

'Influential Encroachers' Face Govt Wrath In Kashmir

494 Kanals Of Prime Land Worth Rs 509 Crores Retrieved From Land Grabbers In Srinagar: Govt

Land Retrieved From Two Ex-Ministers, Heirs Of Mir Qasim In Anantnag

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday accelerated the ongoing eviction drive in Kashmir Valley and retrieved government land from several 'influential encroachers', including two former ministers and heirs of a former chief minister, besides a hotelier related to former Chief Minister and National Conference President, Dr Farooq Abdullah.

In Srinagar, the revenue department retrieved 494 kanals of prime land worth Rs 509 crores from land grabbers, besides sealing two hotels, officials said. About 40 kanals of land allegedly occupied by the owners of Hotel Nedous at MA Road here.

Nedou's owners are in relation with the Abdullaha of the National Conference.

The officials said the hotel is built on 153 kanals of land, out of which an area of 40 kanals is the state land and the rest is the leased land.



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

They said a boundary wall and a shed were demolished as part of the eviction drive.

Besides, the officials said that another 12 kanal land was also freed from encroachment in Karan Nagar area of this capital city.

In a handout issued here Tuesday evening, an official spokesperson said that special Anti-encroachment squads constituted by District Administration **|More on P6**

Formal Order Sparing Poor, Farmers Likely Soon

Jammu and Kashmir administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is likely to come up with a formal order in a week's time ensuring protection for the poor and common masses during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive aimed at retrieving the land grabbed by the influential people in the past. A local news agency KNO quoted sources in the LG administration as saying that senior BJP leaders of the J & K unit of the party, **|More on P6**

8 Acres Of Prime Land Retrieved In Jammu

Authorities retrieved nearly eight acres of state land here allegedly encroached upon by influential persons.

"Continuing with the anti-encroachment drive, Jammu district administration today evacuated more than 63 kanals (nearly eight acres) of prime state land worth crores of rupees at different places of the district," an official said. During a demolition drive, a team of revenue officers and police demolished three illegal structures including boundary walls and retrieved prime state land measuring 21 kanals in Deeli village near Tawi farm in Bishnah bridge, the officials said. The land is approximately one kilometre from the national highway and values crores of rupees, they said. In another anti-encroachment drive, state land measuring 12 kanals was retrieved in village Gole in Jammu West, they said.

A team of revenue officers along with police retrieved prime state land from the encroachers and installed a sign board on the spot, they said. Similarly, the district administration **|More on P6**

6 IN CHANAPORA TEHSIL OVER 250 KANALS of Kahcharie land was also evicted from land grabbers in Estate Nowgam area under the supervision of Tehsildar Chanpora, Saqib Saleem."

Rahul Visits Kheer Bhawani, Hazratbal

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited Jammu and Kashmir's two revered shrines of Kheer Bhawani and Hazratbal on Tuesday, a day after the Bharat Jodo Yatra concluded here, officials said.

The Gandhi siblings first drove from their hotel here to the shrine of Ragnya Devi, popularly known as Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, in Tullamula area of the central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, the officials said.

The duo, accompanied by some Congress leaders, paid obeisance at the shrine nestled among mighty chinars, 28 kilometres from here, they said.

The temple is a revered shrine for the Kashmiri Pandits who believe that the colour of the sacred spring water, which flows below the temple, indicates to the situation in the valley.

While most of the colours don't have any particular significance, black or dark colour of the water is believed to be an indication of inauspicious times for Kashmir.

Later, they visited Dargah Hazratbal, on the banks of the famous Dal Lake here. The shrine houses a relic believed to be hair of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) and is deeply revered **|More on P6**

Tourism Sector Scaling New Heights In J&K: LG

Says Glorious Era Of Film Shooting Has Also Returned

Observer News Service

Lucknow: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that Jammu and Kashmir's journey since August 2019 and robust and consistent growth has given new confidence and people are striving their utmost in pursuit of a common vision to build a bright future.

"We have given greater thrust to infrastructure development, transforming rural landscape, best health care facilities, making governance responsive, transparent, easily accessible & reviving agriculture, industry & service sector for sustainable development," Sinha said, while addressing a seminar on Jammu Kashmir organized by Mahamana Malaviya Mission here.

Highlighting the performance of Jammu Kashmir in different sectors and achievements, the LG said the



administration has taken several measures to ensure social equality so that all citizens enjoy equal economic opportunity and they are empowered to contribute to nation building.

"Today, every citizen of J&K is contributing to UT's journey of progress. All sections of society, farmers, youths, women, tribals in J&K are feeling empowered for the first time in seven decades," he said.

Sharing the historic journey of new J&K over the past three years, the LG said under the guidance of Prime Minister, the city of Jammu has emerged as the centre of educational institutions, Tourism sector is scaling new height and the glorious era of film shooting has also returned to Jammu Kashmir. **|More on P6**

'NEP Has Redefined Entire Education Ecosystem'

Observer News Service

Kidnapped Girls Traced, 2 Held

Two kidnappers were arrested here on Tuesday from the outskirts of Jammu city with two girls in their captivity, police said. The girls had been kidnapped in two separate incidents in Miran Sahib area two days ago, they said. The incidents were booked at Miran Sahib Police Station, after which police swung into action and scoured the CCTV footage which led to the discovery of the girls. The kidnappers were identified as Anil Choudhary and Shubham Sharma, they said. The girls were returned to their families after the legal formalities, police said.

3 Men Injured After Shed Collapses

At least three persons were injured after a floriculture shed collapsed inside a park in South Kashmir's Kulgam on Tuesday. An official said that a shed at Green Park Chawalagam collapsed suddenly, resulting in injuries to three persons who were sitting there. He identified the injured as Umair Ashraf, Aahil Ahmad and Fasil Yousuf—all residents of Chawalagam Kulgam. He said they were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. The official said one of them was critically injured and he was shifted to SKIMS hospital for further treatment—(KNO)

13 Drugs Peddlers Held In Baramulla

Police have arrested 13 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district for their alleged involvement in peddling drugs and seized narcotics worth over Rs 20 lakh in January, officials said on Tuesday. Police registered 10 cases against drug peddlers during the month, they said. They said 13 people were arrested in connection with drug peddling in this north Kashmir district. Narcotic substances, including 117 gram heroin, 25 gram brown sugar, 3 kg poppy straw and about 24 kg of charas, were seized from them, police said. They said the **|More on P6**

3 Cops Sent To DPL For 'Misconduct'

Three policemen, including a station house officer, were sent to the police lines for alleged "service misconduct" in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Tuesday, officials said. An order to this effect was issued by Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohita Sharma. It is ordered that Inspector Sandeep Charak; Station House Officer, Ramban, Mudasir Ahmed; and Constable Mubeshar Ahmed be placed under suspension for alleged "service misconduct", the SP said. A departmental inquiry has been ordered against them. The sub-divisional police officer **|More on P6**

Dry, Foggy Weather In J&K Till Feb 4



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Agencies

Srinagar: The weather department on Tuesday predicted mainly dry and foggy weather till February 4 and light rain and snowfall thereafter for one week in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, the weather department has ruled out the possibility of any major snowfall in the next ten days.

"From February 1 to 4, mainly dry weather is expected but fog is likely to develop in Jammu & Kashmir (60% chance)," a meteorological department official here said.

For the subsequent one week, he said, light rain and snowfall is expected at isolated places.

"There is no major snowfall for the next 10 days," he said.

In last 24 till 0830 hours today, the MeT department official said that Srinagar received 6.29 inches of snow, Qazigund 9.8 inches, Pahalgam 10.56 inches, Kupwara 7.87 inches, Kokernag 7.1 inches and Gulmarg 19.7 inches, Banihal 1.37 inches, Batote 0.4 inches and Bhaderwah 0.8 inches.

Regarding minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 0.0°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 0.7°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of minus 0.4°C against minus **|More on P6**

Flights Take Off, Banihal Highway Reopens

Air traffic to Kashmir was restored on Tuesday, a day after snowfall snapped connectivity to the Valley, officials said. Air connectivity to and from the Valley was restored on Tuesday morning after the weather improved. Flight operations resumed as the weather stayed dry and the visibility improved, they said. The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway also reopened for stranded vehicles, the officials added. "NH through for traffic. Intermittent shooting **|More on P6**

GULMARG RECORDED A LOW OF MINUS 8.4°C AGAINST MINUS 4.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Haakh Costlier Than Kashmiri Rice With Changed Weather

Kashmir's Favourite Leafy Green Sold For Rs 5500-6000, Kashmiri Rice For Rs 3600 Per 100 Kg In Open Market

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: As the standoff over mutton prices continued in Kashmir for nearly a month, Haakh, or collard green, a staple veggie for every household in the Valley, has surpassed the price of aromatic Kashmiri rice, which is sold at Rs 3600 per 100 kg in the open market.

Haakh, which was sold at Rs 25 to 30, a day before the Valley received the first major snowfall of the season, is now being sold at Rs 55 to 60 per kg. Collard green, quality and taste of which varies as per the place of cultivation, has this way surpassed the rate of famous Kashmiri rice.

Haakh witnessed a steep



hike overnight and almost doubled the price of Kashmiri rice which is sold at Rs 3600 per 100 kg in the open market. The green veggie as per present market rate is sold at Rs 5500 to 6000 per 100 kg, authorities, however **|More on P6**

From LoC To LAC

Befitting Response Given To Every 'Misadventure': President

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the government has been laying constant emphasis on modernising the military as it firmly believes that lasting peace is possible only when India is politically and strategically strong.

Murmu's comments during her address to the joint session of Parliament on the first day of Budget session came amid India's lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh as well as the challenges of Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Without directly mentioning either Pakistan or China, the President, who is also



the supreme commander of the armed forces, highlighted that "befitting response" was given to every "misadventure from LoC (Line of Control) to LAC (Line of Actual Control)".

"My decisive government has always kept the country's interest paramount and shown the willpower to completely transform the **|More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S



Earth Likely To Cross 1.5 Degree Warming In Next Decade: AI Study Predicts

Press Trust Of India

The world will cross the global warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius within 10 to 15 years, even if emissions decline, according to a study that employed artificial intelligence (AI) to predict the results.

If emissions remain high over the next few decades, the study predicts a one-in-two chance that Earth will become 2 degrees Celsius hotter on average compared to pre-industrial times by the middle of this century, and a more than four-in-five chance of reaching that threshold by 2060.

The research, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, employed AI to predict climate change using recent temperature observations from around the world.

"Using an entirely new approach that relies on the current state of the climate

system to make predictions about the future, we confirm that the world is on the cusp of crossing the



1.5 C threshold," said the study's lead author, Noah Diffenbaugh, a climate scientist at Stanford University in the US.

"Our AI model is quite convinced that there has already been enough warming that 2 C is likely to be exceeded if reaching

net-zero emissions takes another half century," said Diffenbaugh, who co-authored the research with



Colorado State University atmospheric scientist Elizabeth Barnes.

The finding may be controversial, Diffenbaugh said, because other authoritative assessments, including the most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC), have concluded that the 2-degree mark is unlikely to be reached if emissions decline to net zero before 2080.

Crossing the 1.5 C and 2 C thresholds would mean failing to achieve the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement, in which countries pledged to keep global warming to "well below" 2 C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing the more ambitious goal of limiting warming to 1.5 C.

Previous assessments have used global climate models to simulate future warming trajectories; statistical techniques to extrapolate recent warming rates; and carbon budgets to calculate how quickly emissions will need to decline to stay below the Paris Agreement targets. For the new estimates, the researchers used a type of AI known as a neural network, which they trained on the vast archive of outputs from widely used global climate model simulations.

