

## Crackdown Launched On Rohingyas In Jammu, Over 50 Detained

### About A Dozen FIRs Registered During Day-Long Drive: IGP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: More than 50 people, including seven married couples, were either detained or arrested on Tuesday in a major crackdown against those harbouring Rohingya immigrants and facilitating their stay with illegal papers in Jammu, police said.

About a dozen FIRs were registered during the day-long drive aimed at ensuring national security and safeguarding the interests of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain told reporters here this evening.

"Certain elements have been involved in facilitating the illegal settlement of Rohingyas, posing potential threats to the security and socio-economic



fabric of the UT of J&K. The presence of undocumented and unauthorised individuals not only poses security challenges but also has the potential to strain local resources," the IGP said.

"The actions taken are in accordance with the law and are aimed at maintaining law and order in the region. The facilitators, once apprehended, will be subject to legal proceedings,

and any violation of laws pertaining to national security and immigration will be dealt with firmly," he said.

He said over 30 people were detained for questioning during searches in 30 Rohingya settlements in Jammu city.

Police earlier said 21 people were arrested from Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch and Rajouri districts, while 10 Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals were booked in Doda.

"Some locals have provided their plots of land to settle the outside immigrants. We are checking and identifying these facilitators, who are also availing the government benefits for them," Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Shakti Pathak, told reporters | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir In Grip Of Intense Cold Wave

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The minimum temperature across Kashmir dropped several degrees below freezing point overnight, causing hardships to the residents, officials said on Tuesday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.7 degrees Celsius on Monday night, a plunge of 4.2 degrees from the previous night's 0.5 degree Celsius, the officials said.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius which was 1.4 degrees higher than previous night's minus 8 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.9 degrees Celsius, a drop of more than one degree compared to minus 5.8 degrees Celsius a night earlier, they said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.2 degree Celsius against 0.8 degree Celsius a night earlier, Kokernag town saw the mercury settle at minus 3.1 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded | [More on P6](#)

## Multi-Crore Scam Surfaces In Kashmir

### Investors 'Duped' Of Rs 59 Crores By Private Firm, Police Files Case



Agencies

Srinagar: A major scam involving financial fraud worth Rs 59 crores has surfaced in Kashmir Valley after investors alleged that they were duped of their hard earned money by a private company based in the Valley.

According to reports, some investors today held a protest in Srinagar, alleging that they were duped by a private investment firm of their hard earned money.

"We were lured to invest money in the company stating that the money you invest will get doubled within 15 days. This prompted us to invest money in the firm and in the first few months they received the money as promised, however, after sometime they didn't get any response from the firm, which created doubt in their minds," said one of the protesters.

She said that she along with her other family members invested around Rs 5 lakh in the firm and they were motivated by a social media influencer after he had posted some videos on his YouTube channel, claiming the firm was authentic and he himself has invested his money in the same firm.

"A few days ago we tried to contact the firm and its employees, but we have not been getting any response. We have now been duped of our hard earned money. This company is a fraud as it cheated many people here and duped them of crores," she added.

Meanwhile, local employees who were working in the firm and were directly dealing with the customers or investors claimed that they have themselves been duped of their money as they were not aware of the firm's credentials.

"We would be asked by administrators of the firm, who are based in Chennai and would sometimes stay in Srinagar | [More on P6](#)

## 'Police To Develop Mechanism For Tenants Verification'

The Jammu and Kashmir Police is developing a mechanism for timely verification of antecedents of the tenants, domestic helpers and hotel occupants for the overall security of the people, said a senior police officer on Tuesday. Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain, also said the operation against the terrorists and their sympathizers will continue with more vigour in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri to ensure a peaceful atmosphere there. | [More on P6](#)

## Govt Officer Gets 3-Yr Jail In Disproportionate Assets Case

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A court here on Tuesday sentenced a government officer to three years in jail in a disproportionate assets case.

The officer was also asked to pay a fine of Rs 50 lakh by the special anti-corruption court, a spokesman of the Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police said.

Nisar Khan, a section officer posted at the Jammu deputy commissioner's office, acquired assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by indulging in corrupt practices and by abusing his official position as a public servant, the officer said.

Khan possessed disproportionate assets to the tune of more than Rs 84 lakh, the

officer added. Special Judge of the Anti-Corruption Court, Jammu, Tahir Khurshid Raina sentenced Khan to three years imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 50 lakh on him under the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006.

"The fine amount, if not paid by the convict within a period of two months, shall be recovered by the district collector from the disproportionate assets of the convict as arrears of land revenue," the Judge said in the order.

The Judge also directed the Senior Superintendent of Police of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu to follow the execution of the sentence awarded.

While sentencing Khan, the court referred | [More on P6](#)

## CRPF Credits People Of Kashmir For Waning Militancy

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, deserve credit for the decline in militancy-related violence in the valley, a senior CRPF officer said here on Tuesday.

"There has been a huge support of the people, the youth. It would not have been possible without your support. The voice of new Kashmir is being seen in the fields, be it in cricket, football



or other sports. "So, the major contribution has been of the youth

of Kashmir, the people of Kashmir," Inspector General, CRPF, Srinagar sector, Ajay Yadav said when he was asked who deserved credit for the decrease in militancy in the valley.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of a football tournament organised by the CRPF in Srinagar.

"It is my strong belief that the coming year will be better than today and the people will lend | [More on P6](#)

## 'Will Intensify Anti-Terror Ops If Required: IG CRPF'

Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Ajay Kumar Yadav on Tuesday said the current situation in Kashmir Valley is peaceful and if need be, his force will intensify anti-terror operations. In an exclusive interview with PTI video, Yadav said the overall situation is under control. "The current situation in Srinagar and Kashmir is excellent and in the coming times, it is going to improve further," Yadav said. | [More on P6](#)

## SMART METER BLUES Consumers Grapple With Frequent Power Cuts

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Despite explicit instructions from Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to adhere to the winter curtailment schedule, consumers in smart metered areas report 'unscheduled' power cuts lasting between five to seven hours a day, even though we pay high electricity bills. The installation of smart meters in our area dates back around two years, yet the worsening electricity situation continues to haunt us," said Mohammad Imran, a resident of Rajbagh, Srinagar.



He pointed out that the power supply was significantly better during the winter months when their area didn't have smart meters installed.

"Since people in smart metered areas do not resort to hooking, or use heaters and boilers, then what forces PDD to disobey its own power curtailment schedule? If we were promised 24 hour electricity following smart meter installation, why do we face frequent power cuts?" Imran questioned.

Consumers from other smart metered areas of Srinagar including Peerbagh, Hyderpora, Parraypora, Bhagat, | [More on P6](#)

## 'STAR PERFORMER' India Contributing Over 16% Of Global Growth: IMF

Press Trust Of India

Washington: Growing at a robust rate due to economic reforms in key sectors like digitisation and infrastructure, India has emerged as a star performer and is projected to contribute more than 16 per cent of the global growth, the International Monetary Fund said on Monday.

"What we have been observing for quite some time now is that India has been growing at a very robust rate. It's one of the star performers when it comes to real growth when you look at peer countries. It's one of the fastest growing large emerging markets and it's contributing, in our current projections, more than 16 per cent of global growth this year," Nada



Choueiri, the Mission of India at IMF, told PTI in an interview.

The IMF on Monday released its annual Article IV consultation with India, according to which the South Asian country, underpinned by prudent macroeconomic policies, is on track to be one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world this year. Nonetheless, the economy is facing global headwinds, | [More on P6](#)

## 11 Earthquakes Jolt J&K, Ladakh In 24 Hours

Agencies

Srinagar: At least 11 earthquakes and aftershocks have jolted Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in 24 hours period while the experts here have stated that low intensity shakes is a good sign as it would dwindle the possibility of a major earthquake.

According to reports, five-back-to-back earthquakes jolted J&K and Ladakh within a span of one hour on Monday afternoon while two more aftershocks were witnessed

later in the evening, taking the toll of shakes to 7 in a day.

Moreover, four more earthquakes jolted the twin Union Territories in the morning, taking the toll up to 11 within a span of 24 hours.

The origin of all the earthquakes was Zaskar Kargil and Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir, the officials said.

Today, the first earthquake measuring 3.0 magnitude jolted J&K and Ladakh parts at 3:57 AM while the second with a magnitude of 3.4 jolted the UTs at 10:30 AM. | [More on P6](#)

## No Person Can Face Trial For Same Offence Twice: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: No person shall be brought to trial for the same offence, and the same subject matter twice, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said and quashed proceedings against the Managing Director of a pharmaceutical company.

"The common principle of law laid down in Section 300 of Cr.P.C read with Article 20 (2) of the Constitution of India is that person once

convicted or acquitted for commission of offence cannot be tried subsequently for the same offence," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal while quashing proceedings pending before a court in Srinagar against Kumar Wanchoo, Managing Director M/s Eaton Laboratories Zainakote here. In other words, the court said, no person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once. The court | [More on P6](#)



### S H O R T T A K E S

#### Heart Attack Kills SPO In Bandipora

A special police officer (SPO) died after suffering a heart attack in North Kashmir Bandipora district, reports said Tuesday. SPO Mehrajuddin Lone, son of Abdul Aziz Lone of Chatibanday Bandipora suffered a heart attack on Monday evening, a local news agency Kashmir Scroll reported. Lone was immediately shifted to District hospital Bandipora, where doctors declared him dead. The deceased was posted in Police station Hajin.

#### Properties Of 5 'Proclaimed Offenders' Attached

Properties of five "proclaimed offenders" who went to Pakistan or POK for attaining training of illegal arms were attached in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Tuesday, police said. In pursuance to the order of the Court of Additional Mobile Magistrate Ganderbal under section 82 of CrPC followed by a government order, police attached immovable properties of five proclaimed | [More on P6](#)

#### Labourer Injured In Brick Attack

A Permanent Daily Labourer (PDL) was hospitalised with serious injuries after allegedly being hit with a brick in Sumbal in Bandipora district, official sources said. The official sources said that a person attacked the PDL, Firdous Ahmad Bhat, with a brick, resulting in serious injuries to him. The labourer was immediately rushed to a hospital for treatment and is currently admitted under intensive care unit. SSP Bandipora confirming the incident to a local news agency Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

#### 127 People Killed In China Earthquake

At least 127 people were killed and over 700 others injured when a powerful 6.2-magnitude earthquake jolted a mountainous region of northwestern China late Monday night, the deadliest quake in the quake-prone region in nine years. The quake, followed by strong aftershocks, killed 113 people in Gansu, while 14 died in the neighbouring Qinghai province in the Himalayan region, local authorities said on Tuesday as they launched rescue | [More on P6](#)

#### INDIA Bloc Leaders Meet In Delhi

A crucial meeting of the opposition INDIA bloc began in the national capital on Tuesday where top leaders were discussing the way forward, including seat-sharing, for taking on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Harping on putting up a united front, the Congress alleged that democracy is being "mercilessly murdered" and MPs who raise people's issues are suspended from the House. "In such an adverse situation, our unity is our | [More on P6](#)

#### India Logs 288 Covid Cases

India has recorded 288 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases have increased to 1,970, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday. The death toll was recorded at 5,33,318, the data updated at 8 am showed. The country's Covid case tally is 4.50 crore (4,50,05,364). The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,44,70,076, and the national recovery rate stands at 98.81 percent, according | [More on P6](#)





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 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

## Risk Of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods In 'Third Pole' Increasing: Study

Press Trust Of India

There has been an increase in the occurrence of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) from an average of 1.5 events annually during 1981-1990 to 2.7 during 2011-2020 in the Third Pole region, a study has found.

The Third Pole, which spans the Tibetan Plateau and the surrounding Himalayas, Hindu Kush, and Tianshan Mountain ranges, is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change,

the researchers said.

The expansion of glacial lakes and the appearance of new ones will likely lead to an increase in the number of GLOFs per year in the future, underscoring the need for developing better analytical methods and datasets to stay one step ahead of potential disasters, they said.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Communications, are concerning for countries exposed to GLOFs in the region, especially China, Kazakhstan, Nepal, India, and Pakistan.

Warming temperatures and altered rainfall patterns have caused more than 10,000 glaciers in the region to retreat over the past three decades, facilitating the formation of thousands of glacial lakes, the researchers said.

Though they appear harmless, these water bodies have tremendous destructive potential, particularly due to their ability to cause GLOFs. When triggered by events like glacier collapse, snow avalanches, landslides, or the collapse of natural dams, glacial lakes can release vast volumes of water swiftly, leading to destructive GLOFs.

