the ODI World Cup later this year, the team management is looking to test the core players while carefully monitoring the workload.

The Indian bowlers were

guilty of letting New Zealand score over 300 runs after being 131/6 in the first ODI, but the seamers came back strongly in the Raipur game.

Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Hardik were clinical while the spinners also did a decent job.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will be eager to grab a consolation win to boost their morale. For that to happen, the Black Caps, who are without the services of regular skipper Kane Williamson, will have to address their batting woes.

New Zealand's top six batters have scored 40 or more on just seven occasions in the last 30 innings. The only batter that has impressed in their line-up is Michael Bracewell, who along with Mitchell Santner almost took his side over the line in Hyderabad.

Even the bounce and smaller boundaries make the pitch at the Holkar Stadium batter-friendly and the bowlers will have to work hard to keep the scoring in check.

Arrangements For 3rd Khelo India Winter Games Reviewed

1700 athletes to participate in the event

Agencies

GULMARG: Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Ghulam Jeelani Zargar and Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi chaired a meeting of concerned officers on Monday to take stock of various arrangements for holding the 3rd edition of Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg.

CEO GDA took a comprehensive review of various aspects pertaining to the event wherein he directed various authorities for adopting a coordinated approach for making

the event a grand success.

He emphasized making all necessary arrangements including health necessities, accommodation, lodging and other facilities, well in advance and in a hassle free manner.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the facilities, accommodation, parkings, health facilities, transportation and other logistic arrangements for the upcoming event.

About 1700 athletes and 350 VIPs and VVIPs are scheduled to attend the event at Gulmarg in February. All the sub divisional level officers were present in the meeting. (KNS)

Indian Cricketers Dominate ICC T20 Teams Of 2022



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Former India captain Virat Kohli, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and shortest format's number one batter Suryakumar Yadav were on Monday picked in ICC 'Men's T20I team of 2022'.

The ICC also announced the Women's Team of 2022 with four Indians in the line up — Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh and Renuka Singh.

Kohli returned to his vintage form in 2022 and took the Asia Cup by storm, finishing as the second-highest run-getter with 276 runs in five games.

Surya became the only second batter to score more than 1000 runs in a calendar year. He ended as the top-run getter (1164 runs) with two hundreds and nine half-centuries while striking at a stunning 187.43.

In the World Cup, he amassed 239 runs at a strike rate of 189.68 and finished the year as the No 1 batter in the

T20I Rankings. On the back of leading Gujarat Titans to their IPL title in their maiden appearance, Hardik came into his own as the all-rounder.

He enjoyed his best year by numbers in the Indian colours, scoring 607 runs while also picking up 20 wickets.

The 11-member side is led by World Cup-winning England skipper Jos Buttler and has runners-up Pakistan's Mohammed Rizwan as the opener, and Haris Rauf as one of the two pace spearheads.

Men's Team: Jos Buttler (c/wk), Mohammed Rizwan, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Glenn Phillips, Sikandar Raza, Hardik Pandya, Sam Curran, Wanindu Hasaranga, Haris Rauf and Josh Little.

Women's Team: Sophie Devine (c), Smriti Mandhana, Beth Mooney, Ash Gardner, Tahla McGrath, Nida Dar, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sophie Ecclestone, Inoka Ranaweera and Renuka Singh.

Govt. Mulls Snow Skiing In Gurez To Woo Tourists

'Efforts afoot to make Gurez all-weather tourist destination'



Agencies

BANDIPORA: The government is mulling to start snow skiing at the famous border tourist destination of Gurez in northern Kashmir's Bandipora district as the equipment for the same have been dispatched to the snow-bound valley.

A top official told news agency KNO that the equipment for snow skiing has been dispatched to the snow bound Gurez Valley while other winter sports activities are already on going there.

"Promoting winter tourism would create more employment avenues for the local population in the border areas," he said, adding that the promotion of new spots will help cater to the huge influx of tourists coming to the valley.

The official further said that the chopper service has been already activated in the border areas of northern Kashmir for local people and medical emergencies but it will be augmented for tourists soon to make these all-weather tourist destinations.

"This adventure tourism destination is a hotspot for tourists throughout the summer months, but this year, visitors will be able to see the town in all its glory during winter as well," he said.

Meanwhile, the locals of the Gurez said that there is a lot of potential for winter sports in this area as it remains snow-covered for at least 5-6 months.

"We wish we could get support from the government to further boost winter sports in this part of the valley," a group of residents told KNO.



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