بجلی کنکشن کی تبدیلی

بجلی کنکشن زیر کٹریز پور آئی ڈی 0204020007907 اور زیر انشالیشن نمبر 1A-75759R جو کہ محمد صادق آخون ولد علی محمد آخون ساکنہ چک باغ گلین سرینگر کے نام پر درج ہے کو میں اپنے نام پر تبدیل کرانا چاہتا ہوں۔ اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراضات محمد بجلی کے سب ڈویژن رعناواری کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

مختار احمد آخون ولد مرحوم علی محمد آخون

ساکنہ چک صدر بل نزدیک این آئی ٹی حضرت بل سرینگر

اطلاع عام

مورخہ 23 جنوری 2023ء کو دوران سفر میری ڈرائیونگ لائسنس زیر نمبر JK-0120120071682 اور میرا آدھار کارڈ، اسے ٹی ایم کارڈ، چین کارڈ کے علاوہ میرا دفتری شناختی کارڈ کہیں کھو گیا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص نے اٹھائے ہوں تو مہربانی کر کے پیچھے دے دیں یا فون نمبر پر لوٹائیں۔ بصورت دیگر مجھے ان کے ڈپلی کیٹ نکالنے مطلوب ہے اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراضات متعلقہ دفاتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

مشتاق احمد کھانڈے ولد عبدالرحمان کھانڈے

ساکنہ لین نمبر 5 مونس آباد بابا بیٹہ مالوسرینگر

9906629887

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Ferozpora Basin Irrigation Division Tangmarg.

e-TENDER NOTICE No:-71of 2022-23 OF (FBID Tangmarg)

Office Phone No.01954-254611Email Address: fbdivisiontangmarg@gmail.com

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved registered eligible contractors with J&KUTGovt. for following works:

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of Work (In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Amount in Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Amount in Rupees)	M.H. of Account	Ref.to AAA No	Ref to T.S.No	Position Of Funds
1	Improvement to KhaiKhul Gulmarg including minor at various spots	86.22 Lacs	172440/-	45 days	AAY	1600/-	UT Capex Budget	Order No.34 SE/Hyd/DB/1&FC of 2022-23 dated:-14-11-2023	Order No..29/SE/Hyd/DB/TS of 2022-23 dated:-15-11-2022	Assured
2	Improvement to Shah Khul at various weak spots	58.29 lacs	116580/-	45 days	AAY	1600/-	UT Capex Budget	Order No.35 SE/Hyd/DB/1&FC of 2022-23 Dated:-14-11-2022	OrderNo..30/SE/Hyd/DB/TS of 2022-23 dated:-15-11-2022	Assured

1	Publishing date:	27-01-2023	04:00 PM
2	Download date start:	27-01-2023	05:00 PM
3	Bid Submission date start:	27-01-2023	06:00 PM
4	Bid Submission date Ends:	06-02-2023	04:00PM
5	Date of Opening	07-02-2023	12:00 PM

- The complete bidding process will be online.
- Tenders must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Receipt/ CDR/E challan pledged to Tender Receiving Authority and bidders shall quote EnitNo:-/S.No. of the work on E Challan/treasury Challan/.
- The penalty shall be imposed if:-
 - any tenderer withdraws his tender during the period of tender validity or make any modification in terms and conditions of the tender.
 - the contractor fails to execute the agreement within 07days after fixation of contract.
- Instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process: Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the Downloads option as well as from Bidder ManualKit on website w.w.w.jktenders.gov.in as per information Technology Act-2000.
- Bidders have to submit their bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, CDR/FDR and relevant copies with the technical bid documents as specified above must be submitted by lowest bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer F.B.I Division Tangmarg by hand or by speed/registered post before the allotting of work or as and when demanded. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from participation in tendering process in this division for at least one year.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Note:- Scan all documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The successful bidder shall also submit the bank account statement for release of payments against work done claims.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- The payment shall be made only when the funds are received under proper head of account by this office.
- The Tender receiving authority reserves the right to post pone/cancel/reject/accept the tender/work. without assigning reasons.
- Bidder shall note that terms and conditions of the contract circulated by the authorities from time to time applicable on the contract even if not incorporated in this tender notice.
- In case of any dispute regarding the work The Concerned Chief Engineers shall be the sole ARBITRATOR.
- Any other information can be obtained from the office of the U/S on any working day during office hours.
- All other terms and conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form No.-25 (double).
- Taxes in vogue under new tax regime shall be deducted at sources at the time of payment i.e., IT/GST.
- In case of any typographical error or confusion found in the advertised rate list the items quantities Rate/nomenclature etc. shall be deemed as per the proposed estimate and SOR of 2022.
- The release of funds from the Govt. may at times get delayed. The contractor shall bear in mind that no claim whatsoever be it related to paying of interest or any other compensation, the same shall not be considered at all. The contractor may factor in such eventualities which have likelihood to happen beforehand in his price bid.

No:- FBID/CC/9132-48
DIPK-16821/22

Dated:- 31-01-2023

Executive Engineer,
(Jal Shakti)
FB I Division Tangmarg
Technical Officer

ASF ENTERPRISES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my wallet somewhere which PAN Card, ATM Cards , two Aadhar Card & Cash of Rs 6000. If anybody has found he is requested to call on 7780888291 . Otherwise I have to apply for duplicate of the above mentioned documtns in that case anybody having any objection may file the same in the concerned offices within a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Bashir Ahmad Dar
S/o Lt. Mohd Maqbool Dar
R/o Palhalan Patan Saderbal

fko

FATEHA KHAWANI

With profound grief, we inform the demise of **Rafiq** (Baaji) W/o Mohammad Amin Rather R/o Gulshan Colony Near Masjid Tyib H. No. 35 on **30th Jan. 2023** (Monday). May Almighty Allah grant Jannat ul Firdous to the departed soul. Fateha Khawani will be held at their graveyard near Lower Court, Momin Abad, Tengpora, Bypass on **2nd Feb. 2023** (Thursday) at **11:00 AM**.

Bereaved: Adil Amin Rather (Son)
CELL NO: 9419064606,
9419000537

abio

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FEROZPORA BASIN IRRIGATION DIVISION TANGMARG.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Short term E-Tender Notice NO.72 OF 2022-23

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. for following work :-

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of Work (In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Amount in Rupees)	Qty.	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Amount in Rupees)	Head of Account	Position Of Funds
1	Supply of dry and Chopped Keekri Fire wood of Bukharies size including carriage up-to Divisional store of FBI Division at Tangmarg including weighting etc.	0.80 Lacs	1600/-	100/-Qtl	07 days	DEE	200/-	M&R /M&S	Assured

1	Publishing date:	28-01-2022	05:30 PM
2	Download date start:	28-01-2022	06:00 PM
3	Bid Submission date start:	29-01-2022	10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission date Ends:	06-02-2022	04:00 PM
5	Date of Opening	07-02-2022	12:00 PM

Terms and Conditions:-

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of 2% CDR/FDR tender document non-refundable/non-transferable) to be deposited under M.H 0702 Rev Misc in the shape of Treasury challan/ e-challan (mentioning therein NIT No. S.No of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and date on it must be prior to date of issuance of this tender notice, EMD) .
- The whole quantum of fire wood should be dumped within 07 days after issuance of the LOI/ Formal allotment.
- That the fire wood is completed dry and chopped to the usable size for Bukharies (Fire pots) .
- The tenders shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website w.w.w.jktenders.gov.in .
- The tenders uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened as per the schedule above in the office of the Executive Engineer, FBI Division Tangmarg.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- Tenders must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of EMD/Treasury Receipt/E challan pledged to Tender Receiving Authority.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any tenderer withdraws his tender during the period of tender validity or make any modification in terms and conditions of the tender.
 - The contractor fails to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
- Instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process: Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the Downloads option as well as from Bidder Manual Kit on website w.w.w.jktenders.gov.in as per information Technology Act-2000.
- Bidders have to submit their bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must upload the scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR /PAN/ in Tin/treasury Challan /E- Challan /Income tax/ latest GST Clearance Certificate/Registration card duly renewed and hard copies of L1 physically to Tender Receiving Authority after the date of opening of bid.

No:- FBID/CC/ 9225-41

Sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
(Jal Shakti)
FBI Division Tangmarg

DIPK-16848/22 Dated :- 31-01-2022

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NO.II, SGR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.204/CDII/19861-71 of 2022-23

DATED: 27.01.2023

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Macadamization of Internal roads at Amar Singh College Srinagar. (Balance Work) (Development of Shoulders/ Parking).	14.52	600/-	29040/-	30 Days	4202-Hr. Education	"BEE/CEE/DEE"
2.	Upgradation of Chowkidar Quarter at Bemina Srinagar (Balance Work) DEERS.	2.06	200/-	4120/-	15 Days	Capex 2022-23 M.H.5425	"DEE"
3.	Tilting/ Spreading/ Rolling of earth to even level at Eco-Rosary Park Bemina DEERS.	1.49	200/-	2980/-	15 Days	Capex 2022-23 M.H.5425	"DEE"

Position of Funds :- Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28.01.2023 from 10.00 AM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28.01.2023 from 10.00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	02.02.2023 upto 4.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	03.02.2023 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division 2 nd Srinagar.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The date of Treasury Challans should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division 2nd Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 3% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 3% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

4. 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 Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

6. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in into acquint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office No. 07/CDII/2011-12/389-414 dated 07.04.2011.

No. 19861-71

DIPK-16872/22 Dated: 31.01.2023

Executive Engineer
R&B Construction Division IInd Srinagar

NIT CE Dept. Gets DST-FIST Grant Of Rs 1.06 Crores

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Civil Engineering Department of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been selected for financial support of Rs 1.06 Crores. The proposal was recommended in Level B Category by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) based on the recommendations of FIST Advisory Board (FISTAB).

Under the project, the Department of Civil Engineering will get Rs 106 lakhs for Level B under the FIST program to strengthen the research facilities in the department. The duration of the grant is for a period of 5 years.

The Project Implementation Group (PIG) was constituted of faculty members who will be responsible and accountable for the smooth implementation of the DST FIST Project at the Department.

The PIG comprises senior faculty members including Professor M A Ahanger (Chairman 1), Professor Syed Kaiser Bukhari (Chairman 2), while Dr Majid Hussain and Dr Khalid Muzamil Gani will be Coordinators.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Sehgal said it is a proud movement for the institute that the Civil Engineering Department has been selected for the prestigious grant of DST.

"The funds are aimed at acquiring state-of-the-art equipment and setting up of laboratories, and high-end testing facilities for conducting internationally recognized research," he said.

Prof. Sehgal extended greetings to Dr. Majid Hussain and Dr. Khalid Muzamil Gani for their hard work and dedication. Both of them defended their proposal positively and bagged a prestigious grant for the institution.

He said the grant amount will be utilized to strengthen the academic and physical infrastructure

in the department to achieve academic excellence in teaching and training.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari, who is also Chairman of the project congratulated his junior colleagues Dr. Majid and Dr. Khalid from the Department for making the NIT Srinagar proud.

said the FIST project will give a boost to ongoing research projects in the Department and will also provide excellent placement opportunities for the students.

"Students will get the opportunity to execute real-life projects in the emerging areas of technology. The entire amount will be used to strengthen the research facilities and develop better academic facilities in the department," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said this grant support is recommended by DST, New Delhi on the basis of a proposal that was submitted by us (Prof. Bukhari, Dr. Majid, and Dr. Muzamil) from CE department of NIT Srinagar.

He said the grant will benefit the institute immensely with the up-gradation of infrastructure and facilities and will encourage initiating start-ups in this novel area.

In his message Prof. (Dr.) A. Q. Dar, Head Civil Engineering Department congratulated Dr. Majid and Dr. Muzamil for bagging DST grant and stated that it will help to boost academics and research facilities in the department.

He said such grants are very important to push the institute's development to the next level and added that NIT Srinagar has been taking a lead role in this regard.

Dr. Majid Hussain's academic interests include Soil Dynamics; Soil Liquefaction; Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering; Characterization of Geomaterials; Experimental Geotechnics; Ground Improvement and Geo-environmental Engineering.