Though they appear harmless, these water bodies have tremendous destructive potential, particularly due to their ability to cause GLOFs. When triggered by events like glacier collapse, snow avalanches, landslides, or the collapse of natural dams, glacial lakes can release vast volumes of water swiftly, leading to destructive GLOFs.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for registration for tour and travel agency under the name and style Travel Gul Kashmir tour and travels at DOULATPORA Athoora Kreeeri if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Director Tourism within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Sameena Begum  
 W/O Hilal Ah Dar  
 R/O Doulatpora Kreeeri  
 kri

## Jammu And Kashmir Power Development Corporation

Office Of The Executive Engineer,  
 Gas Turbine Division, Pampore  
 (E-Mail: xengtampore2@gmail.com)

Subject: Extension of e-NIT.

Reference: This office NIT No.: GTD/PDC/TS/16 of 2023-24 Dated: 05/12/2023.

In view of poor response, the above-mentioned e-NIT for following work is hereby extended:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount (2%) (Rs)	Cost of tender documents (Rs) (Non-Refundable)	Time of Completion
1	"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTVs alongwith Storage and Monitoring System Complete at Powerhouse, Switchyard, Forebay etc."	2.62	Rs 5240	Rs 500	30 days

### REVISED CRITICAL DATES

1	Date of issue of Extension Notice	18/12/2023
2	Document download/Submission End Date	25/12/2023 at 12:00 p.m.
4	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	26/12/2023 at 02:00 p.m.
5	Last Date/Venue for receiving original Proof of Cost of tender document and EMD	26/12/2023 at 10:00 a.m. (Office of the Executive Engineer, Gas Turbine Division Pampore)
06	Online Financial e-Bid Opening Date & Time (Only of the Technically Qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders

The Bidders who have already participated in the Bidding are requested to upload only BOQs online. Moreover, it is hereby notified that if a bidder has already submitted Cost of Tender Document in response to the above referred Item, he/she is NOT required to deposit the said cost afresh while uploading BOQ. The previously deposited cost shall be considered at the time of evaluation of tenders.

DIPK-NB-4874/23  
 dated: 19-12-2023

Sd/  
 Executive Engineer,  
 Gas Turbine Division Pampore

## انصاری خاندان کے منگسار چشم پر ہم صدمہ میں برابر شریک ہوں/ظہور مہدی

سری نگر خادم حضرت مرزا ابوالقاسم رح میوریل مشن، چیئر مین PICT کشمیر، ورد آتشا سماجی کارکن، عمدہ قلم کار ملک ظہور مہدی نے اپنی عمدہ منسلک تمام آگنازیشنوں کی جانب سے مرحوم و مغفور ممتاز عالم دین، محسن و صریحی قوم، منظور نظر و گراں قدر مولف و مصنف، بھنگرود بر خطیب اہلیت حضرت رسول اکرم ﷺ، فصیح البیان عالم دین، عاشق سید المرسلین خاتم نبیین، آقاے مولا نامصطفیٰ حسین انصاری طالب شاہ کی پر سکون اور اعلیٰ مقام روح کو اور آپ کے خانوادہ عزت مآب برادر جناب سجاد حیدر انصاری، جناب شاد انصاری، جناب حامد انصاری، محترم المقام، چیئر مین مدینہ پبلک اسکول کشمیر محترم ناصر عباس انصاری اور فصیح البیان، خطیب اہلیت حضرت رسول اکرم ﷺ، حمید الاسلام و المسلمین مولانا سرور عباس انصاری دامت برکاتہم اجمعین کی صابروہ و شاکرہ، نیک سیرت محترمہ سیدہ حمیدہ بنت سیدہ حسین جلالی کے انتقال و ارتحال بہ سوے جاودان کے منگسار موقعہ پر تعزیت و تسلیت پیش کی۔ ظہور مہدی نے پروردگار سے بعد آرزو کر کے انصاری خاندان کے ہر فرد کو جو ارضی حوضوں میں بلند مقام عطا فرمائے اور تمام بہیمانہ ننگان معراج کو صبر و جمیل سے ختم فرمائے۔

### From the office of advocate Muheet Yousuf

In the case of:  
 Mohammad yusuf dar S/o gul Mohammad dar  
 R/o Hyderpora, Srinagar

...Caveator

Versus  
 Public at Large

...Non-Caveator

In the matter of : Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A CPC.

The caveators apprehends that the non-caveator may file any suit or writ or any appeal at the back of the caveators and may manage to get ex parte order, therefore the caveators submit in case of any Writ Petition/Appeal/Suit or such proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble court by the non-Caveator's against the Caveators, the Caveator's or the counsel for the Caveator's may be provided an reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing any of the order in the said Writ Petition/Appeal/Suit or any Proceeding otherwise the Caveator's may suffer such an irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated later on in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the court.

nj

### From Office of the Advocate Abid Mushtaq Wani

Lic.no: 312/09

In the case of  
 1.Hajj Abdul Rehman Bhat 2.Ghulam Nahi Bhat 3 Ghulam Rasool Bhat all sons of late Abdul Gaffar Bhat r/os of Saidpora Eidgah Srinagar

(Caveator)

V/s  
 Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate nj

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## Office Of The Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Poshnar Handwara

### QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from interested dealers for supply of grinder and comb cutter, clearly mentioning the rates and specifications. The quotations must reach the office of undersigned within seven days after publication of this notification. The quotations shall be opened in the office chamber of the undersigned on the same day at 3:00 PM in presence of the committee constituted for the purpose and interested bidders or their authorized representatives.

### Terms and conditions:-

1. The rates quoted should be inclusive of all taxes and for Sheep Breeding Farm Poshnar Handwara
2. The concerned committee has the right to accept or reject any quotation in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.
3. The rates must be mentioned both in words and figures and should be without any cutting and overwriting.
4. The final Payment will be made only after the verification of the items received by the concerned committee.
5. Preference will be given to the approved dealers.

Sd/  
 Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Poshnar  
 DIPK-13996/23  
 dated: 19-12-2023

### Govt of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office of the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama

**Subject:- Notice under Section 21 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 for acquisition of land measuring 12 Marlas coming under the construction of road from Rahmoo to Tilsara thereof at village Rahmoo Tehsil Rajpora District Pulwama.**

### Notice U/S-21

Whereas, the land specification given bellow is required in village Rahmoo Tehsil Rajpora District Pulwama for public purpose namely acquisition of land for the construction of road from Rahmoo to Tilsara.

S. No	Khe-wat No.	Khata No.	Name of land owner as per Jamabandi extract.	Survey No.	Area under acquisition			Name of occupant	Area taken up		
					K	M	S		K	M	S
01	231	1370	Gulam Nabi & others	4229/503	0	12	0	Gh Nabi, Gulzar Ahmad Ss/o Mohammad Qasim Lone half & Gh Rasool S/o Ama Najar half	0	12	0

Whereas, the preliminary Notification under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 was issued vide this office Notification No. 002 of 2023 dated 26-07-2023 for the aforesaid quantum of land for calling objections, if any, within the stipulated time period. However no objection has been received by this Collectorate in the said period.

Whereas in accordance with S.O-17 dated 14-01-2022, the Declaration /Notification under Section 19 of the aforesaid Act stands issued by District Collector /Appropriate Government vide Notification No. 05 of Rev/LA of 2023 dated. 04-11-2023.

Now therefore, in terms of Section 21 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, notice is hereby issued/ given to all the interested persons/land owners to state the particulars of the land so needed, and to state the nature of- their respective interests in the land and particulars of their claims to compensation for such interests, their claims to rehabilitation and resettlement along with their objections, if any, to the measurement made under Section 20, to appear personally or by agent or advocate before the Collector Land Acquisition (Assistant Commissioner Revenue) Pulwama in the office within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

No: DCP/Coll/LA/2023/464-71  
 DIPK-NB-4868/23  
 Dated: 19-12-2023

Aijaz Ahmad Shah (JKAS)  
 Collector Land Acquisition  
 Assistant Commissioner (Rev) Pulwama

### GOVERNMENT OF (UT) JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E- mail: - pwegwd@yahoo.com,

Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

### EXTENSION NOTICE 2nd

Due to "No Response" for the works advertised vide E. NIT No.46/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, issued under No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./ 7662-73, Dated: 02-11-2023 bearing Tender ID No: 2023\_PHE\_238921\_1. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 18-12-2023 (02.00 PM) are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	26-12-2023 up-to 02.00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	27-12-2023 11.00 AM

### NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
 Ground Water Division Srinagar.

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./8353-8363  
 DIPK-13984/23  
 Dated: - 19-12-2023

## Kashmir Power Development Corporation Office of Executive Engineer ED-IV Khanyar

Email: emre.ediv@gmail.com Tel No 0194-247026

### e-tender short Abbreviated Notice E-NIT No. 16/EDIV of 2023-24, dated: 18.12.2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu and Kashmir UT, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-IV Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered suppliers/dealers / firms dealing with computer items and peripherals for supply of computer all in one i5 and Printers under:

S.No	Particulars	Qty	Estimated cost
1	supply of computer all in one i5 and Printers	1 Job	1.50 lacs

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	20.12.2023 ; 10:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	26.12.2023 ; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	20.12.2023: 11:00 Hrs to 20.12.2023 ; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	20.12.2023; 16:10 Hrs 26.12.2023 ; 16:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	Shall be communicated letter
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	27.12.2023 up to 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically and Hard Copy in the office of Executive Engineer, Electric Division IV, Srinagar
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 3000.00 (Rupees Three Thousand Only)

DIPK-NB-4863/23  
 dated: 19-12-2023

Executive Engineer  
 Electric Division IV, Srinagar





## DC Reviews Progress Of Establishment Of New Industrial Estates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to take general review regarding the functioning of existing Industrial Estates and review the progress on establishment of new Industrial Estates in the District, a meeting of stakeholder Departments was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday chaired a meeting here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Shabir Ahmad, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Director Land Management SDA, Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineers of KPDC/KPTCL, SDM West, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Director Raks & Farma, General Manager SIDCO, Executive Engineers of PHE, R&B, SIDCO, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Managers of Industrial Estates of Khonmoh, Rakh Gund Aksha and Sempora.

At the Outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review and functioning of existing Industrial Estates Managed by SIDCO in Srinagar District including Khonmoh, Shalteng, Zukura, Sanant Nagar, Baghi-Ali Mardan Khan etc. He also reviewed in detail the land related issues for approach roads to the sites, shifting of utilities and bottlenecks being confronted by the stakeholder Departments in development of upcoming Industrial Estates in Srinagar District.

On the occasion, the DC issued spot directions to the Officers of Stakeholder Departments for conducting joint visit to Industrial Estates including Rakh Gund Aksha, Bemina and Industrial Estate Khonmoh, Phase-IV (Panthachowk) to resolve issues, if any to pace up the execution of works.

The DC also held detailed deliberations on shifting of electric utilities at Industrial Estate Sempora and maintenance of electricity assets at all Industrial Estates in the District.



Christmas Crafts A Srinagar-based artist is busy making a santa-claus statue ahead of Christmas celebrations amidst intense cold on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Srinagar Teen Develops Robotic Arm Controlled By Head Movements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A class 12th student from Gulabagh area of Srinagar has developed a special robotic arm controlled by head movements, taking everyone by surprise.

Hazik, a class 12th student said since his childhood, he has been very passionate about engineering and electronic stuff.

"I learned about robotics and mechatronics in the 10th standard and was thrilled by what it can do. I wanted to do something for people with the help of robotics and at that point of time, I saw a bionic (robotic) arm and got attracted towards it," he said, adding that "I wanted to create a bionic arm that would stand out from others so that it could reach a broader audience and help those handicapped who cannot afford a bionic arm."

He said that the innovative project took him one-and-a-half years.

He said, "In European countries, an advanced bionic arm costs 30k\$-80k\$, and

in India, a simple bionic arm costs a minimum of 4 lakhs. But the one I created cost me just 1300 rupees, making it 'The Most Affordable Bionic Arm Ever Made.'"

He said the technology used in today's bionic arm is called 'Electromyography,' in which it senses the movement of muscles or nerves and uses them as signals to control the bionic arm accordingly.

However, the problem with this is that if a person has any movement left in the nerves of their arm or is paralyzed, they cannot use this bionic arm. "This is where my bionic arm stands out, as it can be used by far more people. The one I created simply works on the movement of a person's head and sends those signals to the bionic arm wirelessly, allowing them to use it even if only their head is left in their body. These movements are detected by a hairband-like device on the head received by the bionic arm, and for this reason, I named it a Gyro Arm."

On the specifications of the Gyro

Arm, Hazik said, "It is very easy to use. For example, if a person wants to close their bionic hand, they just have to tilt their head forward; to open it, they tilt their head backward from a straight position. To rotate it right or left, they simply rotate their head right or left, respectively."

He said that the Gyro Arm features a rechargeable battery pack in both the transmitter (hairband) and receiver (GyroArm), which can be charged with any simple mobile phone adapter. On its lightweight design, Hazik said, "The best part about this arm is that we can set how much tilt our head should do for the Gyro Arm to work. In short, we can customize its movements by simply connecting it to our PC/laptop."

The primary motivation behind these innovations, according to Hazik, is to inspire the youth of Kashmir to engage in technology and address societal issues instead of resorting to negative actions like drugs and suicides, which are unfortunately common in the region.

## Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Observed Across Four SMC Wards

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra campaign made a significant impact as it was observed across four wards of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation Viz Ward No

17.(Nowshera), Ward No.18 (Eidgah), Ward No.19 (Palpora)and Ward No.20 (Nawa Kadal) and their adjoining areas. The event is designed to advance the goal of achieving full coverage of National Flagship schemes/Programs.

The day commenced with the ceremonial welcome of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van, marking the beginning of an intensive effort by all line departments to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the government's flagship schemes for eligible beneficiaries. Mass awareness sessions were conducted throughout

the day to educate attendees about the various ongoing schemes within their respective departments.

Furthermore, the event provided a platform for the online registration of previously overlooked eligible beneficiaries, who were promptly enrolled in a range of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, thus ensuring that deserving individuals are not excluded from vital government assistance.

In respect of commitment to the cause, participants in all the respective wards took the Viksit Bharat pledge, underscoring their dedication to the ideals and objectives of the initiative.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra campaign stands as a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to extending the reach of welfare programs and ensuring that the benefits of such schemes are accessible to all eligible citizens.

### NAME CHANGE

This is to notify that my name has been wrongly written in records as Khensa sameer D/O Sameer Ahmad Naikoo. R/O Udaipora Barsoo, Awaintipora, Pulwama. While my correct name is Khansa Sameer D/O Sameer Ahmad Naikoo R/O Udaipora Barsoo, Awaintipora, Pulwama. Now I want to correct the same. If anybody has any objections in this record he may contact Municipal Council Pampore district Pulwama within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Khansa Sameer D/O Sameer Ahmad Naikoo  
R/O Udaipora Barsoo, Awaintipora, Pulwama inf

## Sad Demise

We announce with profound grief that the beloved mother of Muzaffar Alam, Muhammad Khurshid Alam, Sartaj Alam and late Dr. Shahnawaz Alam passed away on Saturday, 16th Dec 2023.

Her congregational Fateha Khwani shall be observed at 10:30 am Wednesday (20th December 2023) at our ancestral graveyard Maqbara e Mir Sayyed Taaj ud Din Hamadani (r.a) situated near Nowhatta police station.

### BEREIVED FAMILY

MUZAFFAR ALAM, MUHAMMAD KHURSHID ALAM, SARTAJ ALAM, MOHSIN ALAM  
ABUL ROUF, QAZI SAJAD, SHAKHEEL KIRMANI  
Besides all relatives and friends

Rsvp. 990611117 and 9906523774

### GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E- mail:- phegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-241285

#### EXTENSION NOTICE 2nd

Due to "No Response" for the works advertised vide E.NIT No.45/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, issued under No:-JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./7649-7661, Dated: 02-12-2023 bearing Tender ID No: 2023\_PHE\_238920\_1, 2 & 3. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 18-12-2023 (02.00 PM) are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	26-12-2023 up-to 02.00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	27-12-2023 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./8345-8352  
DIPK-13980/23 Dated:- 19-12-2023

### Office Of The Medical Superintendent Government Dental College & Hospital

Shireen Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Phone No:-0194-2504707 Fax:- 0194-2504703

Website: www.gdcsrinagar.org

Email: msgdch@gdcsrinagar.org

#### Extension Notice-1st

Due to no response to Short Term Notice invited by this office vide endorsement No.Md Supdt/GDC&H/2363-68 dated:-05-12-2023 for submission of online discount offers for supply of High Speed Diesel (HSD) for running of Central Heating System in Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Srinagar for the remaining period of winter season of 2023-24, the critical dates in this regard are extended as under:

Last date for uploading of online bids (both Technical and Financial Bids) in the electronic format on e-tendering portal	29-12-2023 (1600 hours)
Last date for submission of hard copies of all pre-requisite documents (including CDR/TDR in original) in sealed envelope	30-12-2023 (till 1400 hours)
Tentative date of opening of uploaded bids	02-01-2024 (1400 hours) or any other date convenient to the bid opening authority
e-Tendering portal/website	https://www.jktenders.gov.in

Other terms and conditions as envisaged in the above Short Term Notice will remain unaltered.

Sd/-  
[Dr. Mirzada Bilal Ahmad]  
Medical Superintendent

No. Md Supdt/GDC&H/2487-92  
DIPK-14010/23 Dated:-19-12-2023

- 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:Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

#### RAILWAYS

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

#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

🌙  
**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
06 Jumada al-Sani  
1445

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	6 : 02
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	3: 48
Magrib	5:29
ISHA	6: 55

## This Day In History

- 69 - General Vespasian's troops occupy Rome after 1448 - Pope Nicholas V appoints Rudolf of Diepholt, Bishop of Utrecht, as cardinal.
- 1522 - Suleiman the Magnificent accepts surrender of the surviving Knights of Rhodes, who are allowed to evacuate. Eventually settle in Malta, become known as the Knights of Malta.
- 1585 - English fleet & Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, reach Vlissingen.
- 1626 - Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II and Prince of Transylvania Gabor Bethlen sign Peace of Pressburg (Bratislava).
- 1661 - Corporation Act enforced in England.
- 1669 - 1st jury trial in Delaware; Marcus Jacobson condemned for insurrection & sentenced to flogging, branding & slavery.
- 1688 - Prince William of Orange's troops arrive in London.
- 1694 - Frederik van Brandenburg flees Schweiben
- 1699 - Russian Tsar Peter the Great ordered Russian New Year changed from Sept 1 to Jan 1.
- 1780 - Britain declares war on Holland.
- 1790 - 1st successful US cotton mill to spin yarn (Pawtucket, RI).
- 1830 - Great Britain, France, Prussia, Austria and Russia recognize Belgium.
- 1860 - South Carolina secedes from the Union (US Civil War).
- 1879 - Tom Edison privately demonstrated incandescent light at Menlo Park.
- 1880 - Battle at Bronker'sSpruit, Transvaal: Farmers beat Britten.
- 1892 - Pneumatic automobile tire patented, Syracuse, NY.
- 1900 -Giacobini discovers a comet (will be 1st comet visited by spacecraft).
- 1915 - Russian troops overrun Qom, Persia
- 1917 -Cheka formed - Soviet state security force and forerunner to the KGB, under Felix Dzerzhinsky after decree by Lenin.

### From KO Archives

## Qaum Ka Gam Khatayhain, Dinner Key Saath

Observer News Service

**S** RINAGAR: The Iftar parties being hosted by every Tom, Dick and Harry in this capital city these days have become a source of avoidable inconvenience to the general public. Amazingly the 'worthy' hosts are least bothered by what their lavish feasting by debit to the empty state chequer meant to the city dwellers at a time when they hurry back to their homes after a day's work.

Residents of various downtown localities here had a taste of their rulers' indifference on Saturday when they found the busy Maulana Azad Road blocked to vehicular traffic for most of its stretch. Lo and behold, it was the peak hour for all the commuters to rush back home to join their waiting, generally anxious, families over Iftar.

Location of what is known as the Banquet Hall in the premises of the erstwhile chief minister's official residence on the main Civil Lines artery was the reason why vehicular traffic was diverted towards Regal Chowk for onward journey through the equally crowded SP higher secondary school. Traffic police authorities may know better why its own 'one way' restriction was eased to choke the awfully narrow roads. Obviously, caught in a nasty traffic jam, hundreds of people on fast found themselves helpless at the Iftar time. Mercifully, some citizens came out to serve some eatables to the stranded hundreds on the road.

"The ministers and bureaucrats hosting the Iftar parties at state expense should hang their heads in shame for subjecting innocent people to inconvenience during the holy month", an agitated downtown resident was heard saying.

(Kashmir Observer, 20 December, 2000)



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Wednesday | 20-12-2023

## Snowfall Boosts Tourism

**S**nowfall in upper reaches and the scenic spots has come as a boon for tourism in Kashmir. Gulmarg, a famous hilly resort, was blanketed by snow on Sunday. The resort is drawing both locals and tourists, who are arriving in the Valley from the different parts of the country to witness snow, a novelty for a majority of people in the rest of the country. Tourism scene is already booming in the Valley. Just this year until September, a whopping 1.68 crore tourists visited. Last year, it was 1.88 crore. The Amarnath pilgrimage saw more people too. Last year, 3 lakh people visited the cave shrine. This year, it was 4.5 lakh.

The tourism officials say it's, in part, to the active advertising they've been doing. True, the tourism department has been promoting events across the country to attract tourists to the Valley. But the influx of tourists is largely due to the peace prevailing in the union territory over the last few years. Yes, militancy remains very much present and, in fact, this year the violence has witnessed some bump in summer but this hasn't detracted from the larger drift of normalcy.

COVID-19 actually helped Kashmir's tourism. When international travel was tough, tourists flocked here. Since it wasn't heavily hit by the virus, it became a great place to visit. For Kashmir, more tourists mean more jobs. Tourism forms 6.8 percent of Kashmir's GDP and employs over two million people. The region, as a result, has witnessed a boon in hospitality, with hotels reporting handsome occupancy rates, and local businesses, including homestay facilities in rural areas, gaining momentum. This has a spillover effect on the larger economy.

The effort by the administration to turn Kashmir into a coveted wedding destination in 2024, building on the success of the current tourism wave, is certain to further increase the tourist traffic. The government has ambitious plans to transform the valley into a year-round tourist haven, embracing cultural, religious, and adventurous aspects. Once again, Kashmir's scenic beauty has brought Bollywood back in a big way. The administration has issued permissions to around 150 films and web series to be shot in the Valley.

That said, while thriving tourism is needed to give a leg up to the Valley's economy, we have to also ensure that the activity is not indiscriminately encouraged at the cost of the Valley's fragile ecology. The Valley can only accommodate only a certain number of tourists annually and the administration should take this fact on board in its plans to boost tourism in the union territory, both in Jammu division and Kashmir Valley.

### OTHER OPINION

## Acceleration foretold

COMMENTSSHAREREAD LATER

**C**OMMENTSSHAREREAD LATER  
November's resurgence in headline retail inflation, while clearly not unexpected after the RBI just last week predicted a likely 'uptick', is a stark reminder of the risks volatile food prices pose. While the National Statistical Office's provisional reading of headline inflation shows the Consumer Price Index rose by 5.55% year-on-year to a three-month high, from October's 4.87%, food price gains measured by the Consumer Food Price Index accelerated by a steep 209 basis points to 8.7% last month. Propelling the upsurge in food prices were cereals and vegetables, constituents of the 'food and beverages' subgroup, that logged 10.3% and 17.7% inflation, respectively. Cereals, that account for almost one-tenth of the CPI and logged double-digit inflation for a 15th straight month, also saw a month-on-month acceleration in inflation with rice, wheat, and the coarse cereal of jowar, a rural hinterland staple, all registering palpable sequential price gains. Vegetable prices were back on a boil with the year-on-year inflation rate surging by almost 15 percentage points from October's 2.8%. While price gains in the perishable tomato swung from two straight months of sizeable deflation to a more than 11% year-on-year rate of inflation last month, the extent of increase could be truly gauged from the fact that prices surged a steep 41% from the preceding month's levels, as per data aggregated on the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's website. And the key masala essentials of ginger and garlic registered more than 100% rates of inflation for the seventh and third months, respectively.

From the TOP or tomato, onion and potato triumvirate of India's most widely consumed vegetables, onion prices remained the biggest source of concern as year-on-year inflation ballooned to 86%, from October's 42% pace, and the sequential pace swelled to 48%. With reports that inclement weather and depleting groundwater are likely to cause a near 25% shortfall in onion output during the key rabi season, the outlook for prices of the nutrient-dense bulb moderating in the near future appears bleak, the government's move to impose a ban on its exports notwithstanding. Only potato prices, which continued to remain in deflationary territory, offered some respite. Pulses and sugar are other areas of concern, with the first witnessing more than 20% inflation and the sweetener also experiencing an uptick in the pace of price gains to 6.55%. With sugar production also expected to take a hit due to lower rainfall, the number of supply-related challenges policymakers face to rein in price gains is rising. With the RBI having opted to refrain from raising rates for now, the onus is squarely on the government to help temper inflation, or risk suffering an erosion in broader consumption and economic growth.