Awami National Conference leader Muzaffar Shah protests as the Government takes over 40 kanals of land allegedly occupied by the owners of Hotel Nedous at MA Road. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

Professional Dev Course For Admin. Staff Inaugurated AT KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Tuesday inaugurated a week-long professional development course for accounting and administrative staff of the University.

The programme has been organised by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) to impart training to 20 participants, in the first phase, in a wide range of topics, including budget management, financial code, civil service (conduct) rules, GFR and GST, among others.

Saying that administrative staff is a strong pillar of the university's governance system, Prof Nilofer said such professional capacity-development courses are important for the participants to stay updated on amendments and changes made from time to time in financial rules, budgeting, income tax and other domains of accounting.

"Such programmes will eventually boost the university's administrative efficiency and lead to further transparency, which is directly linked with the credibility and reputation of the institution," the Vice-Chancellor said, urging the HRDC to continue with such programmes, with

regularity, for other administrative staff of the University.

Prof Nilofer said the University of Kashmir is gradually moving its daily administrative operations to e-office in a major

staff and research scholars.

"The present programme will offer new learning to the participants and enable them to discharge their duties with greater professionalism and



move that aims to boost the governance system in a big way.

Director HRDC Prof Mushtaq A Darzi delivered the welcome address and highlighted the significance of the course, which, he said, has taken into account new aspects of accounting. He also spelt out different programmes carried out by the Centre for professional development of faculty,

ease," he said.

Director Finance, KU, Bashir A Haji, who is also the course coordinator, underlined various themes chosen for deliberations during the week-long programme.

Coordinator HRDC, Dr Summeer Gul, conducted proceedings of the inaugural session and also delivered a vote of thanks.

Such programmes will eventually boost the university's administrative efficiency and lead to further transparency, which is directly linked with the credibility and reputation of the institution

KU Postpones MBBS, LLB, BA LLB Exams

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir on Tuesday postponed the examinations of MBBS, LLB and BA LLB which were scheduled to be held on February 1, 2023 (Wednesday).

Controller of Examinations

Dr Majid Zaman said students from snow-bound areas of Kashmir requested for postponement citing inaccessibility due to heavy snowfall.

"Fresh dates for the deferred examinations will be notified separately later," he said.

Rahul Gandhi Pushes Car Stuck In Snow On Boulevard Road



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Congress leader and Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi on late Monday evening along with others pushed a private car that was stuck in snow on the Boulevard road in Srinagar.

Sharing a video on his official YouTube channel, Rahul Gandhi was seen pushing a car, which was stuck as the

City received heavy snowfall on Monday.

In the video Rahul Gandhi was also seen walking on the Boulevard road along the famed Dal Lake in Srinagar and also interacted with locals including boatmen and vendors.

He could also be seen sharing some lighter moments with his colleagues and also did some snowfall

fighting with them.

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi along with his sister and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited Mata Kheer Bhawani temple in Tulmulla area of Ganderbal district today morning.

As per reports, the duo paid obeisance and also prayed at the revered temple.

از دفتر ایکزیکٹیو انجینئر فلڈسپل چنل

ڈویژن نارہ بل

عام اشتہار

جیسا کہ اسسٹنٹ ایگزیکٹیو انجینئر فلڈسپل چنل ڈویژن سنگھ پورہ کی اطلاع کے مطابق سلطان پورہ چک ہارون کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ محکمہ فلڈسپل چنل کو سلطان پورہ چک ہارون میں روڈ نیکھائی سے لیکر بلشیری تک نیا بنڈ تعمیر کرنا ہے اس لئے تمام زمیندار کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ سات دن کے اندر مذکورہ درخت کو مثبت طور پر ہٹا دیں اگر کسی زمیندار کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو تین دن کے اندر اندر محکمہ سے رابطہ کرے، ایسا نہ کرنے کی صورت میں آپ کے خلاف (وائر ایسوسر ریگولیشن اینڈ منیجمنٹ ایکٹ 2010) قواعد کے تحت کارروائی شروع کی جائے گی۔

ایگزیکٹیو انجینئر

No: FSCDN/15/10483-86

فلڈسپل چنل ڈویژن نارہ بل

DIPK-16842/22

dated: 31-01-2023

- 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**

09 Rajab
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	6:03
ZUHR	12:44
ASR	4:22
Magrib	6:04
ISHA	7: 26

This Day In History

- 1864 - 2nd German-Danish war begins
- 1909 - US forces withdraw from Cuba after liberal Jose Miguel Gomez becomes president; ensuing political instability will bring a threat of US intervention in 1912
- 1923 - Fascists Voluntary Militia forms in Italy under Benito Mussolini
- 1924 - Ramsay MacDonald's incoming Labour government formally recognizes the Soviet Union
- 1944 - Supreme Soviet increases Soviet republics' autonomy
- 1948 - Palestine Post building in Jerusalem bombed
- 1950 - USSR demands condemnation of Emperor Hirohito for war crimes
- 1951 - 1st X-ray moving picture process demonstrated
- 1951 - 1st telecast of an atomic explosion
- 1951 - UN condemns People's Republic of China as aggressor in Korea
- 1951 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1958 - 1st US satellite (Explorer I) launched
- 1958 - Egypt & Syria announce plans to merge into United Arab Republic
- 1961 - 1st full-scale test of US Minuteman ICBM is successful
- 1968 - Former US VP Richard Nixon announces candidacy for president
- 1970 - West-Germany & USSR sign gas contract
- 1974 - Kuala Lumpur is declared a Federal Territory.
- 1979 - Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran after 15 years in exile
- 1981 - French government accord sends 60 Mirage fighter jets to Iraq
- 1981 - One of cricket's biggest controversies; Australian captain Greg Chappell instructs bowler (and younger brother) Trevor to bowl underarm to Brian McKechnie with New Zealand needing 6 from final ball to tie 3rd World Series Cup ODI in Melbourne ; Australia wins by 6
- 1982 - Senegal & Gambia form loose confederation (Senegambia)
- 1983 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1984 - China & Netherlands regain diplomatic relations
- 1991 - US Air & Skywest Fairchild jet collide at LA Airport killing 32
- 1993 - Soyuz TM-16 lands
- 2003 - Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrates during reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard.
- 2004 - 251 people are trampled to death and 244 injured in a stampede at the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

From KO Archives

Militants disarm cops, SPOs in Tangmarg

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - In a dare-devil overnight strike, militants disarmed the policemen guarding the houses of migrant Kashmiri pandits in a Tangmarg village yesterday. They decamped with the arms and ammunition without causing any physical harm to their victims.

According to reports, a group of heavily armed militants swooped on a security picket established to guard a cluster of migrant houses at Tarhama near Kunzar in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district late last evening. After ordering the policemen out of the post, they relieved them of their arms and ammunition.

Reports said the intruders decamped with an SLR and its 20 rounds, three conventional .303 guns and their 150 ammunition rounds, uniforms and identity cards of the personnel. Five personnel present at the security post at the time were Firdous Ahmad (belt No 2092), officer incharge, constable Fayaz Ahmad (No 62/B), and three special police officers (SPOs), Muhammad Ayub (No 553), Ayaz Ali (No 603) and Muhammad Abdullah (No 507).

They are believed to have offered no resistance. The additional superintendent of police, Sopore, told Kashmir Observer the intruders spoke Punjabi and Urdu.

(Kashmir Observer, 01 February, 2001)

KASHMIR OBSERVER
Wednesday | 01-02-2023

Economy On
The Rebound

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned on Tuesday that it expects the Indian economy to decelerate next fiscal year, with growth falling to 6.1 percent from 6.8 percent in the current fiscal year. Terming India a bright spot, the fund announced the January update to its World Economic Outlook on Tuesday, predicting that global growth will dip from an expected 3.4 percent in 2022 to 2.9 percent in 2023, then increase to 3.1 percent in 2024. On the other hand, according to the Economic Survey released by the government a day ahead of the Union Budget presentation, India's economic growth is forecast to be 6.5 percent in fiscal 2024 compared to 7 percent in the current fiscal. The projection is by and large similar to the one provided by multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the ADB and by the Reserve Bank of India domestically. The survey expects more foreign money to flow into India as advanced economies face "recessionary tendencies." This, in turn, is projected to increase investment in the private sector.

One big factor contributing to rebound in India's growth is the country's quick recovery from the Covid pandemic, as also highlighted by the Economic Survey. This solid economic performance will underpin the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget today, her fifth Budget since 2019. She is expected to change income-tax slabs to provide relief to the middle class. Besides, in an election year, the government is also expected to spend on the poor with programmes such as rural jobs.

The varied growth projections from multilateral agencies presents a stable picture of Indian economy. The ongoing war in Ukraine, however, remains a danger. If it drags on, the global economy, and with it, the Indian economy, is likely to come under severe stress again. Therefore it is incumbent on the world to come together to resolve the crisis in Ukraine and find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the parties involved. Otherwise, as prophesied by leading economists, the world is heading inexorably toward recession.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday the world's eyes were on India amid the prevailing global uncertainty. The budget, the PM added will attempt to meet the hopes and aspirations of the common citizen. So, not only the world's but India's eyes are also fixed on today's budget.

OTHER OPINION

Reason for optimism

The optimism is striking, particularly when the global situation isn't exactly rosy, with tightening financial conditions and subdued trade growth. The Survey has projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2023-24, a tad lower than the forecast of 7 per cent for the ongoing financial year. This assessment is at odds with the more pessimistic forecasts by international agencies and other independent evaluations. In its latest World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund has pegged India's economic growth to slow down from 6.8 per cent in 2022 to 6.1 per cent in 2023. On similar lines, rating agency Crisil has projected growth at 6 per cent, while investment house Nomura has pegged it even lower. While the Survey's projections of the decline in growth may not necessarily be incorporated in the Union budget, they nonetheless provide an insight into the government's views on the state of the economy.

Opinion | Economic Survey 2023: A broad-based recovery has lifted all major sectors above pre-pandemic levels. But that is about to be tested by slowing global growth

The Survey's growth prognosis is based on expectations of robust domestic demand and a pick-up in capital expenditure. It notes that as export growth moderated in the ongoing financial year, domestic consumption rebounded, providing a fillip to economic activity. However, this was largely due to the release of "pent-up" demand. While the Survey expects this rebound to have "lasting power", to what extent it is sustainable — in the context of elevated inflation eroding purchasing power and an uneven recovery impacting sales of both consumer durables and non-durables — is debatable. On investment activity, the Survey highlights the increasing trend in project announcements and private capex spending. While there are some signs of an uptick in the private investment cycle, these indicate a skew in favour of specific sectors, not a broad-based pick-up. Moreover, the continuing downturn in exports will have ramifications. While the Survey does acknowledge the prospects of sluggish exports, a detailed articulation on the risks to growth from a slowdown in the developed economies — if interest rates remain "higher for longer" — is absent.

The Survey has devoted an entire chapter to India's medium-term growth outlook. The broad conclusion is encouraging — the twin balance sheet crisis does not appear to be an impediment to growth anymore. Both corporate and banking sector balance sheets are in far better shape, and the credit cycle is poised for an uptick. The Survey emphatically states the Indian economy is well placed to embark on a growth trajectory similar to what it experienced post 2003. This is reassuring. Thus, while the short-term outlook is challenging, favourable demographics, formalisation and digitisation are reasons for optimism in the long run.

Indian Express

US Weapons for Beleaguered
Russia courtesy Taliban

Asad Mirza

As the US troops withdrew from Afghanistan amid the Taliban's takeover of Kabul, 70 percent of American weapons as well as \$48 million worth of ammunition provided to the Afghan forces were left in the war-torn country

Indeed war and political circumstances can make you sleep with your enemy, and despite different ideologies they can also make opponents strange bedfellows

As per the reports of the British media, Russia is eyeing weapons left by the hastily withdrawing US forces in 2021 in Afghanistan. To secure these arms Russian diplomats are reported to be wooing the Taliban elements of the caretaker government in Afghanistan.