The Hindu



## Gulmarg Needs Sustainable & Responsible Tourism



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

**A**t a time when governments and tourism players across the world are striving hard to strengthen the tourism industry, we need to understand that tourism also plays a role in greenhouse gas emissions. Scientific studies and reports have revealed that tourism accounts for over 5% of the greenhouse gas emissions (GG emission). Of this, the transportation involved in tourism accounts for over 90%. By 2030 there will be a 25% increase in CO2 emissions from tourism when compared with 2016.

A golf course of 150 acres requires at least 200 million gallons of water annually which is equivalent to more than 75 crore liters. This huge amount of water can suffice at least 7000 Indian families living in rural areas. The average golf course also requires a minimum 2000 kgs of chemical fertilizers which has a huge environmental impact as well.

In 1950, there were 25 million tourist arrivals in the world in different countries. In 1970, this number went up to 166 million and by 1990 this was 435 million. Between 1990 to 2018, the number of tourist arrivals in the world became three times higher and it went up to 1.442 billion and by 2030 1.8 billion tourist arrivals are projected. Let us now relate this with India. 30 years back the number of tourist arrivals in Goa, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Himachal or J&K was very less but now the rush is huge. Before 1990, few thousand pilgrims would visit Amarnath, Kedarnath or Badrinath but now this number has also increased. This is posing a great threat to our ecology and environment.

In Sonamarg, Pahalgam or Gulmarg we had very few concrete hotels in the past but now with the huge influx of tourists we have constructed a large number of hotels in these tourist destinations and these places now look like small cities rather than hill stations. This is going to have a negative impact on our ecology and environment as these practices will cause depletion of our natural resources.

Managing waste in tourist places across the world has become an arduous task and this is more challenging in hilly areas like Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg in Kashmir. The day isn't far when things will go out of control and all our tourist places will be choked with trash and our tourism industry will collapse. To address this,

the only way out is to adopt sustainable and responsible tourism practices and all the stakeholders in tour and travel trade need to understand these practices.

### Ecotourism Conclave at Gulmarg

On December 16th, the Ecotourism Society of Kashmir in association with Gulmarg Development Authority -GDA organized an ecotourism conclave at Gulmarg to discuss and deliberate on overcoming irresponsible tourism practices. The newly posted CEO of Gulmarg Development Authority -GDA Mr Raja Waseem sought cooperation from tourism players to make Gulmarg a sustainable tourist destination. He said that illegal constructions and unscientific waste management are two big challenges which he wants to address in the coming months.

Chairman Ecotourism Society of Kashmir Sameer Boktoo welcomed the participants who were mostly hoteliers, travel agents, media persons and Govt officials and urged upon them to join hands in preserving Gulmarg.

The Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir (CuK) Prof A Ravindernath, who was chief guest on the occasion, laid emphasis on strengthening sustainable tourism practices and assured that CuK would collaborate with GDA and other stakeholders on building capacities of the students vis a vis ecotourism. He said that CuK already has a separate department of Tourism studies which works under the school of business studies. He said the department can work in collaboration with GDA, tourist players and NGOs and send their students for internships as well.

Executive Member Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry -KCCI and past president Travel Agents Association of Kashmir, Farooq Kuthoo, Perzada Fayaz Past President TAAK, Nadeem Qadri legal advisor Ecotourism Society of Kashmir, Zahoor Qari Past Chairman Travel Agents Association of India-TAAI JK Chapter, Akram Siah President Travel Agents Society of Kashmir-TASK, Shamim Shah Travel Agents Federation of India JK Chapter head, Noor Mohammad Shangloo JK Tourism Alliance Chairman and officials from Army also spoke on the occasion and voiced their concern about Gulmarg.

### Responsible Tourism & Cape Town Declaration

Responsible tourism practices are now discussed and debated across the world since the last few decades. It focuses on respecting the tourism destination's environment, community, and culture.

The Cape Town conference on Responsible Tourism was organised by the Responsible Tourism Partnership and Western Cape Tourism as a side event preceding the world summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg



**Responsible tourism practices cannot be achieved in Gulmarg or in Kashmir valley unless we become responsible citizens. Tourists, hoteliers, cab drivers, restaurant owners, shopkeepers and all other tourism players as well as the Government have to show the awareness of responsibility towards green tourism**

in 2002, and attended by 280 delegates from 20 countries. It grew out of the South African work on responsible tourism guidelines and involved delegates field-testing the South African Guidelines on sites in and around the city. The 2002 Cape Town declaration agreed that responsible tourism minimises negative economic, environmental and social impacts, generates greater economic benefits for local people and enhances the well being of host communities. This is an internationally recognised event, supported by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, that highlights how tourism can make the world a better place.

The Cape Town declaration is now widely accepted and was adopted by the World Travel Market in 2007 for World Responsible Tourism Day which is celebrated on November 7th every year.

The participants in the Gulmarg Ecotourism Conclave were fully focussed on responsible tourism as it aims to correct the adverse effects caused by irresponsible mass tourism.

### National strategy on sustainable tourism

Govt of India has in-fact come up with a National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism last year wherein thrust has been given on Sustainable Tourism. The Sustainable tourism or Green Tour-

ism takes into account current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visiting tourists, the tourism industry, the environment and host communities. The policy document on National Strategy for sustainable tourism prepared by the Ministry of Tourism through an office memorandum dated April 29th 2022 reads:

"The National Strategy for sustainable tourism aims to mainstream sustainability in Indian tourism sector and ensure a more resilient, inclusive, carbon neutral and resource efficient tourism while safeguarding natural and cultural resources"

### Suggestions

Responsible tourism practices cannot be achieved in Gulmarg or in Kashmir valley unless we become responsible citizens. Tourists, hoteliers, cab drivers, restaurant owners, shopkeepers and all other tourism players as well as the Government have to show the awareness of responsibility towards green tourism.

To make Gulmarg a better tourism destination we as responsible citizens or tourists also need to make sure we don't carry any plastic with us to Gulmarg. The local shopkeepers and hoteliers must also minimise the use of plastic and all the food waste should be processed at a centralized place by GDA and converted into compost.

If small organic waste composters-OWCs are installed in the hotels that will be more useful to convert food waste into compost.

Battery operated ATVs & cabs need to be introduced in Gulmarg. Govt must provide additional staff to GDA and volunteers and interns from colleges as well as universities can also be asked to handhold GDA's work.

A massive Information Education and Communication -IEC campaign has to be initiated in Gulmarg which will hold street plays, stage shows in the Gulmarg bowl and create awareness on responsible tourism in Gulmarg.

The GDA also has to make sure the waste management plant set up in Gulmarg around 2017 is made operational and all the waste is carried in a segregated manner to this site as mandated under MSW Rules 2016. This needs frequent deliberations and discussions between GDA and other stakeholders and I am sure under the leadership of present CEO Gulmarg will be an example for Responsible Tourism in the country.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Anant Fellow for Climate Action and has written extensively on sustainable development, climate action and environment



# PSALMS OF PEACE-III

## The Lyricist's Voice

Versatile Urdu poet, Sahir Ludhianvi remembered through his selected verses

S.Sarwar.Malik

When I started selecting verses of the anti war poem, for my writeup, titled PSALMS OF PEACE, deep inside I remembered the Punjabi poetess Amrita Pritam, as well, because she shared a special relation with the Piscean born on 8 March 1922, as Abdul Hai; better known as Sahir Ludhianvi. Some more selected verses of his poetry I intend to present today- without any attempt to translate, just to refresh your memory. As is fairly known Sahir was the estranged son of wealthy 'zamindar' who suffered financial deprivation; was expelled from Govt College Ludhiana for his non-conformist behaviour. Some people link his expulsion to the ardent fan, Amrita- who, it is said, puffed away with his cigarette butts and openly acknowledged her relation with Sahir.

Remember his verses:

*Tu aaj bhi hai mairay liye jannate khayaal,  
Hain tujh main daffan meri jawani kay chaar saal,  
Nagma nishaate rooh ka gaaya hai baar ha,  
Geetoon main aansovoon ko chupaya hai baar ha, Masoomiyoon kay jurm main badnaam bhi howay,  
Tairay tufail mooride ilzaam bhi hovay,  
Laykkin hum in fizaavoon kay paalay howay to hain,  
ghar yaan nahi to yahaan say nikalay howay to hain*  
(Nazzere College-1943).

He settled in Lahore to publish *Talkhiyaan* in 1945 that depicted the personal pathos of this eternal bachelor whose passionate affair didn't solemnize into marriage.

*Main nay daikha hai shikastay saaze ulfat ka samma,  
Ab kisi tehreek per barbut utha sakta nahi,  
Tum mairay ho ker bi baigana he pavo gi mujhay,  
Mai tumhara ho kay bi tum main samma sakta nahi,  
Kis tarah tum ko bana loon main shareeke zindagi,  
Main to apni zindagi ka baar utha sakta nahi(- Maezoori).*

Or see his defeated mood in these verses:  
*Meri mehboob! Yeh hangamaie tajdeede wafa,  
Meri afsordah jawaani kay liye raas nahi,  
Mai nay jo phool chunnay thay teray qadmoon kayliye,  
Unka dhundhla sa tasavor bhi meray paas nahi,  
Tairay aariz pe yeh dhalkay howay seemein aanso,  
Meri afsordagi gum ka madawa to nahi,  
Teri mehboob nigahoon ka payaame tajdeed,  
Ik talafi hi sahe meri tammana to nahi (- Shikast).*

He voices his distaste about the conservative society of his time in these verses:

*Sochta hoon ke mohabat pe kaddi shartain hain,  
Iss tamadoen main masarat pe buddi shartain hain,  
Sochta hoon ki basher aur mohabat ka janoon,  
Aisay boosedah tamadoen main hai ik karre zaboon*



IT IS SAID THAT THE NEWS OF HIS DEATH FIRST LEFT HER SPEECHLESS- THE MOST PROFOUND RESPONSE. Later in the day she narrated an incident of bye gone days when both of them, along with some other men of repute were invited to a function, organized to honour them with robes

Soochta-hoon.)

Yet the thought of beloved captivated him:  
*Tairay hoonthoon pe tabasum ki who halki si lakeer,  
Mairay takhayul main reh reh kay jhalak othti hai,  
Youn achanak teray aariz ka khayaal aata hat,  
Jaisay zulmaat mai koie shameh bhadhak othti hai*

*Raat ki sard khamoshi main her ik jhonkay say,  
Tairay unfaas teray jism ki aanch aati hai(- Hiraas.)*

In separation Sahir wove the warp and woof of his beloved's presence thus:  
*Aur nagmoon main chhupa ker mairay khoye howay khwaab,  
Mayri roothi hovi neendo ko manna laaye hai,  
Raat ki sateh pe ubray teray chehray kay naqoosh,  
Wohi chup chaap se aankhain wohi saadah se nazer,  
wohi dhoya aanchal wohi raftaar ka khum,  
wohi reh reh kay lachakta hova nazzuk paikker,  
Dhoondh laingi meri tarse hovi nazrain tujh ko,  
Nagma o shayr ki omd hovi barsatoon main. (Tayri Aawaaz).*

True Sahir conveyed his yearning in moving words:  
*Youn na ja dil ki shameh gul karkay,*

*Abhi daykha nahi hai jee barr kay,  
Mairay mehboob na ja, aaj ki raat na ja.*  
Singing praise of beloved he spoke eloquently:  
*Hoanth hain ya kisi shayir ki dovawoon ka jawaab,  
Zulf hai ya kisi sawan kay talubgaar ka khawaab.*

Simple words expressed his sensuous facet:  
*Chho laynay say hoota hai tera jism jawaan aur,  
Her waqt teray hussn ka hota hai samma aur.*

Yet Sahir was alive to the issues of the day. He identified himself with commoners and his leftist beliefs found expression even from his early days in poems like Taj Mahal: *Mairi mehboob kaheen aur mila ker mujh say.*

His poetry is an honest depiction of his time and the plight of people:  
*Mann wa salva ka zamana ja chukka,  
Bhook aur aaftab ki baatain karain  
...Faaqakash jamhoor ki batain karain.*

He dedicated his poetry to the working class:  
*Aaj say ai mazdoor kissano, mairay raag tumharay hain, ...maira fun maire omeedain aaj say tum ko arpan hain,  
Aaj say mairay geet tumharay dukh aur such ka darpan hain .... aaj say mairay fun ka maqsad zanjeerain pighlana hai.*

He was pained to see the degradation of women:  
*Sana khwaane Taqdees e mashrik kahaan hain (- chuklay.)*  
He had the courage to speak out :  
*Hum jo insaano ki tehzeeb liye phirtay hain,  
Hum sa vehshi koye jungal kay darindoon main nahi.*

He was honest enough to voice his disgust:  
*Yeh insaan kay dushman samajoon ki duniya,  
Yeh dowlut kay bhookay rivajoon ki duniya,  
Yeh basti hai murdah parastoon ki basti,  
Yahaan per to jeevan say hai moat sasti,  
Yeh duniya agar mil be jaye to kya hai,  
Tumhaari hai tum he sambhalo yeh duniya.*

He pleaded passionately in heart- renting tone:  
*Apnay nagmoon ki jholi pasaray darbadder phir raha hoon, mujh ko aman aur tehzeeb ki bheek do  
...mujh ko phir maira khoya hova saaz do*

Instead of complacent attitude he depicted courage to question the leaders, over the poor achievement on socio-economic front:  
*Av ki aaj goar karain is sawal per,  
Daikhay thay hum nay jo woh hassen khwab kya hovay, Baykas birhangi ko kaffin tak nahi naseeb,  
Woh vadah haie atlas o kemkhawab kya hovay.*

He openly expressed distaste over Indo-Pak war:  
*Khoon apna ho ya paraya ho,  
Nassle aadam ka khoon hai aakhir,  
Jung mashriq main ho ki magrib main,  
Amanne aalam ka khoon hai aakhir.*

His long poem parchhaiaan is an impressive anti-war document  
Yet Sahir pinned hope on better tomorrow:  
*Beetaay gay kabhi to din aakhir  
yeh bhook kay aur baykaari kay  
...jab aik anoorkhi duniya ki buniyaad uthaye jaiyegi  
...Seenay kay dehkay dozakh main armaan na jallaye jaayengay,  
Who subeh kabhi to aayegi.*

In fact it was't a vague hope but faith in our capacity to bring about a positive change :  
*Bay ghar bay der bay bus insaan,  
tareek biloon say niklaingay,  
Duniya aman aur khush hali kay phooloon say sajayee jayeigi  
...iss subeh ko hum he layaaingay,  
Who subeh hummein say aayegi.*

He invested hope in new generation; to whom he addressed thus:-  
*...wattan kay imaam...  
kal jahan mai tha. Aaj tu hai wahaan,  
aay nayee nasl tujh ko mera salaam.*

From Lahore Sahir had moved to Bollywood in the neighbourhood of Gulzaar to become an essential component of S.D Burman compositions till Piyaasa & of Yash Chopra till Kabhi Kabhi,1976, bagging the prestigious Padam Shri Award.

*Mai nay jo geet teray pyaar ki khatir likhay,  
Aaj in geetoon ko bazaara main lay aya hoon,  
Aaj chandi kay tarazo main tulay gi her cheez,  
Meray ufkaar meri shairri mera ehsaas(- Fankaar ).*

Sincerity, spontaneity and unaffected style together with rich thought content are the hallmarks of Sahir.

He left for the next world in Oct 1980, after giving scores of sensitive yet melodious lyrics- that have intellectual as well as progressive colour, & find place in the hearts of people even today.

To conclude I would like to narrate the story believed to have been told by Amrita Pritam when she heard about Sahir's death; that speaks volumes about genuine sentiments and honest & bold expression of uncensored feelings - very few are capable of.

It is said that the news of his death first left her speechless- the most profound response. Later in the day she narrated an incident of bye gone days when both of them, along with some other men of repute were invited to a function, organized to honour them with robes. Engrossed in tete tete they had to be goaded to hurry and don the cloaks as the time of function was approaching fast. As they were last to enter the green room, Sahir and Amrita hurriedly put on the cloaks only to discover on the dais that the one carrying the name badge of Amrita was Sahir and vice versa - triggering mischievous smiles from spectators. Relating this, Amrita Pritam is said to have expressed thus on the day of Sahir's demise: **probably the Angel of death read the name,Sahir Ludhianvi, on the cloak; not knowing the wearer was actually Amrita, whom death has come, today.**

## Empowering Financial Vigilance: Unmasking the Kashmir Investment Scam

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

In the idyllic landscapes of Kashmir, a tale of financial deceit unfolds, underscoring the vital importance of financial literacy and vigilance. Recent revelations expose a significant investment scam, leaving investors disillusioned and prompting broader questions about the need for heightened awareness and regulatory measures in the financial landscape.

The victims, driven by the promise of doubling their investments in a mere 15 days, now find themselves grappling with profound financial losses. Their stories serve as cautionary reminders of the perils that can accompany unchecked enthusiasm for quick returns. What began as a promising venture, endorsed by a social media influencer, soon turned into a nightmare as the company, initially responsive, ceased communication, leaving investors in the lurch.

Beyond individual investors, the scam has also impacted the livelihoods of local employees who were unwittingly caught up in the web of deception. Their experiences shed light on the intricate dynamics of financial schemes and the far-reaching consequences of such fraudulent practices.

As the Cyber Police in Kashmir diligently investigate the matter, this incident serves as a rallying cry for increased financial literacy and awareness. It highlights the imperative for cybercrime and related agencies to conduct seminars and workshops, disseminating crucial information to the common masses. By fostering a deeper understanding of online financial risks and scams, these initiatives can empower individuals to navigate the digital landscape more safely.

This episode underscores the need for collaborative efforts between regulatory bodies, law enforcement, and the public to create

a robust system that protects citizens from financial malpractices. It calls for educational initiatives to empower individuals with the skills to make informed financial decisions, reinforcing the adage that prevention is indeed better than cure.

Amidst the challenges, there lies an opportunity for society to unite in its commitment to fostering financial resilience. By sharing stories, educating one another, and advocating for transparent financial practices, communities can build a collective shield against fraudulent schemes. This unfortunate incident can thus become a catalyst for positive change, prompting a renewed focus on financial well-being and the creation of a more secure investment landscape for all.

The author is a Columnist and the Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill'.



THIS EPISODE UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN REGULATORY BODIES, LAW ENFORCEMENT, and the public to create a robust system that protects citizens from financial malpractices. It calls for educational initiatives to empower individuals with the skills to make informed financial decisions, reinforcing the adage that prevention is indeed better than cure



## Crackdown Launched

outside a Rohingya settlement here. Pathak, who was supervising the crackdown, said some 30 locations under seven police stations were searched in the Jammu city.

The IGP said all cases are in primary stages of investigation and a full picture will emerge as the probe moves forward, and may lead to more arrests.

"Our primary focus was to identify the aiders and abettors who are helping the illegal immigrants to settle and also providing them necessary support to acquire basic services. They have taken it as a business," Jain said. He said an official was detained for questioning in Poonch for his role in helping Rohingyas to get certain documents.

Jain said police will be looking into several angles, including that of human trafficking, in the matter.

The searches led to the recovery of a lot of documents like Aadhaar cards, ration cards, voter ID cards, revenue records, rent deeds and passbooks besides mobile phones and SIM cards, he said.

Earlier, a police spokesperson said that seven FIRs were lodged at Satwari, Trikuta Nagar, Bagh-e-Bahu, Channi Himmat, Nowabad, Domana and Nagrota police stations against people accused of providing shelter to the foreign immigrants.

The searches were conducted in the presence of the magistrates, police said.

"Investigation into the matter has started and other details will be shared subsequently," the spokesperson said.

Six men and their Rohingya wives were among 13 persons arrested from Kishtwar's Dachhan area.

"The arrests were carried out on the basis of credible evidence, and the individuals are being investigated for their alleged involvement in activities contrary to law and public order," the official said.

A couple was among four persons were booked at Dharamkund Police Station in Ramban district and arrested, while three persons were arrested for helping a Rohingya at Dhargloom village of Poonch district with a fake Aadhaar card and ration card.

The arrested persons included Nazir Ahmad Gujjar, who had married off his daughter, Farzana Kossar, to Mohd Numaan, a Rohingya Muslim, in 2016, and managed to get a fake Aadhaar card and ration card for his son-in-law, police said.

Numaan, who was arrested on November 30, is presently in judicial custody, they said.

The spokesperson said that another facilitator, Lal Din, was arrested from his Laam-Nowshera residence in Rajouri district following investigation into a case registered in October after the arrest of a Myanmar-born woman named Haleema, who is currently out on bail.

The spokesperson said the police have registered three FIRs in Doda district against 10 foreign immigrants, mainly Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals, and their facilitators, for illegally procuring Indian identity papers.

Two of these cases were registered at the Baderwah Police Station, while another case was lodged at the Gandoh Police Station, he said.

He said an investigation in all three cases has been launched to ascertain the immigrants' facilitators, as well as the government employees involved in the facilitation of the Indian papers for them.

Thousands of Rohingyas entered India illegally through Bangladesh and took shelter in Jammu and other parts of the country following persecution in Myanmar.

In March 2021, police found over 250 Rohingyas, including women and children, living illegally in Jammu city during a verification drive and lodged them in a holding centre inside the Kathua Sub-Jail.

## 'Police To Develop

"We are going to develop a mechanism soon for timely verification (of tenants, domestic helpers and hotel guests) so that no security threat emerges," Jain told reporters here this evening.

The IGP was responding to a question about non-enthusiastic response of the people to the police advisories to provide information about their tenants and domestic helpers to the nearest police station.

Jain said the police have already taken necessary steps and are routinely carrying out searches at different places besides checking registries at the hotels.

On the ongoing anti-terrorist operations in Rajouri and Poonch, the senior police officer said the operations are on and will be further intensified to maintain peace in the border districts.

The two districts of Jammu region witnessed several attacks over the past one year, viewed as an attempt by the terrorists to revive militancy there.

## Kashmir In

a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius against minus 2.2 degrees Celsius recorded 24 hours earlier.

The weather office has forecast generally dry weather over the next few days in the valley.

The sudden drop in temperature

has resulted in freezing of many slow moving water bodies. It has also resulted in freezing of water supply pipes in some areas, they said.

The drop in temperature has resulted in an increase in respiratory problems among the children and elderly.

With electricity supply erratic in many areas of Kashmir, people have resorted to use of Kangri, an earthen firepot, to beat the chill.

## Multi-Crore Scam

also, to ask customers and investors to invest their money based on some plans and their money would be doubled in 15 days," said one of the employees of the firm.

He said that initially the doubled amount was credited in the bank accounts of customers or investors and they themselves (employees) also started to invest their salaries in the firm, however, they have also been duped of the money as well as of their employment.

A top Police officer said that a case has been registered on the basis of complaints against the private firm, saying that the cognisance has been taken in this regard. "We are investigating the matter and those involved will be brought to justice," he said—(KNO)

## CRPF Credits

their support," Yadav added. As many as 16 teams from central Kashmir, including four from Downtown Srinagar, are participating in the tournament.

"This is Naya Kashmir and the youth will march ahead. I am hopeful that many youths from this tournament will play for India in the future. Sports also plays a very important role in keeping youths away from drugs," he said.

Yadav said the tournament has been organised especially keeping the youth in mind.

The aim is to engage the youth, provide them a path to live their lives in a better way and provide an opportunity for them to play at the national level. I am sure that many good players will emerge out of the tournament, he said.

We have promised that the CRPF will keep the youth engaged. These tournaments are a part of the civic action programme, he added.

Asked if the paramilitary force was ready to provide security for elections in J-K, the IG said the CRPF is ready for any responsibility.

He said the tournament would be an annual feature.

## 'Will Intensify

However, he quickly added that his force will intensify the anti-terror operations in the Valley if required.

"But as of now, the situation is very peaceful. We hope that the situation remains the same in the time to come," Yadav said.

The IG CRPF said "all the strategies that are required to be adopted, including association with the public, support of youth and the people around, is what we aspire for and which we are doing right now".

Replying to a question on the presence of CRPF's women personnel in the Valley, Yadav said that the women force is engaged in airport security duties besides participating in the cordon search operation with the teams.

"We have the women personnel deployed in the Valley. They are at the airport, they're with the cordon search operation teams, they're given all the opportunities and the platforms to work. They are doing service for the nation, for the force and they're providing excellent support to us," he said.

## 11 Earthquakes

The third and fourth earthquakes measuring 2.9 and 2.8 jolted the places at 11:18 Am and 11:28 AM respectively.

The experts have, however, asked the people to take precautionary measures, saying that there was no need to panic.