British tabloid The Sun reported last week, citing a Telegram channel that a 'Kremlin insider', has said that Russia is seeking weapons from Afghanistan, including those left behind by the US in 2021. Though Moscow denies these claims, Ukrainian and Western officials say Russia is facing a shortage of arms.

Reports claim that amid planning for an expected spring offensive, Russia has reportedly turned to the Taliban government in Afghanistan for weapons.

As per a US Department of Defense report, the American troops had left more than \$7 billion worth of weapons and equipment when it pulled out of Afghanistan, reports CNN.

US arms for Russia

The Sun, citing the Telegram channel, General SVR, reported that Putin has asked the Taliban for equipment left by the US. General SVR channel claimed, citing a Kremlin insider, that in exchange for arms, Putin will "recognise" the Taliban government.

"Putin is overseeing negotiations with the Taliban to recognise the Taliban government. In return, the Russian leadership is offering a major arms and military equipment swap," General SVR claimed, reports The Sun.

General SVR, further stated that those aware of the negotiations say that the Taliban are "extremely surprised" by such proposals, however, they are discussing them in "earnest".

This claim comes amid other conflicting reports claiming that Russia and Pakistan are stressing on the need for "practical engagement" with the Taliban. Some claim that Russia is considering recognising the Taliban government while others claim that it is not considering such a proposal for the time being.

If indeed these reports are true then it may come as a shot in the arm for the Taliban, as finally they'll be able to get at least one former super power to recognise them and additionally they also might get some financial package from the Russians, money which is desperately needed by the Taliban government to function properly.

Reportedly, Russian presidential envoy for Afghanistan – Zahir Kabulov – met with Pakistani officials in Islamabad on 25 January and apprised them about his meetings with the Taliban in Kabul earlier this month.

Official Pakistani sources in the know of the meeting told Voice of America (VOA) that Kabulov said Russia will continue to engage with the Taliban but was not considering granting formal recognition to the rulers "for the



Taliban fighters patrol through Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. Pictures of such fighters posing with captured aircraft, weapons and vehicles have been showing upon social media. Rahmat Gul/AP

time being".

The Russian envoy "advised" the all-male Taliban to create a "politically inclusive" government and ease restrictions on women in order to move forward on the issue of their legitimacy, VOA reported citing sources.

US weapons in Afghanistan

As the US troops withdrew from Afghanistan amid the Taliban's takeover of Kabul, 70 percent of American weapons as well as \$48 million worth of ammunition provided to the Afghan forces were left in the war-torn country, Foreign Policy reported in April last year.

The military equipment included 23,825 Humvees and around 900 combat vehicles. As many as 42,000 pieces of night vision, surveillance, biometric and positioning equipment were also left behind in Afghanistan, as per the report.

The officials familiar with the defence department report had said that it was unlikely for the Taliban to use the US weapons, which require technical support and specialised maintenance. But they had also expressed concerns about the Taliban fighters using small arms including automatic rifles

The Reality

The big question is whether Russia is actually short of weapons? No, claims the former Russian president, Dmitry Medvedev and now newly appointed head of the military-industrial commission that is monitoring weapons production for the war.

Hitting out at Western media reports that Russia is facing a paucity of missiles and artillery, Medvedev said earlier this week that Moscow's weapons stocks were adequate to continue the fight in Ukraine.

Reuters reported him as saying that our opponents are watching, they periodically make statements that we don't have this or that ... I want to disappoint them. We have enough of everything.

A video posted on the former president's Telegram channel showed him taking a stock of Kalashnikov rifles, artillery shells,

missiles and drones. Russian troops have also deployed Iran-made 'kamikaze' drones for their attacks in Ukraine.

Russia's denial, Ukrainian and Western military officials have claimed that Russia is facing a crunch of arms.

In December last year, Britain's armed forces chief – Admiral Sir Tony Radakin – had said that Russia had planned for a "30-day war" and is now facing a "critical shortage" of artillery shells.

The Guardian had reported him saying that Russia faces a critical shortage of artillery munitions. This means that their ability to conduct successful offensive ground operations is rapidly diminishing.

When Russia launched the invasion of Ukraine, it was planned to be a blitzkrieg-like operation that would sweep the capital Kyiv. However, the fierce resistance by the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) pushed the Russian troops to the fringes and made it a war of attrition that will complete a year next month.

The war has essentially proved to be a double whammy for Russia. Not only has the country lost a massive number of men and materials, but Moscow has also been unable to manufacture weapons at pre-war levels due to crippling sanctions.

Going by the daily estimates published by Ukraine's Ministry of Defence, Russia has so far lost more than 3100 tanks, more than 6300 armoured vehicles, more than 2100 artillery, more than 1900 drones, and almost 300 military jets, to name a few.

Meanwhile, there are also reports that NATO is going to supply Ukraine with more superior tanks to counter a hotly predicted pre-spring Russian offensive.

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.



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

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Response to "Boredom is a Blessing"

The write-up "Boredom is a blessing" (January 27) brings out the niceties and the hidden advantages of one getting bored at times. A boring life may not be something all of us strive for, but the truth is that occasional boredom actually has a number of health benefits. Allowing yourself to be bored once in a while can pay off in terms of your productivity, creativity

and ability to handle stress.

We do almost anything to avoid feeling bored. As soon as our interest in an activity begins to decline, we quickly turn to playing games, replying to messages, or engaging with some other easily-accessible distraction. We do this to avoid the mental discomfort of boredom. We are never too far away from something to stimulate us or give us a quick dopamine

hit. Being bored at times is actually a good thing for us, and its benefits include: boost creativity, enhance productivity, effortless goal setting and novelty exposure. So, while most people chase ways to keep their brain stimulated, we can level up our own lives by doing the opposite – learning to unplug, slow down, and embrace boredom.

Boredom shouldn't be something

we wear or avoid. Although it is an uncomfortable experience, it is also responsible for unlocking our true potential. If we decide to distract ourselves every time we feel a little bit bored, it means we are seriously limiting our ability to learn, to discover our life mission and achieve incredible things.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

STATE LAND/KAHCHARAI LAND

General Knowledge for the Uninitiated

Ishtiyaq Mohiuddin

State land /Khalisa /Government land are used synonymously, and can only be utilised by the Govt for any purpose it deems necessary! And, this land can be leased out to individuals by the Government as per the Land Grants Act.

However, Roshini Act was introduced in 2001 to give ownership of already occupied(encroached) State Land to people against payments, and revenue raised was supposed to be utilised for construction of power projects. But subsequent concessions and mismanagement resulted in huge losses to the exchequer, the scheme was scrapped, first by the Govt in 2018 & then by the Hon'ble Court in 2020. All of its record enteries were removed and 'Intiqalaat' cancelled.

Kah-Charai means a kind of tax one was supposed to pay against use of designated Land parcels for chara-ayi(livestock grazing). So, Kahcharai Land(locally GhaasCharaey) is the land supposed to be used for grazing Purposes. But decline in grazing requirements and the unavailability of state land means that the government is left with no choice but to use Kahcharai land for other public purposes.

Kahcharai Land comes under the broad category of Common Land, that also includes, land under Paths/Roads/ Canals/Graveyards, etc. All types of Common Lands can only be used for common public purposes and not for any individual purposes.

Most of us have heard, "Zameenus chhu Shamilaat Saet!"

Shamilaat Land can be of two types: Jayiz Shamilaat, also called Dafa-5 Shamilaat, and refers to a part of village State Land once in the past gifted and distributed by Maharaja among locals in proportion to their quantum of then existing Milkiyat Land. Dafa-5 Land is therefore as good as Milkiyat Land.

Second type of Shamilaat Land is Najayaz Shamilaat or Dafa-4 Shamilaat. It refers to Kahcharai and other types of Common Land.

Interestingly, people previously in illegal occupation of State/ForestT/Kah-charai/ Common Land would approach Patwaris and ask for Intikhaab! As per Record Entries, they would be provided Intikhaab with a line written on it : "Mr X has Najayiz Qabza on this much of land"! That would strangely lend a kind of legitimacy to this illegal possession, and this Intikhaab would be used



ILLEGALLY AND SECRETLY, STATE AND KAHCHARAI LAND WAS BEING SOLD BY PEOPLE to each other at generally accepted half the rate of adjacent Milkiyat Land. And interestingly, if this illegally purchased land was adjacent to Milkiyat Land of the purchaser, he would carry out construction on this illegal land first to 'secure it'

for Sale-Purchase of this land. All such illegal Record Entries were removed from records in the year 2020 as per Govt Orders, and no such Intikhaab can therefore be issued now.

Illegally and secretly, State and Kah-charai Land was being sold by people to each other at generally accepted half the rate of adjacent Milkiyat Land. And interestingly, if this illegally purchased land was adjacent to Milkiyat Land of the purchaser, he would carry out construction on this illegal land first to 'secure it'.

An Exchange scheme was available under Land Revenue Act, that allowed a Kahcharai encroacher to offer his Milkiyat Land in exchange of encroached Kahcharai, provided, his offered Milkiyat patch was adjacent to any Kahcharai Patch, so that it could become part of Kahcharai. This Scheme was again abused, and consequently, it was removed under Land Reforms introduced after 2019.

As far as distributing the land among 'poor & landless' goes, my experience tells me, wherever these 5 Marlas of

land were allotted, the beneficiary would occupy a lot more at that spot and then would sell it gradually, most of the times he would end up selling his allotted land of 5 Marlas as well.

Again, very interestingly, any structure raised or tree grown on State/ Kahcharai/ Common land belongs to the Government as per law, not to that encroacher.

PS: A UT-wide drive is going on now, but I used to carry out evictions and demolition of illegal structures of the rich & influential as Tehsildar Bijbehara and

Pampore between 2018 & 2022, when not many were doing it! Always felt, more than anything else, it conveys a message and prevents further land grabbing.

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

The author is a KAS officer. The article is being reproduced from the author's social media with permission