Senior Assistant Professor at Department of Earth Sciences Kashmir University, Dr Rakesh Chandra said that the tremors felt since yesterday is a normal phenomenon as the earth has to release its energy. "Zanskar, Kargil and Kishtwar in J&K is in zone five and considered as the most vulnerable areas of the earthquake, thus these earthquakes and aftershocks witnessed since last afternoon are quite normal," he said.

He added that the earthquakes are unavoidable as the earth has to release its energy and even if the energy is getting released through low intensity shocks, it is a good sign as it will help in avoiding a major earthquake, which would release the accumulated energy in it.

"We need to see the earthquake and aftershocks in a positive aspect and there is no need to panic, but we need to take precautionary measures like constructing our houses on seismically approved design to prevent the losses," he said.

Moreover, Professor Shakil Romshoo, an earth scientist and Vice Chancellor of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), said that "keeping in view our historical vulnerability to earthquakes, we all need to be conscious about our role and responsibility as far as disaster

preparedness is concerned, particularly in case of earthquakes."

"We must, as individuals, community and society or as a part of the government, work in tandem and join hands for reducing our vulnerability and risk to earthquakes," he said—(KNO)

## Govt Officer

to the mandate of the Supreme Court that Judges who bear the sword of justice should not hesitate to use that sword with the utmost severity to the full and to the end, if the gravity of the offence so demands.

The case was registered in 2007 based on verification conducted into the allegation that Khan amassed huge assets in the form of movable and immovable properties.

## Consumers Grapple

Barzulla, Goripora, Bemina, Gagrival, Boulevard Road, Jawahar Nagar, Wazir Bagh, Lal Mandi, Karan Nagar, Nishat, Shalimar and Harwan have voiced similar concerns over the intermittent power cuts.

Principal Secretary, PDD J&K, Rajesh Prasad said that the overall power supply in Kashmir has improved and the disruption in power supply in metered areas might be attributed to faults in the feeders.

"No, this shouldn't happen in metered areas at least. The department does not resort to power cuts, but this might happen due to the fault in feeders. I will look into the issue, and people in the smart metered areas who face power cuts can forward their locations for early redressal of the problem," Prasad told Kashmir Observer.

In rural districts such as Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag, and Kulgam, where power consumption has considerably dropped following the installation of smart meters, residents have appealed to the government to ensure sufficient supply of electricity. "Smart meters in Kashmir did not work, I think, which is why the authorities frequently resort to power cuts. We endure annoying power outages and the PDD continues to make tall claims of having improved the supply," Mohammad Sidiq Bala, a consumer from Devsar area of Kulgam district said.

He said that the government had promised them of a 24 -hour power supply after the installation of smart meters.

"However two years have passed and the situation has worsened since then," Bala said, adding "This is sheer injustice to consumers who pay their monthly bills on time and use power judiciously,"

## No Distress Cuts

Addressing the meeting of officers, the Div Com directed the concerned to act humanely in event of harsh cold climatic conditions and replace the damaged Distribution Transformer (DT) to ease peoples sufferings, an official spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Managing Director, KPDCI; Chief Engineer KPDCI/ KPTCL, Generation/ Planning and Procurement Kashmir and other concerned officers in person, besides all Deputy Commissioner's of Kashmir Division through Video Conferencing.

At the outset, the spokesperson said, the MD KPDCI briefed the meeting about the power scenario in Kashmir through a PowerPoint presentation which includes average demand met; maximum demand un-restricted and average curtailment. He informed that there has been no distress cut after additional allocation of 200 MWs of power across Kashmir Valley.

Bidhuri, he said, reviewed district wise details of average curtailment hours in metered and non-metered both in urban and rural areas of Kashmir division.

"Meeting also discussed the present Distribution Transformer Buffer status of KPDCI and replacement time. The Div Com directed the concerned to ensure sufficient buffer stock of DTs in each district and simultaneously it should also be ensured that different capacities of DTs are in buffer to replace equal capacity of DTs," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the meeting was informed that the average time taken to repair the damaged transformers has been reduced, with restoration time of less than 12 hours in urban areas and in a day in rural areas. Besides, he said, the meeting also reviewed the status of smart metering under PMPD-U phase-I and II.

"The Div Com sought the feedback of damaged DTs on a daily basis to his office besides where replacement has taken more than one day," the spokesperson said, adding that Bidhuri also directed the DCs and other concerned to launch drives against the power thefts vigorously to prevent pilferage.

## India Contributing

including a global growth slowdown in an increasingly fragmented world, Choueiri said.

There is a very strong push by the government to invest in infrastructure and develop the logistics that are needed for a solid basis for growth, Choueiri said.

India, she said, has a very large and young and growing population and thus has the potential to grow at stronger rates if this potential is harnessed through structural reforms.

The government has done several structural reforms, the flagship one being the digitalisation, which has been building up over many years and has put India on a strong platform for increased productivity and growth in the future.

The IMF in its annual report recommended that policy priorities should focus on replenishing fiscal buffers, securing price stability, maintaining financial stability, and accelerating inclusive growth through comprehensive structural reforms while preserving debt sustainability.

India's economy has rebounded strongly from the pandemic to become an important driver of global growth. After surging during FY2022/23, headline inflation has, on average, moderated although it remains volatile. Employment has surpassed the pre-pandemic level and the informal sector continues to dominate while formalisation has progressed, it said.

"The financial sector has been resilient, largely unaffected by global financial stress in early 2023. While the budget deficit has eased, public debt remains elevated, and fiscal buffers need to be rebuilt. Globally, India's 2023 G20 presidency has demonstrated the country's important role in advancing multilateral policy priorities," it said.

"On the political front, general elections are expected in April 2024. Macroeconomic policies have been partly in line with the past IMF staff advice," the report said.

India has the potential to experience higher growth contributed by additional labour and human capital if comprehensive reforms are implemented. Furthermore, the country's foundational digital public infrastructure has significant potential to raise total factor productivity by fostering innovation and competition, accelerating financial inclusion, and boosting public sector efficiency.

Observing that GDP growth reached 7.2 per cent in fiscal 2022/23, moderating from 9.1 per cent in FY2021/22, the IMF said growth has been supported by robust consumption stemming from pent-up demand of households and strong investment, with historically high levels of public capital expenditure.

Strong global demand for outsourcing induced by the pandemic pushed up service export growth to a decade high in FY2022/23, raising net exports. Services exports lost some momentum in early FY2023/24, largely reflecting demand slowdown in partner countries, but GDP growth remained strong at 7.8 per cent in FY2023/24Q1, supported by robust domestic demand, it said.

Responding to a question, Choueiri noted that political stability is important for investment and growth.

"We have not done any quantitative analysis around that to be able to put a number but there is a lot of research that points to the importance of having, political stability and a clear policy environment, not just at the politics level, but in terms of policies for businesses to know what the taxes are going to be what the procedures are going to be. So this kind of transparent and future business environment is also important for investment and growth," she said.

The government has taken a lot of steps to encourage the business environment. "It's a glass half full, they're still important procedures that are needed to simplify further. But there are important steps that were taken. For example, the single national window, the one-stop shop for companies is a very important one. But still, in many states, there's a lot of bureaucracy that needs to be tackled and streamlined and a lot of red tape. So this is also a work in progress that needs to be continued," she said.

The IMF, she said, believes that there is a need for labour reform.

"India has in abundance labour. And Labour is not used to its potential in India. And so, in our view, there has to be a very concerted effort to make sure that the advantages, and demographics in India are played up to the maximum," she said, adding that this means education, skilling, and increasing female labour force participation.

The IMF in its report noted that India's recent inflation dynamics had not followed the same pattern as in other countries.

Observing that the external environment is very tricky and it is not very supportive, Choueiri said: "We see a lot of risks from fragmentation. We've been pointing those out. We also see more medium-term risks from climate change. Although it's a slow-moving phenomenon, the impact of climate change, we are seeing them every day through erratic weather patterns. India is significantly impacted by that."

These are important risks that need to be heeded and managed properly, the IMF official said. "India is doing well. It has tremendous potential. Several important policies need to be addressed to harness that potential," Choueiri said.

## No Person Can

referred in detail the concept of "double jeopardy" in light of a Supreme Court judgement last year.

"The concept of double jeopardy can also be understood in terms of Article

21 of the Constitution of India which states that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law," the court said, adding, "Life" under Article 21 of the Constitution is not merely the physical act of breathing. It does not connote mere animal existence or continued drudgery through life. It has a much wider connotation; it includes the right to live with human dignity."

Under the umbrella of Article 21, the court said, various rights like right to free legal aid, right to speedy trial, right to fair trial, etc. have been included.

"Similarly, protection against double jeopardy is also included under the scope of Article 21 of the Constitution of India," the court said, adding, "Prosecuting a person for the same offence in same series of facts, for which he has previously either been acquitted or has been convicted and undergone the punishment, affects the person's right to live with dignity."

Referring to the case, the court said, "...M/s Eaton Laboratories has been convicted for an offence i.e. manufacture for sale of drug Emlo-A, having batch no. 9159, manufacturing date January 2013, expiry date December 2015 by the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Anantnag. As such, the Petitioner i.e. M/s Eaton Laboratories cannot be tried for commission of offence i.e. manufacture for sale of the drug having same specific manufacturing details, subsequently."

## Properties Of

offenders, a police spokesman said.

He said the offenders have moved to Pak/PoK for attaining training of illegal arms and were involved in a case registered under sections 2/3 E&IMCO (Egress and Internal Movement (Control) Ordinance).

The offenders are at large across the border in PoK /Pak, the spokesman added.

Giving details of properties attached, the spokesman said land measuring one kanals 19 marlas in Estate Chountwaliwar belonging to Mohammad Yousuf alias Yousuf Naseem, resident of Chountwaliwar, was attached.

Land measuring one kanal 17 marlas in Chountwaliwar and 10 marlas in Watlar belonging to Bashir Ahmad, resident of Chountwaliwar/ Watlar, land measuring 11 marlas in estate Chountwaliwar belonging to Mohammad Rafiq, resident of Chountwaliwar, land measuring two kanals 15 marlas in estate Chountwaliwar belonging to Mohammad Sakhi, resident of Chountwaliwar, are also the properties which were attached.

The attached properties also include a piece of land in estate Qasba Lar belonging to Hilal Ahmad, resident of Qasba Lar, the spokesman said.

He said so far, a total 27.13 kanals of land belonging to nine proclaimed offenders and a residential house has been attached in the case.

## Labourer Injured

Scroll said that an FIR number 198/2023 under sections 341/323/353 IPC has been registered in this regard.

"We have arrested three persons accused in the act", the officer said.

## 127 People Killed

efforts in icy conditions.

Qinghai province is adjacent to the Tibet Himalayan region which is prone to frequent earthquakes due to shifting of continental plates.

While 536 people were injured in Gansu, 182 people were wounded and 20 others missing in Qinghai, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre, the shallow quake jolted Gansu and Qinghai provinces at 11:59 pm on Monday, with a focal depth of 10 kilometres.

The epicentre of the earthquake Liuguo township is about 8 km from the county seat of Jishishan Bao'an, Dongxiang, Sala autonomous county in Linxia Hui autonomous prefecture in Gansu.

The earthquake damaged 155,393 houses in Gansu.

The epicentre of the earthquake in Gansu was only 5 km away from the boundary between the two provinces. Within 50 km of the epicentre, there are 22 townships in Qinghai, Xinhua reported.

Wang Wen, vice mayor of Haidong city in Qinghai, told the media that local departments will carry out safety checks on infrastructure like the supplies of power, water and gas, as well as communications to ensure that people's basic necessities are met.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang have ordered all-out rescue efforts to minimise casualties after the earthquake.

Xi asked local authorities to rescue and treat the injured people promptly, and closely monitor the earthquake situation and weather changes to prevent secondary disasters.

Monday night's quake was China's deadliest since an earthquake killed 617 people in Yunnan province in 2014.

Residents interviewed by Shanghai-based media outlet The Paper on Tuesday said many people were asleep when the quake struck and did not have time to take shelter.

According to the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post, a woman, who lives 90 km from the epicentre, said her house collapsed and she escaped being buried because she was still awake.

Videos and photos circulating on social media showed firefighting crews trying to pull out residents buried under rubble and others showed quake victims taking shelter on the road while wrapped in quilts amidst biting cold.

The quake has destroyed some rural roads, leading to power outages and telecommunication failures. The maintenance crew has been working overnight to repair the damaged infrastructure.

Several villages suffered power failures and disruption of water.

The Ministry of Transport, which monitors the operation of roads, said on Tuesday morning that a bridge across the Yellow River had cracked because of the quake.