Happiness Isn't Found But Created

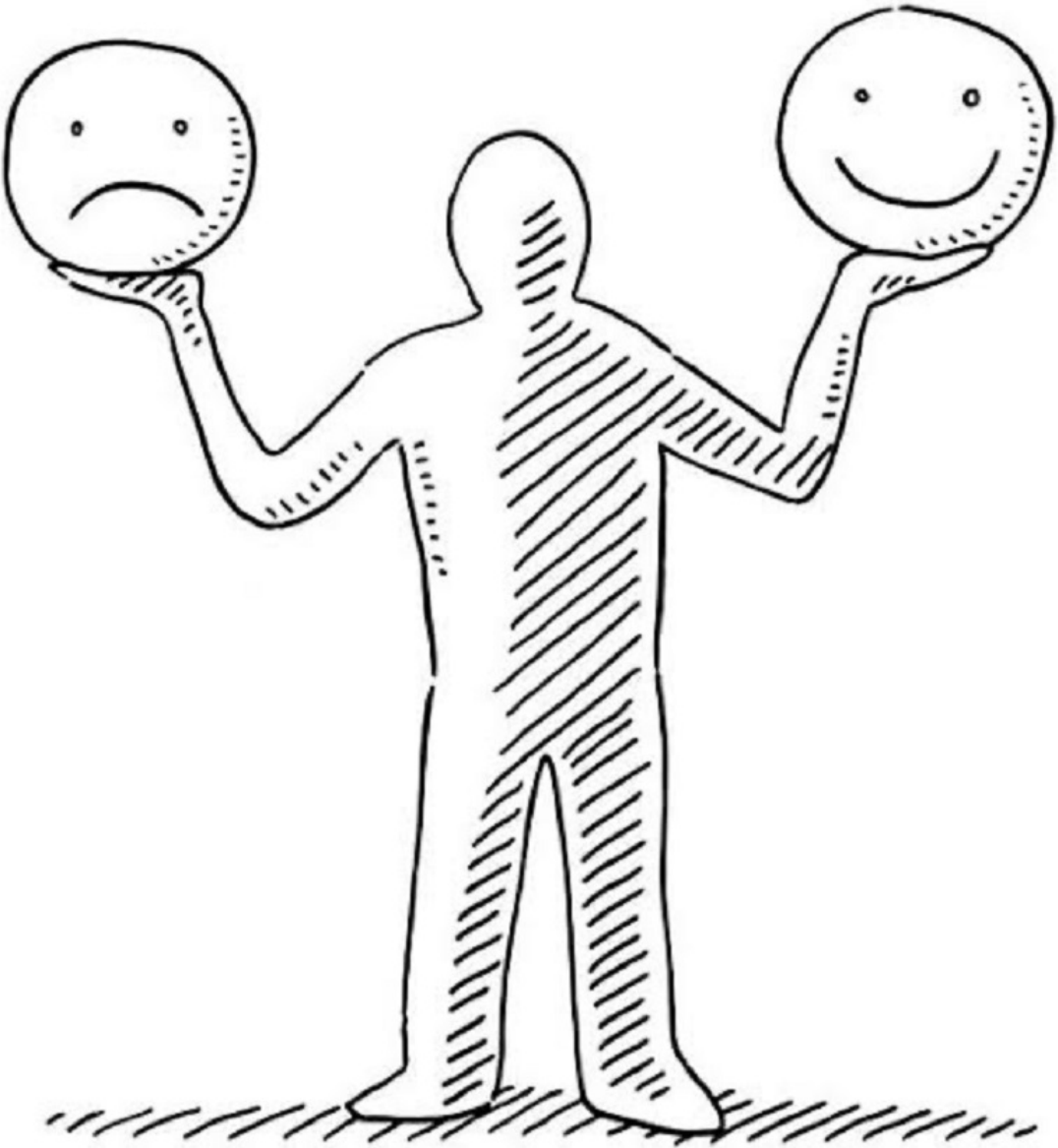
Sarah Koul

CONTRARY to the original belief that happiness is 'found', happiness is a skill we all can work and train for. One important thing to remember is that happiness isn't a state of constant glee. Instead, happiness is an overall sense of experiencing more positive emotions than negative ones. Our thoughts are involuntary, they have a life of their own and cannot be controlled, thus the notion of 'positive thinking', is quite unachievable if not impossible. We have a better chance at controlling our actions and behavior, than controlling our thoughts.

Emotional and mental wellbeing cannot be based on positive thinking but on positive action, practices that induce a sense of happiness and satisfaction. If someone asks us why we had a good day, we would generally list things like, xyz gave me a bunch of flowers or I heard this amazing singer on the road. However, as long as our reasons for why we had a good day are a list of external conditions, we are not going to have a stable sense of happiness. If our happiness depends upon external sources such as people or circumstances, then our happiness will be in the hands of everyone but us.

We need to stop outsourcing our happiness, to stop attributing it to certain people and circumstances- to center ourselves as the authority of our happiness. As long as we are making it the job of people and circumstances to make us happy, or as long as we're blaming others for our unhappiness, our state of happiness will be very unstable and illusive.

Our job is to actively cultivate a source of peace and happiness that comes from within our mind. If happiness is a state



of mind, how do we expect to derive it from outside our mind?

If we have a peaceful state of mind, we will be happy regardless of the situation but if we have a disturbed or agitated state of mind, we will not find peace regardless of how desirable the circumstances will be.

To be able to have a peaceful and satisfied state of mind, one needs to take control of how he views everything around them. We can choose to be happy in every second, by looking around us and letting gratitude seep through our nerves, by being thankful for our health, and for every working muscle and limb in our very own body. We choose to be happy by being grateful for all that is going right rather than wrong- to be grateful about having a car and not dissatisfied about not having a top end model, to be able to observe that there are more people in the world who don't even get to have a car rather than people who get to buy high end cars. It's seemingly cliché to say, "one should be content in what he has" but the more we hear it the more we realize that clichés are only clichés because they have been proven to be true time after time. Acknowledging that happiness is in our own hands, to a large extent, is hard because by admitting so we're holding ourselves accountable for it. Humans feel and encounter a spectrum of emotions- anger, frustration, boredom, loneliness, and even sadness- from time to time and so do happy people. But people who are content and happy, when faced with discomfort, have an underlying sense of optimism that things will get better, that they can deal with what is happening. Therefore a constant state of happiness cannot be possible to achieve, but happiness roots in optimism and thus the key is to stay

optimistic. To be optimistic is to have hope, and as the famous poet Emily Dickinson penned;

"Hope is the thing with feathers – That perches in the soul – And sings the tune without the words –

And never stops – at all."

Emily Dickinson takes an abstract feeling or idea and likens it to something physical, visible, and tactile. So hope becomes a singing bird, the thing with feathers that is supposed to be high in the sky, singing to us that no matter what, even in the darkest days, light always finds a tiny crack to sweep in through. Similarly, to have hope and optimism that there is happiness in everything around us, even in the hardest times, is the key to attain a happy state of mind. What needs to be incorporated into our lives is the practice of finding happiness and associating it to what we do on a daily basis- having a cup of beautifully decorated coffee which someone crafted with utmost carefulness or to look at the sky and hope it rains if that makes us happy- to be able to find happiness in minuscule things and doing things that induce a sense of joy in us. We deserve to create joy for ourselves, because the more we associate our happiness with others the more is the chance of facing disappointment, but when we take responsibility for our own happiness, we tend to work for it because we can disappoint anyone but ourselves.

Happiness is right now, in the sky, in the sand, during that phone call with your mother, it's in the iced tea, and the sunshine. Heck, it can even be in the trees while you rush to your last final. Happiness can be wherever we choose for it to be.

The author is an intern with Kashmir Observer

Pakistan Mosque Blast Toll Rises To 100 As Investigation Launched Into Security Lapses

Press Trust of India

Peshawar: The death toll from the suicide attack rose to 100 on Tuesday after rescue workers retrieved more bodies from the debris of the devastated mosque inside a major police facility, as an investigation is under way into how the bomber sneaked into the high-security zone in Pakistan's northwestern Peshawar city.

According to security officials, the suicide bomber who was present in the front row during

the Zuhr (afternoon) prayers on Monday blew himself up, causing the roof to collapse on the worshippers - one of Pakistan's deadliest attacks in recent years.

Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) spokesperson Mohammad Asim said that 100 bodies had been brought to the medical facility.

Asim said 53 injured were currently being treated while seven had been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). He said that most of the injured were out of danger.

Most of the victims were

policemen. At least a deputy superintendent of police, five sub-inspectors and the mosque's prayer leader Maulana Sahibzada Noorul Amin were among the dead.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), known as the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the suicide attack, saying it was part of a revenge attack for slain TTP commander Umar Khalid Khurasani who was killed in Afghanistan in August last.

According to the Police Control

Room Peshawar, more than two-hundred injured were brought to the Lady Reading hospital.

Capital City Police Officer, Peshawar (CCPO) Ejaz Khan told Geo TV that the head of the suspected suicide bomber was recovered from the blast site.

The suspected bomber was identified as 37-year-old Mohammed Ayaz son of Salim Khan from Mohmand agency.

"It is possible that the attacker was already present in the Police Lines before the blast and that he may have used an

official vehicle [to enter]," he said. "(The) CTD is investigating the case," he said.

On Tuesday, rescuers pulled out nine people alive from the debris.

"Close to 300-400 policemen usually offer prayer at the Zuhr time. If a blast has taken place inside police lines then it is a security lapse (and) an investigation into the matter can reveal further," he said.

The bomber entered the highly secured mosque inside police lines where four layers of security were in place.

Decriminalisation Of Adultery Won't Be Applicable In Armed Forces, Rules SC, Clarifying Its 2018 Landmark Verdict

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Observing that military discipline will be affected if there is an army with "completely loose morals", the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the armed forces can take action against their officers for adulterous acts and decriminalisation of adultery would not stand in the way of initiating disciplinary proceedings.

Clarifying its landmark 2018 judgement which had struck down Section 497 of the IPC that criminalised adultery, a five-judge Constitution bench

headed by Justice K M Joseph said the verdict was not concerned with the provisions of the armed forces acts.

The top court in 2018 had struck down the 158-year-old anti-adultery law, saying it was unconstitutional as it denied the individuality of women and treated them as "chattel of husbands".

The Tuesday order by the bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and C T Ravikumar, said it is not as if this court approved of adultery.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Influential Encroachers'

Srinagar were headed by Tehsildars who conducted mass scale anti encroachment drives while taking assistance of Police and other departments.

He said that a team of Revenue and Police Officers/Officials headed by Tehsildar Eidgha, Ishfaq Ahamd Khan launched a massive anti-encroachment drive in Palpora area and retrieved over 50 kanals of State land from the land grabbers.

Similarly, he said, in a major anti-encroachment drive launched at Balhama and Khonmoh under the supervision of Tehsildar Pantha Chowk, Rakib Ahmad as many as 25 kanals of Kachharie land was retrieved.

"In addition, 27 kanals and 12 marlas of State land was also evicted from the encroachment," he said.

Likewise, in Tehsil North, the spokesperson said that 36 kanals of Kacharai land was retrieved in Rakhe Zakura and 26 kanals of State land in Ahla area respectively.

"Similarly, in Khimber 5 kanal 10 marla Kachraie land and 10 marlas of State land was also retrieved by a Revenue Team headed by Tehsildar North, Kaiser Mehmood," he said.

In South Tehsil of the District, the spokesperson said, a team headed by Tehsildar, Moean Azhar conducted a massive anti-encroachment drive and retrieved over 40 kanals of State land in Maisuma 8 kanals in Nursing Garh areas from the encroachers. The team, he said, also evicted 4 kanal of prime land in Tashwan halqa of the Tehsil.

Similarly, in Khushipora area of Central Shalteng Tehsil, the spokesperson said, over 12 kanals of Kachharie land and 6 kanals of State land has been evicted in Rakhe eGund Aksha areas.

"In Chanapora Tehsil over 250 kanals of Kachharie land was also evicted from land grabbers in Estate Nowgam area under the supervision of Tehsildar Chanpore, Saqib Saleem," he added.

In Khanyar Tehsil, the spokesperson said 2 hotels namely Hotel In and Hotel Goodwill Commercial cum residential Hotel constructed illegally over 1 Kanals and 11 marlas of land in Brari Nambal were sealed and taken in possession under the supervision of Tehsildar Khanyar Aailya Tabasum.

The spokesperson said that the LG Administration has clearly said that common masses and poor people wouldn't be touched during the ongoing encroachment drive launched to retrieve state land from encroachers.

"It has been also said in the statement that the government is concerned to safeguard the interests of poor people and only those who have illegally occupied the Government land by using their positions will be dealt with strictly. Accordingly District Administrations have been stressed to launch anti encroachment drives to retrieve land from encroachers so that all Government land is evicted from the illegal occupants," he added.

In South Kashmir's Anantnag district, illegal encroachments of three influential families were bulldozed at Dooru, including heirs of former chief minister Syed Mir Qasim, former minister Peerzada Muhammad Sayeed of Congress and Farooq Andrabi of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), an official spokesperson said.

At Ara Khoshipora in Dooru, he said, 1 kanal of Kahcharai land under the occupation of Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed was retrieved and the outer wall of his premises constructed on Kahcharai land was demolished.

"It is in place to mention that notices for voluntarily removing the encroachments had been issued to the ex-minister but he had failed to give air to the Government direction," the spokesperson said.

Similarly, he said, the family of Syed Farooq Andrabi, former legislator from Dooru had encroached upon 2 kanal and 7 marlas of Shamilat land by way of orchards at Shistergam.

"The same lands have been retrieved and notice boards indicating the status of land have been installed on the site," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the heirs of Syed Mir Qasim, former chief minister also 'faced wrath for trespassing state/Kachharai lands'. He said 15 kanals of Shamilat land occupied by the heirs of ex-CM of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir have also been retrieved by a team led by Tehsildar Dooru.

"It is in place to mention that the encroachers had established an orchard at the site which was being used to earn income by utilizing public property," he added.

The spokesperson quoted an unnamed senior revenue official as saying that on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, encroachments by influential people were being identified and anybody found encroaching on state/Shamilat lands will be "taken to task".

He said that several such influential encroachers have been identified and the drive

will continue.

Pertinently, authorities demolished the outer wall and main gate of the residence of National Conference leader, Ali Mohammad Sagar at Humhama near Srinagar Airport last week.

The outer wall, the main gate as well as the entry of the guardroom of the NC leader's Humhama residence was demolished as part of the government's ongoing demolition drive against the "land grabbers".

On Monday, the authorities had demolished the boundary wall of a SSP-rank officer at Humhama.

Meanwhile, the revenue authorities led by Tehsildar Mohd Husain took over a guest house named Green Acker in the tourist resort of Pahalgam.

The guest house, an illegal structure, located on a prime piece of land at Laripora Pahalgam was raised by Bashir Ahmad Dar, Ex EO MC Pahalgam and Manzoor Ahmad, Ex Secretary MC Pahalgam.

Green Acker guest house is situated on Laripora main road on a piece of State land that is worth crores of rupees and the property was being used commercially for raking profits. It is in place to mention that the area has a large tourist footfall and is highly valued commercially.

Tehsildar Pahalgam said that the anti-encroachment drives in Pahalgam have been successful in retrieving 1000s of kanals of land which can now be used for public purposes.

He said the piece of land had been grabbed by the officials by abusing their position and has been taken over by the department and will be put to public use. He said that other such people are being identified and action will continue.

So far, several politicians in J&K have faced the heat of administration in the ongoing eviction drive.

Formal Order

have made personal requests about protecting the poor and common masses during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive going on across J&K.

"I met LG sahib in person and requested him to spare the people having grabbed or constructed homes on State land measuring 8 to 10 marlas. I requested him to fix a nominal registration fee for them so that they are not rendered homeless," BJP General Secretary and party's Kashmir affairs incharge Sunil Sharma said.

He said that during his conversation with the LG it was decided that "influential won't be spared and the land grabbed by them in the past will be retrieved at any cost."

"The LG told me that even though he has reiterated time and again that the poor won't be touched and the influential won't be spared, he would think on issuing a formal order in this regard," he said.

Sharma said that he was hopeful that the LG administration may issue a formal order in this regard within a week's time. "The order may have a mention about the registration fee for the poor having possession of State land up to 10 marlas," he said.

Another BJP leader, wishing not to be named, said that on behalf of the party, he too has urged the LG administration to spare the poor during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive.

"Though it is up to the government to finalise whether they would keep 10 marlas as the limit for having the State land for the poor lot who have constructed their homes or bring the number down to 5 marlas or so. This is a matter of discussion and is being currently discussed by the Revenue officials and other officials of the LG led administration seriously," the leader said, adding that "we expect a formal order shortly in this regard."

J&K BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur said several delegations of farmers and poor people from Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir came to BJP office in Srinagar with a request that they have constructed homes on just 5.8 and 10 marlas of State land and if they would be evicted, where would they go.

"We have requested the LG Sir not to touch the poor but go hard against the politicians especially all 34 former ministers whose names have surfaced in the list of land grabbers," he said.

Congress party's J&K unit too had vociferously opposed the eviction drive of the LG led administration and sought a formal order mentioning protection for the poor and farmers.

Congress leader and MP Rahul Gandhi also expressed his displeasure over the J&K administration's anti-eviction drive. In his press conference at Srinagar during Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY), Rahul said that "poor are being left homeless and farmer's land is being snatched during the eviction drive of the J&K administration."

In the J&K's anti-encroachment drive, action has been taken against former ministers and officers. "The list of land grabbers is so long that it will take years to retrieve the land. The

drive is on as per the directions from the LG office," an official said, wishing not to be named.

8 Acres Of

retrieved state land measuring 23 kanals 9 marla (3 acres) in village Ghaink in Bhalwal.

The retrieved land was encroached by a former legislature which was evacuated by the district administration in Jammu, the officials said.

Some media reports suggested that the Bhalwal land on the outskirts of the city was allegedly occupied by BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta.

However, Gupta has denied the media reports and said that the land retrieved in Bhalwal does not belong to him.

"The land retrieved by administration (in Bhalwal) does not belong to me. It is a government land. Some people who are spreading this want to tarnish my image," he told PTI.

Dry, Foggy

0.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of minus 4.7°C against minus 1.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.8°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 1.6°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 8.4°C against minus 4.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°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 0.8°C against minus 0.4°C on the previous night and it was above 1.5°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu received 26.6mm of rain during the 24 hours and recorded a low of 7.1°C against 10.4°C on the previous night. It was 1.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, had 39.8mm of rain during the time and recorded a low of minus 0.4°C (below normal by 1.2°C); Batote 52.1mm of rain and recorded a low of minus 0.5°C (below normal by 2.6°C); Katra received 49.4mm of rain and recorded a low of 6.1°C (below normal) while Bhadarwah received 27.8mm of rain during the time and recorded minimum temperature of 0.2°C (0.8°C above normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 8.0°C and minus 10.2°C respectively, the official said.

Flights Take Off

stones and slides still coming at some places. Travel very cautiously. Road slippery", SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma tweeted.

Moderate to heavy snowfall on Monday, the final day of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the harshest winter period in the region -- disrupted daily life in Kashmir.

The snowfall continued across Kashmir till late evening. Some areas, especially in the higher reaches, received snow during the night as well.

The Met department has predicted cloudy weather till Wednesday, after which it is likely to remain mostly dry till Saturday.

There is a chance of light rain/snow at isolated places on Sunday.

The minimum temperature improved at some places in the Valley, including Srinagar where it settled at zero degrees.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 4.7 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg was at minus 8.4 degrees.

Rahul Visits

among the Muslims in the valley.

The visits were kept a secret due to security considerations, they said.

Tourism Sector

"Following the ideals of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, our endeavour is to enhance economic prosperity in rural areas and fulfill the resolution of AtmaNirbhar Jammu Kashmir," he said.

"The development and productive engagement of youth of Jammu Kashmir has been prioritized. Employment avenues in the government, corporate sector and opportunities are being provided to young boys and girls to become entrepreneurs. Since August 2019, financial assistance and requisite training has been provided to 6 lakh young boys and girls to start their business venture," he added.

'NEP Has Redefined

Sinha also sought active participation of Universities from J&K and involvement of students in preparations for the ensuing G20 event in Jammu Kashmir.

Welcoming the participants from various Universities to J&K, the LG underscored the need to provide more platforms like 'Antarnaad' to the youth to express themselves through art.

"Cultural and creative activities motivate students to achieve excellence, nurture the talents, ignite the minds and nourish the civilizational heritage for our future generations," Sinha said.

"Artistic disciplines are like windows that open up to infinite universe of creativity for youth. Music, dance, fine arts, theatre & literature encourage students to sharpen their thoughts and expand creative horizon," he added.

The LG also encouraged the youth to hone their artistic skills and inspire others with their creativity.

"Artistic expressions are a source of intellectual inspiration. I want to see students transforming themselves as 'Triveni'- a confluence of knowledge, science & art, a balanced personality with a sense of inquisitiveness, serene, peaceful and dynamic," he said.

Highlighting the significant role of the Universities in nurturing the talent of the younger generation, the LG said that the path to the prosperity of the society passes through educational institutions.

"Antarnaad, means the inner voice. Artistic disciplines will give our youth new insight for innovation, new inventions," Sinha said.

"Our cultural history, lifestyle, social settings are all integrated. If Knowledge and Science is the body, then Art is the mind. It is the perfect harmony between the two that forms the very foundation of development of any nation," he added.

Govt Orders

was found habitual of violating official channels of communication and guilty of sending fake and frivolous complaints, misusing the RTI Act and wasting time of High Court for which he was also fined with Rs 10,000 by the court.

The official's three annual increments were withheld as punishment, the spokesperson said.

Further, one official was found involved in smuggling of contraband substances inside sub-jail Reasi, he added.

According to the recommendations of the Review Committee, the performance of these employees was found to be unsatisfactory and their continuation in the government service was found against the public interest.

As part of its zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, various employees have been dismissed from service on account of official misconduct, after rigorously following departmental proceedings against them, the spokesperson said.

Several cases are under scrutiny with the Empowered Committees constituted for consideration of cases under Article 226(2) of J&K CSRs, while many employees have also been terminated from service on account of anti-national activities, he said.

Haakh Costlier

sought few days time to resolve the issue.

"Haakh has been an essential and everyday appetite for Kashmiri households for centuries. Rich or poor, everyone craves for Haakh if they won't eat for a day or two. Growers, however, sell it at exorbitant rates whenever there is slightest change in the climate, especially when it is snowing in Kashmir," Mohammad Sultan, a roadside vendor at Hazratbal told Kashmir Observer.

It is worth mentioning that Haakh is cooked diversely with fish (gaade haakh) smoked or dried fish (hogad/ phari haakh), cheese (tchamni haakh) and mutton (maaz haakh) and is liked by and one all being all seasons and affordable veggie.

Similarly, 'haak anchor' is the most liked variety of pickle in Kashmir, followed by pickle made by carrot mixed with cauliflower, lotus stem and radish.

Haakh grown in old cities Narwara-Kawdara belt area is preferred by the people of Kashmir for its taste and availability all year round, while 'haenz haakh' which is grown in the interiors of Dal Lake is available in winters only.

"I was surprised when a vegetable seller in my locality said the price of haakh per kg has increased by Rs 30. I bought haakh at Rs 25 a day earlier. What could be done, I bought it as per current market rate," Showkat Ahmad, a 'haakh devourer' said.

It may be in place to mention that a stand-off on mutton prices continues between the authorities and mutton dealers in Kashmir for over a month.

While retail dealers are seemingly adamant on whatever they offer to consumers, authorities sealed hundreds of shops across the valley for selling mutton against prescribed rates.

When contacted, Director Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department Kashmir (FCS&CAD), Abdul Salam Mir told Kashmir Observer that there is no shortage of mutton in Kashmir, however the government wants dealers to sell mutton at prescribed rates.

When asked as to why the meeting between the officials of Divisional administration and mutton dealers was postponed, he said the meeting was cancelled in view of the arrival of some VIP's in Kashmir.

Director FCS&CAD was referring to Congress leader, Rahul Gandhi led Baharat Jodo Yatra, which culminated with a mega rally at S.K Stadium here on Monday.

"Meeting will be held soon. We not only seal shops where mutton is sold against prescribed rates but conduct raids at butchers houses as well. I hope the stalemate will end in the coming days. So far as the price of haakh is concerned, this issue will also be resolved in a day or two," he added.

Befitting Response

policies and strategies when required," she said.

"From surgical strike to a firm crackdown on terrorism, from a befitting response to every misadventure from LoC to LAC, from abrogation of Article 370 to Triple Talaq, my government has been recognised as a decisive government," she said.

The president's address reflects the views of the government of the day.

In September 2016, the Indian Army carried out surgical strikes against terrorist camps in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. A week back, Congress' Digvijaya Singh made controversial remarks questioning the surgical strike. However, party leader Rahul Gandhi trashed the comments as "ridiculous".

Murmu said "unprecedented infrastructure" has been developed in the border areas in the past few years from the point of view of national security.

"My government firmly believes that lasting peace is possible only when we are strong politically and strategically. Therefore, we are constantly laying emphasis on the modernisation of our military strength," she said.

The President also mentioned the commissioning of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, rolling out of the Agniphath recruitment scheme and the 'Vibrant Village' programme to provide better facilities to the border areas.