According to local meteorological authorities, the daily low temperature in Jishishan is reported to climb minus 10 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

The provincial fire and rescue department sent 580 rescuers aided with 88 fire engines, 12 search and rescue dogs, and more than 10,000 sets of equipment to the disaster area.

The railway authority has suspended passenger and cargo trains passing through the quake zone and ordered a safety check of railway tracks.

Meanwhile, a second quake struck the neighbouring Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region hours later on Tuesday.

The Atux City of Kizilsu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, was struck by the earthquake at 9:46 am local time on Tuesday, the CENC said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 10 km, was monitored at 40.02 degrees north latitude and 77.86 degrees east longitude, the CENC said.

Gansu and Qinghai also experienced aftershock

## INDIA Bloc

strength the," the party posted on X.

The opposition leaders are deliberating on a blueprint for a joint campaign, seat-sharing arrangement and redrawing their strategy after the Congress suffered a setback in the recent assembly polls, where BJP won in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Evolving a "core positive agenda" will also be among the main challenges before the INDIA bloc.

Soon after the meeting began, the Congress shared a video on X and said senior leaders including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi were present at the meeting of INDIA alliance in Delhi.

"Today democracy is being mercilessly murdered by the Modi government. Representatives who raise public voice are suspended from the House. In such an adverse situation, our unity is our strength and this resolve to protect democracy is our energy," the party said in a post on X.

As many as 141 opposition MPs have been suspended from both Houses of Parliament since last Thursday for disrupting proceedings.

"We will give a befitting reply to the dictatorship of Modi government. Will not be afraid, will not stop, will fight and win. Jai Hind," the Congress posted.

This is the fourth meeting of the INDIA bloc leaders, with the first one held in Patna, followed by meetings in Bengaluru and Mumbai.

Sources said there is a likelihood that seat-sharing talks may begin immediately and would end by this month itself, amid demands by some leaders to finish them soonest.

The leaders would also brainstorm on evolving their joint campaign strategy and presenting a positive agenda to emerge as an alternative to the BJP.

According to a senior Congress leader, the constituents of the opposition alliance intend to move forward with the theme "Main Nahin, Hum (We, Not Me)" at the meeting.

The meeting began at the Ashoka Hotel here with Kharge, Gandhis, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in attendance besides NCP supreme Sharad Pawar.

Among the leaders present at the meeting are former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad, DMK's T R Baalu, CPI-M's Sitaram Yechury, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav and Ram Gopal Yadav, CPI's D Raja, NC's Farooq Abdullah, E T Mohammed Basheer, E K Elangovan, RSP's N K Premanchandra, Kerala Congress (M)'s Jose K Mani, NCP's and Supriya Sule and JMM's Mahua Maji, among others.

## India Logs

to the health ministry's website. The case fatality rate stands at 1.19 percent. According to the ministry's website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far.



## Chief Secretary Calls For Tough Against Illegal Mining

Directs Increasing Permits To Provide Building Material In Abundance

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday impressed upon the Department of Mining and Divisional administration to act tough against the menace of illegal mining here in the UT besides taking steps to provide the necessary building material to public smoothly by increasing the number of

The Chief Secretary advised the Department to acquire the services of the transaction advisor wherever required for taking the process of auctioning to logical conclusion. He made out that the constitution of J&K Environment Impact Assessment Authority (JKEIAA) is in its final stage of constitution to make the availability of minerals more smooth in the market.



permits given to extract such minor minerals here.

The meeting besides the Divisional Commissioners was attended by Secretary, Mining; Director Mining, Kashmir/Jammu besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary during this meeting remarked that in order to put a complete stop on the illegal mining here the administration has to work on the two pronged strategy here. He asked for devising the effective deterrents to curb it besides increasing permits to include all the areas do that people and public projects do not face any dearth of such construction material in the UT.

He maintained that our vast geographical diversity promises of bearing reserves of different minerals across the length and breadth of J&K. He impressed upon the Department to expedite the process of exploration of such major minerals to augment the resources of the UT. He also took note of the revenue models to be adopted for auctioning of some of the valuable mineral blocks of lithium, bauxite or others.

Dulloo also asked for streamlining the auctioning the mineral blocks besides making every effort to operationalise all the auctioned blocks here. He asked for conducting meetings every month by the concerned Deputy Commissioners to decide about the cases received through single window system.

In her presentation the Secretary Mining, Rashmi Singh informed the meeting about the availability of different kinds of minor and major minerals across the districts of the UT. She made out that dozens of blocks of limestone, gypsum, coal, magnetite, lignite, granite, sapphire and others have been identified for exploration here.

She further gave out that 208 Minor Mineral Leases (RBM) have been granted by the Department through e-auctioning. The department has realized an amount of Rs 10185 lakhs during the current financial year and has also issued 3643 short term or disposal permits for extracting RBM/Ordinary earth to facilitate execution of projects of national importance/government works in J&K w.e.f. January 2020 to November 2023, the meeting was informed.

It was further apprised that the Department has taken several reforms likes witching from first come first serve basis to e-auctioning, constitution of single window clearance system, steps to ensure ease of doing business, introduction of e-challan, e-market web portal.

The department has also taken plethora of measures to curb illegal mining including introduction of mining surveillance system, mineral check posts, vehicle tracking system besides others, as was given out in the meeting.

## CCTV Cams Installed In Commercial Vehicles In Doda



Observer News Service

**DODA:** In a proactive step towards enhancing road safety, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, along with SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, conducted an inspection to oversee the installation of CCTV cameras in the commercial passenger vehicles, initiated by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) in Doda, under the directions of Road Safety Committee Doda.

The significant initiative focuses on equipping passenger vehicles with dash cameras to ensure the safety of travelers during their journeys.

The installation of dash cameras is part of a strict measure taken by the district administration Doda to address the issue of rash and careless driving by commercial drivers.

This move aims to curb the prevalence of accidents and promote responsible driving practices. During the installation event, ARTO Doda, Rajesh Gupta, and officials from the Motor Vehicles Department were present to witness and support the implementation of this safety measure.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh expressed confidence in the effectiveness of this initiative in reducing accidents. He highlighted the significance of the dash cameras, stating that they would play a crucial role in tracing incidents of negligence by drivers, thereby preventing mishaps on the roads. The DC emphasized that such measures are essential for ensuring the well-being of passengers and fostering a safer environment for travel in the district.

## Paresha And Phulwari Made Functional In Pulwama

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** The new building of the Child Care institution for Girl Children upto 18 has been made functional in the Pampore (Sheikh ul aalam Colony near Court Complex) where free of cost education, shelter, care, food and other needs will be provided to them.

The District Child Protection Officer Pulwama made the Paresha and Phulwari (Child Care institution) functional. This is the part of the Mission

Vatsalya (Child Protection Department) of Social welfare, Jammu and Kashmir. The said CCI can accommodate 25 girls. This is the first such kind of institution in Pulwama district that has adequate facilities.

Explaining further, the concerns and general Public can identify such Children who are in need of Care and Protection after the District Child Protection Officer will accommodate them in this CCI after completing all formalities as per the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015



A FEMALE TOURIST ENJOYING sledge ride in the snow covered Gulmarg Valley on Tuesday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Govt Tells Deptts To Quickly Settle Pending SRO-43 Cases

'Don't Refer Cases To GAD Which Lie Within Competence Of Department/HoD'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant development, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir has directed departments to immediately settle pending compassionate appointment cases, wherein no relaxation in age or educational qualification is required and posts are available.

The J&K government has directed administrative secretaries to settle all the pending compassionate appointments cases under SRO-43. "All administrative departments are advised to immediately settle the pending compassionate cases under SRO-43/1994, fall-

ing within the competence of administrative department/head of department, wherein no relaxation in age/qualification is involved and the posts are available within the departments, at their own level, after doing diligence and after all fulfillment of all codal formalities, as required under SRO-43/1994/ relevant provisions of law," an office memorandum of the General Administration Department (GAD) said.

The departments have also directed to submit compliance report(s), indicating the number of such cases settled to the GAD on fortnightly ba-

sis for further perusal of chief secretary.

The GAD has further advised the departments that those SRO-43 cases which lie within the competence of the administrative department/head of department, shouldn't be referred to it.

Under SRO 43, the kin of those killed in militancy or border shelling-firing related acts and the Government employees who died during services, were eligible for jobs in the government departments. It was replaced by a new compassionate appointment policy, which came into effect from January 1, 2023—(KNO)

## Fully Capable To Meet Any Challenge: IGP Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir is fully capable of meeting any challenge, Jammu zone Inspector General of Police Anand Jain said on Tuesday, asking youths to utilise their time and energy in a positive direction for the benefit of the country.

Jain was speaking to media-persons after inaugurating a cricket tournament organised by the police in the honour of its martyrs in Kathua district. Earlier, IGP Jain along with Kathua Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas, Jammu-Samba-Kathua range Deputy Inspector General of Police Shakti Pathak, Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police Shivdeep Singh paid tributes to the policemen who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism.



"The J&K Police is fully capable to meet any challenge and are promise-bound (to root out terrorism)," Jain said, responding to a question about the possibility of growing terrorist activities along the Jammu border during the ongoing winter.

Heavy snowfall along the Line of Control in Kashmir and parts of Jammu region closes the possible infiltration routes but the threat of infiltration

multiplies along the International Border in Kathua, Samba and Jammu districts amidst foggy conditions.

Asked about the smuggling of narcotics from Punjab into Jammu and Kashmir, he said all cases are under investigation to expose all forward and backward links.

"Our efforts are on to make J&K a drug-free region," he said, advising the youngsters to stay away from drugs and utilise their time and energy in the right direction for their own good and the overall benefit of the country.

He said besides remembering the fallen policemen, the cricket tournament also carries a message for the youth and motivates them towards education and sports so that they can play their role in the development of the nation.

## Gulmarg Abuzz Post Snowfall, Winter Activities Resume

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Following the recent snowfall, various winter activities have resumed at Gulmarg, which is enthralling the visitors visiting the famed destination in north Kashmir.

The recent snowfall in Gulmarg has turned the high-altitude skiing resort into a winter wonderland, which is subsequently attracting crowds of tourists and locals alike. The snowfall has draped Gulmarg in a pristine white coat, transforming the landscape into a breath-taking spectacle.

Now world-famous ski resort is now bustling with activities as locals and tourists alike flock to the region to experience the winter activities at Gulmarg. From slides to skiing and snowboarding, various winter activities have resumed at the destination.

"Winter activities, which include sledding, skiing and snow ATVs have been restored in Gulmarg. All the sledge owners are offering services to the tourists from the last two days. At phase I of the Gondola, tourists enjoy skiing and snowboarding," said Mohammad Saleem Dar, a sledge owner.

Tourists from across the country and beyond are arriving in numbers at Gulmarg to partake in a myriad of winter activities.

"I visited Kashmir last week and there wasn't snow anywhere. Fortunately, it snowed in Gulmarg few days back and we rescheduled our trip to Gulmarg to enjoy snow activities," said



Priya Mehta, a tourists from West Bengal

Local businesses, including ski rental shops and cozy cafes, are experiencing a surge in visitors eager to experience the thrill of skiing and snowboarding in the freshly fallen snow.

"The snowfall has been a blessing for Gulmarg, and we are thrilled to see so many people enjoying the winter activities here. The atmosphere is vibrant, and the feedback from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive," said Shabir Ahmed, a local business owner.

Pertinently, 15 lakh tourists have visited Gulmarg till November. Officials are anticipating the count to reach 16 lakh by the year end.

## Schools Around Wular Lake To Get Nature Libraries For Environmental Education

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Wular Conservation & Management Authority (WUCMA) is contemplating the establishment of nature libraries in schools around Wular Lake, Asia's largest freshwater lake in a proactive move towards environmental education.

Coordinator WUCMA, Mudassar Mehmood Malik said that these libraries will boast an extensive collection of books covering diverse themes related to nature conservation, encompassing topics such as birds, plants, wildlife, and environmental preservation.

He said that the primary objective of these nature libraries is to cultivate a profound appreciation for the environment among the younger generation. "WUCMA envisions creating a lasting impact on how stake-

holders approach the protection and management of Wular Lake and its surrounding ecosystem," he added.

Recognizing children as crucial assets in the journey towards preserving the natural beauty of our surroundings, WUCMA, he said, aims to empower them with knowledge and resources through these nature libraries.

"The establishment of these nature libraries is a progressive step in raising awareness about the significance of Wular Lake and nurturing an environmentally conscious mindset among students," he added.

"By providing students with a rich repository of information on nature and conservation, WUCMA seeks to foster a generation that not only cherishes but actively safeguards our natural assets," Malik added—(KNO)

## Subsidised Doda-Jammu Helicopter Service Takes Off

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A subsidised helicopter service to facilitate travel during the winter months to the mountainous Doda district took off from Jammu on Tuesday, officials said.