She also highlighted the six-fold increase in defence exports and renaming islands of Andaman and Nicobar after Param Vir Chakra awardees of the Indian Army. "My government has started working on the Vibrant Village programme to provide better facilities to the border villages. From the point of view of national security too, unprecedented infrastructure has been developed in the border areas in the past few years," she said.

"This has accelerated development in such areas. The left-wing extremism, which had become a major threat to national security in the last few decades, has now been confined to a few districts," she added.

Murmu said islands of Andaman and Nicobar have also been named after Param Vir Chakra awardees of the Indian Army.

"On the one hand, the National War Memorial has become a symbol of national valour, while on the other, our Navy has also got the insignia given by Chhatrapati Veer Shivaji Maharaj," she said.

"As a result of new initiative of my government, our defence exports have grown six times. I am proud that the first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant has also joined our forces," she noted.

On the Agniphath scheme, she said it is very important for the forces to be enriched with youth power, to be proficient in warfare and to be equipped with the power of technology.

"Keeping these principles in mind, Agniweer Yojana has been launched. This will give maximum opportunity to the youth of the country to serve the nation through the armed forces," she said.

Under the Agniphath scheme, announced on June 14 last year, the three services are recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years and 21 for four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

For 2022, the upper age limit was extended to 23 years.

"Difficult terrain, along with unrest and terrorism, posed a major challenge to development of the North East and Jammu and Kashmir. My government has taken a number of successful steps for lasting peace and has confronted the geographical challenges," she said.

"As a result, the North East and our border areas are experiencing a new pace of development," she added.

3 Cops Sent

(SDPO) of Gool will conduct the inquiry and submit a report within a week's time, Sharma said.

13 Drugs Peddlers

contrabands were worth over Rs 20 lakh in the black market.

Fun & Frolic! Gandhis Have Playful Time, Cute Moments In Srinagar Post Yatra End

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: 'Sheen Jung', handshake, a warm hug and lending a helping hand to push a car stuck in snow, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had a fun time with cute moments in Kashmir, including a stroll on the banks of the Dal Lake here after the culmination of Bharat Jodo Yatra.

After a hectic five-month and over 4000-kilometres of the yatra, which the Gandhi scion walked the most part of, he and his sister had fun times in Srinagar which was enveloped by a thick white carpet of snow.

The duo had 'Sheen Jung' (snow-ball fight), strolled along the famous Dal Lake on Monday evening, took photographs of the snow and the lake and greeted people.

A less than a minute video titled 'Snow fights and a walk by the Dal lake with Priyanka' on Rahul Gandhi's YouTube channel, put out on Tuesday morning, showcased the



fun times the Gandhis had after the culmination of the march with an opposition rally earlier in the day

amid heavy snowfall.

The video has garnered over 32,000 views since it was posted.

The 58-second video, which starts with a long-pan shot of the famous Dal Lake, shows Rahul strolling the

footpaths of the Foreshore or Boulevard Road wearing a yellow-colour jacket, with a woollen cap and gloves, and his sister in a black jacket.

The duo can be seen interacting with the people passing by, waving to the crowd who were excited to see the Gandhi family members.

They also took photographs of the lake which looked pristine under dark clouds with everything around draped in white.

The stroll had a cute moment when a local man stopped his car and requested Gandhi for a handshake and a hug. Though the unidentified person was stopped by Gandhi's security team, the former Congress president obliged to the request. He shook hands with the man and gave him a warm hug.

The security team threw a secure ring around the Gandhis and had a tough time in ensuring there was no security breach.

The video also shows Gandhi lending a helping hand to push a car

stuck in the snow.

Earlier in the evening, the Gandhis engaged in a playful snowball fight. Rahul had a snowball fight with his sister on Monday morning, but, seems it was not enough. Later in the evening, the duo engaged in another round of snowball fight in the lawns of a popular hotel here where many movies have also been shot.

They had such a 'duel' on Monday morning at a yatra campsite in Pantha Chowk area of the city here the video of which showed Rahul Gandhi sneaking towards his sister concealing two ice blocks behind, and managing to put them on her head.

However, this time, it was Priyanka's turn, with the video showing her waiting with snowballs for her brother. The duo played for some time, with Priyanka managing to take a few clicks in between.

The video ends with Rahul hitting a snowball on Priyanka's head from the back a bulls eye shot!

Kumar Reviews Work On State Cancer Institute In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar on Tuesday reviewed status of work on State Cancer Institute, Jammu, besides devising a comprehensive strategy for early operationalization of services in this upcoming "State of Art Institute" here at Civil Secretariat.

The team of Oncologists and experts in various fields from Homi Bhabha Research Centre Chandigarh led by Director, Dr. Ashish Gulia, participated in the meeting alongwith other concerned officers.

Pertinently, the team has visited GMC, Kathua and State Cancer Institute, Jammu to assess the status of progress on various ongoing works in these prestigious healthcare entities. It was informed in the meeting that the Department of Health and Medical Education has collaborated with Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for providing technical guidance and support in making SCI Jammu as a "State of Art Cancer Institute". Now since the construction activities in the

institute is in advance stage of its completion, the department is looking forward for a continued association with the Tata Memorial Centre for establishment and operationalization of the State Cancer Institute Jammu enabling a quality cancer patient care in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary gave a patient hearing to all the inputs put forth by the panel of experts and expressed gratitude to Dr. Ashish Gulia and his team for providing valuable support.

He asked the concerned for rolling out OPDs in Oncology and the day care chemotherapy in the larger interest of patient care.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Government Medical College, Jammu, Director Finance, H&ME, Director Coordination New GMCs Jammu, Managing Director, JK-MSCL, Joint Director Planning H&ME, HOD Radiology and faculty members of Oncology Department from GMC Jammu, Nodal Officer (Coordination), SCI Jammu among other officers of H&ME department.

Shiv Khori Mela

DC Reasi Calls For Foolproof Security

Observer News Service

REASI: Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Babila Rakwal on Tuesday chaired a meeting to finalize the arrangements for smooth conduct of Maha Shivratri Mela 2023 at revered Shiv Khori shrine.

The three day Congregation will begin from Feb 17 and culminate on Feb 19, 2023.

The DDC discussed various issues like facilities of drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, repair of roads, medical facilities and the security arrangements.

She directed the concerned departments to put in place requisite arrangements well in advance for the smooth conduct of Maha Shivratri yatra.

The Tehsildar Pouni was asked to issue Permission/identity cards for the Langer organizers and assure that Langers were installed at already specified locations.

AD Tourism was asked to take up the matter with the Director Tourism for Sanitation/Cleanliness of Ransoo-Shivkhori area during the Mela.

The SSP Amit Gupta informed that the police would set up four frisking points at Taxi Stand, Base Camp, Ram Mandir Pony Stand and at Entrance of the holy caves for smooth regulation of Yatra. He briefed the DC about the security grid and traffic management plan.

The ARTO Reasi was asked to allow Heavy Vehicles upto Kanda

and Teryath and provide 20 Matadors/Mini Buses for pick-up and drop service for Pilgrims from Kanda.

Regarding medical facilities, the CMO said that sufficient number of medical staff along with essential medicines, oxygen cylinders, stretchers, ambulances etc would be put in place to deal with any untoward incident and medical emergency.

The Deputy Commissioner asked PDD, PHE and PWD to deploy an adequate number of men, machinery and materials during yatra days.

The JJM department was asked to provide water supply through the existing water points from Ransoo to Shivkhori, ensure uninterrupted power supply to all pumping stations, and sources besides ensure filling of all reservoirs in advance to avoid water shortage.

BDO Pouni was asked to identify a suitable landfill in consolation with Naib Tehsildar to construct a temporary pit for disposal of waste material/litter and cover the same once the yatra was over.

The Deputy Commissioner Babila Rakwal asked the concerned to cross check the plan and inform her about any loopholes or deficiencies so that the same was rectified well in time.

The meeting was also attended by ADC, Abdul Star; ACD, Anirudh Rai; DPO, Mohammad Faisal; CEO, besides other District Officers/Officials.

Kashmir Seeing 'Snowfall Of Peace' Under BJP: MP Home Minister

Press Trust Of India

BHOPAL: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra could play with snow in Kashmir because the region is witnessing a "snowfall of peace" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Madhya Pradesh BJP leader and minister Narottam Mishra said on Tuesday.

Gandhi and Priyanka were engaged in a playful snowball fight at the campsite in Shrinagar on the concluding day of his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' on Monday.



"During the entire yatra, Rahul Gandhi was spreading confusion that threats of bombs and grenades were issued to him in Kashmir. He has forgot-

ten that in Delhi, it is not his government which is in power, but it is the government of Modiji and Amit Shah," the Madhya Pradesh home minister told reporters.

He said Kashmir had seen "fire" (strife) under the erstwhile regime (of Congress) but peace is prevailing there under the BJP rule.

"Peace prevailing there. That's why photos of the respected brother and sister playing with snow have come. This is a snowfall of peace. There is no atmosphere of firing (golibari) there now," Mishra said.

DGP Calls For Zero Tolerance For Any Misconduct In Police Force

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police J&K Dilbag Singh while acting swiftly on the reports of misconduct by an police official Tuesday issued serious directions to all ranks and files in the police force to act seriously against any official found involved in any sorts of misconduct.

A senior police official told a local news agency KNO that the DGP has directed all Wing heads to take serious note of any kind of misconduct with the general public brought into their notice by any means.

"He has directed the officers to sensitize and advise their subordinate officers/officials to be fair in their



conduct," the official quoting DGP as having said.

The official said that the DGP has directed that any act of misconduct must be taken with utmost seriousness to safeguard and improve the image of J&K police. "PHQ has issued an advisory to all the Wing Heads of the J&K Police in this regard," he said.

"Let us have respect for the spirit of law while enforcing "Rule of Law", the DGP has said.

The directions have come in view of a case of misconduct by an SHO and other Police Station staff members in Ramban district with a doctor, the official said.

"The erring personnel have been suspended and a departmental enquiry has been initiated by the DIG, D-K-R range," he said.

The DGP has said that "we are supposed to safeguard and protect against any wrong doings and injustice and have to be seen as Rakshak by the common people as has been said by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi"—(KNO)

Jal Shakti Dept Assign Temporary Charge Of Executive-Engineers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jal Shakti Department on Tuesday assigned temporary charge of the posts of Executive Engineers and ordered subsequent transfers.

In an order issued here, Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the government, Jal Shakti department accorded sanction to the placement/assignment of temporary charge as Incharge Executive Engineers of 11 officers. The officers included Asif Ali Masoodi, Ravi Kumar, Asrar Maqsood, Ashwani Khajuria, Rajinder Kumar Gupta, Irfan Ahmad Dar, Aijaz Ahmad Botu, Abdul Rashid Wani, Sajid Mushtaq Pandit, Nisar Ahmad Dar and Sunil Sharma (ALC).

According to the order, the placement/assignment of charge is purely to meet administrative exigency without confirming any preferential right upon the officer to claim promotion on substantive basis till the post is filled under rules following due process.

The placement/assignment of charge is subject to superior claim of any left out officer if found genuine or outcome of legal proceedings pending before Hon'ble Court," the order reads.

"In case the requirement of the borrowing organizations ceases or the officers deputed by the Jal Shakti Department are repatriated, the junior most officers shall be reverted from the higher posts and shall not have any claim of benefit of assignment of temporary charge of the higher post," it adds.

Subsequently, the Jal Shakti department ordered transfers/postings of I/c Executive Engineers with immediate effect.

After Digitization Of Services Focus Should Be Timely Service Delivery: CS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday remarked that after successfully digitizing all the services, focus should be laid on timely delivery of services and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in managing the affairs of government departments.