The inaugural ceremony in Doda was attended by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom.

"To facilitate travel in winter, the subsidised helicopter service from Doda to Jammu has taken off," Singh said.

Three people from Doda were among the first passengers to fly to Jammu on the inaugural service.

The government-subsidised service is priced at Rs 2,500 per person, making it an affordable

and accessible means of transport, Singh added.

Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ashfaq Khanji will oversee the operations as the designated nodal officer. Mumbai-based Global Vectra Private Limited has been chosen to

manage the service. Singh emphasised the service's significance, especially for people requiring emergency or time-sensitive travel.

"The aerial option aims to be an efficient alternative to the lengthy 180-kilometre road journey," he said.

This move not only improves connectivity but also opens up opportunities for tourism, particularly during the winters, when certain regions face challenges of accessibility, Singh added.

## J&K Bank Opens 3 Easy Banking Units In Jammu

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its mission of providing convenient banking services to the people at their closest possible destinations, J&K Bank on Tuesday commissioned three Easy Banking Unit (EBUs) in Jammu at Dhanu, Kharah Bali and Garkhal.

The Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu)



Sunit Kumar e-inaugurated the EBUs (Jammu) Rajesh Dubey and other senior officers at the Bank's Jammu Zonal Office.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager Sunit Kumar reiterated the Bank's commitment towards extending the banking services to the people in the best possible manner irrespective of their location and

status. He said, "The EBUs will definitely help the people of these catchment areas in meeting their daily banking needs. And these outlets will definitely strengthen the bond of the people further with us."

People of these areas thanked the Bank's management on the occasion and also echoed that the opening of these Easy Banking Units will facilitate basic banking services easily to the

people thereby enhancing their relationship with the Bank.

Notably, The EBUs will provide the basic facilities of banking like cash deposit, cash withdrawal, account openings etc. to the people of these areas. The base branch of EBU Dhanu is Maira Mandrian while that of EBU Kharah Bali is Khour. And Gurah Singhu is the base branch of EBU Garkhal.

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
The Deputy Chief Engineer /BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-Tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-					
S. No	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs)	
1	OT-20-JRC-2023	Replacement of corroded members of Br no. 188 DN(14X45.7 m) on JUC-PTK Line under SSE/BRIDGE/M/PTK.	1,04,46,755.24	2,02,200.00	
2	OT-21-JRC-2023	Fabrication & Erection of side pathway on various bridges under thea Jurisdiction of SSE/BR/M/PTK.	1,35,67,621.97	2,17,800.00	
Date of opening	08.01.2024	Bidding start date on IREPS	25.12.2023 to 08.01.2024	Cost of tender form Rs	0
		Completion period of work			06 Months
Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender: Up to 15:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender there after at 15:00 hrs on same date; Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. No.: 80-W/30/ Bridges/ Invitation Dated: 18.12.2023					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					



## Australia's Starc & Cummins Land Record IPL Deals

Agencies

**DUBAI:** Australia's Mitchell Starc became the most expensive player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after attracting an eye-watering \$2.98 million bid from Kolkata Knight Riders in the players' auction on Tuesday.

Australia captain Pat Cummins briefly held that honour after Sunrisers Hyderabad agreed to splash \$2.46 million for his service before Starc bettered that mark.

Barely a month after leading Australia to the 50-overs World Cup title in India, Cummins entered the auction with a base price of 20 million Indian rupees (\$240,473).

IPL heavyweights Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings were initially interested in him but both dropped out as a two-way bidding war ensued.

Royal Challengers Bangalore doggedly pursued Cummins but 2016 champions Hyderabad had the



last laugh in the tug-of-war over the fast bowler, who has also evolved as a handy lower-order hitter.

England all-rounder Sam Curran's 185 million rupees bid from Punjab Kings at last year's auction was the previous highest mark.

Back after an eight-year gap, left-arm quick Starc was in demand as soon as his name was put under the hammer with Mumbai and

Delhi vying for his service.

Both, however, retreated as bidding intensified and Kolkata trumped Gujarat Titans by offering the winning bid for the 33-year-old.

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell also struck it rich after Chennai splashed 140 million rupees to acquire the batting all-rounder at 10 times his base price.

India seamer Harshal Patel also became a mil-

lionaire joining Punjab Kings for 117.5 million rupees in the auction, which was held outside India for the first time.

The Indian cricket board has not announced the dates but next year's IPL is likely to be played between March and May.

Unsold players included former Australia captain Steve Smith and England spinner Adil Rashid.

## Rs 24.75 Cr Bid Was Beyond My Wildest Dreams: Mitchell Starc

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Australian pacer Mitchell Starc on Tuesday said he did not even dream of getting sold for Rs 24.75 crore in the IPL auction and admitted that the huge price tag would bring in some pressure on him.

Starc became the costliest player in the history of IPL when Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore in an intense bidding war to add the 33-year-old to their roster.

"It was a shock, of course. Nothing I could have dreamt of. But no doubt, there will be some pressure that comes with the territory. But having the extra experience I have from my last IPL, hopefully, helps," Starc told Jio Cinema.

"Few ups and downs I've had before but this comes with the territory and I try to be successful and have as much impact as possible."

The 33-year-old left-arm speedster said the intense bidding for his services came as a humbling experience.

"Humbling to still feel like I'm wanted or needed. My gameplay hasn't changed much across formats except a few things here and there. Hopefully, the experience can translate to some success," he said.

Starc's Australian teammate Pat Cummins was bought by Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 20.50 crore, Rs 4.25 crore less than his price.



Starc said both him and Cummins will have to throw a party to their Australian teammates.

"Pat has gone to Sunrisers, but that's where he was at KKR, and I hope to fill his shoes there. Our Test squad Whatsapp group has been going off to say it's our shout to get dinner next. Something to do ahead of the Boxing Day Test."

"My wife Alyssa (Healy) is with the (Australia) women's (cricket)

team in India. So, she was getting updates quicker than what I was seeing on screen," Starc chuckled.

This will be Starc's first IPL since 2015 and he was understandably excited to return to the high-profile league.

"It has been a while. I've been involved with RCB in 2014-15, then picked up by KKR in 2018 but got injured. But I've been prioritising international cricket and Test cricket for Australia."

## J&K Bank Beats J&K Police To Enter Gold Cup Final



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Bank XI defeated J&K Police 2-1 in the first semifinal match of the 17th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2023 on Tuesday at Mini Stadium, Paradee Football Ground in Jammu.

J&K Bank striker Aakif Reshi scored the first goal, while Furqan added the second.

J&K Police stalwart Manzoor Ahmed scored the team's only goal.

The tournament is organised by All J&K Sports and Cultural Welfare Association, under the aegis of J&K Football Association and in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

Downtown Heroes FC are set to play in the second semifinal of the Gold Cup.

## Rasikh Dar, Abid Mushtaq To Play In IPL 2024

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K cricketers, pacer Rasikh Salam Dar and left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq, were both acquired in the IPL 2024 mini-auction in Dubai.

Rasikh, from Kashmir's Kulgam, will play for Delhi Capitals in the upcoming IPL 2024 season. He was with Kolkata Knight Riders last season but was released ahead of the auction. He recently picked up a 6-wicket haul against Chhattisgarh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Abid Mushtaq, a spin-bowling all-rounder from J&K's Doda district, was picked by Rajasthan Royals. Abid has done well in the domestic circuit and has been duly re-



warded for his performances.

Both Rasikh Salaam Dar and Abid Mushtaq were sold for their base price of Rs. 20 lakh.

Nine cricketers from J&K were shortlisted for the 2024 IPL mini-auction. The players

included five bowlers in Manjit Singh Jasrotia, Basit Bashir, Waseem Bashir, Mujtaba Yusuf and Rasikh Salam Dar; four all-rounders in Vivrant Sharma, Nasir Lone, Abid Mushtaq and Shubham Singh Pundir.

## IUST VC's Employees Cricket Tournament Concludes



Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** The 4th Vice Chancellor's Employees Cricket Tournament (Men) 2023 came to an end Tuesday at IUST here. The tournament, inaugurated by Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, witnessed an active participation from all the departments of the university. The final match was played between the School of Technology and University Administration with the former team emerging as winners of the tournament.

Congratulations all the participants, Prof. Naseer Iqbal Registrar IUST emphasized on the rejuvenating spirit of involvement in sports among employees.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Hilal A Rather (Director, Physical Education & Sports) and Sameer Wazir (Chairperson Sports Committee). The closing ceremony of the tournament was attended by faculty, Deans, Directors, Proctor, Controller Examination and students.

## 3 Matches Played On Day 1 Of CRPF Football Cup

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The 2023 CRPF Football Cup - Srinagar Sector Championship began on Tuesday at Synthetic Turf, TRC here. Ajay Kumar Yadav, IPS, IG Srinagar Sector, kicked off

the tournament in an inaugural ceremony. Various CRPF officers and JKFA officials were present at the event.

The Day 1 of the tournament witnessed three matches. In the first game, Kashmir United defeated Kashmir FA

2-1. Furqan gave Kashmir FA the lead in the 30th minute. However, Kashmir United came back strongly in the second half with Sadat and Junaid completing the team's comeback.

In the second game, Chal-

lenger FA defeated Noorbagh FA 4-2 in a penalty shootout. The final game of the day saw KIC Ganderbal overcome Alamdar Budgam FA 1-0. Faizan scored the winning goal for KIC in the 85th minute.

The football tournament is

organised by CRPF Srinagar Sector in collaboration with J&K Football Association and J&K Sports Council.

Three games are scheduled for today, Wednesday, December 20.

## Sameer Rizvi's Rs 8.40 Crore IPL Windfall Brings Smile On Ailing Father's Face

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Sameer Rizvi and his uncle Tankeeb Akhtar were choked with emotions as Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Titans and Delhi Capitals engaged in an intense bidding war for the 20-year-old Uttar Pradesh batter in the IPL auction on Tuesday.

The paddle final settled at a whopping Rs 8.40 crore with Rizvi going to the CSK's 'Anbu (Love) Den.' For IPL 2024.

The roseate moment came after massive struggles for the Rizvi household as his father Haseen has not been able to work owing to poor health. Now the physically fragile yet proud dad can afford to smile. After all, the son will be able to afford best medical treatment for his father.

"We were expecting Sameer to get picked by some team in the auction. But we never expected for this big money or CSK to bid for him," Akhtar told PTI from Meerut.

Now, the Rizvis are looking ahead to a brighter future.

"Sameer has a lot of ambitions - buying a good house, proper treatment of his father and a lot of things like that. Al-



lah dua kare, he can meet all of that."

"Sameer is quite thrilled that he can finally have a meeting

with (MS) Dhoni bhai from close quarters and share space

with him," a delighted Akhtar said.

Rizvi too shared his excitement about the chance to play for the Super Kings but admitted that he was nervous when his name came up in the auction.

"I noticed that 4-5 players before me went unsold. I was nervous at that time. But he (Dhoni) has always been my idol. I am very excited, yet nervous about the prospect of meeting him. I have never seen him in front of my eyes," Rizvi told the Jio Cinema.

So, what has prompted the CSK and other teams to go on a bidding war for this Uttar Pradesh lad.

Rizvi caught the eyes of IPL talent scouts for the first time during the UP T20 League while playing for Kanpur Super Stars.

He hammered 455 runs from nine matches including the fastest hundred in the tournament off 47 balls.

Rizvi carried that form into the state Under-23 tournament where he smashed 454 runs from seven matches.

But more than those runs, it was Rizvi's ability to clear the ropes by miles that fascinated the scouts. The young batter smoked 72 sixes across 16

matches in those tournaments.

"It is his natural game. He has been a big-hitter from a young age. He has interacted and played with seasoned players like Nitish Rana and Rinku Singh (in UP T20 League) and they have also told him to play his natural game. It helped him a lot," said Akhtar.

Rizvi was skeptical of getting an IPL contract once he missed trials with a few teams because of his state commitments.

"I told him don't worry and the opportunity will come to you. You keep performing on the field. SG (Sanspareils Greenlands, the cricket gear manufacturer) helped him a lot through sponsorship of equipments."

The uncle doesn't want his nephew to just make waves donning 'Canary Yellow' but realise his ultimate goal of wearing the 'India Blue'.

"Now, we are happy that our efforts have borne fruits, and finally it (IPL contract) has come his way. There are tears in the eyes of everyone at home. Hopefully, he will go and play for India one day," said Akhtar, who is also his childhood coach at the Gandhi Bagh Cricket Academy.