Dr Mehta was speaking in the 14th Board of Governors (BoG) meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) attended by other members including Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary, PD&MD; Secretary, GAD; DG, Codes; SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary stressed on moving towards use of AI/ML and IoT based technologies for better coordination and monitoring purposes. He maintained that technology is panacea for many of the problems. It is also the most effective tool for ensuring transparency. He impressed upon the officers and scientists from IT and NIC respectively to work towards use of modern technologies towards obtaining desired results especially for the purposes of work estimation and their identification.

Dr Mehta directed for making good use of technologies by bridging the gap between the govern-



ment and those governed. He made out that the power belongs to people and technology has empowered them in unprecedented manner. He told the officers to have virtual inspections of the offices and works on daily basis. He even suggested for taking feedback from public and PRI's about the quality of work being done in their areas or any grievances they have against any of the government departments.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized upon end to end use of digital platforms like e-office by all the government employees especially ground workers like Patwaris, JEs etc. He declared that the actual purpose of digitization would be served when it enhances ease of living. He asked for making the work of every office be it Police Stations, Tehsil Offices, Hospitals, Engineering Departments, ULBs, Block Offic-

es fully online for efficient delivery and effective monitoring.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT, PurnaPuri gave a detailed presentation on the decisions taken during the 13th BoG meeting. She also detailed out the agenda for the meeting with a proposal for revamping the agency on more professional lines that would make the working of the J&K e-Governance agency more outcome oriented as per the requirements of present times.

It was revealed that in the previous meeting the decisions like establishment of 1012 ICT labs in schools, digitisation of office records, rolling out of National Generic Document Registration System, procurement of infrastructure for Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme and upgradation of State Data Centre was achieved as per the respective proposals.

Flood Management Plan

CWPRS Recommends FSC May Extend To Wular lake



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Study by Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) Pune has recommended that flood spill channel may be extended to Wular Lake with uniform bed width 80 metre and widening of Jhelum in north Kashmir by 40 metre for around 19 kilometres.

A top official of Irrigation and Flood Control Kashmir told a local news agency KNO that in order to start the second phase of flood mitigation plan of Jhelum Central Water commission, an expert and apex organization of government of India advised them to go through a mathematical study.

A mathematical study of Jhelum and its tributaries was conducted by Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) Pune recommending many things.

He said that they analysed different options and came up with optimum, feasible and tactical solutions in flood management of Kashmir.

He said that the study laid the basis of the second phase of flood mitigation plan as second phase proposals were accepted only after getting their recommendations.

He said that their recommendations include no dredging of Jhelum channel be carried out from Sangam to Asham as it would end up in reducing lag

time, which would give less chance for evacuation process during floods.

He said the their second recommendations includes that Flood Spill Channel (FSC) may be extended into the Lake areas with channels having low level embankments, with a uniform bed width of 80 m and embankments having slopes of 1V:2H, with longitudinal slope of 1:5000 throughout the FSC from entry at Padshahi Bagh to exit at Wular Lake.

He said that at present the central part of the channel has just 20 metre width which has to be taken to 80 metre with constant slope from Padshahi Bagh to Wular.

The official that their third recommendation is increasing the width of OFC from exit of crude weir at Sopore Bridge up to RD. 173.2 km by additional 40 m along the thalweg line including usage of navigational channel at Sopore Bridge for passage of flood as the crude Veer is not modified.

He said as per their third recommendation around 19 kilometers from Nigli Sopore to Khanpora bridge, Jhelum has to be given more 40 metre length.

He said that these recommendations as the Pune based research company are the most important part of flood mitigation plan which can help in mitigation and minimizing impact—(KNO)

Danish Farooq Signs For ISL Club Kerala Blasters



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar-born footballer Danish Farooq has signed for Indian Super League (ISL) club Kerala Blasters FC from Bengaluru FC, the club said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The club is delighted to announce the arrival of Danish Farooq from Bengaluru FC. He signs a 3.5-year contract which will keep him at the club till 2026," the Blasters said.

The 26-year-old midfielder joined Bengaluru from Real Kashmir FC in 2021. He played 27 times for the ISL team, scoring four goals and assisting twice.

Various reports have revealed that the Kerala Blasters paid Rs 25 lakhs to acquire Danish's services. The India international will reportedly earn Rs 90 lakh per year.

"Danish was one of the key targets from the last season when we saw him in the context of Hero ISL. He has that playing style, pas-

sion and quality that Kerala Blasters need. I'm happy that we were able to finalise this transfer and reinforce our team at a crucial moment this season," the Blasters' Club Director, Karolis Skinkys said.

"I am really excited to join Kerala Blasters. The atmosphere at Kochi is absolutely electric, I can't wait to wear the famous yellow jersey and give my best for the team," said Danish.

Danish has come through the ranks of local football in Kashmir Valley. After debuting with a local team, Danish caught the eye of J&K Bank FC and signed for the club's academy at 13. Soon, he became a pivotal part of Bank's first team, helping them to 12 league title. He then signed for LoneStar Kashmir FC and played in the 2015-16 I-League 2nd Division season.

Danish joined Real Kashmir FC in 2016 and has since seen a mercurial rise. He made his debut for the India's senior men's football team in 2022.

3rd T20I: India Play NZ In Series Decider Today



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: India's young top order will be under pressure to deliver in the series-deciding third T20 International against New Zealand here on Wednesday.

It would be fair to say the trio of Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan and Rahul Tripathi has not made their opportunities count in the absence of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and K L Rahul.

After the game on Wednesday, India don't play a T20I for a long time, leaving the younger crop to make a statement before the focus shifts to the five-day format.

Kishan has not been able to find rhythm in his batting since his double hundred in Bangladesh while the turning ball has troubled Gill, who has not been able to replicate his ODI form in the shortest format. Tripathi, too, has wasted chances that

have come his way in the absence of regular number three Kohli.

If it hadn't been for Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya, India would have struggled to chase down 100 on Sunday.

The surfaces in the series have attracted a lot of attention and it remains to be seen if the players get to negotiate another turning track at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

In the bowling department, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav playing together has helped India build the pressure on the opposition. With the pitch offering a huge amount of turn, it was surprising that Chahal was used only for two overs after he dismissed opener Finn Allen.

After struggling with no-balls, Arshdeep Singh was back to his fragal best in Lucknow and that should give him a lot of confidence going into the decider.

With the series on the line, Pandya is unlikely to change the playing eleven despite clamour for inclusion of Prithvi Shaw, who made a national comeback with this series.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will be expecting more from their middle order. Sensing an opportunity to win a rare series in India, the Blackcaps will be highly motivated for the challenge.

Glenn Phillips has not been at his destructive best but trust him to play a match-winning knock on Wednesday. ODI series sensation Michael Bracewell too is due for a game-changing knock. Number three Mark Chapman will also be looking to make a significant contribution.

New Zealand used as many as eight bowling options in the previous game with four spinners bowling their full quota of overs.



Bayern Signs Cancelo On Loan From Man City

Agencies

MUNICH: Bayern Munich bolstered its struggling team with the loan signing of Portugal left back João Cancelo from Manchester City on Tuesday, the last day of the transfer period.

The 28-year-old Cancelo joined "on an initial deal through to the end of the current season," Bayern said. The German club has the option to make the transfer permanent for a fee of

70 million euros (\$76 million).

Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said the deal was "very spontaneous" and came together after Bayern's last game Saturday.

"(Bayern sporting director) Hasan Salihamidzic said we have a chance. Then I said: We're doing it," Nagelsmann said.

Cancelo could potentially make his Bayern debut Wednesday against Mainz in the German Cup, Nagelsmann added, but that hasn't yet been decided.

Chelsea Set For Busy End To Transfer Window

Agencies

LONDON: Chelsea has already spent more in the January transfer window — around \$225 million — than every club in the top leagues in Spain, Italy, Germany and France combined.

The London team might not be finished.

The final day of the window could be another busy one for Chelsea and its new American ownership, with the club linked with a move for Benfica midfielder Enzo Fernandez and potentially looking to balance the books by offloading Jorginho and Hakim Ziyech.

Seven players have arrived at Stamford Bridge this month, including Ukraine winger Mykhailo Mu-

dryk in a deal worth around \$108 million and France center back Benoit Badiashile for \$40 million.

This comes after Chelsea spent almost \$300 million in Europe's summer transfer window, the first under the new ownership fronted by Todd Boehly following the purchase of the club for \$2.5 billion in May.

Chelsea has handed new players long contracts — as much as 8 1/2 years for Mudryk, for example — to allow the club to spread the cost of the signings over the length of the deal and comply with financial fair-play regulations.

British media reported Monday that Chelsea was willing to pay a British record fee of 105 million pounds (\$130 million) to bring in the 22-year-old Fernandez, a World Cup winner with Argentina in December.

Lucknow Pitch Curator Sacked



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The curator of the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow has been removed from his job after preparing a "shocker of a pitch" for the second T20I against New Zealand.

Though India won the game on Sunday with a ball to spare, skipper Hardik Pandya did not mince his words, calling the Lucknow wicket a "shocker".

New Zealand was restricted to 99 for eight and India had a hard time chasing the small target on a turning track.

"The curator has been removed and replaced by Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal who is a very experienced curator. We will turn things around in a month. A lot of domestic cricket was already played on all the centre wickets ahead of the T20I and the curator

should have left one or two strips for an international game. The surface was overused and due to the bad weather, there was not enough (time) to prepare a fresh wicket," a UPCA source told PTI.

Agarwal, who has prepared pitches in Bangladesh in the past before being removed in October last year, has been tasked to set things right as far as pitch-making is concerned.

He will work closely with veteran BCCI curator Taposh Chatterjee, said the source. The T20I series decider will be played in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. Hardik has not been happy with the surfaces on offer so far in the series.

"To be honest, it was a shocker of a wicket. Both the games we have played so far. I don't mind difficult wickets," Hardik had said after the six-wicket win in Lucknow.

Arthur Likely To Be Appointed As Pakistan Team Director

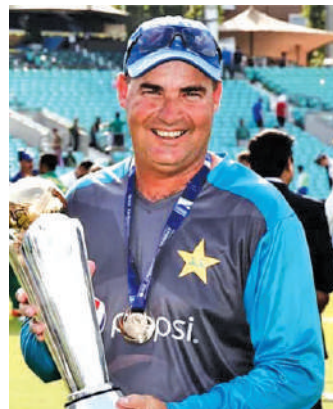
Agencies

KARACHI: Mickey Arthur and the (Pakistan Cricket Board) PCB are nearing an agreement that will see Arthur return to the Pakistan men's squad, albeit as team director rather than as a head coach. Three weeks before the PCB's announcement that it was pressing forward with its search for a successor to Saqlain Mushtaq, the departing Pakistan coach, talks between the two parties had ended.

Given that Arthur had a long-term contract with Derbyshire that he did not wish to cancel, the two parties had been unable to come to an agreement on how such a post could function. But the temporary chairman of the PCB, Najam Sethi, said last week that he was still looking for Arthur. A deal will soon be finalised, and Arthur might take over as team director on April 1 as per ESPNcricinfo.


This title, one in which Arthur will serve as a consultant rather than the team's head coach, will result in an unorthodox management system, at least on a global scale, in which he won't go with Pakistan's team on every outing but will instead delegate responsibility for running things to a hand-selected group of support personnel.

Grant Bradburn, a former Pakistani fielding coach and former director of their High-Performance Center, is slated to serve as the



team's top assistant coach and serve as a leader among the support personnel. There won't be a typical head coach, but there will be three coaches for batting, bowling, and fielding.

Arthur will not be deeply participating with the team during the English county season; Pakistan, for instance, will tour Sri Lanka in July and will host the Asia Cup in September. However, following the conclusion of the county season, Arthur is anticipated to travel with the team for important events like the ODI World Cup in India in October-November of this year and the Test tour of Australia later in the winter. One of the issues still being resolved is the contract's term, but both parties agree that Pakistan's timeline is such that such an agreement is feasible. (ANI)



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